



**Town of Westville
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, August 26, 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; Chief Donald Hussher; Recording Secretary Vicki Heighton
- Absent:** Mayor Roger MacKay
- 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 motioned by Councillor Murphy to approve the tentative agenda and was seconded by Councillor Sutherland.*
Deputy Mayor MacDonald wanted to add street signs on Picken St. for children at play to the agenda.
Motion Carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 3.1 *It was moved by Councillor White and seconded by Councillor Sutherland to approve the minutes of the July 29th, 2013 regular Council Meeting as presented. Motion Carried.*

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- 4.1 Councillor White asked about the Governance Study and asked if there was any word on its movement. CAO Fraser noted it has not been discussed since the last Mayor and Warden's meeting which was some time ago. Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked if the date was still September for it to be released for proposals and CAO Fraser noted that is the plan.

- 4.2 Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked about REN. Councillor White noted there have been no meetings. Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted Warden Bailey contacted Colchester and Cumberland County to work with Pictou County to form an REN. She asked Councillor White if he would contact Warden Bailey to see if there was any movement on the REN. She then noted he should direct his questions to Mayor Barry MacMillan as he chairs the Mayor's and Warden's meetings. Councillor White noted he will start with Mayor Barry MacMillan.
- 4.3 Councillor Sutherland commented on the railway line from the previous minutes. He noted the Federation of Canadian Municipalities held an emergency meeting and dealt with the same issue and brought forth the same concerns the council from the town of Westville did. Councillor Sutherland thanked CAO Fraser for sending out the letter and keeping council up to date.

5. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

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

Councillor Sutherland pointed out Chignecto Central School Board is usually on the list of accounts for over \$30,000 and Westville continues to have a vacant building that is the property of Chignecto Central School Board. He also noted extensive renovations are being done to the NSCC in Stellarton. He feels the building in Westville is too good to tear down. Deputy Mayor MacDonald wants to see action and has never heard from the school board.

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 Murphy that the Fire Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.***
- 6.3 **Recreation Report - *It was moved by Councillor Murphy and seconded by Councillor White that the Recreation Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.***
- 6.4 **Compost, Garbage & Recycling Report - *It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and seconded by Councillor Murphy that the Compost, Garbage & Recycling Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.***
- 6.5 **Environmental Health Report - *It was moved by Councillor White and seconded by Councillor Murphy that the Environmental Health Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.***
- 6.6 **Transportation Report – *It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and***

seconded by Councillor White to approve the transportation report as presented.

Councillor Murphy asked CAO Fraser if all the patching has been done. CAO Fraser noted there is still funding left. Superintendent Samuel Graham noted they still have 200 tonnes left. Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked if it included the patch by St. Paul's United Church on Church St. Superintendent Graham noted it does.

Motion Carried.

Councillor White noted that it is an excellent report.

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

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

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted there was a letter from Dan MacDougall, Associate Deputy Minister for Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations and it was outlining the change in the town's municipal advisor and it will now be Paul Wills instead of Mark peck.

7.2 UNSM

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted the town of New Glasgow is looking for support for a resolution to pass to the UNSM. The resolution reads: WHEREAS in the Municipal Elections held in Nova Scotia in October of 2012 a number of municipalities experienced situations in which individuals with criminal convictions were running for municipal council; AND WHEREAS there appears to be no prohibition on individuals with serious criminal convictions from running for municipal council; AND WHEREAS the members of the UNSM believe this lack of legislation is worthy of a serious investigation and consideration and recommendation to the Province for consideration of Legislative amendments;

NOW UPON MOTION the Executive and/or staff of the UNSM is directed to commence discussions with the Law Reform Commission of Nova Scotia and/or the Province of Nova Scotia to jointly or independently examine the legality and appropriateness of legislative reforms to prevent those convicted of "Serious Criminal Offences" from being qualified to stand for election to municipal councils under the *Municipal Elections Act*.

Councillor Sutherland noted the citizens elected him to ensure there was proper protection and the resolution is way above him and he does not have the knowledge. Councillor Murphy stated he does not have a problem with it and it looks like they are trying to mirror the House of Assembly Act. Councillor White noted they are just asking to get regional support. They want the department to look at it and want to bring it in line with provincial elections and he has no problem with it. Deputy Mayor

MacDonald noted prisoners in jail can vote and are not denied access to be a part of society. She noted it would prohibit someone who has served their time in jail and paid their debt to society from rejoining society as a full functioning member with the rights they earned back and she will not be supporting it. Councillor Murphy noted it was interesting the way they mentioned if someone is convicted of a crime of more than five years but it is five years from the conviction. Councillor White stated he does not read it that people cannot be rehabilitated and he believes they can. Councillor Sutherland asked if they could wait and vote on it in September and Deputy Mayor MacDonald stated it should be dealt with now. Councillor White noted if they don't pass it, it is still going to go.
Councillor White moved to support the resolution and was seconded by Councillor Murphy.

Motion defeated.

