



**Town of Westville  
Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, March 26, 2012**

*Commencing at 6:00 pm*

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

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**1. CALLING OF MEETING TO ORDER**

**1.1** Deputy Mayor Lynn MacDonald called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and welcomed all in attendance. She explained that during the meeting she would like a motion to be able to pass the gavel if needed during the Meeting.

*It was moved by Councillor Thompson and seconded by Councillor Sutherland that the gavel be handed to Councillor Jones if needed during the Meeting. Motion carried.*

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**Additions:**

**Councillor Jones**

**By-Law 7**

**Financial Misconception**

**Challenge for the Citizens of Westville**

**Deputy Mayor MacDonald**

**Set Date for Finance Committee Meeting**

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 3.1 *It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Thompson to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2012 regular Council Meeting as amended. Motion carried.*

Councillor Thompson noted that in Item 6.4 on the third last line the date reads April 8<sup>th</sup> should actually be the 18<sup>th</sup>.

### 4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- 4.1 Councillor Thompson inquired on the guardrail that was to be put in front of the Mabey home that was hit with the car. CAO Fraser noted that we are just waiting to have it installed.
- 4.2 Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that she had tried to reach some Members of the Dunvegan Pipe Band and the newly formed Pipe Band but to date was unable to do so to set up a meeting due to work schedules, vacations, etc. She will continue to pursue this item.
- 4.3 CAO Fraser noted that through the Traffic Authority a letter has been sent to Stellarton to set up a meeting concerning the designated truck route and a meeting will be set up as soon as he hears back from them and hopefully he will have some news on this matter that is suitable to both Towns. Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that she had heard from citizens in the older sub-division that the big trucks are coming up that way and using this as their route into Town.
- 4.4 Councillor Sutherland noted that there seems to be more trucks coming from the Antigonish area and they are coming off Exit 23 and coming up Rte 289; this County district contains Abercrombie, Granton and Alma area and the tax assessment base larger than the Town of Westville and he noted that the 3 kilometers used by the trucks is maintained and paved by the Province of Nova Scotia until they come across the small bridge on to what we call North Main Street when in fact it is still Rte 298 and then the Town of Westville is responsible for the same roads and the tax assessment is smaller than the County. He asked that a letter be sent to set up a meeting with our local MLA Clarrie MacKinnon concerning this issue. He would like to have the question asked why should the person with the smaller tax base pay to maintain this same road.

### 5. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 *It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Thompson to approve/pay the accounts as presented. Motion carried.*

Councillor Sutherland noted there was no oil bill shown on this list of accounts and therefore we do not get a true reflection for the month.

Councillor Jones asked if the check for the Wellness Centre is the transfer deed tax and CAO Fraser confirmed that it was.

## 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 6.1 Police - *It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and seconded by Councillor Jones that the Police Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.***
- 6.2 Fire Report - *It was moved by Deputy Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Thompson 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 Thompson that the Fire Inspector Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.***
- 6.4 Recreation Report - *It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Sutherland that the Recreation Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.***
- 6.5 Compost Garbage & Recycling Report - *It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and seconded by Councillor Thompson that the Compost Garbage & Recycling Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.***
- 6.6 Environmental Health Report – *It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Thompson that the Environmental Health Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.***  
Councillor Sutherland noted that last week was World Water Week and that we are very fortunate to have safe quality water available in our Town that we receive from the Town of New Glasgow.
- 6.7 Transportation Report - *It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Sutherland that the Transportation Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.***
- 6.8 Animal Control Report – *It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Thompson that the Animal Control Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.***
- 6.9 Building Report – - *It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and seconded by Councillor Thompson that the Building Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.***

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

### 7.1 **Pictou County Health Authority**

Deputy Mayor MacDonald read the following letter received:

Further to the municipal leaders briefing on Monday, February 27, wherein I advised the group that the province will be erecting a sign at the Aberdeen site announcing the redevelopment of the Emergency and Pharmacy departments, I would like to request whether the municipal units are interested in purchasing a similar sign acknowledging the municipal unit's contribution toward the project. Signed by Patrick Lee, Chief Executive Officer.

Councillor Jones noted that he did not feel we should be placing advertising signs on a busy road as it may hinder traffic. Councillor Thompson agreed with this. Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked CAO Fraser as Councillor Jones pointed out we have not made a commitment for funding yet and she was wondering how we should proceed with the matter.

