



**Town of Westville
Regular Council Meeting
Monday July 30, 2018**

Commencing at 6:00 pm

Council Members Present:

Mayor Roger MacKay
Deputy Mayor Bernie Murphy
Councillor Lynn MacDonald
Councillor Lennie White
Councillor Charlie Sutherland

Staff Present:

Kelly D. Rice – CAO
Sam Graham – Superintendent Public Works
Dennis James – Town Solicitor
Amanda Cyr – Recording Secretary

Public in Attendance:

Yes

Media Organizations Present:

The Advocate, ECFM

1. CALLING OF MEETING TO ORDER

- 1.1 Mayor MacKay called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. in the Westville Council Chambers welcoming everyone in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 2.1 *It was moved by Councillor MacDonald to approve the tentative agenda as amended. Deputy Mayor Murphy seconded. Motion carried.*

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 3.1 *It was moved by Deputy Mayor Murphy to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2018 Council Meeting. Councillor Sutherland seconded. Motion carried.*

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

5. C.F. CONSTRUCTION REPORT

Town Solicitor Dennis James gave an overview of the legal decision that was reached in the dispute between the Town of Westville and C.F. Construction, noting that the full decision is also available on the Department of Justice Website.

questions/comments from the public.

Questions/comments included concerns that the Town taxes would have to increase to pay the settlement. Mayor Mackay assured everyone that there would be no increase in taxes and this would be reflected in the budget, which would also be presented this evening.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

7.1 CAO Rice gave a presentation of the 2018/19 Budgets

Mayor MacKay asked for a motion to pass the General Operating Budget letting people know that our tax rate is not going up, it is staying at \$2.08 residential and \$3.69 commercial. It was moved by Councillor Sutherland to approve the General Operating Budget as presented. Deputy Mayor Murphy seconded. Motion carried.

Councillor MacDonald clarified that the Recreation Services Budget did not reflect one staff members annual salary, but rather the wages of all recreation staff including students.

7.2 *It was moved by Councillor MacDonald to approve the Water Operating Budget as presented. Councillor White seconded. Motion carried.*

7.3 *It was moved by Councillor White to approve the Capital Budget as presented. Deputy Mayor Murphy seconded. Motion carried.*

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 *Police Report - It was moved by Councillor Sutherland to accept the Police Report as circulated. Councillor MacDonald seconded. Motion carried.*

Councillor Sutherland commented that it is great to have the statistics from the traffic radar on Angel Street, though they seem to continue having problems with accurate reads.

Councillor MacDonald commented that the speed indicator was a project brought to the table by the Town of Westville, cost shared between the Town of Westville and the Town of Stellarton. It is proving to be effective throughout different problem areas in the Town. Certainly both Towns are finding the equipment beneficial.

8.2 *Fire Report - It was moved by Deputy Mayor Murphy to accept the Fire Report as circulated. Councillor MacDonald seconded. Motion carried.*

Councillor Sutherland acknowledged the tragedy that occurred in Westville the night before July 1st and the importance of PTSD support for Fire and Police Departments which he states he did speak about with the Minister of Municipal Affairs who visited Westville back in 2013.

Councillor MacDonald commended the Westville Fire Department for once again stepping up and doing such a great job with the July 1st celebrations. She would like to ask that a letter of appreciation be sent to both Stellarton and Alma Fire Departments for stepping in and providing support with the Canada Day

the tragic fire that occurred.

Deputy Mayor Murphy expressed gratitude on behalf of the Fire Department for the response they received from the public on July 1st. When the call went out on social media for help, the response received from the community was so overwhelming they had to turn people away. The support allowed the members of the Fire Department to get some sleep after being up all night and that would not have been possible without the outpouring of support from the public.

- 8.3 Recreation Report – *It was moved by Deputy Mayor Murphy to accept the Recreation Report as circulated. Councillor MacDonald seconded. Motion carried.***

Deputy Mayor Murphy reminded all in attendance that Wednesday will be the first edition of Music in the Park and will be held every Wednesday for the month of August.

Mayor Mackay mentioned the Special Olympics Torch Run with participants stopping at the Town Office, and would appreciate any showing of support.

