



**Minutes
Town of Westville
Regular Council Meeting
Council Chambers
November 7, 2022 - 6:00 pm**

1. Call To Order

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm for the Public Consultation of the Electoral Boundary Review.

2. Public Consultation

Celene Palmer and Oliver Browning of PDI Engineering presented the Electoral Boundary Review Report. The Scope and Objective of the report was set out in the MGA section 369. Every eighth year thereafter the council shall conduct a study of the number and boundaries of polling districts in the municipality, their fairness and reasonableness and the number of councillors. (2) After the study is completed, and before the end of the year in which the study was conducted, the council shall apply to the Board to confirm or to alter the number and boundaries of polling districts and the number of councillors. 1998, c. 18, s. 369.

At present Westville is primarily residential and in the 2021 census the population was 3540, with 1660 dwellings and 3,459 acres which is approximately 1 person per acre.

There is currently an at large system with 4 councillors. Population has decreased 2.4 % since 2016 and there were 2,764 electors for the 2020 election which is 78.1 % of population.

The comparison only looked at Towns of similar size such as Town of Pictou and Port Hawkesbury and population density such as Clarks Harbour and Annapolis Royal. Each Town has 4 to 6 elected councillors. Westville's current 4 puts it at 885 representative ratio, which is the third quartile.

Three options were considered. They were to maintain the status quo, To replace the at large system with Ward systems or revise the size of council. The ward system was used until 2013 and used a North and South ward. The North ward would have an estimated population of 1912 with 746.5 residents per councillor. The South Ward would have an estimated population of 1628 with 635.5 residents per councillor. The size of Council could be reduced to three councillors but this could cause issues with tie votes and no Towns are currently with 3 councillors.

The preferred option is to maintain the at large system with 4 councillors.

2022.11.07.601 Moved by Deputy Mayor MacKinnon, **seconded by** Councillor Murphy to go with the status quo with the open system and 4 Councillors.

Motion Unanimously Carried

CAO Weeres will forward the information to the UARB and they will review the data and the recommendation and then will either hold another meeting or accept the recommendation.

There had been a few calls asking for more information regarding the public engagement but once they understood the options they choose not to attend.

3. Call To Order

Mayor White called the meeting to order again at 6:16 pm for the Regular Meeting.

4. Territorial and African Nova Scotian Acknowledgement

5. Roll Call

Mayor Lennie White, Deputy Mayor Clarrie MacKinnon, Councillor Mitchell MacGregor, Councillor Meghan Bragg, Councillor Bernie Murphy, Chief Administrative Officer Scot Weeres, Recording Secretary Kristen Reed, and 2 members of the public.

6. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

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

2022.11.07.602 Moved by Councillor Murphy, **seconded by** Councillor Bragg to approve the agenda as circulated.

Motion Unanimously Carried

8. Approval of the Minutes

a. Regular Council Meeting October 3, 2022

2022.11.07.603 Moved by Deputy Mayor MacKinnon, **seconded by** Councillor MacGregor to approve the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting as circulated.

Motion Unanimously Carried

b. Committee of the Whole Meeting October 17, 2022

2022.11.07.604 Moved by Councillor Bragg, **seconded by** Councillor Murphy to approve the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting as presented.

Motion Unanimously Carried

9. Committee Reports

a. General Government

i. Mayor Lennie White –

Mayors report was circulated. He highlighted the announcement with MP Minister Sea Fraser regarding the ACOA funding to assist us with fulfilling our commitment to the Facey family to create accessible parking at the Splash pad/ Acadia Park on the land they so graciously donated 5 years ago. We are all anxious to see the work get under way before the end of the year and are hoping to see progress before long.

CAO Weeres, Councillor Bragg and the Mayor attended the NSFM conference and always learn something new. It was the 1st time in 3 years that it was held in person.

ii. Councillors Reports –

1. Deputy Mayor Clarrie MacKinnon

The last time for report as deputy mayor. Accentuate the Tender is out for the Fire Truck and is due November 18th. The Big Blue plow truck is coming soon in November or December. Paving is completed on North Main and Drummond Rd. Patching is 70% done and Waddens Court is being done soon. The 23rd Parade of Lights will be on Dec 3rd and will finish at the Fire Station where hot chocolate and goodies will be served. There will also be Fireworks after the parade.

2. Councillor Meghan Bragg

Councillor Bragg had the usual Police, PAC, Strategic planning and affordable housing meetings as well as Aging Well strategic committee. Thank you to Public Works for helping put up the pumpkins from Creative Pictou County and DEANS.

3. Councillor Mitchell MacGregor

Councillor MacGregor had regular meetings and the funding announcement, but no 144 meeting. The Sports Hall of Fame often shares the same night as the PAC meeting. Thank you to Public Works, NS Power, staff and Council for all the work after Fiona.

