



**Town of Westville
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, June 25th, 2012**

Commencing at 6:00 pm

Council Members Present:	Mayor Roger MacKay; Deputy Mayor Lynn MacDonald; Councillor Gerald Jones; Councillor Charlie Sutherland
Absent:	Councillor Charlene Thompson with regrets.
Town Employees Present:	CAO Scott Fraser; Chief Don Hussher; Recording Secretary Diane Morrison
Visitors Present:	A number of Westville residents
Media Organizations Present:	ECFM Radio; The News; Pictou Advocate

1. CALLING OF MEETING TO ORDER

1.1 Mayor MacKay called the meeting to order welcoming everyone in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2.1 *It was moved by Deputy Mayor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Sutherland that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.*

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 *It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Sutherland to approve the minutes of the May 28th, 2012 regular Council Meeting as amended. Motion carried.*

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

4.1 Deputy Mayor MacDonald inquired if there had been a meeting with Groupe Savoie. Mayor MacKay advised that they are awaiting confirmation of same from MLA MacKinnon's office.

4.2 Deputy Mayor MacDonald inquired on 7.4 concerning correspondence from MLA Keith Colwell and if the information that he had requested has been forwarded. CAO Fraser noted that it has been sent.

- 4.3 Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that there were several funding requests and asked to set a date for a Finance Meeting. This was referred to later in the meeting.
- 4.4 Deputy Mayor MacDonald Re: 11.9 asked if the letter had been sent concerning closure of the Forensic Units and CAO Fraser noted that it will be forwarded
- 4.5 Deputy Mayor MacDonald Re: 11.11 Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked Mayor MacKay if he had arranged a meeting with the Mayors and Wardens concerning funding for PRDA. Mayor MacKay noted that it was on the agenda for the meeting that was to be held Thursday but the meeting has been cancelled until the 23rd of July.
- 4.6 Deputy Mayor MacDonald inquired about the number of flag poles that are to be put up in front of the Town Office and Councillor Jones told her that the Canadian Flag from in front of the Town Office is being included as shown in the description shown at the last meeting. She asked the CAO when they would be installed and was told that the material is arriving and the will be installed shortly.

5. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 *It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and seconded by Deputy Mayor MacDonald to approve/pay the accounts as presented. Motion carried.*

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 6.1 **Police -** *It was moved by Deputy Mayor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Sutherland that the Police Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*
- 6.2 **Fire Report -** *It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Deputy Mayor MacDonald that the Fire Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*
- 6.3 **Fire Inspectors Report –** *It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Sutherland that the Fire Inspector Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*
- 6.4 **Recreation Report -** *It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and seconded by Deputy Mayor MacDonald that the Recreation Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*
- 6.5 **Compost, Garbage & Recycling Report -** *It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Deputy Mayor MacDonald that the Compost, Garbage & Recycling Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*
- 6.6 **Environmental Health Report –** *It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and seconded by Councillor Jones that the Environmental Health Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*
Councillor Sutherland noted that it is a very dry summer and we in Westville are so lucky to have such a good water supply.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald questioned the sewer back up on North Main Street and would we be billing ERWTP for that. CAO Fraser said he would find out a bit more about that but no we would not be billing for that and she mentioned double dipping but CAO Fraser noted that he would have to find out more about it.

6.7 Transportation Report - *It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and seconded by Councillor Jones that the Transportation Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*

Councillor Sutherland wanted to give kudos to the Fire Department and the Public Works Department for all the hours of work that go into getting ready for July 1st celebrations.

6.8 Animal Control Report – *It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Deputy Mayor MacDonald that the Animal Control Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*

Deputy Mayor MacDonald questioned the 1st item at 1629 Matheson Street and she is wondering if these dogs are now registered. CAO Fraser mentioned that they would be required to be in order to recover the dogs.

6.9 Building Report – *It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Sutherland that the Building Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 UNSM

CAO Fraser noted that this correspondence was in reference to the Municipal Awareness Week to be held September 24-30, 2012 to promote the importance of municipal government in people's daily lives and to encourage more people to participate in same. Councillor Sutherland wanted to know if the date for nomination would be up at this time and Mayor MacKay mentioned that we could check on same and if it is we can hold something earlier.

7.2 Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library

CAO Fraser noted that it is an Annual Report from April 2011 to March 2012 and it shows their fiscal information and number of lending's, etc basically an informational package.