CAO Fraser noted that the first step would be to decide on funding and this may be something that can be discussed at the Finance Meeting. It was decided to table this discussion and bring it back after a decision has been made.

### 7.2 **Wood Works Atlantic**

CAO Fraser noted that this Organization sent a copy of a Proclamation passed by Parrsboro trying to promote wood as their first choice when building new construction or adding on.

Councillor Jones inquired if this was concerning any projects that the Town would take on.

CAO Fraser noted that it is what he understood that if the Town was to do any projects they would use wood and basically it is to promote the idea of wood products being used whenever possible. He noted that the motion passed by Parrsboro reads whenever feasible.

Councillor Sutherland noted that all the time he has been on Council he lamented the fact that we don't have a great deal of commercial or industrial business but he noted that we do have one of the oldest established concrete basement businesses in Pictou County right here in our Town. He noted that are they not only great for business they are one of the finest corporate citizens that we have. He noted that we are very fortunate to have those type of people in our community.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that this was a very good point and when she thinks of the type of building that they do now with the new construction a lot of it is concrete walls for houses and buildings.

Councillor Thompson wanted to comment that she would like to see us not limit ourselves when we in the future will be doing construction in the Town we don't want to limit ourselves on what type of building material we use as we will want to go for the best material for the best price. She mentioned that the communication mentions condos, townhouses, shopping centres, hotels/motels, industrial buildings, etc and she noted that if wood is the most reasonable and acceptable material at the time it would be at that point that we would make a decision.

Councillor Sutherland noted that one of the finest Companies in Pictou County is MacGregor's and they have come up with a new design and if you take notice of the new development in the Stellarton Industrial Park he believes that the gas station and convenience store were the first example of that type and that they are now building them all over the world. He also mentioned further to what Councillor Thompson mentioned when the time comes we would have to look at what the best price would be for any construction that was being considered at the time.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that there were some very good comments and she noted that what she was hearing from Council is that we don't need to move on this and we will just set it aside and move on.

### **7.3 Pictou County Sports Heritage Hall of Fame**

*It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and seconded by Councillor Thompson to send the financial request from the Pictou County Sports Heritage Hall of Fame to the Finance Committee. Motion carried.*

### **7.4 Letter from Town of Bridgewater**

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that she did not understand this correspondence and asked if someone could throw some light on it .

Councillor Jones noted that he had a few minutes today and he spoke with our Chief of Police on this letter and basically what it says is that right now any of the Municipalities in the Province that are receiving their policing from the RCMP they are receiving compensation from the Government. Basically it is approximately thirty cents per dollar and so it is only costing those Municipalities seventy cents to every dollar that those that have their own forces.

This correspondence is a request from the Town of Bridgewater asking for the Government to help those Municipalities that have their own Police forces in place. They are asking the Municipalities to look at this and to support them in this request. He noted that it was sent to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities; Minster Ross Landry, Department of Justice; Towns of Amherst, Annapolis Royal, CBRM, Kentville, New Glasgow, Springhill, Stellarton, Truro and Westville. So we have all received the same letter and they are requesting that we try to work with the other Municipalities and see if we can come up with some funding to help the Police Department budgets.

Councillor Thompson commented that she would like to see our Town write a letter similar to the one we have received from the Town of Bridgewater has written and send it to the Hon Darrell Dexter to express our concerns and see if we cannot get a seventy cent dollar towards our Policing costs.

Councillor Sutherland noted that the problem has been identified for a long time and previous Council's in Westville have expressed in the past that this is a terribly unfair condition years ago

And he noted that the Nova Scotia Liquor Commission use to advertise in their stores that a percentage of every dollar and he noted that it was 7.9% on the dollar went to pay the RCMP costs of policing in the Province. He noted that a former Council on his recommendation sent a letter to the Province of Nova Scotia saying we would like the same deal for Municipal Towns as the RCMP were receiving. After that they stopped the advertisement in the stores. He noted that they will be very receptive to receiving these letters as they have had them before and they will be very receptive to having them again. He noted that he would vote affirmative to the proposal that Councillor Jones and Councillor Thompson were referring to.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald thanked Councillor Jones for delving into this correspondence as she did not when she read the correspondence get what they were driving at and she noted that they are basically supporting us in seeking more funding for our Police Service. So she mentioned that we will write a letter to Mr Dexter and Mr Landry and Councillor Thompson also requested that a copy go to our local MLA.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked Councillor Thompson if she would move this motion and Councillor Jones agreed to second same.

