



**Minutes
Town of Westville
Regular Council Meeting
Council Chambers
May 30, 2022 – 6:30 pm**

1. Call To Order

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. Territorial and African Nova Scotian Acknowledgement

Acknowledge the passing of Robert Ferguson who was a member of the Fire department for 30 years and continued to support the department and the Town. He will be missed. We send sympathy to his family. He always took part on Canada Day, and will be thought of.

3. VON Proclamation

Von week is concluding. We flew the flag for the past week and met with representatives at that time. Most people have had some contact with VON. Nova Scotia and Ontario are the only two Provinces that still have VON. It is the 125th anniversary of the Order. It was started by the wife of the Governor General at the time. She founded an order of visiting nurses in Canada in honour of the 60th anniversary of Queen Victoria's ascent to the throne. Today we celebrate the 70th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II.

Mayor White read the Proclamation declaring May 22nd to May 28th as VON week. Please support VON.

4. Roll Call

Mayor Lennie White, Deputy Mayor Clarrie MacKinnon, Councillor Meghan Bragg, Councillor Mitchell MacGregor, Councillor Bernie Murphy, Finance Brenda MacKay, Chief Administrative Officer Scot Weeres, Recording Secretary Kristen Reed, Ed Kennedy from Habitat for Humanity and 3 members of the public.

5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

6. Additions, Deletions and/or Approval of the Tentative Agenda

2022.05.30.528 Moved by Deputy Mayor MacKinnon, **seconded by** Councillor MacGregor to approve the agenda with the addition of the Fire Department.

Motion Unanimously Carried

7. Approval of the Minutes

a. **Regular Council Meeting April 25, 2022**

2022.05.25.529 Moved by Councillor Bragg, **seconded by** Councillor Murphy to approve the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting with the correction to Group Savoie.

Motion Unanimously Carried

b. Committee of the Whole Meeting May 16, 2022

2022.05.25.530 Moved by Councillor MacGregor, **seconded by** Deputy Mayor MacKinnon to approve the minutes for the Committee of the whole as circulated.

Motion Unanimously Carried

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

None

9. Presentation

Habitat for Humanity

Ed Kennedy, Chair of the Pictou County Chapter recently retired and was looking to volunteer. He also loves to build and has lots of experience. Took over from Danny MacGillivray a year ago.

The mission of Habitat for Humanity is to provide basic functions for people with an affordable focus.

The Program involves land that is either donated or discounted to them. Families that don't qualify for traditional mortgage are selected and there is zero down payment and zero interest. It is flexible and yearly income taxes are submitted and if income goes up the payment goes up and if income goes down the payment goes down. The family includes 500 hours of sweat equity but can contract out ½ to family and friends. Habitat for Humanity uses donations to help keep costs down. TNB plumbing has donated the equipment and labour for the Stellarton project.

When comparing Habitat families with similar families and the kids achieve higher education, are larger donors, more physically active and less dependent on foodbank or housing.

It is the 30th anniversary of Habitat for Humanities in Nova Scotia. There have been 72 families, with five families involved in 2022, including Stellarton. HRM has a 70 home community starting to build this year. They are taking advantage of government opportunities for low income housing.

Currently there is a ReStore in Dartmouth and want to build a new store in Pictou County this year. It is run with volunteers and creates funding for H4H, with \$1 million raised in Dartmouth. Covid slowed down fundraising efforts but have 90% of funding for Stellarton. They are receiving free public service announcements on the radio and will be picking the family this week.

Long term goals are to build at least annually, although not in the county at this time. The more houses they build the more money goes back into the organization.

Council discussed many have been involved in builds over the years and that ReStores are great for shopping. Westville has some properties that may be appropriate and confirmed that the MGA allows donations.

10. Committee Reports

a. General Government

i. Mayor Lennie White –

The Mayor's report was circulated. He highlighted the July 1st rededication of the Cenotaph.

ii. Councillors Reports –

1. Deputy Mayor Clarrie MacKinnon

Deputy Mayor MacKinnon circulated his report at the meeting. He highlighted the Fire Department meeting as Council rep. They have purchased a number of items from fundraising and the list continues to grow. Flags and holders for Main St, a new cooler, crusher dust for Victoria Park. The Coin Toss collection from the parade will be handed over to the rink. Chicken BBQ on June 18th can order tickets online. Replaced tiles upstairs even though the roof is still leaking. New flag across from Tim Hortons. They will upgrade the flags over multiple years. The new style will be easier to transition between flags and keep flags in better shape.

