



**Minutes
Town of Westville
Regular Council Meeting
Zoom
May 31, 2021- 6:00 pm**

1. Call To Order

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

2. Territory and African Nova Scotian Acknowledgement

Mayor White read the Territory and African Nova Scotian Acknowledgement.

As a council and town we were shocked and saddened to learn of the discovery of the graves of 215 children at the residential school site in Kamloops BC.

In recognition of and to honour the victims we have lowered the town flags to half mast for 215 hours, one hour for each victim of this atrocity.

On behalf of council, yesterday, Mayor White reached out to Chief Andrea Paul to offer our sincere condolences and to ask what we can do to continue to honour the victims and survivors of the Residential School System. In an effort to help in our understanding Chief Paul has agreed to speak to council at our Committee of the Whole meeting on June 21 on the impact of the residential school system and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

We can't possibly undo the wrongs of the past but we can learn from it, hopefully gain a better understanding of it and pledge to make sure this never happens again.

As a first step we hope our province opens a probe into the residential school that was located in Shubenacadie using the same technology that was employed in Kamloops.

We need to know the truth before there can be any reconciliation.

To all our First Nation friends please know that residents of Westville stand united with you in your grief. Every Child Matters!

Mayor White said when he first heard of this that there were no words to describe this horrible discovery but thank you to local author and poet Sheree Fitch he now has the words. Thank you to Sheree for allowing us to share the following words:

"The thing about the light I love the best / light frames my day from east to west / from dawn to dusk Light hugs each day / till darkness chases light away./ This night moon's the light I'll lean upon / as I pray for children/ taken/gone./ Souls / buried / lost / betrayed / forsaken / families shattered / hearts so broken useless words are just a token/ only the sky can hold the tears / how much more how many years / before things change / how much more proof / to see how history's buried Truth? Such useless tragic death of youth"

3. Roll Call

Mayor Lennie White, Deputy Mayor Meghan Bragg, Councillor Mitchell MacGregor, Councillor Clarrie MacKinnon, Councillor Betty Jean Sutherland, Brenda MacKay of Finance, Chief Administrative Officer Linda Brown, Recording Secretary Kristen Reed

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

5. Approval of the Tentative Agenda

2021.05.31.300 Moved by Councillor MacKinnon, **seconded** by Councillor Sutherland to approve the agenda with the addition of Volunteer of the Year.

Motion Unanimously Carried

6. Approval of the Minutes

a. Regular Council Meeting April 26, 2021

2021.05.31.301 Moved by Councillor Sutherland, **seconded** by Deputy Mayor Bragg to approve the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting with the addition of Bell Alliant building face lift requested and the framed murals are in Kentville not Truro.

Motion Unanimously Carried

b. Special Council meeting May 3, 2021

2021.05.31.302 Moved by Councillor MacKinnon, **seconded** by Councillor MacGregor to approve the minutes for the Special Council meeting with the correction of paving on Office street not Purvis.

Motion Unanimously Carried

c. Committee of the Whole meeting May 17, 2021

2021.05.31.303 Moved by Councillor Sutherland, **seconded** by Councillor MacKinnon to approve the minutes for the Committee of the Whole meeting as circulated.

Motion Unanimously Carried

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

a. Surplus Properties

The properties identified as surplus at the previous Council meeting, were appraised on May 25, 2021. Final reports are expected the first week of June, as which time, any legal migrations that are necessary will be completed. Hope to be able to start putting properties up Mid June.

b. Asphalt Tenders

The updated asphalt tender has been released and is expected to close the first week of June.

c. FCM – Asset Management Funding

This would be considered “old business” however, an update was received, that the grant applied for by the Town for assistance with funding to complete the remaining four asset classes (street, storm sewer, curb, and sidewalks) is in the final stages of review. (Originally approved by Council in August 2020.)

8. Committee Reports

a. General Government

i. Mayor Lennie White

Report was attached.