*It was moved by Councillor Thompson and seconded by Councillor Jones that we send a letter to the Premier and the Minister of the Department of Justice with reference to this idea put forth by the Town of Bridgewater that more funding be made available through the Province to cover the Municipal Policing costs of the Towns such as Westville. Motion carried.*

## **7.5 EFFICIENCY N.S.**

CAO Fraser explained that this information has been received explaining how Efficiency Nova Scotia Corporation and their partner, Trinity Inspection Services, will provide free and exclusive energy efficient upgrades that will save you money. The program will give you CFL light bulbs, Electric hot water tank wrap, low-flow showerheads, water aerators, LED night lights, etc and explain ways to make homes more energy efficient. He explained all you have to do is contact Efficiency Nova Scotia and set up an appointment. The information is on the counter at the Town Office. He noted that it only applies to the Town of Westville and the appointment has to be made by April 16, 2012.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked if the information could be added to the website with a link to Efficiency Nova Scotia Corporation. Councillor Thompson asked if it was for residential only and CAO Fraser explained that yes it is more for a residential setting.

## **7.6 LORDA**

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that this is a request asking for financial help in retiring the debt that is still outstanding of \$24,000.00 for the new \$110,000.00 building that was constructed and is furnished with tools and equipment. One item mentioned in the letter is that they have recently partnered with the N.S. Federation of Anglers and Hunters and they will be putting on courses at the Park, i.e. fly tying, archery, etc.

*It was moved by Councillor Thompson and seconded by Councillor Sutherland that we send the request from LORDA to the finance committee for consideration. Motion carried.*

Councillor Jones noted that if you like maple syrup you can drive out and purchase some, he made a purchase and it is delicious.

## **7.7 PROGRESS MAGAZINE**

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that it talks about the challenges that are generally known that homeowners, businesses, government face today and that some of the problems are very daunting but they have been met with innovative initiatives. The Public Sector leaders are doing a great job in recognizing innovative practises and through this they have set up a program to acknowledge people in this sector and she noted that if we had somebody we thought was worthy of an nomination we could put their name forth to the Progress Magazine. So basically this is just for information.

## **7.8 Westville Police Youth Group**

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that this letter was received explaining that the Westville Police Youth Group have been invited to take part in a Youth Program Exchange May 24<sup>th</sup>-May 28 where they will visit two different Sherriff's Departments and participate with them during their own Police Youth Group Meetings. They will also have the opportunity to visit the Kennedy Space Centre. They also noted that only Westville and the New Glasgow group have been extended this invitation. The cost involved is \$1050.00 per person. They have made a request for a donation to help with the costs.

*It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and seconded by Councillor Jones that we forward this request to the finance committee for consideration. Motion carried.*

## **8. NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **8.1 Unsightly Properties/Derelict Buildings**

CAO Fraser noted that the copy was provided by Barry MacIntosh and at this time Mr MacIntosh was not recommending any further action on three of the properties, the only exception was for 1887 Drummond Road that was scheduled for a follow up inspection to be carried out on April 16, 2012, he also shows a follow-up on 1970 Purvis Avenue. CAO Fraser noted that the other 3 properties that remain he requested if Council had any feedback concerning them. CAO Fraser reminded Council that they can accept the report as written or provide further instructions to Mr. MacIntosh.

Councillor Jones noted that 1875 Purvis Avenue, the Parker Morris property has been ongoing since the last 8 – 10 years and he would recommend that Council over rule Mr MacIntosh and have the Town clean up this property.

CAO Fraser noted that the first step would be have Mr MacIntosh issue a 15 or 30 day time limit and if there is nothing done in that time frame have the Town proceed with clean up.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked what stage of development his permit was at? CAO Fraser noted that permits have not been changed and that was only a suggestion that was made concerning permits.

Councillor Jones note that some of the permits that are shown on the building have been expired since some time.

