



**Draft Minutes
Town of Westville
Committee of The Whole
Council Chambers
April 20, 2022 - 6:30 pm**

1. Call To Order

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

2. Territory Acknowledgement

Mayor White read the Territory acknowledgement and acknowledged the history of African Nova Scotians. He also announced that the flags are at half mast in remembrance of the lives lost two years ago in Portapique.

3. 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, Tom Steele Chair of the Historical Advisory Committee, 1 member of the public

Mayor White also expressed condolences to the family and friends on the loss of Willis Bates, former Councillor of Westville. Mr. Bates always enjoyed chatting about his days on Council.

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

5. Presentations

Tom Steele, Historical Advisory Committee

Mayor White thanked Mr. Steele for being a late addition to the agenda. Mr. Steele thanked the Council for the opportunity to update the Council on the work of the Historical Advisory Committee.

The Committee consists of 10 members with 7 from the general public and have met 5 times since forming in February, with agreed upon agendas and proper minutes taken. The first order of business was to determine how to recognize the 100th anniversary of the unveiling of our Cenotaph, that took place on July 1, 1922.

We all knew about the dedication of the Towns people to join the military and some information about the day, but a lot wasn't known. The committee searched libraries, local papers, the NS Archives, and social media to find a large amount of info. A clear picture of the mindset of the citizens was apparent and that a Soldiers Memorial Committee was formed in early 1919.

In the past week you may have read a press article from the Historical Advisory committee sharing that the Town folk and miners had raised \$7000 within 6 months, and half had come from the miners. You would have also read about the artist that designed and shaped the cenotaph and how it's been recognized as one of the best in any community in Canada and on that day in 1922 the Lt Governor MacCallum Grant plus General Thacker were welcomed by over 4000 county residents as they got off the train in Westville.

One part of the unveiling was the placing of 54 white carnations by the school children as the names of those that died were read out. This is something we will be doing at this years event, but including those from WW2 and the Korean Conflict. Just after the news item was posted, former resident Jan Morris posted a photo of herself as a child along with other children in 1945 getting ready to place the carnations. Her father had died in WW2.

The committee is in the final planning stages of the rededication event to be held in the afternoon of July 1st. Once all the details are complete they will be made public. Special invites have been sent out to Government and VIP members. There will be a color party with the museum and NS Highlanders involved.

Looking into the work of the committee going forward I believe it is important that we secure an area to store and display the history of our Town before it is lost. That is something we will be looking at in the fall and getting back to council with suggestions and for support.

Deputy Mayor MacKinnon commented that he serves on the committee and Tom has shown outstanding leadership and he and George Dooley have done a tremendous job. Every committee member has contributed but the 3 that stand out are Tom, George and Alan Avery. Keep up the good work. George is a wealth of knowledge.

Mayor White shared this is a dream team for this committee. They are an excellent group of people, that have a passion for this. They are currently working on the Cenotaph but there are so many other project ideas. We are very fortunate that George has much of this material and we don't want to lose it. It's a shame the Town's 125th anniversary went by without so much as a mention.

Mr. Steele also acknowledged that Michael Thompson of the Recreation Culture and Leisure department has stepped up as the Secretary for the Committee and is doing a great job at turning the conversations at meetings into minutes.

Councillor MacGregor thanked Mr. Steele for his presentation and the committee for all that they have accomplished so far.

6. New Business

i) Low Income Tax Exemption

Last year the Low Income Tax Exemption stated: on an annual basis an exemption from taxation, operating as a reduction in taxes otherwise payable to the Town in respect to a property in an amount of \$250 (2021) for owners of property whose family income (household income) from all sources does not exceed \$22500 (2020)

in the immediately preceding year. The amount of the family/household income shall after 2021 be adjusted annually by the preceding year's Consumer Price Index (all goods for Nova Scotia) as compiled by Statistics Canada at the approval of Council.

Mayor White pointed out that the Consumer Price Index is 3.4% which would put the income threshold at \$23,265.

2022.04.19. Moved by Councillor Murphy, **seconded by** Deputy Mayor MacKinnon to approve the policy with the new limit.

All were in favour of sending the item to Council meeting to approve.

7. Next Meetings

- a. **Regular Council Meeting**
Westville Council Chambers
April 25, 2022 – 6 pm.
- b. **Committee of the Whole**
Westville Council Chambers
May 16, 2022 – 6pm.
- c. **Board of Police Commissioners Meeting**
Westville Council Chambers
May 17, 2022 – 6 pm.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54pm.

Mayor: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Date Approved: _____