



**Town of Westville  
Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, October 27, 2014**

*Commencing at 6:00 pm*

**Council Members Present:** Mayor Roger MacKay; Deputy Mayor Lennie White; Councillor Charlie Sutherland; Councillor Bernard Murphy; Councillor Lynn MacDonald

**Town Employees Present:** CAO Kelly D. Rice; Superintendent of Public Works & Water / Wastewater Services Samuel Graham; Town Planner Roland Burek; Recording Secretary Vicki Heighton

**Absent:** None

**Visitors Present:** A number of Westville residents

**Media Organizations Present:** 94.1 FM; Pictou Advocate, The News

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**1. CALLING OF MEETING TO ORDER**

- 1.1 Mayor MacKay called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Westville Council Chambers welcoming everyone in attendance. He called for a moment of silence in memory of two fallen Canadian soldiers killed in Ottawa and Quebec.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- 2.1 *It was moved by Councilor Murphy to approve the tentative agenda. Deputy Mayor White seconded.*  
Councilor MacDonald asked to add Salvation Army Kettles to New Business.  
*Motion Carried.*

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 3.1 *It was moved by Deputy Mayor White to approve the minutes of the September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Regular Council Meeting as presented. Councilor Murphy seconded.*  
Councilor MacDonald stated item 5, she asked Ron Marks how he felt as a school board member about the increase in amount of money being spent on Dr. W. A. MacLeod School and Mr. Marks stated his main concern was the children. Councilor MacDonald wanted to clarify 9.14, Municipal Alcohol Project is a project of Nova Scotia, UNSM and various organizations in the Province who are working on looking at alcohol use and not just in Pictou County.  
Deputy Mayor White stated 9.2; the motion they passed for the recommendation to the Utility and Review Board should say, to maintain the status quo as far as number of Council members and Mayor and to go to an at large system, removing the ward system.  
*Motion carried.*

#### 4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

#### 5. EXPENDITURES REPORT

##### 5.1 August Report

*It was moved by Councillor MacDonald to accept the August Expenditure Report. Councillor Murphy seconded. Motion Carried*

##### 5.2 September Report

*It was moved by Councillor Murphy to accept the September Expenditure Report. Councillor MacDonald seconded. Motion Carried*

#### 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 **Police** - *It was moved by Councillor Sutherland to approve the Police Report as presented. Deputy Mayor White seconded. Motion carried.*

6.2 **Fire Report** - *It was moved by Councillor Murphy to approve the Fire Report as presented. Councillor MacDonald seconded. Motion carried.*

6.3 **Recreation Report** - *It was moved by Deputy Mayor White to approve the Recreation Report as presented. Councillor Sutherland seconded. Motion carried.*

6.4 **Compost, Garbage & Recycling Report** - *It was moved by Councillor Sutherland to approve the Compost, Garbage & Recycling Report as presented. Councillor Murphy seconded. Motion carried.*

6.5 **Environmental Health Report** - *It was moved by Councillor MacDonald to approve the Environmental Health Report as presented. Deputy Mayor White seconded. Motion carried.*

6.6 **Transportation Report** – *It was moved by Councillor Sutherland to approve the Transportation Report as presented. Councillor Murphy seconded.*  
Councillor MacDonald thanked the Town's departments for the open house for Municipal Awareness Week.  
Councillor Murphy stated it was good to have all departments together.  
*Motion Carried.*

6.7 **Building Report** – *It was moved by Councillor MacDonald to approve the Building Report as presented. Councillor Murphy seconded. Motion carried.*

6.8 **Glen Haven Manor Report** – Deputy Mayor White reported Glen Haven Manor is having their annual Dancing with the Stars event at Summer Street Industries.

#### 7. CORRESPONDENCE

##### 7.1 Pictou County Council of Churches

CAO Rice stated they are hosting a poverty workshop on Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 9am - 11:30am at the First Presbyterian Church in Stellarton.

##### 7.2 United Way of Pictou County

CAO Rice stated they are asking for a donation and to be able to conduct a workplace campaign.

Deputy Mayor White stated they should endorse it, and allow them to speak to the staff regarding deductions.