Councillor Sutherland noted that as a Town Representative the Library is a very important part of our Town and the statistics show how well used it is in every Town. He also noted that they are trying to keep the system going but funding is becoming harder and harder to obtain.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald also gave praise to Eric Stackhouse and his staff for a job well done. It was also mentioned that we would like to congratulate the Walter Duggan School on winning the Reading Challenge again making them # 1 in the World and that congratulations should go to the teachers and parents who work with the children to accomplish this goal.

7.3 Northumberland Regional High School

CAO Fraser noted that this is a request for a road toll in the fall. During discussion it was noted that recently a policy had been put in place and we are only allowing 2 road tolls per year and this year they were for the Rotary Club in the spring and in the fall it will be for the Westville Fire Department. Councillor Sutherland noted that Northumberland Regional High School had a successful bottle drive in the spring and we would suggest that they have another bottle drive in the fall.

7.4 Town of Trenton – Maritime Steel

CAO Fraser a letter has been received from the Town of Trenton in support of the letter concerning a request for the NDP government to offer support to Maritime Steel.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that she really appreciated receiving this letter from Mayor MacKinnon and Council. She feels with more jobs leaving Nova Scotia we have to get as much support as possible to bring jobs back to Pictou County. She understands that the Owner of Maritime Steel has orders on the books and can provide work for local people.

7.5 Walk for ALS

Letter of Thanks from Sara Watters for all the support given to this worthy cause and noting they had successfully raised over \$9300.00 on this the first walk for Pictou County.

7.6 United Way – Bikes for Kids

CAO Fraser noted this was a financial request to support this program

It was moved by Deputy Mayor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Jones that the request be forwarded to the finance committee for consideration. Motion carried.

8. 2012 – 2013 BUDGET

8.1 Mayor Roger MacKay read the following information:



**Town of Westville
Tax Rates 2012/2013**

BE IT RESOLVED that the estimated expenditures of the Town of Westville for the period of April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013 be approved, accepted and adopted in the amount of \$4,376,200 and after making allowance for estimated revenue in the amount of \$1,467,200, the amount of \$2,909,000 is required from the general taxation of the assessed valuation of \$135,452,100.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the tax rate for the Town of Westville for the period April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013 be set at \$2.09 per \$100 of assessment for Residential and Resource properties, \$3.80 per \$100 of assessment for Commercial property and Business Occupancy assessments, and \$5.32 per 1000 gallons consumption for sewer charges.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rate of taxes for the current period may be collected by Warrant or Distress, without further notice if not paid on or before the 31st day of March 2013 together with all costs

and expenses of levy and sale of good on all proceedings incidental thereto, and further if the said taxes are not paid before June 1st, 2012 for the interim tax bill and November 1st, 2012 for the final billing, an additional penalty charge will be payable at a rate of 14% per annum on the balance of all outstanding tax accounts.

*It was moved by Deputy Mayor
MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Jones to accept the tax rates as
presented. Motion carried.*

8.2 CAO Fraser went on to explain that this year we had quite a large increase in our commercial tax base as it went up 12% mainly due to the new building that was built out at Exit 21 and that is one of the reasons to decrease the rate. A couple of other things like the assessments for residential is up quite a bit approximately 6%.

Mayor MacKay noted that the assessments are completely out of our hands and it is not the Town that sets the assessments.

CAO Fraser agreed with this statement and he went on to note that with the expenses we were able to stay fairly close to what we had before and in general there were no huge increases.

He noted that one area where there was a large increase was the refuse collection and this is due to recycling but in other areas such as Transportation there was only an increase of 1% but within that fleet there is reason for the increase. The budget also includes under transfer to reserves we have \$130,000.00 put in to help pay of the deficit that last year ended with \$268,000.00 and with this budget that we are proposing and if we were able to follow through it will get this paid off. He noted that by in large the increase in assessments and the fact that we were able to hold expenses in most departments to a reasonable amount.

Mayor MacKay asked if there were any comments from Council.

