



**Town of Westville
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, April 29, 2013**

Commencing at 6:00 pm

Council Members Present: Deputy Mayor Lynn MacDonald; Councillor Charlie Sutherland; Councillor Bernie Murphy; Councillor Lennie White

Town Employees Present: CAO Scott Fraser; Superintendent of Public Works Samuel Graham; Recording Secretary Diane Morrison

Absent: Mayor Roger MacKay with regrets

Visitors Present: A number of Westville residents;

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

1. CALLING OF MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 *It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and seconded by Councillor Murphy to approve the minutes of the March 25th, 2013 regular Council Meeting as presented. Motion carried.*

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

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4.1 7.6 REN

Councillor White noted that he wanted to follow up on the item from last month where he had not heard anything from this committee. He has learned that there was a meeting held March 26th in Halifax for the Mayor's and CAO's however, we were not made aware of same. He noted that we will have to get on the mailing list.

He went on to mention that he got a summary of the meeting and did find out what was happening and they are moving ahead with the REN concept now that the RDA's are gone and he mentioned that everyone on Council had received a draft agreement where they are proposing in the given geographic area that we will be signing at some time and it just a draft agreement between the units. He noted they mentioned on how they will be forming the REN's and what they will do and the emphasis is going to be changed a little bit and be on economic development solely as opposed to what the original RDA's were focused one. He also mentioned that the spring meeting of the UNSM has this on their agenda.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that she had read in the Halifax Herald that Annapolis County had opted out of joining REN.

Councillor White mentioned on some of the information that he was given that there is an option to opt in or out and if you do not join there would be a certain amount of money available but not as much as if the unit participated in REN's.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked Councillor White if he wanted the CAO to pursue getting him in the loop and he also mentioned that he would try to follow up on same himself.

8.9 Governance Study

Councillor White made reference to the Governance Study from our last meeting and noted that now that we have approved as a Council to move forward with the Governance Study he has not heard that as of yet that anything has proceeded concerning the study and he noted in one of the local papers that the Warden of the County indicated that nothing has happened since our motion and that they were waiting formal notification whatever, that entails before anything is done. He went on to mention that now that they have gone through the agony and discussion and things to this point of time he would like to see proceed and he would like to ask if the CAO could follow and make sure that and he feels it is on the agenda for the Mayors and Wardens Meeting in May.

He does not want to see this sit on the shelf as the Terms of Reference have already been identified and it is now a matter of fine tuning and getting it back to the Council to make sure that everyone still approves and gets the process moving. He again referred that they do not want to see it sit on the shelf now that all Councils are on board.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that Council has to identify the funds in the budget and the process will be starting in May.

4.1 Presentation Municipal Taxes

Deputy Mayor MacDonald inquired if an invitation had been extended to Wayne Fiander, Executive Director with the Chamber of Commerce to attend a meeting and give his presentation on new ideas for Municipal Taxation.

CAO Fraser noted that it is on the agenda for the Mayors and Wardens

meeting in May to extend an invitation to all the others

6.8 Workshop with Animal Control Officer

Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked if any contact has been made with the Animal Control Officer concerning the workshop that he was offering. CAO Fraser noted that he was offering to do same for the citizens of the Town and we will be following up on that.

8.10 Highland Consolidated Middle School

Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked if any correspondence had been received as we requested for the school maintenance reports and CAO Fraser noted that yes we did receive some it last week.

5. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

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

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 6.1 Police -** *It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and seconded by Councillor Murphy that the Police Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*
- 6.2 Fire Report -** *It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and seconded by Councillor White that the Fire Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*
Councillor Sutherland noted that he had been a long time resident of Westville and he has never before seen bags on the fire hydrants and inquired on why and if we were waiting for parts.
Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that she had spoken to CAO Fraser about a week ago and he informed him that there are work orders slated for Public Works to repair these.
CAO Fraser noted that they are out of commission and work orders have been put out to Public Works for repairs.
- 6.3 Fire Inspectors Report –** *Report not available as the Fire Inspector is off on sick leave.*
- 6.4 Recreation Report -** *It was moved by Councillor Murphy and seconded by Councillor White that the Recreation Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*
Commissioner Sutherland wanted to make note that since this is Volunteer night he wanted to say that one of the finest volunteers in our Town passed away last week and that was Dorothy Pushie. He noted that in the neighbourhood he calls home She was of seen during the month of February for the Heart Fund, March for the Kidney Fund and April for Cancer Fund going door to door. He went on to mention that George Jones had a song one time “Who’s going to fill their shoes”.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald wanted it known that it was nice to see the Lacrosse program being back again this year and is thriving. She wanted to congratulate Recreation Director Susan Oliver and the lacrosse instructor.