*It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Sutherland that Parker Morris at 1875 Purvis Avenue be given a 30 day notice to clean up. Motion carried.*

## **8.2 PAC Committee**

CAO Fraser noted that the appointed committee had met last week and there was one new application as well as the two previous Board Members re-offered. After reviewing the applications; it was recommended that Robert Partington and Doug Oliver serve on this committee.

*It was moved by Councillor Thompson and seconded by Councillor Jones to invite Robert Partington and Doug Oliver an invitation to serve on the Planning Advisory Committee. Motion carried.*

## **8.3 Police Board**

CAO Fraser informed Council that Commissioner Brent Minshull had tendered his resignation from the Westville Police Board Commission. He noted that the by law calls for a 7 member board which requires us to advertise for the 7<sup>th</sup> Member to replace Mr Minshull. CAO Fraser noted that he was just seeking direction on this matter from the Council on advertising for that position or the only alternative would be to amend the by law to a 5 member board and if this was to happen it would require someone to step down from the board.

Councillor Sutherland noted that it would have to be an elected person as that is the way the Board is structured either you have 5 or you have 7. He noted that he has definite thoughts on the Police Board, he noted that it is the largest expenditure that we have and in a perfect world the Police Commission would be 11 persons and that would be the 5 Elected Persons and 5 Community Members along with the Government Representative. He finds it very hard that we have the largest expenditure and all the elected people are not represented on the Board. He finds this very disconcerting.

Councillor Jones noted that he brought up a 5 member board and just put it out there to see if it was a possibility. He noted that if the people on the Board and the Council wish to keep it at 7 he has no problem with that at all.

*It was moved by Councillor Thompson and seconded by Councillor Sutherland to keep the Westville Police Commission Board at 7 members and at this time advertise for a new member.  
Motion carried.*

Councillor Sutherland noted that Mr. Minshull was a terrific worker for the Board.

Councillor Thompson noted that Mr Minshull was a good board member and we should send him a letter of thanks.

#### **8.4 Katimavik**

CAO Fraser noted that this did become before Council last month and the Recreation Co-Ordinator has been involved since then sourcing out information on it and there will be an information session held in our area mid-April to invite communities that first received an invitation from Katimavik and he suggested that we attend. He noted that from talking to her it seems to be a 12 month program so that the people that are involved in it the 11 full time volunteers would live in the community for 12 months. It was suggested by our Recreation Co-Ordinator that we could possibly look at working with other communities and they could spend 3 months in different areas of the County.

He feels it would be worthwhile trying to come up with a 12 month program for the Town as he feels there are a few groups that could use the volunteer capacity that the group would provide. He listed a few such as the Library, Military Museum, the Church Groups, the Westville Rink, Salvation Army Thrift Shop and the Town Departments such as the Parks, etc. He feels there are projects that we could the group to work on.

They currently have projects in Halifax and Wolfville.

He noted that it is certainly a viable opportunity for the community. He noted that staff is looking for direction on whether to proceed with investigating this opportunity.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked for direction from the Council on this matter. Councillor Jones feels that we should look at it and see what is being offered. Councillor Thompson noted that she agreed with Councillor Jones it is a good opportunity for the Town to have some work done.

Councillor Sutherland noted that his niece worked with Katimavik in the North and she lived in 3 different communities and what a great experience it was for her and he feels it is great opportunity for the youth and the Town to be the host community.

*It was moved by Councillor Thompson and seconded By Councillor Sutherland to explore Katimavik by attending the information session that is being offered.  
Motion carried.*

#### **8.5 Electronic Voting**

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that information has been provided by CAO Scott Fraser concerning electronic voting either by internet or over the phone. CAO Fraser noted that Council had suggested we look at the potential of electronic voting and he contacted Intelivote Systems Inc., a company that is based in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. He also contacted Yarmouth and Antigonish as they already use this method of voting.

He noted that the price per voter is \$1.75 and we have approximately 3100 eligible voters and there would be additional costs for letter with pin numbers and postage. Once received by the residents they can log onto their computers or use the phone number provided to proceed with voting. He noted that the Company and some of the other units that have switched are showing a dramatic increase in voter turnout. They have also noted that it is not just the younger people but many seniors that are not able to get out to the polling stations easily and now they can cast their vote by computer or phone.

