



**Town of Westville
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, December 16th, 2013**

Commencing at 6:00 pm

Council Members Present: Mayor Roger MacKay; 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 Vicki Heighton

Absent: None

Visitors Present: A Westville resident

Media Organizations Present: 94.1 FM, Pictou Advocate

1. CALLING OF MEETING TO ORDER

1.1 Mayor MacKay called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2.1 *It was motioned by Deputy Mayor MacDonald to approve the tentative agenda and was seconded by Councillor Murphy. Motion Carried.*

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Councillor White noted 8.11, the Spring Conference that he did not accept the motion it was Councillor Murphy who seconded.
Motion carried.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

4.1 Councillor White noted 4.3 referencing the school and asked if they received a reply from the minister of Education. CAO Fraser noted they have not received a reply yet but have received general correspondence on school closures. Councillor White noted they all have received it via e-mail. He stated there is going to be a meeting January 9th for this area and thinks council should go and do a presentation. He noted the process since 1982 any schools built, the province assumes responsibility if they are closed. Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked if the letter was sent and CAO Fraser noted it was. Deputy Mayor MacDonald then asked Councillor White if he is saying the

province is responsible for the school if it closes. Councillor White stated it is any new schools built since 1982 the province assumes responsibility. Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted a letter has been sent to the parents of the students of Highland Consolidated School. Councillor Murphy confirmed they received a letter to state if they would agree that the kids go back and why or why not. Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked if they knew when the decision was going to be announced. Councillor Murphy was not sure but noted the deadline has passed and they should have the answers.

Councillor Sutherland noted on Thursday January 9th, 2013 there is a scheduled meeting for the Regional Library and he will be in New Glásgow for the Library meeting as the libraries are in desperate financial shape. Councillor White stated it is not the school board who is doing the meetings it is a committee headed by Bob Fowler and is a provincial committee. He noted there was a discussion in having a P8 in Trenton, East Pictou and New Glasgow and then grades 9-12 in North Nova and noted it seems like they could have something similar here in Westville.

Councillor Murphy stated he would be interested in going to the January 9th meeting. Mayor MacKay noted they should find out if they need to request to speak at the meeting. Councillor White noted there was contact information given and it did not specify that you had to but he feels they should. Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked CAO Fraser to get them on the agenda for that meeting.

5. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

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

Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked what period the \$1800 was for John Fillier and Mayor MacKay stated it was for a three month period.

Motion carried.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 *Police - It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and seconded by Councillor White that the Police Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*

6.2 *Fire Report - It was moved by Deputy Mayor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor White that the Fire Report be approved as presented.*

Councillor Sutherland stated the fire department is having bad luck with the weather for their events as it was so cold on Saturday for the Parade of Lights. Councillor White noted they put on a successful food drive.

Motion carried.

6.3 *Recreation Report - It was moved by Councillor Murphy and seconded by Deputy Mayor MacDonald that the Recreation Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*

6.4 *Compost, Garbage & Recycling Report - It was moved by Councillor White 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 Deputy Mayor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor White 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 Murphy to approve the transportation report as presented.*

Councillor Sutherland noted it will probably be in the December report but wanted to point out on Saturday night public works employees were fixing a water leak on MacKay St. in the extremely cold weather.

Motion Carried.

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

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

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 REN

CAO Fraser noted there was a letter from the Province regarding the updates on the RENS. The letter states the progress the valley has made. It notes there are start-up guides to have your REN established. Councillor White stated there is a link and it is an extensive guide. Councillor Murphy noted there was a letter on December 11th. Councillor White encourages everyone to look at it. He stated he is the representative and he spoke with Emily; the author of the letter; and her first comment was that Westville council had signed off on it and did not want to participate. Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked since Councillor White is the REN representative is it ok for him to contact the other municipalities. Mayor MacKay could not see why not. Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked CAO Fraser if there was anything in the MGA Act and CAO Fraser stated there wasn't. Councillor White stated he would follow up again with Warden Baillie.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted the REN is matched dollar for dollar up to \$100,000.00 and if you are not at the table there is no money coming from the province.

Councillor Sutherland stated he attended a meeting in Amherst and the Warden of Cumberland County gave an update saying the Warden's of Cumberland, Colchester and Pictou would be holding meetings in three locations, Amherst, Truro and New Glasgow and Mayor Joe Hawes, explained that in Pictou County, New Glasgow is not the seat of government the town of Pictou is. Councillor Sutherland noted it was said those meeting were top priority and he is surprised it has not happened. Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked Councillor Sutherland if the Warden's were the only ones attending. Councillor Sutherland noted they expected the six municipalities to have a representative. Mayor MacKay thanked Councillor White for sharing his phone call.

7.2 Teamsters Canada

CAO Fraser noted the letter is referencing lobbying rules for railway safety and they mentioned it is important for the elected officials to become more involved in the process and have tougher safety measures in place. Councillor Sutherland stated that Westville council is already all over this issue. He wishes Westville would be considered a main line and not a branch line for the loads they take to the industrial plants. Mayor MacKay stated that Councillor Sutherland asked for this and noted they are not worried.

7.3 VON

CAO Fraser stated the next item is from the VON Canada and it is pertaining to the annual funding that Westville provides. Council gives \$2,000 annually and has for a number of years. Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked if it was established in the budget and CAO Fraser noted it has been.

8. NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1 Trails

CAO Fraser stated there is a copy of the trails policy by the recreation staff and Pictou County Active Transportation and to access funding and there is a draft for consideration for council. Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked if they had to adopt the policy to receive the funding. CAO Fraser stated they did and having a policy in place helps when applying for funding for trails.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald moved to adopt the trails policy and was seconded by Councillor Murphy. Motion carried.

Mayor MacKay stated he signed the documents that have to be sent for funding.

8.2 CUPW

CAO Fraser stated this item was tabled at a previous meeting. Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted she has read through Canada Post's letter and they want to have a charter review and would like to act as a bank. She noted she does not want to do that and cannot see opening a door for Canada Post to get involved with postal banking. Councillor Murphy agreed and stated Canada Post needs to do something. Councillor White also agreed. Deputy Mayor MacDonald stated she would like to respond stating council did discuss it but cannot support it. Councillor White noted the letter was written in October and things are already changing and he would hate us to lose our post office in Westville. Councillor Sutherland stated if the unions put their heads together they could come up with something they could support.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked if they had to make a motion to write a letter. CAO Fraser stated they did not have to make a motion if they weren't going to approve it.

8.3 Site Visits – DA Randy Langille

CAO Fraser noted Building Inspector Roland Burek was out to review the areas. CAO Fraser noted there is a number of items Burek has listed and is looking for direction. Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked if they wanted to deal with this tonight as Langille has not signed the amended agreement and she is not happy about it. Councillor White wanted to send it to PAC to review where they are and to call a meeting as soon as possible. Deputy Mayor MacDonald stated she would like to turn it to PAC and also give it to their lawyer. Councillor Sutherland stated their lawyer should be at the PAC meeting and Councillor White and Councillor Murphy agreed. Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted it is not going to be settled by December 31st, 2013.

8.4 Strategic Plan

CAO Fraser stated he did a draft for council and asked if they wish to formally approve it. He noted he heard back from a couple of people but there were no changes from when it was circulated the first time. Mayor MacKay stated they could accept it and have it amended.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald moved to approve the Strategic Plan and was seconded by Councillor Murphy. Motion carried.

8.5 Police Board Appointments

CAO Fraser stated there is a memo that was drafted after the council package was sent out for the Police, Commission positions. He stated they interviewed four candidates on Thursday and recommend William Gray and Edward Ferguson for the positions.

Councillor Sutherland moved to accept the two new police commissioners and was seconded by Councillor White. Motion carried.

8.6 CUPE Contract

CAO Fraser stated the gratification document for CUPE Contract expired March 31st. He noted the negotiations began in April and they reached an agreement a few weeks ago. The document highlights the changes from the original document.

Councillor White moved to approve the acceptance of the CUPE contract and was seconded by Deputy Mayor MacDonald. Motion carried.

8.7 Letter of Support for Elizabeth Baillie

Mayor MacKay stated Elizabeth Baillie is the housing authority representative for Westville and it is hard to find someone to sit on the board. He noted if council wishes for her to stay on the board she said she would.

Councillor Sutherland moved to write a letter of support to the housing authority for Elizabeth Baillie to continue to be Westville's representative on the board and seconded by Councillor Murphy. Motion carried.

Councillor White noted housing asked each municipality to endorse a resolution that they proposed to go to the Feds in regard to housing supporting improved revenue from the Feds with regard to housing at the local level among other things. He asked if they could have that resolution brought to the next council meeting.

Councillor Sutherland noted Saturday's news had an article about the old Shiretown Nursing Home in Pictou being demolished. He would like it copied to the new government in Halifax. It talks about Pictou having Shiretown Nursing Home jobs, in Trenton they have the Ivey Terrace jobs, in New Glasgow there is a new school being built, in Stellarton they recently relocated the Department of Highways and in the county they are building a correction centre and the Riverview Home and he noted that leaves the town of Westville. He will hope the government takes a good look at Westville, there is a new building scheduled for sometime for the Glen Haven Manor and Westville desperately needs jobs. He hopes when Mark Furey comes to visit in January he brings job to Westville.

Councillor Sutherland moved to copy Mark Furey in a letter for the Glen Haven Manor be built in Westville and was seconded by Deputy Mayor MacDonald. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald asked that everything be listed in the letter that Councillor Sutherland has stated. Councillor Murphy also asked that MLA Tim Houston be copied on the letter as well.

9. QUESTIONS FROM CITIZENS

9.1 Marilyn Cameron thanked CAO Fraser for the good work he put into the town. She noted the post office always have banks of snow after a snowfall and stated it would be nice to have paths to get through. Superintendent Samuel Graham stated it is their responsibility to clear it.

Marilyn Cameron also asked if there was any news on the house beside her on Acadia St. CAO Fraser stated it needed to go in the town's name before they could advertise.

Mayor MacKay noted the post office brought concerns for years and stated public works is out at all hours clearing the roads and it cannot be done all at once but they have taken note of it.

9.2 Council presented CAO Fraser with a painting and thanked him for his dedication to the town and the great work he has done. CAO Fraser thanked council.

10. IN-CAMERA

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

11. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

11.1 *Councillor Murphy motioned to adjourn the public meeting and Deputy Mayor MacDonald seconded. Motion carried.*

Certified to be a true copy of the minutes of the December 16th, 2013 regular Council Meeting for the Town of Westville.


.....
MAYOR


.....
RECORDING SECRETARY