



**Draft Minutes
Town of Westville
Committee of The Whole
Council Chambers
March 21, 2022 – 6:00 pm**

1. Call To Order

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

2. Election's Report

Interim CAO Sam Graham read the elections report from Returning Officer Josephine MacDonald. The votes received were Bernie Murphy 171, Tim Clark 123 and Jeff Fulton 19.

3. Oath of Office & Code of Conduct

Interim CAO Graham conducted the Oath of Office and requested commitment to the Code of Ethics for the Town of Westville, for Councillor Bernie Murphy.

Councillor Murphy stated it is an honour to take over for Betty Jean. It was a loss to the Town and I will do my best for the Town.

4. Roll Call

Mayor Lennie White, Deputy Mayor Clarrie MacKinnon, Councillor Mitchell MacGregor, Councillor Meghan Bragg, Councillor Bernie Murphy, Interim Chief Administrative Officer Sam Graham, Recording Secretary Kristen Reed, Danny MacGillivray CAO Chad transit, 3 members of the public

Mayor White read the Territory acknowledgement and acknowledged the history of African Nova Scotians. He also reminded everyone that today was International day to end racism.

5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

6. Presentations

Danny MacGillivray

Danny was presenting on two areas. First as the Executive Director of CHAD transit and second as the Operator of Pictou County Transit. Westville has always been a strong supporter of CHAD transit.

CHAD transits mission is Community Transportation for All. They need at least 24 hours notice to book a ride, but the more notice the better. They currently have 4 buses, a van and a Dodge Sprinter. Their vision is to be recognized for efficient, affordable, and inclusive Pictou County Community Transportation and the values are Community Wellness, Reliability, Sustainability.

They serve three groups of people. The disabled, seniors and anyone that needs a ride. Which basically means everyone. They schedule people when there is an opening, so the more notice, more ability to fit you in.

When Pictou County's Public Transit bus service ended in 1996, Kinsman bought a van and CHAD Transit stepped up at that point to provide transportation to the disabled and seniors. We have since grown and now provide transportation to anybody who needs a drive. Pre Covid they would travel 320,000 kms on 32,000 trips. During COVID that dropped to 126,000 kms on 8,200 trips. Many of those were to and from Antigonish for dialysis, which is six days a week. They also take bus loads to Summer Street everyday. During COVID charter trips have been small but are normally a significant part of the revenue. It's great for weddings, parties, trips to Fox Harbour or day camps. They have also added Ad decals on busses resulting in \$14,000 additional income.

There are six regular drivers and several part time workers. Highlights included Sunday drives for seniors, sponsored by United Way and an inclusion bus that is decorated with the colours of the Pride flag.

Deputy Mayor MacKinnon commended Mr. MacGillivray on his presentation. He also acknowledged that what they have done for Riverview Home will be remembered by many.

Mayor White remarked it's common to see the busses around but don't give much thought to them. The numbers help to put it in perspective.

Councillor Bragg asked what the fare structure is. Mr. MacGillivray explained it is \$6 for under 5 kilometers, \$7 for 5 to 15 kilometers and \$0.75 per km about that.

Pictou County had Public transit since the 1900s. When it shut down in the 1990s it was greatly missed. It made it difficult for many to get around. The annual average cost per year of a car is \$12000.

In 2013 they started to review transit. It is a hub and spoke system. Pictou County transit is the hub, with a fixed loop of New Glasgow and Stellarton. Chad transit provides the spokes to help get people further out.

The consensus was to start small and build out slowly to include all 6 units. Some units wanted to wait and see and others initially pulled out to due cost concerns. Pictou County Transit hopes when the pilot project ends in 2024, they will be able to expand. They have put in a request for funding for a study to add routes to Westville and Trenton. They are also looking at adding a third route to Pictou.

PCT currently averages 1,500 riders per month. One of the main factors for growth is to get the name out. It's the first bus of it's kind in the area. The bus has a new ramp which is faster so they don't lose time and make it easier for accessibility. Riders can also use their debit and credit cards on the bus to pay their fare. The bus is also a WIFI hotspot so people can be productive while travelling.

The route has 9 fixed stops which include the NSCC, the hospital, Aberdeen business center, North End Rec center, Highland mall and the Wellness centre. A large part of the route is flaggable so that you can get on or off anywhere along the way, as long as it's not a busy road. The route map and other details are available on the website <https://pctransit.ca/>.

The Fare structure is \$3 a ride or \$7.50 for a day pass but children under 5 ride free. Monthly passes are available for \$40 for youth, \$60 for seniors and students and \$70 for adults.

The busses currently don't have bike racks but they are looking into finding funding for them. If someone took CHAD transit to the bus route it would cost the \$6 fee for CHAD (or whatever the distance fee would be) and then the \$3 fee for the bus.

Council thanked Mr. MacGillivray for his informative presentation and for the great service that the is provided.

7. Correspondence

Pictou County Crushers U13AA team chosen as the Nova Scotia Regional Finalists in the Chevrolet Good Deeds Cup. They need votes to win \$100,000 to be split between Big Brothers Big Sisters, Westville Rink, Pictou County Food Bank, Summer Street and Roots for Youth. People can vote each day between March 19th – April 2nd and share on Social Media.

8. New Business

i) Municipal Polling District (Boundary) Review

The recommendation is currently to maintain the current system. There is no timeframe within which the public consultation needs to take place. The consensus is to Post a notice on Facebook asking for feedback in the comments or by email and to hold a public meeting prior to Aprils Council Meeting.

ii) Water Modeling Survey- Capital Project

It was determined that the Town severely needs the Water Modeling Survey done. It would assess current capacity, future capacity, ability for expansion to developments such as Alma/Greenhill and help with negotiations for New Glasgow. It would help to identify why there are elevated THP levels.

The cost of the project is estimated to be \$25,000. Public Works Superintendent Graham believes this needs to be dealt with this year. Councillor MacKinnon expressed how the Asset Committee has learned the importance of these surveys, but thinks the new CAO should see if there is any funding options available.

2022.03.24.498 Moved by Deputy Mayor MacKinnon, **seconded by** Councillor Murphy to move into closed session at 7pm.

9. In Camera Session

Personnel

10. Next Meetings

a. Regular Council Meeting

Westville Council Chambers
March 28, 2022 – 6 pm.

b. Board of Police Commissioners Meeting

Westville Council Chambers
April 19, 2022 – 6 pm.

c. Committee of the Whole

Westville Council Chambers
April 19, 2022- 6:30- following the Police Commissioners meeting.

11. Adjournment

Mayor: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Date Approved: _____