Councillor Sutherland noted that this is an acknowledgement that the tax rate of Westville are a little too high and we would like to be in a situation where we didn't have to lower the tax rate as there is lots of work that needs to be done in our Town and this is an acknowledgment that citizens not only in Westville but everywhere are struggling to the breaking point and we had to make tough choices and it would have been nice to find \$25,000.00 for the Governance Study but it is hard to pay for a Governance Study and a Municipal Election in the same year. The total taxes collected across Canada only 8 cents go to Municipal Government and 92 cents of every dollar goes to Federal or Provincial governments. We realize that lots and lots of work is required in our community and being a bedroom community the homeowners carry too heavy a load of the tax and we continue to stress to the Provincial and Federal Governments to come in and do something for the Town of Westville tax base. Considering what is going on in Liverpool and Port Hawkesbury it is going to be tough for them as well. He also mentioned that downloading came from the Provincial Government and he did not want to lower our taxes but we lowered the taxes as our citizens are stretched to the limit.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald takes it as an acknowledgment as well but she feels it is more due to good management and having the right people in the right places at the right time. She went on to note that she was not talking about the Mayor and the Council but our Department Heads, our CAO as we have a very strong CAO in Mr. Fraser and everybody knows it is a numbers game and if you can't control your numbers you are going to end up in debt. She noted that sometimes debt is unavoidable sometimes things come at you such as a bad winter with too much snow will deplete your snow budget and put you over or it could be unexpected pension shortfalls that have to be met by the Town or any number of things that can come up. We do have a CAO who is very good at planning ahead and putting a little aside for these potential pitfalls that we may come across, she noted that we have strong Department Heads with every Department and she feels that people that work for the Town want to see the Town get ahead and they are dedicated at what they do. She is happy that the rate could be dropped and it says that this year we don't need \$2.13 per \$100 and we recognize that the assessments are up and everyone has worked on the budget and we can live with \$2.09 and she says congratulations to everyone.

Councillor Jones noted that he agreed with both Councilors that spoke tonight and recognized the hard work of all the Department Heads and CAO who worked together to make this happen and he noted that it is great to lower the tax and it goes to show that the Town has decided to be one unit and that all our Departments; Public Works, Police and the Office Administration work well together.

Mayor MacKay noted that it is always a struggle when you have a small community without a large commercial tax base and like was said we were fortunate to have the new commercial building at Exit 21 and hopefully there will be more facilities going out there and that was one of our main objectives when we got elected 4 years ago, we know that it has been a slow process but it is coming ahead. As we all know things do not happen overnight but we will continue to try to do the best for our residents. This rate drop is a little step but we will continue to work for our citizens and as mentioned by Councillor Sutherland we have a lot of work to do but as I tell everybody you can only do what you can do with what you have to work with and I believe that we have done a good job.

9. NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS;

9.1 Unsightly Properties

Councillor Jones noted on the first page of the report it shows that there were 3 inspections done in Westville and if you look at the list it shows that 2 are at the same address. CAO Fraser noted that he would speak to the Unsightly Officer to check on this matter. On the 2 reports it shows that they are dangerous and Mr. MacIntosh has asked if we could schedule a meeting to deal with these two properties and the recommendation that they be demolished. So if this is the case they will need 5 business days to do that and we would have enough time if we schedule it for sometime this month rather than wait for July. Some discussion took place and CAO Fraser was told to set up a date with Mr. MacIntosh and schedule the meeting.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald mentioned there is one that is not on there and that is the one on Church Street that is owned by the bank and she questioned if a registered letter had to be sent to the bank and if so she requested that the letter be sent.

9.2 Paving Recommendation

CAO Fraser noted that 3 bids were received and the following recommendations were made by staff.

1. Picken Street - \$103 per ton (\$74,984) award to Dexter Construction
2. Main Street - \$6.15 per sq meter (\$61,500) micro seal –Dexter Construction
3. Drummond Road- \$103 per ton (\$47,380) awarded to Dexter Construction for Foxbrook Road to Queen Street.
4. Addendum to contract – Hoyt Street - \$103 per Ton estimated \$42,000

CAO Fraser noted that the tendering process this year was very competitive and after receiving the prices it was recommended to pave Picken Street rather than chip seal as the paving price came in lower for Dexter. He also noted that the Capital budget for the town is tentatively set at \$250,000.00 to be funded 50% borrowing and 50% gas tax.

Councillor Jones made a motion seconded by Deputy Mayor MacDonald to proceed with the staff recommendation for paving. Motion carried.

9.3 Police Tender

CAO Fraser noted that the Tenders have closed for the award of a police cruiser and staff are recommending the purchase of the 2011 Dodge Charger complete police package from Dartmouth Dodge at the monthly operating lease of \$882.87. He noted that it is a turnkey vehicle and is ready for the road. It was also noted that the existing police cruisers will be sold and the proceeds will go towards the capital reserve. Some further discussion took place.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald made a motion seconded by Councillor Jones to proceed with the staff recommendation for accepting Dartmouth Dodge tender for 2011 Police car at \$882.87 per month. Motion carried.

