



**Minutes
Town of Westville
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Council Chambers
March 22, 2021- 6:00 pm**

1. Call To Order

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Mayor White read the Territory and African Nova Scotian Acknowledgement.

Mayor White highlighted that yesterday was The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Lennie White, Deputy Mayor Meghan Bragg, Councillor Mitchell MacGregor, Councillor Clarrie MacKinnon, Councillor Betty Jean Sutherland, Chief Administrative Officer Linda Brown, Recording Secretary Kristen Reed, Sally O'Neill Director of Active Pictou County, Sarah MacIntosh-Wisemen Executive Director of Pictou County Regional Enterprise Network.

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

4. Presentations

a. Active Pictou County

Sally O'Neill, Director at Active Pictou County, presented about the organizations activities.

Active Pictou County is part of the MPAL (Municipal Physical Activity Leadership Program) with the priority of integrating less structured movement throughout the day. They aim at helping people that struggle to participate and uses the 'Bout' method focusing on small bits of activity throughout the day. This method lessens the cognitive load and reduces time constraints for those who want to be active.

Guided by Let's Get Moving Nova Scotia strategy as well as Shared Strategy for Recreation Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Trails Strategy, Shift Strategy and Pictou County Physical Activity Survey 2018. Walking is the number one thing that people enjoy doing and want to start doing. Constraints are shown to be lack of safe infrastructure and social support for people to not get active.

Current funding has gone towards trails, afterschool program (Fall session had two days per week at Westville Gym), hike Nova Scotia Pictou Trails and earn a badge, Rainbow Recreation, BIPOC learn to Kayak and work on Trans Canada Trail.

Priorities going forward include Afterschool programming, Welcome Winter with YREACH Newcomer Program, Rainbow Recreation, Trails funding and support trails community, and Broomball equipment.

Sally is trained to facilitate Canadian Women in Sport Leadership Workshops and Hike Leaders.

Westville has a great recreation staff, space including a hub of the park, trails, ball field and library. Not only are there great assets in Westville but also great potential.

b. Pictou County Regional Enterprise Network (PCREN)

Sarah MacIntosh-Wisemen, Executive Director at PCREN provided a presentation of the organizations activities. PCREN was put together in 2018 on paper only, and was funded by PRDA. In 2019, it became operational and was funded partially by the remaining PRDA. In 2020, PCREN began implementing Regional Strategy and developing communications.

Each community has an LOC to represent them. They work with the Board of Directors who the CEO and staff report to. They are funded by the Province, and Municipalities.

There are five strategic priorities:

Business Retention and Expansion includes Virtual Advisor Program, supported Summer Street expansion into food security for seniors, forestry sector outreach and session, buy local holiday initiative, connected with over 300 businesses, E-Commerce fund supported 19 businesses.

Work force development includes staff discussions about labour needs with over 40 employers, job fair, Townfolio (pictoucounty.com/programs), newsletters and social media reach. It has had a successful pilot of Economic Labour Mobility Project. They used a database of skills to match refugees to positions in Pictou County. United Nations is making a mini documentary about the 'Pictou Model', and the Federal Government is looking at expanding it across Canada.

Business Navigation is being a concierge that businesses can contact to find out who can answer their questions and can help them through processes. Example helping with Immigration process for businesses unable to find local staff.

Economic Innovation looks at new ways to get things done. This includes labour mobility program, co-packing pilots with local businesses, MIT Reap team pulled together and engaged.

Branding and Business Attraction includes rebranding of Pictou County, Welcome home guide, Chamber of Commerce Business as usual event and 360° Virtual Asset video being created with NSBI.

Next Priorities will be continuing with Business Plan and utilizing reporting systems for consistency and tracking of interactions.

5. New/Unfinished Business

a. Tax Policy Review

A discussion took place due to the fact that no copy of the Tax Exemption bylaw could be found. Topics included what income and income level to use as well as should it be a single tier or two tier. After discussing options the general consensus was to stay with Line 150 on the T1 tax return, which corresponds to your total income before deductions. It was agreed an amount up to \$250 with an Income limit of \$22,500, approved annually.

Will be moved to March Council meeting for approval.

b. January 2021 Finance Reports

General Operating Report January 2021

Utility Operating Report January 2021

There were no questions and will be forwarded to Council Meeting for approval.

6. Next Meetings

a. Regular Council Meeting

Westville Council Chambers

March 29, 2021 – 6:00 pm

b. Committee of the Whole

Westville Council Chambers

April 19, 2021 – 6:00pm

7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:56.

Mayor: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Date Approved: _____