Councillor Jones asked if there would still be regular voting stations and ballot boxes as not everyone will want to use the telephone or have a computer.

CAO Fraser noted that yes there would be the first time and he also noted that some of the Municipalities are going completely to using just the electronic voting but a lot of them are still maintaining the ballot box because not everyone wants to do it electronically they still want to put their mark on the paper. He noted that in a lot of cases they have reduced the number of polling stations and that will offset some of the cost. He also noted that there would have to be a helpline set up and the CAO and Returning Officer will meet with the Company and set up a Helpline for such things as people losing their PIN number or they need some direction on the process.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that she was very interested in general terms as Many people do not go out to vote as well many people cannot for various reasons get out to vote and for these reasons she feels this should be explored.

Councillor Thompson agrees as she feels voting is one of the most important privileges in a democracy and anything that can make it easier for public to be a part of this process that our Soliders fought for so many years should be seriously looked at.

Councillor Sutherland asked if there has been a survey done and noted we have approximately 1600 homes and he wanted to know if it is known how many have computers.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that you wouldn't need a computer you can use a phone or library CAP site and CAO Fraser noted that some polling stations in other areas have computers set up but this is not something that we would necessarily have in place at this time unless Council chooses to do that. Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that if we did go forward with this idea we would still have voting stations and ballot boxes so that you could vote in the traditional way. Councillor Sutherland noted we would still have to pay for 3100 PINS. Councillor Sutherland asked if it would cost \$5000.00 more including the stamps.

CAO Fraser noted that the quoted cost would be approximately \$8500.00.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald feels we should look at the cost and Councillor Thompson agreed that they should look into the matter. At this point Councillor Jones inquired on the timeframe needed to have it set up and CAO Fraser thought we should have a decision in the next couple months and that if it was used it would only mean a reduction in polling stations. He noted that it would probably end up costing more but we could offset some of the costs. Councillor Sutherland feels at one time Westville will have electronic voting but he is not convinced that it will be for this election.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald feels that should we put this in place it may bump up the number of citizens that will vote. Councillor Sutherland suggested having a ratepayers meeting or sending out a letter explaining it to the people

*It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Thompson to explore the option of electronic voting and the costs that would be involved. Motion carried*

#### **8.6 – First Reading Recreation Committee Bylaw No. 2**

CAO Fraser noted he had attached a copy of the Draft Recreation Bylaw submitted for first reading. The existing Bylaw has been updated to reflect changes of the committee's structure that had been suggested by the committee with respect to its membership.

- Allow membership up to 13 members
- Defining “surrounding area” as Pictou County but limiting membership to two members at any time for the surrounding area.

Section 16 of this Bylaw also acknowledges the Committee does not have the power to pledge credit of the Town in any matter whatsoever.

*It was moved by Councillor Thompson and seconded by Councillor Sutherland to accept the First Reading of the Recreation Committee Bylaw No 2 as presented. Motion carried*

#### **8.7 – ABCD/PRDA Program**

CAO Fraser noted that Mayor was looking for a date to have meeting to start this project. Deputy Mayor MacDonald we should wait until Mayor MacKay is back before proceeding with setting up a meeting date.

#### **8.8 – Westville Heritage Group**

Deputy Mayor MacDonald wanted to congratulate the Westville Heritage Group as they had applied for a grant and received same and will now be participating with the Pictou West/Central East Community Health Board. They received a grant to host a monthly event At these gatherings they will participate in a sing along, a meal and have guest speakers as well. It is meant to help people age well and keep up their spirits. It is beginning on March 26<sup>th</sup> with a movie, sing along and lunch.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald also asked CAO Fraser to mention same on the Town web site.

#### **8.9 – Maritime Steel**

Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked to pass the gavel and Councillor Jones took over the meeting. Deputy Mayor MacDonald spoke on Maritime Steel and she will ask for a motion to the other Councils to support Maritime Steel to write to the Minister of Economics the fact that the Province of Nova Scotia is refusing to loan the new owner of Maritime Steel money. She noted that millions of dollars are being given out in this province and this man is asking for a loan of a million dollars and not a grant or gift.