2. Councillor Meghan Bragg

Councillor Bragg attended usual committees as well as her first in person NS Federation of Municipalities meeting. Learned a lot and there was a lot of networking. Attended the newcomer meet and greet which Esther had mentioned and it was really lovely and lots of people and food.

3. Councillor Mitchell MacGregor

Councillor MacGregor had regular correspondence. Attended the PAC meeting which conflicted with the Sports Hall of Fame meeting. 144 have had lots of communications and approved some work for H4H in the fall. Also attended MAP, Police, Committee Of the Whole and Dangerous and Unsightly.

4. Councillor Bernie Murphy

Councillor Murphy attended the same Town meetings. Glen Haven met regarding the Highcrest Solutions operation assessment. For the CCAs pay increase promised by Provincial government, 40% of staff aren't certified so don't qualify for the raise. There has been no audit since 2020. Purchased a house in 2019/2020 and are looking for way to get out of the situation.

PCREN meeting reviewed Strategic Plan, met with Scott Ferguson and local businesses. Chance to point businesses in the right direction for info and items. Hope to organize a gathering for the businesses here in town.

CAO Scot Weeres – Report was submitted. Not much to add but Thank you to Council, staff and citizens, getting the experience hoped to get.

b. Protective Services

i. Chief of Police Report

2022.05.30.531 Moved by Councillor Murphy, **seconded by** Councillor MacGregor to approve the Chief of Police Report as presented.

Motion Unanimously Carried

ii. Fire Department Report

2022.05.30.532 Moved by Deputy Mayor MacKinnon, **seconded by** Councillor Murphy to accept the Fire Department Report as presented

Motion Unanimously Carried

c. Recreation, Culture & Leisure Services

i. RCLS Coordinator Report

2022.05.30.533 Moved by Councillor MacGregor, **seconded by** Councillor Bragg to accept the Recreation, Culture & Leisure Services Report as presented.

Motion Unanimously Carried

d. Transportation & Environmental Health Services

i. Water Report

2022.05.30.534 Moved by Councillor Murphy, **seconded by** Deputy Mayor MacKinnon to accept the Public Works Report as presented.

Motion Unanimously Carried

ii. Public Works Report

2022.05.30.535 Moved by Deputy Mayor MacKinnon, **seconded by** Councillor Bragg to accept the Public Works Report as presented.

Motion Unanimously Carried

iii. Solid Waste Report

2022.05.30.536 Moved by Councillor MacGregor, **seconded by** Councillor Murphy to accept the Solid Waste Report as circulated.

Motion Unanimously Carried

e. Environmental Development

i. Fire Inspection

2022.05.30.537 Moved by Councillor MacGregor, **seconded by** Councillor Bragg to accept the Fire Inspection Report as circulated.

Motion Unanimously Carried

ii. Building Inspection/Unsanitary Premises

2022.05.30.538 Moved by Deputy Mayor MacKinnon, **seconded by** Councillor MacGregor to accept the Building Inspection Report as circulated.

iii. Planning & Development

2022.05.30.539 Moved by Councillor Bragg, **seconded by** Councillor Murphy to accept the Planning & Development report as circulated.

Motion Unanimously Carried

11. Correspondence

SERMGA

Council will discuss and finalize a response soon.

12. New/Unfinished Business

a. 2022/2023 Operating Budgets

Westville Finance Brenda MacKay, presented a balanced budget. Maintained current tax rates. Received double grant revenue last year. Police require additional IT and higher training as able to resume after COVID. Repairs and Maintenance budget for it but hope it's not required. Recreation includes Splash park and Recreation building.

Gas is difficult to budget for this year. Tipping fees have increased. Water Utility was as approved by UARB. Fire protection is an expense from the general fund. Water is supplied by New Glasgow. Costs include wages, treatment, distribution including repairs and maintenance, billing, collection and IT. Depreciation is as required by UARB.

Capital includes street upgrades of North Main, Drummond Rd and Court Street. A plow truck that was previously approved and an accessible door, water meters and a job trailer that will have heat and lights to make jobs easier especially in the winter are included.

i. General Operating Budget – Summary

Resolution for Approval:

Be it resolved by the Council for the Town of Westville, that the assessment for 2022-2023 is confirmed at \$10,609,100 for commercial properties and confirmed at \$141,407,300 for residential and resource properties.

