



**Town of Westville
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, May 28th, 2012**

Commencing at 6:00 pm

Council Members Present:	Mayor Roger MacKay; Deputy Mayor Lynn MacDonald; Councillor Gerald Jones; Councillor Charlene Thompson; Councillor Charlie Sutherland
Town Employees Present:	CAO Scott Fraser; Recording Secretary Diane Morrison
Visitors Present:	A number of Westville residents
Media Organizations Present:	EFCM 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. 2.1 A Moment of Silence was observed in Memory of Former Town Councillor David MacKenzie.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Additions:

1. Closure of RCMP Forensic Lab in Nova Scotia
2. Anti Litter Signs
3. PRDA
4. Cynthia MacDermid – Music Festival
5. Keith Melanson- Volleyball Court
6. Military Museum

10. PRESENTATION

Northumberland Wind Field Inc.

- A. Sharon Henderson, President of Northumberland Wind Field Inc. provided a handout to the Mayor and Council and spent a few minutes explaining the various aspect of this Organization and the value of renewable energy.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 4.1** *It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Sutherland to approve the minutes of the April 30th, 2012 regular Council Meeting as amended. Motion carried.*
Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that 8.5 should read Deputy Mayor MacDonald.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- 5.1** Councillor Thompson inquired on 4.1 concerning sending a letter to our local MLA Clarrie MacKinnon concerning the logging trucks coming in North Main Street. Mayor MacKay noted to date they have not met with Groupe Savoie but a meeting has been held with MLA Clarrie MacKinnon and it is hoped a meeting will be held shortly with Groupe Savoie.
- 5.2** 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 not been sent to date but is being worked on.
- 5.3** Deputy Mayor MacDonald inquired on 8.4 and the fact that she quite a few questions on this matter and she is referring to the second page the part of the discussion that concerns RA Funke Engineering and she noted that our CAO had forwarded to her a copy of the contract between RA Funke and Pictou County Shared Services Authority and she wanted it noted that she is not questioning Mr Funke's credentials or his ability but she is questioning the process that has been followed here and the value of this contract. She went on to say that it indicates to her that what we are paying here is similar to what we paid for the COO position and she feels that the COO would be over all of the Pictou County Shared Services for all branches including Pictou County Solid Waste, Planning, the Sewage Treatment and if she is to understand from this contract Mr Funke's company has been hired just to look after the Planning section but here we are with his contract and we are paying as much for him to supervise that one section as we did for someone to supervise the whole thing and she feels this is inappropriate and she feels that this should have been put out to Tender. She questioned if this was Tendered and when seeing the value of the contract and she would like to review with the Pictou County Shared Services Authority and find out what the limit is that they can spend without tendering. She knows there is no answer tonight but she will check the agreement and she feels it should have been tendered and she also questions some of the wording in the contract. She again mentioned that she knows Mr Funke's Company was hired to look after the planning division but in other roles in this Contract it seems like they are talking about the overall structure of the Pictou County Shared Services Authority. She mentioned that there were different things in the contract that she questioned. She noted the contract is for 3 months from March 5, 2012 to June 5, 2012 and she questioned what happens after that date. Mayor MacKay was of the understanding that come June 5, 2012 he feels that they are looking at keeping him on but an on need basis only such as 3 days a

week instead of the 5 and he feels payment will be down at that time. He feels this is a temporary situation as they are looking at getting back to one person handling it all.

- 5.3** Councillor Thompson inquired on 7.1 if the school board representative Mr Ron Marks who attended last month's meeting if he will be attending the meeting this evening as we had extended an invitation to him to attend our monthly meetings and to keep us updated on what was happening at the Highland Consolidated Middle School.
Mayor MacKay noted that we have not received an update but that Mr Marks had called and left a message but to date he has not spoken to him. Mayor MacKay noted that he would stop at the Celtic School Board Building the next day and see if he could get an update on what is happening.

6. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

- 6.1** *It was moved by Deputy Mayor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Jones to approve/pay the accounts as presented. Motion carried.*
Councillor Sutherland questioned on Page 2 payment to the Town of New Glasgow inquired if this was for water.
CAO Fraser noted that there are a few items included but the largest expenditure would be for the purchase of water, and he noted it would also include a capital item for the purchase of accounting software.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 7.1** **Police -** *It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Thompson that the Police Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*
- 7.2** **Fire Report -** *Not Available.*
Councillor Jones noted that the fire department will be very busy in the next few Weeks with July 1st and the barbeque and he asks for the patient of the citizens with the fire trucks around the streets.
- 7.3** **Fire Inspectors Report –** *It was moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Thompson that the Fire Inspector Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*
- 7.4** **Recreation Report -** *It was moved by Deputy Mayor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Jones that the Recreation Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*
- 7.5** **Compost, Garbage & Recycling Report -** *It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Sutherland that the Compost Garbage & Recycling Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*
- 7.6** **Environmental Health Report –** *It was moved by Councillor Thompson and seconded by Deputy Mayor MacDonald that the Environmental Health Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*
- 7.7** **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 noted that there was an indication on the report that safety training was taken by the Transportation Department and also training taken in the Environmental Report as well and he is pleased to see same.