**7.3 SAC – Dr. W.A. MacLeod**

CAO Rice read a letter from the School Advisory Committee regarding their concerns with construction at Dr. W.A. MacLeod and feels it is not comparable to other P-8 schools in the community.

Councilor MacDonald stated it is what we anticipated to happen and spoke about the rising costs to this project.

Councilor Murphy stated CCRSB added maintenance to the project budget and thinks it is ironic they are spending the money there. He noted Mr. Marks commented they were going to provide a minimal standard of the curriculum of that school and Councilor Murphy does not think this is acceptable. Councilor Murphy is concerned with the disconnect between the School Board and Advisory Committee, and stated the School Board needs to meet with the committee.

Deputy Mayor White if the SAC had received a reply to this letter. He noted a lot of these issues we addressed to Ron Marks when he attended the Council meeting last month.

*Councilor Murphy moved to send a letter to CCRSB stating we agree with SAC's concerns. Councilor Sutherland seconded. Motion carried.*

Mayor MacKay noted Council expressed concerns to Mr. Marks that the children were not receiving the same level of education as other children in the county but Mr. Marks assured Council they were.

Councilor MacDonald stated she felt the Minister should meet with the school board to see how this project went so far off track. Regular maintenance should not be taken from the project funds as there is a maintenance budget for these expenses.

**7.4 Models for Mental Health**

CAO Rice stated this is for a Fashion Show fundraiser at New Glasgow Square from 2:00pm – 3:30pm on Sunday November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014. She noted all proceeds will be going to the Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia with funds earmarked for Pictou County mental health services. They are asking for support in making a donation.

*Councilor MacDonald moved to donate \$50 to the Models for Mental Healthy Fashion Show Fundraiser. Councilor Murphy seconded. Motion carried.*

**7.5 Ship Hector Curling Bonspiel**

CAO Rice noted a Bonspiel will be held from January 23-25, 2015 and it is their 43<sup>rd</sup> year for the tournament. They are asking us to purchase an advertisement in their brochure.

*Councilor Murphy moved to buy ¼ page ad for \$40. Councilor MacDonald seconded. Motion carried.*

Councilor MacDonald noted the Westville Curling Club is having their open house on November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

**7.6 Multi-Cultural Association Pictou County**

CAO Rice read a thank you card from the Multi-Cultural Festival.

**7.7 Royal Canadian Legion #6**

CAO Rice noted there will be a Memorial Service at 2:30pm on Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Pictou.

Mayor MacKay stated he will be attending.

**8. NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**8.1 CRINS**

CAO Rice stated Council previously has this information regarding CRINS. Planner Burek noted there were concerns from Council with regards to the fees of membership. Matter was deferred until Mr. Burek has more information for Council.

**8.2 Municipal Fiscal Review**

CAO Rice noted UNSM is holding a workshop tomorrow in Truro. CAO Rice stated she has attended two workshops for staff and if Council could attend this workshop tomorrow for the elected officials, then we can do an in house review for those not able to attend.

Mayor MacKay stated he should be attending.

**8.3 Amendment – Subdivision Bylaw**

Planner Burek stated he held a public meeting today at 5:30 and there was no public input. He noted members had to be present at the public hearing meeting to vote.

*Councilor Sutherland moved to adopt the resolution for the Municipal Standards Specifications Amendment to the Westville Subdivision Bylaw. Councilor Murphy seconded. Motion carried.*

**8.4 Taxi License Renewal – 2**

CAO Rice stated there are two taxi license renewals that need approval.

*Councilor MacDonald moved to accept the renewal of the taxi licenses. Deputy Mayor White seconded. Motion carried.*

**8.5 Dana Cameron – South Main Street**

Councilor Murphy stated he was approached by Mr. Cameron regarding water runoff into his driveway on South Main St. Councilor Murphy stated Council will talk to staff for more information and would like to table this to a future meeting. Council agreed.

**8.6 MOU**

Mayor MacKay stated after discussions, the Town of Westville will not be signing the MOU at this time.

Deputy Mayor White noted citizens were overwhelmingly against signing the MOU.