This would represent 150 jobs at Maritime Steel and that plant has been there for a long time and all of Pictou County needs jobs.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked that a letter of support for the new owner of Maritime Steel be forwarded to Minister of Development and also set to Premier Dexter. She asked for a motion to support this correspondence. Deputy Mayor MacDonald moved and it was seconded by Councillor Thompson to have a letter sent to Economic Minister Percy Paris and also to Premier Darrell Dexter that we are in favour of the Provincial Government lending him money to help Mr Jafarnia and his business, Maritime Steel back on its feet.

*It was moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Thompson to write to Percy Paris Minister of Economic Development and Premier Dexter as well as the other Municipal Units in support of Maritime Steel and the idea to keep more jobs in Pictou County. Motion passed.*

#### **8.10 – Moneysense Magazine**

Deputy Mayor MacDonald spoke on the Moneysense Magazine and she knows that people are tired of hearing about it but she did want to speak to it tonight. She noted that this is the magazine that ranked New Glasgow as 190<sup>th</sup> as one of the best places to live in Canada. She noted that they are not just talking New Glasgow they are talking Pictou County as the look at the larger area. She noted that earlier this month she supplied Council with the methodology and how they arrived at this ranking the criteria that they use. She feels that the criteria they use is slanted against rural communities and it asks questions like do you bike to work? She noted that it takes her 20 minutes to drive to work in a car. She noted CKEC has taken an interest and they are going to start a program to put forward to Moneysense and the rest of Canada and show what a great place this is to work and live. We really feel that the message should be very positive about Pictou County because of all the positive things that are happening here. The communities have such beautiful assets from hills, valleys, beaches. We are a very giving community and she feels that you couldn't live in a better place as it is a place where people ask for help and they get it and nothing is expected back. CKEC is asking all the Municipal Councils to put forward a motion to join in this effort and each Council will be given an opportunity on how they want to pursue putting forward the message about what a great place this is to live, she noted that perhaps we will have people from Westville doing testimonials saying, I am (Name) and I live in Pictou County and this is a great place to live because (individuals choice of words on why). She also suggested that somebody in the audience or in the Town may have another idea on how we can promote the County.

*It was moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Thompson that Westville Town Council adopt the idea to join in with the CKEC program and the other Municipal Units to put Pictou County's best foot forward and show Moneysense what a great place we really are. Motion passed.*

Councillor Jones asked if the other Municipalities have been contacted and Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that this was the first Council to be approached with the idea and she noted that CKEC is doing it Council by Council and they asked if she would bring it to Westville. Councillor Jones noted that all the Towns and County spend a lot of money on recreation and if you add it all up and he noted this as it is another thing to add to the comments on this being a beautiful place to live. He noted the walking trails, scenery, activities and the Wellness Centre being built. He feels that we should move on something like this.

**8.11 – Date for Finance Meeting**

Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked if a date could be set for the Finance Meeting and after some discussion it was decided and it was decided to wait for Mayor MacKay to return.

**8.12 – Challenge for the Citizens of Westville**

Councillor Jones noted that he walks around Town a lot and since the snow has melted he has noticed an unusual amount of debris along the side of road and in the ditches. Therefore, to try to get a head start on spring clean up, he would like to issue a challenge to the residents of Westville to take a few minutes out of their busy days to pick up the debris in front of their homes and for the businesses to do the same in front of their main doors. He noted that he would like to put this challenge out and not wait for the Program Go Green Get Clean Campaign to start. He would like everyone to take pride in the Town and pick up a little debris.

**8.13 – Westville Financial Misconception**

Councillor Jones wanted to clarify the misconception regarding the Town's finances that has been reported in the media over the past few months. He noted that Westville has finally come together as a full until after being administered by another Town for a number of years. Now that we have our own administration, decisions on the matters of financing are dealt with directly by the Council and our own CAO so at this time we find that any available funds would be better allocated for the direct needs of the Town instead of a governance study. So he wanted the public to know that it is not that Westville, cannot afford the study, it is that we prefer to keep the taxpayer's money within the Town. He wanted to clarify this issue as we have been getting bad publicity the last few months and he just wanted to clarify this point – it is not that we broke we have money but we prefer to keep it in the Town.

