



**Minutes
Town of Westville
Committee of The Whole
Council Chambers
June 21, 2021 - 6:00 pm**

1. Call To Order

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

2. 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, Chief Ken Dun and Firefighter Shaun MacLaughlin of Westville Fire Department, Chief Andrea Paul of Pictou Landing First Nation, One member of Public.

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

4. Presentations

a. Westville Fire Department - Tractor Pull

Chief Ken Dunn and Firefighter Shaun MacLaughlin presented information on the Tractor Pull fundraiser event. The land is owned by Chisholm, who is letting the department use the land as long as they wish. Most of the infrastructure has been donated by local businesses. This includes the clay for the pulls to be on, Scales to weigh the trucks after each race, safety barriers and prize money.

The Firemen will be on hand at the event volunteering their time to help with working the gates, and all the different jobs to do. They will also have their first aid equipment on hand in case of emergency.

Rob owns the pulling sled and is helping to organize the event. He wants there to be 35 trucks minimum in order to be a good event for the audience. He is fairly confident that there will be at least that many, and many are hoping to travel to take part provided COVID precautions allow it. There are also Tractors interested so they are looking into that option as well. There is a circuit but due to Covid there have been no events since last fall.

The event is scheduled for Saturday July 31st and will include a Street class, and big trucks. Admission will be \$20 for ages 12 and over. There will not be a family rate. There were truck pulls in the area in the 90's and were popular. They are looking at doing 2 per year for a couple of years to start.

The Insurance waivers are currently being reviewed by lawyers and there will be event insurance. The sled owner also has insurance. The Fire Department are working with Events Nova Scotia and Public Health to plan the event with all required COVID protocols in place. It should be in Phase 4 so there would be a maximum of 750 people allowed in 3 zones that would each have a gate, bathrooms and concessions.

Councillor McKinnon commended the men on all their hard work. He also asked about the online 50/50 raffles and what percent the fire department gets. They explained that 33.5% of all tickets from people that support Westville goes to the department. It has been a help with the lack of fundraising for the past year due to Covid. The air compressor they purchased was just under \$20,000 and allows them to not have to use other departments compressors to refill their tanks.

Mayor White used the opportunity to present Shaun MacLaughlin with his plaque for Volunteer of the year. He has done so much for the town from this event, the helipad, daily Covid updates on social media and much more.

b. Residential Schools

In recognition and honour of the 215 Children found at the residential school site in Kamloops BC, Mayor White requested, Chief Andrea Paul of Pictou Landing First Nation, speak of the impact of the residential school system and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Chief Paul explained she didn't learn about residential schools in school. Her dad attended Shubie for nine years. She didn't understand him, he had no parents, no siblings, it was just him. She grew up with abuse, alcoholism and poverty. At the age of 12 she went into Foster care. She didn't talk to him until after her teen years.

Chief Paul was attending Native Education training in Ontario and they were having a talking circle. She was 25 years old. There were a lot of survivors from residential schools and she heard their pain and thought of her dad. The program was three very intense years, with a lot of students leaving. She got an understanding of her dad. He was living with her and she was enabling him. She threw him out although it was very hard. She had to break the cycle. He found his own place and they started a relationship. He passed away in 2008. Her Dad wouldn't talk about the residential school. He was scared to tell his story to the lawyer, but he had to tell it in order to get the compensation. He died of pneumonia and never told his story.

His trauma carried over, it's multigenerational. It was normal for Chief Paul growing up but she realized that not everyone goes through that. She had to come to terms with not knowing his story and pain. He was trying to protect her. She honors her dad as a survivor. She brings awareness to residential schools in a way that is loving and caring as they didn't get that in life.

She is often asked what can we do? Her answer is to use your voice. Call for action and demand that things are done right. It is important to learn and speak the truth.

Councillor MacKinnon talked about many dear friends, one of which attended school in New Glasgow taught by nuns. There were repercussions for speaking own language and corporal punishment. Wonderful to see the linguistic revival taking place and the brand new school. Chief Paul spoke Mi'Kmaq growing up. In 1976 when she went to school in New Glasgow they were told they would be reported for speaking it and were sent to the office. They were taught it was rude and that you had to speak English to get ahead. Her younger brother does not speak Mi'Kmaq. Chief Paul's sister received the strap for speaking Mi'Kmaq. Learned couldn't be yourself and felt divided, one person at school and one person in community.

As a teacher by trade, education is important. In 1995 Pictou Landing opened a 4 class school in the gym. The new school is for head start to grade 12. It was a proud moment when it opened last year.

Councillor Bragg Thanked Chief Paul for attending and sharing her story. Acknowledged it isn't easy to open and share.

All Council signed Personal Pledge of Reconciliation. The pledge can be found at <https://www.ictinc.ca/personal-pledge-of-reconciliation-with-indigenous-peoples>

5. Next Meetings

- a. Regular Council Meeting**
Westville Council Chambers
June 28, 2021 – 6 pm.
- b. Committee of the Whole**
Westville Council Chambers
July 19, 2021 – 6 pm.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 and all went outside to raise the Mi'Kmaq flag.