Councillor Sutherland pointed out the budget for both the Recreation Department and the Fire Department, noting that the numbers are quite small in relation to what invaluable services they provide to the people of the community.

- 8.4 Compost, Garbage & Recycling Report - *It was moved Councillor Sutherland to accept the Compost, Garbage & Recycling Report as circulated. Deputy Mayor Murphy seconded. Motion carried.***

- 8.5 Environmental Health Report (Water Treatment) - *It was moved by Councillor White to accept the Environmental Health Report as circulated. Councillor MacDonald seconded. Motion carried.***

Councillor Sutherland commented on the excellent quality and quantity of the water, especially given the extreme heat conditions.

- 8.6 Transportation Report - *It was moved by Deputy Mayor Murphy to accept the Transportation Report as circulated. Councillor White seconded. Motion carried.***

- 8.7 Animal Control Report – *It was moved by Deputy Mayor Murphy to accept the Animal Control Report as circulated. Councillor White seconded. Motion carried.***

- 8.8 Development/Building/Planning Report - *It was moved by Councillor MacDonald to accept the Development/Building/Planning Report as circulated. Deputy Mayor Murphy seconded. Motion carried.***

- 8.9 Unsightly/Dangerous - None**

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- 9.1 Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library**

CAO Rice informed Council that the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library audited financial statements are available and there are copies in the Town Office should

9.2 **Nova Scotia SPCA**
CAO Rice read a Thank You letter to the Town of Westville for a \$50 contribution.

9.3 **Multicultural Fusion Festival**
CAO Rice read an invitation to the 10th Annual Multicultural Fusion Festival taking place on September 8th, as well as a request for sponsorship. Councillor MacDonald stated this is a great event and worth noting it is their 10th Annual Festival.

Councillor MacDonald motioned to donate \$100 to the event. Deputy Mayor Murphy seconded. Motion carried.

9.4 **Nova Scotia Health Authority Public Health**
CAO Rice read a letter from the Nova Scotia Health Authority regarding the legalization of recreational cannabis and its impact on municipalities, and the opportunity to develop and implement by-laws to protect the health of all residents.

Councillor MacDonald requested this be brought to the Shared Services Authority since all the municipal units worked together to have land use by-laws mirrored, it would be very useful to follow a similar process with this so that by-laws do not differ from town to town. Mayor MacKay indicated it would be more appropriate to discuss this at the Mayors and Wardens meeting.

Councillor White agreed it is critical that municipalities across the Province work together so that by-laws have some uniformity from one area to another.

Mayor Mackay agreed to bring the matter forth at the next Mayors and Wardens Meeting.

10. NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10.1 Fixed Transit System

CAO Rice stated that this was an issue tabled at the last meeting while awaiting additional information. That information has been received. The 4 Towns (Westville, Stellarton, Trenton & New Glasgow) agreed to look at the possibility of a Fixed Transit System. Originally it was requested that each Town contribute to a study on the viability of such a plan. The Province has since said they will pay the cost of the study in full, which would be \$35,000.

Councillor MacDonald wanted it noted that she does not support this. She stated that this issue has been studied multiple times. There has been more than one presentation to Council, rejected each time. At one point Westville and New Glasgow attempted to get the service up and running but the ridership was no longer there, and pursuing this would be a waste of money. Councillor MacDonald states she will be voting against this.

Councillor White disagreed with Councillor MacDonalds opinion because he feels this study is at no cost to the municipalities, it is simply putting together a business plan proposal and once the study has been complete only then will the Town be asked for any kind of contribution if the study is successful. He asked that this issue be discussed after the proposed study has been completed.

Councillor MacDonald responded that it will cost us all money as tax payers of Nova Scotia, and if the Province has \$35,000 to spend, lets put it towards Health Care for our residents instead of something wasteful. She stated again that she is against the Province wasting that kind of money and feels it is time to speak up and say we do not want to see that kind of money wasted.

Deputy Mayor Murphy agreed with Councillor MacDonald. He does not see the benefit in spending tax payers money on something that has already been studied and shown that it cannot be self sufficient. He states he would have a hard time voting for something that he knows in the end will not be sustainable.