4. Councillor Bernie Murphy

Thank you to everyone for the Fiona cleanup. The community bond is still strong. Glen Haven as of Nov 1st funding is protected. Funding for programs and food must go towards those items and amounts not used will be returned. They are still in process for the National Accreditation.

Pictou County Partnership, formerly the REN, haven't met since late spring. There is a survey on social media to help with the 5 year plan.

CAO Scot Weeres

Report is attached. Keep trying to find ways to bring development to Westville. Public Works are working towards pick up. You can continue to put it out and we will continue to collect it for some time. At some point we will need to cease but we aren't there yet.

b. Protective Services

i. Chief of Police Report

2022.11.07.605 Moved by Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor MacGregor to approve the Chief of Police Report as presented.

Motion Unanimously Carried

- ii. **Fire Department Report**
2022.11.07.606 Moved by Deputy Mayor MacKinnon, **seconded by** Councillor Bragg to accept the Fire Department Report as presented.
Motion Unanimously Carried

- iii. **Animal Control Report**
2022.11.07.607 Moved by Councillor Bragg, **seconded by** Councillor MacGregor to accept the Animal Control Report as presented.
Motion Unanimously Carried

c. Recreation, Culture & Leisure Services

- i. **RCLS Coordinator Report**
2022.11.07.608 Moved by Councillor Murphy, **seconded by** Deputy Mayor MacKinnon to accept the Recreation, Culture & Leisure Services Report as presented.

Motion Unanimously Carried

The craft fair that is usually well attended will be November 26th with free admission.

Thank you to the office staff for covering the Recreation department.

d. Transportation & Environmental Health Services

- i. **Water Report**
2022.11.07.609 Moved by Councillor Bragg, **seconded by** Deputy Mayor MacKinnon to accept the Water Report as presented.

Motion Unanimously Carried

- ii. **Public Works Report**
2022.11.07.610 Moved by Deputy Mayor MacKinnon, **seconded by** Councillor MacGregor to accept the Public Works Report as presented.
Motion Unanimously Carried

- iii. **Solid Waste Report**
2022.11.07.611 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**
2022.11.07.612 Moved by Councillor Murphy, **seconded by** Deputy Mayor MacKinnon to accept the Fire Inspection Report as circulated.
Motion Unanimously Carried

- ii. **Planning Advisory Committee**

2022.11.07.613 Moved by Deputy Mayor MacKinnon **seconded by** Councillor Bragg to accept the Planning Advisory Committee Report as circulated.

Motion Unanimously Carried

They are great monthly meetings and it means things are happening.

10. New/Unfinished Business

a. Committee Appointments

Annually Committee Appointments are made by Council. Attached to tonight's agenda is the committee appointment list as discussed with Council.

2022.11.07.614 Moved by Councillor Bragg, **seconded by** Councillor Murphy to accept the new committee appointments as listed.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Mayor White welcomed Councillor MacGregor to the Deputy Mayor position, and pointed out that it is a rotational position with each Councillor serving one year.

b. Climate Change conference

A motion will be needed if we choose to take part in the conference. Other units have all signed on. The Conference will be held regarding Climate Change and will be \$1,900 which is available. CAO Weeres acknowledged that Climate Change can't be mitigated and doesn't respect boundaries so we should all band together. Councillor MacGregor pointed out that it appears to be 5 workshops rather than 1 conference and that we have missed the first 2. Mayor White stated that the dates were just guidelines and the workshops haven't happened yet. The other councillors agreed it's important and like the collaboration and the public engagement.

2022.11.07.615 Moved by Councillor Bragg, **seconded by** Deputy Mayor MacKinnon that Westville participates in the Climate Change conference.

Motion Unanimously Carried

11. Public Engagement/ Delegations

Acknowledge Morris comes to all meetings when possible and helps us in our decision making.

12. In Camera

2022.11.07.616 Moved by Deputy Mayor MacKinnon, **seconded by** Councillor MacGregor to move into in camera session at 6:50.

Motion Unanimously Carried

- i. **(MGA Section 22(2) (f)(g))**
- ii. **(MGA Section 22 (2) (a))**

2022.11.07.617 Moved by Deputy Mayor MacKinnon, **seconded** by Councillor MacGregor to return to open session.

Motion Unanimously Carried

2022.11.07.618 Moved by Councillor MacGregor, **seconded** by Councillor Murphy to return to accept the resolution proposed and discussed during In Camera session.

Motion Unanimously Carried

13. Next Meetings

Remembrance Day

Westville Cenotaph

November 11th at 11am

a. Board of Police Commissioners

Westville Council Chambers

November 15, 2022 – 6:00 pm

b. Committee of the Whole

Westville Council Chambers

December 5, 2022 – 6:00 pm

c. Regular Council Meeting

Westville Council Chambers

December 19, 2022 – 6:00 pm

The Parade of lights will be on December 3rd and the Christmas Variety Concert will be December 7th. It is usually a packed house and proceeds will go to the Fuel Fund. Also the Craft Show will be on November 26th.

14. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Mayor: _____ Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Date Approved: _____