2 Yays – Councillor White and Councillor Murphy

2 Nays – Deputy Mayor MacDonald and Councillor Sutherland

7.3 Rotary Club of Westville

Deputy Mayor MacDonald read a letter from the Rotary Club of Westville thanking Superintendent Graham for the work being done to the town. Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted she had company visiting from out of town and they also commented on how well the town looks. Superintendent Graham noted his crew is working extremely hard.

7.4 1906 Dufferin St.

CAO Fraser stated a resident wrote a letter noting he is interested in purchasing the land at 1906 Dufferin St. He noted the parcel of land is not big enough to build on and the process is similar to an item further along on the agenda.

Councillor Murphy motioned to move forward with the sale of land at 1906 Dufferin St. and was seconded by Councillor White. Motion carried.

8. NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1 Mayor's and Warden's Meeting

Councillor White stated he asked to have it added to the agenda to follow-up on the Governance Study. He noted they received minutes from the May meeting and has lots of questions. Councillor White would like CAO Fraser to contact Mr. Wills and pose the questions to him. Councillor White noted he has respect for the committee. Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted each Mayor and Warden are only one vote.

8.2 Communications Policy

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted council asked the CAO to draw up a Communication Policy for council. Councillor Murphy questioned point 5 (The Mayor or Council members may not express personal opinions or beliefs publically as being reflective of the views and/or opinions of the Town of Westville) and asked if they can express as long as they state they are their personal views. Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that is correct and should change Mayor to Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor or another designated elected official. Councillor Murphy noted the mayor could

designate.

Councillor Murphy moved to accept the communications policy with amendments and was seconded by Councillor White. Motion carried.

8.3 Expense Policy

Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked if anyone had a comment on the Expense Policy. Councillor White asked if there were any changes since he came on council. Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted you now need receipts. CAO Fraser noted certain items would require a receipt and the amounts for the meals are not the correct amounts they use right now. Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked what staff would get. CAO Fraser stated staff follows the same rates as council. Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted she would like to see one put together for staff and Councillor White agreed.

Councillor White moved to accept the expense policy with amendments and was seconded by Councillor Murphy. Motion carried.

8.4 Joseph Green PID#01031343

CAO Fraser noted Green expressed interest in the property and he had the highest bid. CAO Fraser recommends the parcel of land be sold to Mr. Green. He also noted there was an issue with the other adjacent property owner's who said the town did not own the land. Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked if the town would have to pay for the migration. CAO Fraser suggested they have one lawyer and split the cost 50/50 to be cheaper for both parties.

Councillor White moved to sell the land to Joseph Green for \$2,500 plus costs and was seconded by Councillor Murphy. Motion Carried.

8.5 Unsightly Administrator

CAO Fraser noted the closure of the Shared Services department and stated they will be working with the town of Trenton and Stellarton. CAO Fraser suggested the CAO of the town administer it. He noted as of the end of August there will be no administrator and they will need one. Council could opt not to appoint one but CAO Fraser feels a lot can be dealt with by the administrator. Councillor Murphy noted they are getting a professional recommendation. Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked CAO Fraser if he has time to be the unsightly administrator. CAO Fraser noted the main thing is the inspector does the inspections and the CAO will do the administrative work. He also noted they can revisit it later. Councillor White noted he sees it as an improvement and this will speed up the process.

Councillor Murphy moved to have CAO Fraser be the new unsightly administrator and was seconded by Councillor White. Motion carried.

8.6 Child Playing Signs on Picken St.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald stated she brought this item up at the Police Commission meeting. A family just returned to Picken St. and asked to put up signs stating children playing.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald motioned to have child playing signs coming in and out of Westville on Picken St. and was seconded by Councillor White.

Councillor White asked if she was referencing Picken St. solely and

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted she was. Councillor White noted there are countless streets and recommends to put signs up at all entrances. Councillor Murphy added traffic that is coming into town is usually coming from a higher speed to a lower speed.

Motion carried.

Councillor White request staff investigates signage at entry points.

9. QUESTIONS FROM CITIZENS

9.1 Morris Campbell noted The Advocate had a ½ page on REN. He noted Warden Bailey went to Truro instead of going where government told him to go. Campbell also noted he believes the CAO is the secretary of the group and there is nothing on what they do. He noted someone wrote about the Governance Study in The News and it was not Councillor White.

9.2 Gordie MacIntosh noted there should be no questions on the signs for children playing. Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that council did pass to have the signs put in.

9.3 Morris Campbell stated something had to be done with the orange hall on Main St. and the Quik Pik should be torn down. He also stated Goodwin should be made to cut his grass and tear down his fence. Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted CAO Fraser will look into it.

10. IN-CAMERA

10.1 *Councillor White moved to go to an in-camera session and was seconded by Councillor Murphy. Motion carried.*

13. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

13.1 *Councillor Murphy motioned to adjourn the public meeting and Councillor White seconded.*

Certified to be a true copy of the minutes of the August 26th, 2013 regular Council Meeting for the Town of Westville.


DEPUTY MAYOR


RECORDING SECRETARY