

TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

A Committee of the Whole meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers. Present were: Mayor Dicks; Deputy Mayor Guthro; Councillor Lewis; Councillor Fraser; Councillor Dorrington; Councillor MacDonald and Councillor Proudfoot. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Earl MacKenzie, Town Engineer; Corey Smith, Director of Corporate Services; Geralyn MacDonald, Director of Community Development; Kelly Sloan, Executive Assistant and Frank DeMont, Solicitor.

Mayor Dicks noted the events held over the past few weeks: the 1st Pictou County Ribfest which was a great success; Ride the River with 75 kayakers registered for the event; a Chamber of Commerce Tech Social was held at The Spot last week hosted by Velsoft; there were two events at the NSCAD studio, one celebrated the work of the summer camp art students and one celebrated the art of the visual loss support group at the NSCAD studio; a piece of public art was placed in the Rotary Park by the Women Alike Abreast a River.

Deputy Mayor Guthro stated that he attended the National Dog Agility Championship in Stellarton which was a great event but should be promoted more so people are aware it is taking place.

The Director of Community Development stated that she and the CAO attended the Disability, Equity and Education Welcoming Community conference held recently at St. F.X.

AGENDA

It was regularly moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

MINUTES

It was regularly moved and seconded that the minutes of the meetings held on August 18, 2019 be approved as amended.

Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DEER POPULATION SURVEY RESULTS

Council reviewed a report on the deer population survey results. Based on survey results, almost all of the 413 online respondents and 9 paper respondents see the deer population in New Glasgow as an issue, the primary concern being related to ticks and Lyme disease. The problem area is largely associated with properties located on the Westside and Northend of the Town. Damage to property is occurring much more among respondents than deer aggression or motor vehicle accidents. Most respondents are strongly in support of a feeding ban to help control the deer population in New Glasgow and agree deer population management should be a priority of the Town.

The CAO stated that Council has to decide what it wants to do as next steps. If Council decides to go the same route as the Town of Truro there will have to be a five year commitment made in the next fiscal budget. After three years if the N. S. Department of Lands and Forestry determines that the deer population exceeds what it should be then they may authorize a deer management initiative.

Councillor MacDonald asked what the budget amount would be for this program and suggested that this matter be discussed with the other units in Pictou County.

The CAO stated that she believed it may be approximately \$30,000.

Mayor Dick stated that this matter was discussed with the other units and there appeared to be no appetite from the County.

The CAO stated that the County Warden indicated this is something that you learn to live with.

Mayor Dicks noted that at the deer information public session there were citizens present who would like to help the Town with this matter.

Councillor Proudfoot stated that it would be helpful to know the cost of sterilizing the deer so it could be compared to the cost of the program that Truro is participating in.

The CAO stated that there is a biologist that works with the Department of Land and Forestry in Kentville that is working on the deer matter for the province.

Councillor MacDonald suggested that he be invited to a Council meeting along with representatives of the other units in Pictou County.

Councillor Fraser stated that if people stopped feeding the birds it would help with the deer.

It was agreed that the CAO contact the biologist from Kentville to come to a future Council meeting and invite the other units in Pictou County, determine a budget amount for next fiscal budget and increase communications to the residents about the bylaw prohibiting feeding birds and deer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PC REN UPDATE

Council reviewed an update on the Pictou County REN.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the report be placed on file.

Motion carried.

PCWCBAI UPDATE

Council reviewed an update on the Pictou County Wellness Centre Building Authority Inc.

Councillor Lewis asked how the new COO is working out.

Mayor Dicks advised that the Board is pleased with the new COO.

Councillor Proudfoot asked if there was any further information on installing a sidewalk under the overpass near the Wellness Centre.

The CAO stated that Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal have indicated that they will work with the County on this project. She advised that she will contact CAO Brian Cullen of the County to obtain an update and provide a report to Council.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the report be placed on file.

Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Train Whistles – Councillor Proudfoot stated that he had been contacted by a few residents regarding the train whistle blowing at 3 a.m. and 5 a.m. while passing through Town and they also questioned if there was any hazardous material being transported through town. He asked if the Town has any control over these matters.

The CAO stated that after the Le Megantic disaster the Town registered with Transport Canada and two people from the Town receive notice if something hazardous is being transported through Town. This information can not be released to the public. She noted that she contacted the railway and they follow the Transport Canada Regulations with respect to railway crossings and blowing the whistle. She also noted that this matter was discussed in 1999-2001 by Town Council and it was determined that Council could request the whistles not be used but Council would have to accept liability should something happen.

Councillor Proudfoot noted that the CAO had provided contact information for citizens to call if they had complaints. He also asked if the Town is allowed to say no to hazardous goods passing through our Town.

The CAO stated that she will find out the answer to this question.

NEW BUSINESS

CROMBIE REIT – 610 EAST RIVER RD. – LEASE RENEWAL

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO recommending that the lease with Crombie Reit for the property at 610 East River Road that is used for the Town's Mechanical and Transportation Shop be renewed for another year to September 30, 2020.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the recommendation be approved.

Councillor MacDonald asked where we are with the design of the proposed new building for the consolidated Public Works operations.

The Town Engineer stated that he will be preparing the RFP for design build in October after the reservoir cover and capital paving projects are completed.

Councillor MacDonald suggested that this should be done as soon as possible as the current space is not the right fit.

Motion carried.

CHANGE OF COUNCIL DATE FOR SEPTEMBER

Mayor Dicks stated that it is necessary to change the Council meeting date from September 16 to September 23 because of the preparation of the yearend financial statements.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Council meeting be changed to September 23.

Motion carried.

PICTOU COUNTY SPORTS HERITAGE HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

Councillor Fraser stated that the Pictou County Sports Heritage Hall of Fame Ceremony will be held on October 19 at the Westville Civic Centre at 2 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried.