



**Minutes  
Town of Westville  
Committee of the Whole Meeting  
Virtual- Zoom  
May 17, 2021- 6:00 pm**

**1. Call To Order**

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**2. Territory and African Nova Scotian Acknowledgement**

Mayor White read the Territory and African Nova Scotian Acknowledgement.

Deputy Mayor Bragg acknowledged that it is International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia. It is a celebration of sexual and gender diversity, and an opportunity to build understanding about the violence and discrimination still faced by many in this community. Our Town and Council is committed to more inclusive policies and practices and wish to be all inclusive.

**3. 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, Sean Fraser, MP- Central Nova

**4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

None

**5. Presentations**

**a. Sean Fraser, MP – Central Nova**

Mr. Fraser started by Congratulating Council on what has been a strange year and this is the first official time meeting together since the election.

Parliament Finance has been consumed with the Pandemic and with the recent budget. The budget helps to set the stage to reopen the economy and encourage growth. First thing is we can not take our eyes off the prize. Strong public health response needs to continue, including money available for the vaccine roll out and help for the health care system to deal with the backlog of cancelled surgeries. Although off to a slow start we are now out pacing most other countries for getting the Covid vaccine. Please sign up to get it when you can.

Economic Policy includes the much discussed Early Learning and Childcare which will help build a Canada-wide community- based system of quality child care. The goal of bringing fees down to \$10 per day on average will allow families to access hundreds of dollars a month that would normally go to high child care costs. It also includes expanding High-speed internet and expanded rent subsidy for businesses, non-profit organizations, or charities who have had to shut down due to Public Health restrictions.

For Infrastructure the Gas tax, which every Municipality receives, will be doubled this year. There is also expanded options on how it can be spent.

Green and Inclusive Community Building Fund is open now. It is not just for accessibility and mobility. It is for bringing more groups of people into the area, example rural people into town or low income citizens. There are two streams of funding, which are for new building or for retrofit. They are rolling application intakes so best to get applications in as soon as possible.

Community Revitalization Fund is not open yet. It is for arts, culture or a Community centre. The process will be done by a third party.

National Housing Strategy is to help with more affordable housing. There is also an investment that can be used to hire a consultant to help navigate the application process. This helps smaller communities to be able to be able to do the application.

Pictou County transit started today. There is a new fund that will be available for communities that do not have transit. It will be to help with infrastructure but not operating costs. There will also be an Active transportation fund, which will be for bike lanes and walking trails.

For more information the budget can be found at [Budget.gc.ca](http://Budget.gc.ca), or reach out for help.

Councillor MacKinnon asked since Mr. Fraser was Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment prior to becoming Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance, would he have any assistance in looking at Geothermal energy in the Town of Westville using the old mine tunnels? Mr. Fraser explained that not all coal mines have it as availability so that step one would be to have professionals examine it and create a concept. It would also be able to go through either Federal or private sector. The exact fund would depend on a variety of specifics.

Deputy Mayor Bragg asked if there was more information on Active Transportation, as it would be nice to enhance from the Town to the access point for Pictou bus transit. It would be nice to support the bus that started today.

## 6. Next Meetings

### a. Regular Council Meeting

Virtual- Zoom

May 31, 2021 – 6:00 pm

### b. Committee of the Whole

Westville Council Chambers

June 21, 2021 – 6:00pm

With the end of Nurses week we acknowledge and appreciate Nursing staff in our community. They have never been more important than in the last 15 months.

## 7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Administrative Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_