9.4 West Street Park

CAO Fraser noted that Tenders have closed to award for the West Street Park Landscaping. He noted that staff recommendation would be for the Trees and Trails quote of \$13,924.00. CAO Fraser attached a sketch of the kiosk and what we are expecting it to look like when the landscaping is done. He went on to note that in 2011 a community tourism kiosk was installed by the Flight Engineers and cabinets have been placed in it and they are a donation from the Nova Scotia Community College and plans are currently underway to erect signage within the kiosk. He also noted that the Town received a generous donation towards landscaping the lot, as well as a donation from a citizen of Pictou in memory of her father for the park and this worked out to about 1/3 of the costs. Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that she could provide some information on work that has been done by Trees and Trails. Councillor Jones also noted that work is being done by Ms MacEachern from North Main Street and she is working with George Dooley to get the information that will be put in the cabinets. He noted that staff met with the landscaper on site and they advised that they will be able to begin work in the middle of July and it will take approximately one week to complete

Deputy Mayor MacDonald made a motion and it was seconded by Councillor Sutherland to accept staff recommendation to award the Tender to Trees and Trails for the amount of \$13,924.00 Motion carried.

9.5 Pythian Sisters

CAO Fraser noted that he had received information that the Pythian Sisters were asked to relocate their meetings from the room which currently houses the Heritage Club. The Pythian Sister asked that the information be taken to Council with a request that they be allowed to continue to use this room for their meetings as they do not conflict with the Heritage Club's use of the room. He noted that under the agreement the Heritage Club has with the town it specifies that the Town may request use of the room and the Pythian Sisters are asking the Town to grant access to the room for its monthly meetings. Staff is asking for direction in this matter and noted that they have used the room for the last 3 years. Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that the Pythian Sisters have just celebrated their 100th Year Anniversary and she would like to see someone meet with the Heritage Club and the Pythian Sisters to see if this can be resolved. Councillor Sutherland suggested the room next to the Library downstairs. It was suggested that the Mayor and CAO set up a meeting with the Pythian Sisters and the Heritage Club.

9.6 Highland Consolidated Middle School

Mayor MacKay noted that the controversy over a recent misquote has been worked out and looked after. He noted that we will all work together to get the school back up and noted that they are spending a fair amount to accommodate the students at the MacLeod School and we will continue to work to have the students returned to the Highland Consolidated Middle School here in Westville. Councillor Jones noted that he was glad to see that all the students are being kept together in the same school but that we have to work diligently to bring our school back to Town.

9.7 Garden Club

1. Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that they advised her that they spent \$442.00 on flowers so if we could put that into our financial system and have it paid out to them.
2. They are also requesting some consideration for space to hold their meetings and this is because the Highland Consolidated Middle School is no longer available so they are inquiring if there is any space in our building. Mayor MacKay noted that the Community Room or the Council committee room may be suitable as they only meet once a month. He is going to leave it up to Deputy Mayor MacDonald to look into this matter.

9.8 Tender for Tennis Court

CAO Fraser noted that the Tenders have closed and the lowest bid was Webster Bros for \$29,000.00 and he also noted that we received a Provincial Grant for \$8,000.00 and there was a donation of \$1,500.00 from the Westville Rotary Club as well as a donation from the Kinsman Club. He noted that 1/3 of the cost will be coming from donations and grants and the other \$20,000.00 would be the responsibility of the Town of Westville. Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that when the project was first introduced they thought it would cost approximately \$90,000.00. She would like to send congratulations to Recreation Co-Coordinator Susan Oliver for all the work she has put into this project.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald made a motion and it was seconded by Councillor Jones to award the contract for the Tennis Court to Webster Bros. Motion carried.

ITEM 10 QUESTIONS FROM CITIZENS

10.1 Lennie White 2434 Cowan Street – Mr White noted that he has been a citizen of Westville for the last 4 years. He went on to congratulate the Mayor and Council for all the work they do on behalf of the Town. He noted that he is going to ask 3 questions on behalf of a group called One Voice for Pictou County and the three questions are in relation to the Governance Study being suggested for Pictou County and the fact that he feels it is imperative in order for Pictou County to move on.

1. Do you support the Governance Study?
2. Are you going to re-offer?
3. If so are you willing to contribute to the Study?