**8.14- ByLaw # 7**

Councillor Jones that we recently amended Bylaw 7 and there is one section here on the public when they come up for questions he noted there is a copy of Bylaw 7 at the podium for citizens to follow during Question Period so we have proper decorum during our public proceedings.

I would like to remind everyone that , in the past, the Council has been bullied through insults and inappropriate behaviour. Under Sub Section 18.7 of Bylaw, the Mayor/Chair can ask the individual to leave the meeting or be removed if proper decorum is not followed. He feels that it is time that when people stand up to address the Council it should be done in the proper manner. He just wants to see that this Bylaw that has been passed by the Town is fully enforced.

#### **8.15 Railway Tracks**

Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked if there was anything else and Councillor Sutherland noted that under Unfinished Business he noted that some of the citizens in Town who live alongside the railway tracks continue to have concerns and they very much appreciate that we have a local railway and that they do a good job but their concern is that the railway has such a large stretch to look after that there may be insufficient funds from time to time are not being allocated. He would like a meeting with our MLA and let them know that we have 2 level crossings in Town that don't have electric lights and bells and he would like to have it discussed about getting solar powered flashing red lights installed. We could see if there is a project available that maybe Westville could take advantage of. We really appreciate having the luxury of the railway here and the valuable service and employing local people we don't have any complaint with that but the people that live close to the tracks have some concern.

### **9. QUESTIONS FROM CITIZENS**

#### **9.1 Sandy Cyr – 2360 Foxbrook Road**

Mr Cyr asked how he should address the Council and Deputy Mayor MacDonald told him that Deputy Mayor would be fine. He noted that he had a couple of things that he would like to mention. First we have an election coming in about 8 months time and he was wondering if Council was going to have a ratepayers meeting to explain to the people how they made out in the last 3 years since they have been on their own. He wanted to know if they would be able to explain the finances of all Departments and where you stand right now and if they are not going to have a ratepayers meeting will you be interested in sending out a news letter to explain to the people where we are at and where we are going in the future and what has been accomplished in the last 3.5 years. He noted that he had when he first went to New Glasgow and after the first few years we would put out newsletters every so often. He noted that he had a copy of one such newsletter where we were when we were with New Glasgow and where we were after 3 years and he would like to leave it with the Council just to give you an idea of what they use to put out.

And he requested that they get back to him at a later date and let him know what they are thinking of doing.

He also gave his Thanks and mentioned that Deputy Mayor MacDonald did an excellent job of running the meeting.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald thanked Mr Cyr for the copy of the letter and that it was appreciated and she will ask Mr. Fraser to copy it to the Council Members and she mentioned that she never thought of having a ratepayers meeting but she did mention that we have open meetings every month.

Mr Cyr mentioned that he could speak on that also because when they went to New Glasgow he noted that when they had rate payers meeting around 150-160 people would show up and he noted that it could not be held in this hall if that many people showed up. He noted that it was quite a different situation to have a meeting as a Council and to have ratepayers meeting. He noted that at a rate payers meeting there would be a couple of mikes set up. He noted that they had a rough time when they were in Council the last 2 years – he noted that they had 2 Ministerial orders against them, we had 2 different consultants come in and tell us that we did not know what we were doing and both of them predicted that we were going to end up with a large deficit and each year we had a surplus. Mr Ramsey came in with a worse report and he thinks it was a terrible report. He noted that at that time there was no CAO here, no director of finance. He noted that they had to appoint Mary as the CAO. Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that she remembered that. It was a very bad situation. Then they put in Mr MacInnis who did another study on us and he predicted \$97,000.00 of a debt and he said there were too many people working in the Town Office, that we were overstaffed and at that time there were only 2 people in the office and for awhile we only had one. He noted that we had a big surplus because we took the surplus that we had to pay the Police Pension and it was over \$200,000 and that still left a surplus when we left the office here. He noted that the CAO here now passed out a paper when you people were sworn into office showing a surplus. Mr Cyr thanked the Council for listening to him.

### 13. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

**13.1** *It was moved by Councillor Thompson and seconded by Councillor Jones to move to in-camera session. Motion carried.*

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

Certified to be a true copy of the minutes of the March 26th, 2012 of the Town of Westville Regular Council Meeting.

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MAYOR

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RECORDING SECRETARY