7.8 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*

7.9 Building Report – *It was moved by Deputy Mayor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Thompson that the Building Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Think Farm

It was noted that this is a request for a financial donation to help with an event for Farming taking place July 31, 2012 at the Pictou-North Colchester Exhibition Grounds.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Thompson to send this request to the Finance Committee for consideration. Motion carried

8.2 Air Cadet 374 F/L Squadron

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that we have received a “Thank You” from the Squadron for the use of the auditorium the last 4 years and a request to use it for another year while they make repairs to their own building. This was received from Cathie MacIntosh, Captain – Commanding Officer. Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that she attended the Cadet’s graduation on Saturday and it was well attended. Peter MacKay, MP was in attendance and presented an award to one of the adult instructors.

It was moved by Councillor Thompson and seconded by Deputy Mayor MacDonald to allow the Air Cadet 374 F/L Squadron to continue to use the Gymnasium until their own building has been repaired. Motion carried.

8.3 Funding Request – Music Festival

CAO Fraser received correspondence from Cynthia MacDermid with a request from the Town for sponsorship to the Music Festival. A list of prizes was also included.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Thompson to send the financial request from the Music Festival to the Finance Committee. Motion carried.

8.4 Volleyball

CAO Fraser noted that correspondence has been received from Keith Melanson, Volleyball coach at the Northumberland Regional High School inquiring if the Town of Westville could allow its Public Works Department to provide them with a truck and backhoe to remove a product that is presently on their Volleyball Court. They also mentioned that the Municipality of Pictou County is providing them with \$1000.00 to cover the cost of sand to be placed on the Court.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Sutherland to proceed with the request as long as no overtime is incurred. Motion carried.

9. PRESENTATION

9.1 Destination Eastern and Northumberland Shores Association

At this time a Power Point Presentation was given by Cindy MacKinnon showing the many aspects that are being used in a marketing project to promote our region. She spoke about several brochures and other marketing tools they are presently using. It was very informative and would be most helpful to Tourists and local residents as well.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald made a motion that was seconded by Councillor Thompson to send a request to the finance committee to look at getting a sign for the highway recognizing Westville's July 1st Celebrations. Motion carried.

11. NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS;

11.1 Unsightly Properties

Mr. Barry MacIntosh was present and gave the report. He noted that **2147 Union Street** was inspected and it revealed an accessory building in very poor condition. The owner noted that he would be on vacation on June 8th and he would like until that time before he will be able to do the work on removing two buildings. Mr MacIntosh feels that this property could be considered a safety concern. He noted that the Town can go in and clean up and if costs are involved it would be a lien on his taxes. Further discussion took place and Councillor Thompson was concerned about small children in the area that might get hurt.

Councillor Jones noted that there is a trailer court close to this residence and that there are small children that live there. Further discussion took place on whether the owner was going to do the job himself or was a demolition company going to do it. Mr MacIntosh was under the understanding that the owner himself was going to do the job.

It was moved by Councillor Thompson and seconded by Councillor Sutherland to proceed with a clean up request to be completed by June 15th or the Town will remove the building. Motion Passed.

Commissioner Jones noted that there were a few ongoing issues to follow up on including **2695 Foxbrook Road**. He noted that several properties have follow up and he was thinking if there were some pictures of the work that has been done it would be easier to give direction.

Mr MacIntosh noted that he had received instructions from Mr Funke to make the reports shorter than they are now.

Mayor MacKay noted that he would like Mr MacIntosh to let Mr Funke know that the Town of Westville has asked for pictures in their report,

Mr MacIntosh informed Council that there may be more consideration given if the Council was to request same.

CAO Fraser will contact Mr Funke with our request for pictures.

Mr MacIntosh went on to note that at this time approximately 60% of the property has been cleaned up basically what the eye can see from the Street.

He noted that the owner had obtained a permit for a storage shed and that the trailer that is now in his back yard it is OK as long as the wheels are off it. He did note that there was other debris and next month he will try to have some pictures available.

Councillor Jones also mentioned **2104 Church Street** the property is situated at the corner of Church and Greenwood Streets. CAO Fraser was questioned on the owner and he noted that he feels it is abandoned. It was the Church manse at one time. Mr. MacIntosh noted that he had trouble reaching someone last year when the property was rented. He noted at that time it was cleaned up but he is aware that it needs painting and repair. However, this is not something they do for fear of causing more damage. Councillor Jones noted there is still garbage around the home and Mr MacIntosh noted that he was waiting for further direction.

CAO Fraser noted that it was during the report to Council when any decisions are made concerning the properties.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald questioned **1875 Purvis Avenue** and noted there is still wood wrapped up and Mr MacIntosh issued caution as you may have to replace it. He noted that they sent him a detailed letter of what had to be picked up off the property. Further discussion took place and it was noted that anything that could be considered building material may be requested to be replaced if removed.

Councillor Jones inquired if there was any correspondence received back from Mr Morris on what he was planning on doing. Mr MacIntosh noted that he had received an email with pictures of what has been done and he noted that it was not completed as to the order that was presented.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald made a motion and it was seconded by Councillor Jones to have the Town go in and remove what is on the list of things to be cleaned up. Motion carried

Mayor MacKay noted that some of the material to be cleaned up has just been removed from one property to another.

Mr MacIntosh noted that he would need a letter from the Town indicating this information before he could take any further steps.

CAO Fraser **2104 Church Street** property is owned by Glenn Baker and he asked if Council was going to make a decision on that property.

Councillor Jones noted that it is an empty house, there is garbage at the back and the fence is falling down and there are brand new buildings in the area and it is just not up to neighborhood standards.

Mayor MacKay raised a question about derelict buildings to be demolished and he questioned how we could proceed with this and Mr MacIntosh indicated that a letter would be needed and at that time he could request that the Fire Inspector, himself and a Building Inspector would go in and inspect and they would send the report back to Council and after that Council would decide what way they would want them to proceed.

One building it was mentioned belonged to the bank and Mr MacIntosh noted that a registered letter would have to be sent to the bank.

Mayor MacKay noted that there is one on Church Street that should be followed up on.

Councillor Sutherland noted that another abandoned home is on the corner of Cowan and Duff Street. Mr MacIntosh noted that a letter could be sent tomorrow to the owner of the home.

Councillor Sutherland made a motion and it was seconded by Councillor Thompson to proceed with letters concerning several derelict buildings. Motion passed.

11.2 Community Road Tolls

CAO Fraser is looking for direction in setting up a Policy for Road Tolls as we seem to be getting more requests for same. He has suggested that we allow 2 a year one in the Spring and one in the Fall.

Councillor Sutherland made a motion and it was seconded by Councillor Thompson to make an official Policy – By Law 7 to allow 2 Road tolls per year one in the Spring and the other in the Fall. Motion carried.

11.3 Paving Recommendations

CAO Fraser noted that it is time for the annual paving of streets and staff will be Tendering for paving projects yet to be determined.

Areas under recommendation are Drummond Road; Foxbrook Road to Queen Street (400 Meters) Recap

Picken Street (1000 Meters) –recap or chip seal

Main Street to North Main Street – Bear Brook to Church (Fog Seal)(It is liquid asphalt that will fill any breaks in the pavement to extend the life of the pavement.

He did note that they will not be in a position to pave all these streets, however, we will request pricing on alternative methods such as double chip seal and Fog sealing. He also made mention that the capital budget is anticipated to be approved at the June Council meeting. Prices should be obtained by then. At this point Staff anticipates a budget of \$250,000.00 for paving to be funded 50% through gas tax and 50% through borrowings.

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

11.4 TAX EXEMPTION 2012- RIVER VIEW HOME CORPORTION

CAO Fraser noted that every year Council approves the Exemption of Taxes for the Corporation. He noted that this write-off is factored into annual budget calculations and has no impact on the Town’s operational budget.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald made a motion and it was seconded by Councillor Sutherland to approve the annual Tax Exemption for Riverview Home Corporation for the year 2012. Motion carried.

11.5 MFC – Borrowings – Diamond Software

CAO Fraser noted that this is different than the usual MFC Borrowing that we precede with every spring. He noted that every year MFC allows for borrowing in the Spring and in the Fall. Typically Westville has always completed capital projects prior to the spring deadline and received funding for the capital projects. This year we have upgraded the Town’s accounting software and this is a capital item which is eligible for borrowing to fund the project through the fall debenture.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald made a motion that was seconded by Councillor Jones to follow staff recommendation for the approval of a maximum borrowing of \$45,000.00 at a rate not to exceed 6.5% for a period not to exceed 5 years. Motion passed.

11.6 Taxi Licenses

Councillor Jones made a motion and it was seconded by Councillor Thompson to accept the Taxi Licenses and Applications as per the Traffic Authority. Motion passed.

11.7 Budget Meeting Date

CAO Fraser wanted to set a time for the next budget meeting. After some discussion it was agreed to meet on Monday, June 4th at 5:30 PM before the next scheduled PAC meeting at 7:00 PM.

11.8 July 1st Celebrations

Mayor MacKay mentioned that we are all aware that July 1st this year falls on a Sunday. He noted that a decision was made at the Provincial level to be open on the 1st and close on the 2nd of July. Many of the preparations concerning July 1st have already been completed by the Fire Department and he knows that those that have to work it will be unfortunate. However, as Councillor Sutherland pointed out six months ago January 1st also fell on a Sunday and all celebrations were held on that day.

11.9 RCMP Site Closure

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that there was an article in the Halifax Herald noting that the RCMP Forensic Unit will be closed along with one in Winnipeg and in Regina and she feels this will be a great concern in getting cases solved as everything will be going to a centralized lab and there may be longer wait times to receive the results of evidence.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald made a motion and it was seconded by Councillor Sutherland to send a letter of concern to our MP Peter MacKay and the Federal Minister responsible for the RCMP and express our concerns of these closures. Motion passed

11.10 Anti-Litter Signs

Deputy Mayor MacDonald wanted to thank those responsible for posting the Anti-litter signs and perhaps in the next water bill a note could be put in with a message about the fine that could be rendered if caught littering. CAO Fraser noted that he would look into the matter to see if that could be done.

11.11 PRDA Councillor Sutherland brought up his concern about the federal funding for PRDA no longer going to be available in a year's time and he would strongly demand that we have a meeting with Wardens and the Mayor and the 3 local MLA's be held to determine what the Provincial Funding for PRDA's is going to be. He noted with the Federal Government stepping away from the shared agreement with PRDA and you add to that the Provincial Government stepping away from shared agreements with Housing, Corrections and the fact that Westville has been chastised for not paying its share in a Government study and the fact that there are Municipal Elections coming in October 2012 and I think that all candidates should know before October what the situation is going to be for PRDA in regards to the Province of Nova Scotia as we already know the Federal stand on this matter. He noted that Statistics say there is 9.2 % unemployment in Pictou County and he noted that Westville has been a proud paid member of PRDA for 30 years and he noted that we will not be able to continue PRDA without provincial money. He went on to say that he feels all

candidates need to know this before that date and he noted that we have seen major improvements in Pictou County and he noted that it will not be an issue for

some of the sister units to pay extra and he mentioned that there were new nursing homes opened yesterday in Pictou County and this will bring in extra funding for the Town of Pictou and Town of Westville and we see what is going on in Stellarton and his understanding is that for Westville to get the same dollar value as Trenton would receive from the new complex we would have to build 20 new homes. So basically Westville needs to know where the Province is going to be on the funding for PRDA effective April 1st, 2013. He went on to say that he would leave in Mayor MacKay's capable hands to arrange a meeting with the Mayors and the Wardens and the 3 local MLA's to find out exactly where Pictou County stands. He noted that he was in contact with Cape Breton Regional Municipality and they have been cut back on their funding on PRDA as well.

11.12 Update on Schools – This has already been covered in the meeting.

11.13 MILITARY MUSEUM

Councillor Jones has a diagram of the flags that will be placed out front of the Town Hall and he mentioned that the Canada Flag that is now there will be part of the display. He noted that it will be in placed in the middle of the other flags.

11.14 Rev Donald Sutherland

Councillor Sutherland noted the recent passing of Rev. Donald Sutherland and he mentioned that he had served two terms in the Town of Westville. Rev Sutherland will be remembered for his boisterous laugh.

ITEM 12 SECOND READING: Randy Langille Development Agreement

12.1 Planner Roland Burek asked for direction from Council on this matter and he noted that some items have to be resolved that were discussed at the Public Hearing which was held at 5:30 PM prior to the Council Meeting.

Councillor Jones made a motion that was seconded by Councillor Thompson to hold back on the Second Reading until after a Planning Advisory Committee Meeting and if all goes well we will hold a special Council Meeting to deal with this issue. Motion carried.

ITEM 13 QUESTIONS FROM CITIZENS

13.1 Sandy Cyr – 2360 Foxbrook Road

Mr. Cyr noted that he has paid taxes to the Town of Westville for over 70 years and that Cyr's Lane where he lives has never been paved and he was wondering where it was on the list of streets being considered for paving. He said that the Public Works Department was up and graded the road but he feels that they should be given some consideration for paving.

13.2 Mark Salter –

He spoke on the issue concerning derelict buildings mentioning the Old Chinese Restaurant and the one on the corner of Duff and Cowan Street. Councillor Sutherland noted that both of them were on the list this evening that was discussed.

Item 14 ADJOURMENT OF MEETING

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

14.2

It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Thompson in-camera session be adjourned. Motion carried

Certified to be a true copy of the minutes of the May 28th, 2012 of the Town of Westville Regular Council Meeting.

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MAYOR

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RECORDING SECRETARY