Further be it resolved that the tax rates for the 2022-2023 be approved at \$2.08 per \$100 of residential and resource assessment and \$3.69 per \$100 of commercial assessment; with a wastewater rate of \$1.17 per cubic meter; for a total general operating budget of \$4,669,594 and general capital budget of \$1,011,515 for 2022-2023 approved this 30th day of May 2022.

2022.05.30.540 Moved by Councillor Murphy, **seconded by** Deputy Mayor MacKinnon to pass the above resolution.

Motion Unanimously Carried

ii. Utility Operating Budget- Summary

Motion for Approval

To approve the Utility Operating Budget of 2022/2023 with a proposed revenue of \$1,154,542 and proposed expenses of \$1,126,084, with a budgeted surplus of \$28,458 and the Water Utility Capital Budget of \$35,700.

2022.05.30.541 Moved by Deputy Mayor MacKinnon, **seconded by** Councillor MacGregor to approve the above motion.

Motion Unanimously Carried

b. Fly Over Request

2022.05.30.542 Moved by Councillor MacGregor, **seconded by** Councillor Murphy to approve the request of a Fly Over for the Canada Day Parade and/or Cenotaph rededication.

Motion Unanimously Carried

c. Overdue Tax Plan Report

Schedules with the steps taken at each step in the Official Overdue Tax Plan was reviewed for information purposes only.

d. Tax Exemption 1899 Temperance St

Riverview Residential Centre Tax Exemption

Annually Council decides whether to give Riverview Adult Non-Profit Residential Centre an exemption from taxes.

Discussion regarding an expansion of small option homes. One of the new homes is in New Glasgow and they will not be writing off the taxes. All communities should charge or write off. If we were to write off the taxes, that would subsidize the other communities and the Provincial government. A letter will be sent to notify the Owners of the home of the change and hope that it won't affect the residence.

e. Police Officer Appointments

During the Police Commission meeting on May 17th, 2022, the Commission unanimously recommended the appointment of Mathew Morrison and Jonathan Galloway as Term Police Officers.

2022.05.30.543 Moved by Councillor MacGregor, **seconded by** Councillor Murphy to accept the recommendation to appoint Mathew Morrison and Jonathan Galloway as Term Police Officers for the Westville Police Service.

f. Mentoring Plus Strategy

Following the presentation at the Committee of the Whole meeting regarding the update to the Regional Age Friendly Action Plan, Council could make a motion to be involved in the project.

2022.05.30.544 Moved by Councillor Bragg, **seconded by** Deputy Mayor MacKinnon to send an email to Geryl MacDonald, Regional Mentoring Plus

Coordinator to confirm Westville's commitment to participate in the development of the Regional Age Friendly Plan.

g. Fire Truck Sale Profits

Deputy Mayor MacKinnon stated that the department has been waiting for several months for the money from the sale of the trucks. It was their understanding of money in and money out. Council agreed it would be forthcoming. He believes Council will find a way to come up with the money they are expecting.

Mayor White explained that unbeknownst to Council any money to come in from the sale of surplus vehicles goes into the Capital reserves to be used for capital items. We want them to receive the money in a way that is appropriate and doesn't break the rules.

There was a discussion which included how important the department is to the Town and how much they have purchased recently using money from fundraising. The budget is already taking money out of reserves to balance so to pay at this time would involve taking another \$20,000 out of reserves. It was suggested that the CAO, and Fire Chief meet to discuss capital items required by the department and purchase some of those items instead of handing over money.

13. Public Engagement

Gord MacIntosh- Church St

The Guard rail mentioned at the last meeting was fixed. If they know what needs to be done they are able to do it.

14. Closed Session

2022.05.30.545 Moved by Deputy Mayor MacKinnon, **seconded** by Councillor Murphy to move into closed session.

Motion Unanimously Carried

The meeting adjourned into closed session at 8:52 pm.

15. Next Meetings

a. Committee of the Whole Meeting

Westville Council Chambers
June 20, 2022 - 6:00 pm

b. Board of Police Commissioners

Westville Council Chambers
June 21, 2022 - 6:00 pm

c. Regular Council Meeting

Westville Council Chambers
June 27, 2022 - 6:30 pm

16. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned

Mayor: _____ Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Date Approved: _____