



**Minutes
Town of Westville
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Council Chambers
February 17, 2021- 6:00 pm**

1. Call To Order

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Lennie White, Deputy Mayor Meghan Bragg, Councillor Mitchell MacGregor (Remote), Councillor Clarrie MacKinnon, Councillor Betty Jean Sutherland, Chief Administrative Officer Linda Brown, Recording Secretary Kristen Reed, Deborah Seale of Pictou County Solid Waste, Cindy MacKinnon and Kelyn Palmer of Destination Eastern Northumberland Shores Tourism Association, G. A. Isenor and Blaine S Rooney, Public Works Superintendent Sam Graham, 2 members of public.

Due to Covid Precautions, the gathering limit was reached. Therefore, it was conducted on Zoom and live streamed on Facebook for others to take part.

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

4. Presentations

a. Pictou County Solid Waste

Deborah Seale, the Waste Reduction & Safety Coordinator for Pictou County Solid Waste made a presentation to the Town.

In the past there was the traditional Community Landfill where everyone would just throw everything into a big pile or pit. Now it is sorted by garbage, recycling and compost.

We use a transfer station to sort everything and send it to where it needs to go. Garbage trucks are weighed on their way in, empty onto the floor where large pieces of recycling or other debris are removed to proper area. The truck is weighed empty as it leaves to track the amount of garbage received. A second truck is sent to landfill after the waste has been sorted. The landfill has a liner to protect the ground and water.

Recycling is picked up by split trucks which have metal divider down the middle of the truck. Paper is placed on one side and cans/glass are placed on the other side. They are kept separate through the whole process. Paper gets sent to one area to be recycled. Other recyclables go on a belt which is then hand sorted by material. This

is why rinsing recyclables is so important to minimize smell and mess. Recyclables are then baled and shipped.

One of the hazards for staff is being stuck by medical items. If this happens it means time off work and being tested multiple times for up to a year, which is very stressful for staff. People can get a free sharps container from the pharmacy.

Compost is dumped in a warm building and a large stainless steel paddle keeps it moving at 55 degrees Celcius for 3 days. This helps to start the breakdown and kill any harmful bacteria. It is then moved to the next storage area where it continues to breakdown. It is then moved to the Dome and finally the finished section. The dirt is tested to be sure it is safe before being removed to be used.

Garbage processing has evolved due to concern for environment, and to protect wildlife.

Extended Producer Responsibilities (EPR) shifts the costs from consumers to producers. Nova Scotian's are paying for it but it is not legislated so we are not getting the benefits of it. It could significantly reduce the Town costs if EPR were in place.

Pictou County Solid Waste offers education programs which include sort guides, social media, signs and the app. Community Outreach includes webinars, tours and mobile collection drives. The next Mobile Household drive is scheduled for Saturday June 5th. Enforcement officer is on staff for illegal dumping and burning.

b. Destination Eastern & Northumberland Shores

DEANS, includes 4 counties, 420 communities, and advertises tourism on both shores. The 3 Pillars are:–Destination marketing: Individual guides, website, social media

-Visitor Servicing: visitor centres, events,

-Industry Partnership: free membership this year, new website, training for members

DEANS worked with Develop Nova Scotia to do video *From the Water in* for Youtube and social media. Shows what is available to people travelling by boats to Pictou County. Dashboard living will do some more video's to advertise Pictou County.

There are 8 visitor centres in the area. They offer weekly e-newsletters. Ten small businesses had items available in the Pictou centre. People could either buy the item or get an idea of what local businesses have.

DEANS have not raised municipal costs in 10 years even though provincial funding has decreased.

DEANS Dines Out Program you can buy a \$50 gift card to local restaurants for \$40, which encourages eating out in a traditionally slow time. They also promote Highland Connects which advertises the local trails.

5. New/Unfinished Business

a. Water Rate Study

G. A. Isenor and Blaine S. Rooney presented that the Town is doing well for working with 10 year old numbers. They worked with staff to get the information together, if Council approves the Water Rate Study it will go to a hearing. It is usually a 6 month process to get to the hearing.

Westville is heading for an operational deficit if things don't change. There is currently a healthy fund for replacing assets and they recommend using it. Water mains and reservoir are 60% for Fire Protection and 40% drinking water.

Impact on customers would be 10% raise in year 1, 5% raise in year 2 and 5 to 6% raise in year 3. Rates are middle of the pack compared to others in the area. After 10 years of no change no one should be surprised.

The Utility cannot run a deficit or a profit on purpose which is why year one is higher than the other years and cannot spread it out over the three years. A study is good for 4 years.

The Water Study will go to Monday's Council for approval then to the Utilities Review board and advertised for public to allow them the opportunity to voice opinions. It was a collaboration between Consultants, Superintendent Graham, CAO Brown, and Contract Accountant to get the information together and come up with ideas that will work for the Town.

It was noted the first draft had a significantly higher rate increase and CAO Brown requested additional review for changes.

b. December 2020 Finance Reports

General Operating Report December 2020

Utility Operating Report December 2020

Review of the Finance reports will replace the need for the Finance Meetings.

Moved to Council for approval.

c. Vaccine Schedule-

The Phase 2- COVID Vaccine schedule was forwarded to Council as an item for concern in relation to the Town's Police Department.

Police are currently in Phase 3. This item was moved to Police Commission for more renew.

d. Committee of the Whole

CAO Brown is requesting the Committee of the Whole for March be scheduled on March 22nd 2021, as she is scheduled to be out of the office on March 15th, 2021. It was unanimously agreed.

6. Next Meetings

a. Regular Council Meeting

Westville Council Chambers

February 22, 2021 – 6:00 pm

b. Committee of the Whole
Westville Council Chambers
March 22, 2021 – 6:00pm

7. Adjournment

Mayor: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Date Approved: _____