Everyone moved into the current state of Emergency and Covid protocols without issues. Town staff have been continuing to work during lockdown, using all Covid protocols. The Mayor is anxious to get back to before lockdown with open door sessions. He commended citizens for our numbers being low compared to other places.

The Fire Department has postponed the July 1st celebrations. It is the highlight of our year. It was a difficult thing to do, but it was the right decision.

Continue to get tested and vaccinated.

At the Mayors and Ward meeting they are creating an ad-hock committee to look at mental health. They asked for a representative from Westville and with Councils agreement Deputy Mayor Bragg will represent Westville.

ii. Councillors

Deputy Mayor Meghan Bragg

Deputy Mayor Bragg was sponsored by The Department of Municipal affairs and Housing to attend the Canadian Network of Asset Managers Virtual Conference. Also met with NSFM to review work being done by their Asset Management Working Group. She sent her approval for the Accessibility Framework developed provincially for libraries and their boards.

Councillor Mitchell MacGregor

Councillor all meetings were virtual due to Lockdown.

Air Flight 144 still has not met with no meeting planned.

The Municipal Alcohol Project discussed a harm reduction checklist and the lack of impact assessment on home delivery.

Councillor Clarrie MacKinnon

Report was circulated and also on the Westville Progress site.

Riverview Home meeting was productive. They approved the purchase of a group home that they had been renting. Praise management and staff for riding out Covid fairly well, and all residents will be fully vaccinated by June 3rd.

The facelift of the Bell Alliant building has been approved.

West River Greenhouse is unable to supply flowers to the Westville garden club, so trying to find a new supplier.

There have been a number of concerns about housing rental shortages and rent increases. This is an ongoing issue in many areas.

Councillor Betty Jean Sutherland

Councillor Sutherland attended Municipal Affairs housing training.

DEANS zoom AGM showed they had done a lot of work but with a lot more still planned. Several board members had stepped down and a new board is now in place.

Due to technical difficulties was late getting on the Glen Haven zoom AGM. Very appreciative to Heather Head, Vice-chair for stepping in and chairing. All Glen Haven members have been fully vaccinated. The new Communications Representative has had a number of News articles and Social media accounts. Two flag poles have been replaced and there are now six available. Flags are from UK, Nova Scotia, Canada, Gay pride and transgender. Posted a photo with staff in front of flags. Meetings are changing from noon start to 6pm.

iii. CAO Linda Brown

The report was as presented.

Clarified with the solicitor that the vacant property bylaw only covers new buildings but can stipulate 90 days or such after bylaw it could be included. Can have bylaw presented for June meeting.

b. Protective Services

i. Chief of Police Report

2021.05.31.304 Moved by Councillor MacKinnon, **seconded** by Councillor MacGregor to approve the Chief of Police Report as presented.

Motion Unanimously Carried

ii. Animal Control Report

2021.05.31.305 Moved by Councillor Sutherland, **seconded** by Deputy Mayor Bragg to accept the Animal Control Report as presented.

Motion Unanimously Carried

c. Recreation, Culture & Leisure Services

i. RCLS Coordinator Report

2021.05.31.306 Moved by Councillor MacKinnon, **seconded** by Councillor Sutherland to accept the Recreation, Culture & Leisure Services Report as circulated.

Motion Unanimously Carried

d. Transportation & Environmental Health Services

i. Water Report

2021.05.31.307 Moved by Councillor MacGregor, **seconded** by Councillor MacKinnon to accept the Report as presented.

Motion Unanimously Carried

ii. Public Works Report

2021.05.31.308 Moved by Councillor MacKinnon, **seconded** by Deputy Mayor Bragg to accept the Public Works Report as presented.

Motion Unanimously Carried

iii. Solid Waste Report

2021.05.31.309 Moved by Councillor Sutherland, **seconded** by Deputy Mayor Bragg to accept the Solid Waste Report as presented.

Motion Unanimously Carried

iv. Pictou County Shared Services

The report was circulated for information purposes only.

e. Environmental Development

i. Fire Inspection

2021.05.31.310 Moved by Councillor MacGregor, **seconded** by Councillor Sutherland to accept the Fire Inspection Report as presented.