6.5 Compost, Garbage & Recycling Report - *It was moved by Councillor Murphy and seconded by Councillor Sutherland 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 Murphy that the Environmental Health Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*

Councillor Sutherland asked on behalf of the residents of the sub-division where the roads are not paved when the ditching and grading would be started.

Supervisor Graham noted that the ditching was started last week and the grading was started on to-day's date however, shortly after they started there was an issue with the machinery and it will be a few days while they wait for a part from Ontario before they can continue the job.

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

Deputy Mayor MacDonald questioned a water meter complaint from February that is showing as unresolved.

Supervisor Graham asked CAO Fraser to answer.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald inquired on the Force Sewer Main repair on the Drummond Road she wanted to know what was causing the problem.

Supervisor Graham noted that basically it was the difficult winter conditions and the frost heaving and the fact that it is an old line that was put in during the 70's.

6.8 Animal Control Report – *It was moved by Councillor Murphy and seconded by Councillor White that the Animal Control Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*

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

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Highland Middle School

CAO Fraser noted that we had received an update from the school concerning the information that was requested and copy of same is in the package. He noted that the list of reports we received was not actually the reports themselves and he noted that some of them are not available as they have not been finalized but once they are we will receive copies of

them as well.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that if Council agrees we will keep this item on the agenda for the future.

Councillor White noted that he read the letter several time and he says it is the most political letter he has ever seen and it actually gives us no information and saying that the information will be forth coming and will be posted on their web site. He noted that all we are asking for our residents of this Town as a Council is what the issues were that were indicated as being at the School. He also noted that it is simple question and it is hard to believe that we had to go to the Freedom of Information Request in order to get information and he feels that it does not speak very well for co-operation and open discussion. He feels that basically it answers nothing. He is terribly disappointed with this response.

Councillor Sutherland feels that a meeting needs to be set up with our MLA and our MP is in order as it is a beautiful building and the fact that if it was turned back over to the Town of Westville we could not afford to maintain it but when you consider the fact that that building hosted the OPP Program and this was an innovation in the Province of Nova Scotia at the time, the shops in that building would be above average and probably higher than any other shop that you could have and the Jobs Start Here Program or Ships Start Here whatever, you want to refer to it as if the NS Government and the Federal Government and the major employer Irving can offshore to Norway or whatever, some of these jobs that building could host, one or more of that type of thing. There are always opportunities where adults are looking for education perhaps the NSCC could be contacted and see if there is a future for that building in people's eyes. He feels it is a beautiful facility perfectly constructed, back of the road and it has ample parking and well located. We always thought that it was well maintained and from what he can understand there is not a whole lot there that cannot be fixed. He feels that if they are going to turn it back over to the Town of Westville we made it very clear that we cannot tear it down and he does not see too much ownership in this community that is Nova Scotia government or Federal government name on it. If you look around we do not get our fair share from or employment from either of those two levels of government and this is something that we cannot do by ourselves we are a small bedroom community and it is not rocket science bedroom communities cannot survive and people have to help.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that Councillor Sutherland might have come up with a good idea to repurpose that school. She went on to mention that trades training is well worth looking into and Councillor Murphy agreed with that statement.

Councillor Murphy stated that Councillor Sutherland made a very good point to suggest the fact that the local government (SEE 21 minutes Deputy Mayor MacDonald feels that if Council is agreement we should pursue the idea of re-purposing the school in conjunction with covering our costs if it had to be demolished.

7.2 FEED NOVA SCOTIA

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that this correspondence is informational for Hunger Awareness Week which this year is the 6th to the 10th of May, 2013 and there is an invitation to participate in a fast. If any Councillors wish to participate they should contact Feed Nova Scotia and provide

them with your information. She went on to mention that she saw in the Halifax Herald that Dianne Swinemar the Executive Director for Feed Nova Scotia has submitted her resignation in June 2014 and she has been with them for the last 22 years and has been credited with bringing that organization to the forefront and doing a lot of good work with them. She requested that a letter of recognition be sent to her for the work she has done for Feed Nova Scotia. She noted that she would draft a letter and have the CAO forward same.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald read the following Proclamation:

HUNGER AWARENESS WEEK

Proclamation

WHEREAS addressing the household food security needs of families and individuals today is fundamental to the future of Town of Westville.

WHEREAS the need of comprehensive, coordinated emergency food programs places upon our community a critical responsibility.

WHEREAS it is appropriate that a week be set apart each year for the direction of our thoughts towards the health and well-being of Nova Scotians who struggle with hunger, low income and poverty.

AND WHEREAS FEED NOVA SCOTIA, as the provincial member of Food Banks Canada, and local member agencies are together caring for the needs of hungry families and individuals in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Deputy Mayor Lynn MacDonald, do hereby proclaim May 6-May 10, 2013 to be Hunger Awareness Week in the Town of Westville. I urge all citizens and organizations to unite in the observance of such exercise as will acquaint the people of Westville with the fundamental necessity to help our neighbours in need by supporting the work of food banks and emergency meal programs and by working together to eliminate hunger and poverty. Furthermore, the Town of Westville urges the Government of Canada to meet Canada's obligation to provide all Canadians with affordable and accessible food as stated under the International Covenant on economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

7.3 Pictou County Children with Autism Association

Correspondence for informational purposes to make the public aware of the Annual walk being held June 15th, 2013 at the G R Saunders School and a financial request was also included.

It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and seconded by Councillor Murphy to forward this request to the Finance Committee for consideration. Motion carried.

7.4 Spring Garden Child Care Centre

A financial request to help with bussing costs as they are promoting healthy living/walk program that will take place at the Pioneer Track and they will have to bus the children during the 10 week program.

It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and

seconded by Councillor White to forward this request to the Finance Committee for consideration. Motion carried.

7.5 Pictou County Volunteer Ground Search and Rescue

It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and seconded by Councillor Murphy to forward this request to the Finance Committee for consideration. Motion carried.

7.6 First Presbyterian Church, Stellarton

Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked to be excused from this discussion due to conflict of interest.

Correspondence indicated that it was a request for support as they are attempting to establish a low power FM station located at the church in Stellarton to have it provide an outreach in general and enable shut-ins and others to hear their services and other programming.

They requested a letter of support and recommendation.

Commissioner Murphy felt that a letter of support was in order and noted that they indicated that it could be used if there was ever an emergency.

It was moved by Councillor White and seconded by Councillor Sutherland to forward a letter of support. Motion carried.

8. FIRST READINGS

8.1 First Readings

- File No 02-12w – Randy Langille – 1924 Campbell’s Road

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted this was a request for the First Reading to undertake a Series of non-substantive amendments to both the text and site plan for the existing development agreement and they are related to earlier reports presented to both Council and the Planning Advisory Committee.

It was moved by Councillor Murphy and seconded by Councillor White to approve the First Reading. Motion carried.

- File No 02-13w – Randy Langille – 1790 Temperance Street

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that this was a request for the First Reading to undertake non-substantive amendment to both text and site plan for the existing development agreement and they are related to earlier reports presented to Planning Advisory Committee.

It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and seconded by Councillor Murphy to approve the First Reading. Motion carried.

- File No 01-13w – Randy Langille – 1769 Temperance Street

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that this was a request for the First Reading to undertake non-substantive amendment to both text and site plan for the existing development agreement and they are related to earlier reports presented to the Council and Planning Advisory Committee.

It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and seconded by Councillor White to approve the First Reading. Motion

carried.

- **File No 03-13w Land Use By-law text amendments to enable home occupations in two or three-unit residential buildings**

Deputy Mayor explained that this application is before PAC regarding home occupations. Currently the Land use By-Law enables home occupations within single residential dwellings, attached garages and accessory buildings. The Town is aware that a resident wishes to pursue a home occupation; however, the home occupation is being proposed for an individual residential unit within a three unit residential building. She noted that after a review of other jurisdictions that are of comparable size and composition they wish to offer a text amendment review for the Land Use By-Law and this issue has been brought before the PAC Committee and is being forwarded to Council for 1st reading. She noted that there are provisions in this change that would not open the door for misuse of this change in the by-law as this is very specific certain situations and would not open residential areas for industrial uses.

Councillor Murphy noted that it is great to see new business coming to Westville and keeping in the context of the By-law change.

It was moved by Councillor White and seconded by Councillor Murphy to approve the First Reading. Motion carried.

9. NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9.1 Unsightly Premises Report

Deputy Mayor MacDonald had one question about the report and it was did we find out when the demolition permit was issued for the property at 1875 Purvis Avenue. CAO Fraser noted that he had been informed by the Planning Commission that it was in March and that would give him a year to complete the job.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald questioned the time frame as it stated on the previous report that one was issued in October.

CAO Fraser noted that we could proceed with it being dangerous and unsafe if we wish and have a time frame set.

Councillor Murphy excused himself from any discussion as he was in conflict with same.

It was moved by Councillor White and seconded by Councillor Sutherland to pursue the issue as dangerous and unsafe property. Motion carried.

9.2 LED Lighting

Deputy Mayor thanked CAO Fraser for doing all the numbering crunching on this situation.