Councillor Sutherland noted that he was pleased to meet Mr. White and he went on to note that when he came to Council we had 6 elected citizens and a Mayor and this was reduced and we held open meetings and had various opinions concerning the number of people that should be representing a Town our size and the Council of the day chose the number four with a Mayor and four years after that we went through the process again and the citizens in our Town came and wanted not the status quo and they did not want any ward system in the Town so now we use the tracks as the dividing point in the Town and he noted that 41 people is a lot of people and if they were all put in one room it might be unruly but if you want to have individual communities as we now have he doesn't know how it could be done with less than 5. He went on to say that he attended the USNM spring meeting in Truro paid for by the Citizens of the Town of Westville and at that meeting it was made very clear to him by representatives from the Province that the initiative they have at this time called Women in Local Government that the remuneration that the Town of Westville paid an elected person would directly keep women in local government from participating

in government because if a baby sitter was required the remuneration would not pay for a baby sitter. He went on to say that most weeks the members of this Council attend at least 3 meetings and it is easy to say that is not necessary but if one of those meetings might be before the Budget process that may last 3 to 4 hours and the next meeting PRDA meeting in new Glasgow at the Kinsman Opportunity Center and then you go one night a month members of this Council and our local fire department have a meeting and then there are outside Board meetings that we attend and now do we need 41 persons if we have one level of government in Pictou County probably not, rather definitely not, however, having said that it was brought to our attention at the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities meeting in Truro that they are now going to have more MLA's in Halifax Metro than local Councillors and when you consider that a local Councillor in Halifax is responsible for running his own campaign how could that possibly be and if you are involved in a level of government in Pictou County of 10 or 12 persons you are certainly going to exclude people with less access to revenue than I guess I made that point. I fully believe that Pictou County has to be in some way, shape and form be united and I am all for bringing Pictou County together and if and when it happens I'm very receptive to revenue sharing and he noted that it is all well and good for people to say that in Pictou County we have to share expenses, purchasing and any other number of things but from the Town of Westville's point of view the most important aspect would be revenue sharing as we operate with a much lower amount of tax dollars any way you look at it. Look at it per capita look at it assessment however, you want to look at it we are dealing with nickels and dimes compared to many other Municipalities.

Councillor Jones noted his answer to the questions would be.

1. Yes
2. Yes
3. No, the Province agreed to pay for it and he feels they should.

Mr. White asked if the study was done would he be in favour of the results and Councillor Jones answered it would boil down to the fact if it was fair to the Town of Westville and he noted if it was not going to cost us any more he doesn't want to hear that the budget will be going up 1 or 2 million dollars. He noted he would be in favor if it is not going to cost us a whole bunch of money and it is fair to the citizens of Westville.

Mayor MacKay

1. Yes
2. Yes
3. He might give it some consideration if we had the money perhaps a small amount such as \$1000.00 but he only has one vote.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald

1. Yes, she thought the study would be a good thing initially but it has been layered and layered and she does not feel it will ever take place because they want to know too much and they are asking questions 10 years down the road and what are we going to look like and she thought that it was to look at basic things and what amalgamation would do.
2. Yes
3. No, the Minister of the day said were going to do the Study and pay for it and then they changed Ministers and the new Minister decided that there would be a cost involved. She agreed with Councillor Jones that the money we have has to stay in Westville for the citizens of Westville.

Mr. White thanked the Mayor and Council for lowering the tax rate.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that she did not agree with Mr. White's comment on this being a thankless job as she really does not feel that way and also that it is not money. She also noted that Westville is a great community and she has been able to work with a lot of people who are really concerned about their community.

10.2 Aubrey Mattatal – Temperance Street

Mr Mattatal had some questions concerning the privacy fence that the Randy Langille Development is going to provide near his property. Mayor MacKay mentioned there is a process we have to follow and Mr. Langille has been given time lines to do the work and there is suppose to be an open line of communication as he has guaranteed us that he will be in touch and keep us up to date on what progress is being made. Mayor MacKay noted that he was not sure of the exact time allowed for the privacy fence. Mayor MacKay noted that we would follow up his request by calling the Planning Commission tomorrow and get them to check on same.

Item 14 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

14.1 *It was moved by Deputy Mayor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Jones to move to in-camera session. Motion carried.*

14.2 *It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and seconded by Deputy Mayor Jones in-camera session be adjourned. Motion carried*

Certified to be a true copy of the minutes of the June 25th, 2012 of the Town of Westville Regular Council Meeting.

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MAYOR

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RECORDING SECRETARY