Councillor White motioned to accept the proposal of the Transit Plan to be developed with the understanding that it is funded with no expense to the Town of Westville. Deputy Mayor Murphy seconded. Councillor MacDonald asked for a recorded vote.

Councillor White – Yes

Councillor Sutherland – Nay

Councillor MacDonald – Nay

Deputy Mayor Murphy – Nay

Mayor MacKay - Nay

Motion defeated.

10.2 Aberdeen Health Foundation Request

CAO Rice read a letter from the Aberdeen Health Foundation Chair James Shaw regarding a Physician Recruitment and Retention Support Initiative. The Foundation passed a motion to provide up to 1/3 of the annual funding for the initiative for up to 5 years, contingent upon securing the remaining funding from other community partners. CAO Rice reports that this has been successful in other areas across the Province.

Councillor MacDonald feels it is sad that it has come to this, that the municipalities have to step up and do what the Province should be doing. She is encouraged that there is some success in other areas as CAO Rice reported, but feels this is something that our tax dollars should be paying for. She stated that she will support this because we need the doctors but feels it is disgraceful that it has come to this.

Deputy Mayor Murphy applauds the Health Authority for picking up the ball and running with it because obviously the ball has been dropped. He supports this foundation because we need the doctors here.

Councillor White stated that he is in favour of this approach. He stated that he is excited about a residency program that will be housed in the Colchester and Pictou County areas and noted the importance of encouraging residents and students to stay in the area, keeping in mind that while they are residents they are not wealthy and may struggle financially and need the support of people in the community.

Councillor MacDonald quotes statistics in the letter from Mr. Shaw, those numbers do not reflect the fact that several of our local physicians are pending retirement and our Walk In Clinic is currently closed.

Councillor MacDonald motioned that the Town of Westville participate in this plan and budget accordingly for the next 5 years. Councillor White seconded. Motion carried.

11. ADDITIONS

11.1 Dangerous/Unsightly

CAO Rice reminded Council of the property at 1862 Purvis Avenue. This property is considered dangerous and unsightly. A demolition permit had been taken out but not followed through on. The CAO requested a demolition order be imposed with 10 days for the owner to appear before Council.

Councillor MacDonald motioned that Council proceed with issuing the demolition order and giving the owner 10 days to appear before Council. Deputy Mayor Murphy seconded.

Councillor White asked what the cost to the Town would be relating to the demolition. CAO Rice responded that the cost would be applied to the property owners tax bill.

11.2 Aberdeen Walk In Clinic

Council discussed the Walk In Clinic closure and the impact that it will have on residents of the community.

Councillor MacDonald stated that this is a crisis situation for Pictou County. She suggested that a meeting be requested with the Health Minister and representatives of Council from all Municipalities to come up with a solution. Deputy Mayor Murphy agrees and notes that this warrants more than just a letter of support. Councillor MacDonald asked Mayor MacKay if he would take this request to the next Mayors and Wardens meeting, to which he responded yes, and would ask for it to be considered even prior to that next scheduled meeting.

12. QUESTIONS FROM CITIZENS

12.1 Art Sinclair – 1568 Reservoir Street

Mr. Sinclair informed Council that he feels fortunate to have gotten new neighbors recently and made a suggestion that the Town offer a welcome package to new residents including phone numbers, by-laws, and other pertinent information.

12.2 Morris Campbell – 1366 North Main Street

Mr. Campbell inquired about the properties on Duff Street as well as the old Boxing Club building. CAO Rice informed him these properties are in the budget to be demolished. He expressed concern over people putting their green bins in front of fire hydrants. He also feels that the Aberdeen Health Foundation has enough money and should not be asking the municipalities for contributions.


13. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

13.1 Councillor Sutherland offered a sincere thank you to the citizens who attended.

13.2 The next regular Council Meeting will be held on Monday, August 27th, 2018.

Murphy seconded. Motion carried.

Certified to be a true copy of the minutes of the July 30, 2018 Regular Council Meeting for the Town of Westville.



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MAYOR

a Cyr
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RECORDING SECRETARY