**8.7 Salvation Army Kettle Campaign**

Councilor MacDonald noted the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign will be starting again and they are looking for volunteers to sit with the kettle. The campaign runs from November 24<sup>th</sup> to December 24<sup>th</sup> and you can sign up by calling the Salvation Army.

**9. QUESTIONS FROM CITIZENS**

**9.1 Gary MacLaughlin – North St.**

- Mr. MacLaughlin stated he was not able to attend the last Council meeting when the Financial Statements were presented. He noted at the MOU meeting it was stated that Westville is in good financial shape. Mr. MacLaughlin stated when the auditor was here last month he stated Westville finished with a deficit of \$53,000.00. Mr. MacLaughlin stated it is a smaller deficit then previous years but it is still a deficit. Mr. MacLaughlin stated he reviewed the financial report and has some items he would like to bring to Council's attention.

1. The Town has a line of credit of \$950,000 and noted the Town was \$700,000 overdrawn at the end of the year.

2. The long term debt of \$1.6 million that will not be paid off until 2023.

He does not think this is showing good financial management, and he feels the Town is moving backwards.

He stated if Council ran their businesses the way they are running the town they would not be in business for very long.

- He noted the financial report on page 22, stated the numbers submitted for budget year 2012-13 were incorrect. He feels it is misleading and could be called fraudulent. Mr. MacLaughlin stated he believes Council needs to contact the RCMP and ask them to do a financial audit for the last five years.

Mr. MacLaughlin stated we are moving in the right direction but there needs to be an investigation into this.

- CAO Rice stated the \$53,000 is what is remaining of an accumulative deficit. This fiscal year the operating did see a surplus of \$120,000. She stated they have calculated for the accumulative deficit of \$53,000 in this year's budget.
- CAO Rice stated the reason for the restatement of the audited financial statement was during our year end we found some discrepancies we couldn't trace and did go back two years to investigate. She stated there was no missing of funds or fraudulent actions, they were mistakes.
- Deputy Mayor White stated Mr. MacLaughlin raised the specter of fraud and he takes that very serious. Deputy Mayor White wanted to make it clear there was no fraud detected or any type of fraudulent action, it was clearly mistakes made.
- Mr. MacLaughlin stated he did not make an accusation, he made a comment.
- Councilor MacDonald addressed a comment Mr. MacLaughlin made regarding how the Town was being run and the places we are employed. She stated we are very successful in our careers, and doing a good job for our employers. Councilor MacDonald feels it was out of line to say we are not doing a good job running the Town, so you must be running your business into the ground.

Mr. MacLaughlin stated he made the comment that if Council ran their businesses the way the Town is being run today in deficit.

## 9.2 Sandy Cyr - Foxbrook Road

- Mr. Cyr asked what was taking place with Highland Consolidated Middle School.  
CAO Rice stated we put it out for tenders last month and did not receive any. She noted after the tender closed they did have contact with a developer and hopes we will have an announcement in the next day or so.
- Mr. Cyr asked why the public does not get a copy of the accounts at the meeting.  
CAO Rice stated the names of businesses and corporations are private.
- Mr. Cyr stated he was disappointed the financial statement was not put in our public newspaper. He congratulated CAO Rice on the report.
- Mr. Cyr asked what was happening on the Main Street.  
CAO Rice stated sewer lines are being placed and it will be completed, and the paved before November 11, 2014.

## 10. IN-CAMERA

- 10.1 *Councilor Murphy motioned to move to in-camera at 7:30pm. Deputy Mayor White seconded. Motion carried.*

- 10.2 *Councilor MacDonald motioned to return to Regular Council Meeting at 7:58pm. Deputy Mayor White seconded. Motion carried.*
- 10.3 *Councilor Murphy motioned to accept the proposal from James Barkley for the development of Highland Consolidated Middle School, pending legal approval. Councilor Sutherland seconded. Motion carried.*

11. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

- 11.1 *Deputy Mayor White motioned to adjourn the public meeting at 8:00 pm. Councilor Sutherland seconded. Motion carried.*

*Certified to be a true copy of the minutes of the October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 regular Council Meeting for the Town of Westville.*

  
MAYOR

  
RECORDING SECRETARY