Motion Unanimously Carried

ii. Building Inspection/Unsightly Premises

2021.05.31.311 Moved by Deputy Mayor Bragg, **seconded** by Councillor MacKinnon to accept the Building Inspection/Unsightly Premises report as presented.

Motion Unanimously Carried

iii. Planning & Development

No report this month.

9. Correspondence

a. Minister of Municipal Affairs

Mayor White received a letter dated April 27, 2021 for the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities. This letter is notice of provincial legislation, regulation, or administrative actions that could have the effect of decreasing revenues or increasing the required expenditures of municipalities. The letter provides notice of changes for fiscal year 2022-2023 and beyond.

The Accessibility Committee only had 1 person come forward. A lot of the work was done last year when received grants for staff.

b. Ambassador of Hungary

Mayor White received a message from Maria Vass-Salazar, PhD about the IHF Women's World Hockey Championship and the connection between Westville and Head Coach Lisa Haley.

c. Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library

Council received a memo and bookmarks commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the People's Place: Antigonish Town and County Library.

10. New/Unfinished Business

Brenda MacKay, Finance consultant presented the budgets.

a. 2021/2022 Operating Budgets

These budgets were presented at the Finance Committee meeting on May 10, 2021. Recommendation from the Finance Committee was to recommend approval at the May Regular Council Meeting.

- i. **General Operating Budget**
2021.05.31.312 Moved by Councillor MacKinnon, **seconded** by Councillor MacGregor be it resolved by the Council for the Town of Westville, that the assessment for 2021-2022 is confirmed at \$10,409,900 for commercial properties and confirmed at \$134,742,800 for residential and resource properties.

Further be it resolved that the tax rates for the 2021-2022 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 \$4,489,853 for 2021-2022 approved this 31st day of May 2021.

Motion Unanimously Carried

- ii. **Utility Operating Budget**
2021.05.31.313 Moved by Councillor Sutherland, **seconded** by Councillor MacGregor to approve the Utility Operating Budget of 2021/2022 with a proposed revenue of \$1,046,343 and proposed expenses of \$1,063,672, with a budgeted deficit of \$17,329. But to be funded from the utility operating surplus.

Motion Unanimously Carried

- b. **Capital Budget Approval**

Several of these projects have had prior approval, however, the capital budget does require approval as a complete document.

Motion for Approval:

2021.05.31.314 Moved by Councillor MacKinnon, **seconded** by Deputy Mayor Bragg to approve the General Capital Budget at \$707,095 to be funded through the Gas Tax Fund, and the Utility Capital Budget at \$20,000 from the Water Depreciation Fund, for a Combined Capital Budget totaling \$727,095 for 2021-2022 approved this 31st day of May 2021.

- c. **Pictou County Regional Enterprise Network**

CEO Report to the Board of Directors for May.

- d. **Volunteer of the Year**

Pleased to announce this year's volunteer of the year is Shawn MacLaughlin. He has impacted the community by volunteering with the Westville Fire & Rescue, and as such helping to organize many community events, he has joined the Police Commission and has provided daily updates on Covid-19 numbers and protocols through his Facebook account.

11. Next Meetings

a. Board of Police Commissioners

Westville Council Chambers
June 15, 2021 – 6:00 pm

b. Committee of the Whole

Westville Council Chambers
June 21, 2021 – 6:00pm

c. Regular Council Meeting

Westville Council Chambers
June 28, 2021 – 6:00 pm

The mural on Reims building is in need of a touch up. It was suggested that maybe someone can do a go fund me to redo the mural. The family that suggested it wants to remain anonymous but would donate the first \$500. As members of council we are unable to create a go fund me, however if anyone in the community is interested.

Today is also Chris Selig's Birthday. We would like to wish Chris a very Happy Birthday!

12. Adjournment

2021.05.31.315 Moved by Councillor Sutherland to adjourn at 7:43 pm.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Mayor: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Date Approved: _____