Councillor Murphy noted that he feels we should accept what is recommended by staff because there is no benefit in buying the lights due to the unknown factors on upkeep.

It was moved by Councillor Murphy and seconded by Councillor White to accept staff recommendation concerning LED lighting for the Town of Westville. Motion carried.

9.3 Auditor Appointment

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that proposals were requested and received for services for a 5 year audit engagement.

After reviewing the proposals staff made a recommendation to accept Kevin MacDonald & Associates as the auditor for the Town of Westville She went on to mention that the costs for the 3 proposals were as follows:

Kevin MacDonald & Associates - \$10,000.00 (year 1)

Grant & Thornton - \$17,000.00 (year 1)

MGM - \$14,000.00 (year 1)

It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and seconded by Councillor Murphy to accept staff recommendation to have Kevin MacDonald & Associates appointed as auditors. Motion carried.

9.4 Active Pictou County Agreement

Deputy Mayor MacDonald suggested that this Draft be tabled for the next meeting when Mayor MacKay is present as she has lots of questions on how this came about. She noted that we have been given a package showing an agreement on how Active Pictou County would be operated and it is suggesting that it would be operated from one Unit and each other Municipality in the County would contribute \$3300.00 per year but we would also be charged for office space and other things that would be needed to operate this organization. She noted that some is on a user pay basis and the contribution that we make now pays for basic programs from Active Pictou County but if they come up with other programs it would be on a user pay basis that the Town would have to contribute.

Councillor Murphy agreed that he also would like to table same until some of the questions can be answered.

Councillor White asked if this is something that our Recreation Co-ordinator should be involved in.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that Susan Oliver does meet with this group and all the recreation people in the County get together and have a meeting but this is taking this a lot further. She asked CAO Fraser if he was aware what Unit would be operating the program.

CAO Fraser noted that it would remain in Pictou as they are currently the provider. He also noted that the co-ordinator indicates that if Council wishes she would be glad to give a presentation.

Councillor White also noted that she would like to see that and he was also wondering if this has been approved in all the other Units and he would like to know which units have or have not responded. He also mentioned that he felt that he had read someplace where they were hoping to have this in place by the end of March.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald mentioned that she would like to see the model of Active Pictou County as it is now in the budget so that we can compare the changes they want to implement.

Councillor White requested that as a Council we certainly endorse the concept of being an active community in our area and our delaying the decision has nothing to do with that but just the fact we would like to look at this before making a decision.

It was moved by Councillor Murphy and seconded by Councillor White to table this request to the next Council meeting. Motion carried.

9.5 2013-2014 Budget

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that the date shown is actually a statutory holiday and after some discussion it was decided that they would meet May 22nd at 6 o'clock to work on the 2013-2014 Budget.

9.6 Comments

Councillor Sutherland wanted to make note of some very exciting things that are happening or have happened recently concerning citizens of our

Town. He went on to mention that the voting for Gus Fahey provided a lot excitement in our community and pretty astounding. He went on to mention that Bernadette Little a Grade 12 graduate from Westville took her golf clubs and her school books and headed off to Florida to attend University and her University won the State Championship and he mentioned that she is a terrific golfer and we would be very proud of her accomplishments. Next, he mentioned Chris MacFarlane from Westville and he is the drummer from Great Big Sea and the filled the Metro Centre on Friday night and they will also be playing at the Riverfront Jubilee. He also mentioned Bookie MacDonald being named our representative as the Town's volunteer of the year and attending the ceremonies in Halifax recently. He also mentioned Dorothy Pushie and went on to speak about a major event that will be occurring on Thursday and Friday of this week when the Bank of Scotia will have been in our community for 125 years and he feels that is pretty remarkable. He noted that the late Arthur Crockett was a President of the Bank of Nova Scotia at one time. He feels that his picture will be shown at the bank during their Anniversary celebrations.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald also wanted to thank Michelle Hale and Scott MacKinnon for all the work they did with the Kraft Hockey Challenge and she knows that she may have missed others that were heavily involved with this activity and the fact that it is nice to see that the Westville Rink will get that money and definitely put it to good use.

ITEM 9. QUESTIONS FROM CITIZENS

ITEM 10 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

10.1 *It was moved by Councillor White and seconded by Sutherland Murphy to move to an In-Camera session. Motion carried.*

10.2 *It was moved by Councillor White and seconded by Deputy Mayor MacDonald to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried*

Certified to be a true copy of the minutes of the April 29, 2013 Regular Council Meeting for the Town of Westville.


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DEPUTY MAYOR


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RECORDING SECRETARY