

**TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**APRIL 7, 2020**

A Committee of the Whole meeting was held virtually on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. using the Microsoft Teams platform. Present were: Mayor Dicks; Deputy Mayor Lewis; Councillor Dorrington; Councillor Guthro; Councillor Fraser; Councillor Proudfoot and Councillor MacDonald. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Earl MacKenzie, Town Engineer; Derek Eisan, Director of Information Technology; Ross White, Director of Fire, Inspection and Emergency Services; Thiv Tharma, Director of Community Development; Corey Smith, Director of Corporate Services; Kelly Sloan, Executive Assistant; Rachel Mitchell, Climate Change Co-ordinator and Frank DeMont, Solicitor.

**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 special council meeting held on March 26, 2020 be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

**MATTERS FOR SENIOR STAFF**

**RECOMMENDATION WATER & TAX ACCOUNTS**

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Corporate Services recommending that Council authorize the waiving of interest for water and taxes for the

months of March and April 2020 to give consideration to residents and businesses during a time of economic uncertainty due to the Covid-19 virus which resulted in closure of many local businesses as well as recognition of the Town Office being closed which is a central area for collection. The financial impact for deferral of March interest will affect revenue for 2019-2020 in the amount of \$14,983 and the financial impact for deferral of April interest will affect revenue for 2020-2021 in the amount of \$14,983.

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

Mayor Dicks asked if the approval received from the NSUARB for interest deferral was only for the month of March.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that it is, but it is a simple process of sending an email to the NSUARB to request approval for April interest deferral also.

Motion carried.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

The CAO presented an update on Covid-19 business continuity and REMO efforts. To date there are 310 cases in Nova Scotia with 66 recovered, 11 hospitalized and 4 in ICU. There has been one death, a 70- year old lady with underlying health concerns. The Province says the latest information is projecting the peak of the virus in late April. One hundred and thirty-two long term care facilities received a directive from the Province today related to the covid protocols. Pictou County Solid Waste is awaiting a variance approval from the Nova Scotia Department of Environment to put the blue bags collected in the landfill as the Colchester Balefill and Composting Facility in Kemptown, Colchester County is closed and the Pictou County Solid Waste is running

out of room for the blue bags. There are sixteen facilities awaiting approval of this variance. Pictou County Solid Waste is seeing increased public traffic to the site which is concerning so if it continues the facility may have to be closed to public access. They are getting the message out to only go to landfill if it is essential. A decision will be made on delaying spring clean up collection, if required. NS EMO is requesting clarification on beaches that are not owned by the Province. Municipal trails are open if they are outside of parks, the New Glasgow trail system is wider than a sidewalks and social distancing is required. Parking lots which access the municipal trails are closed and blocked. The personal protection equipment ordered by the Fire Departments and Public Works Departments in Pictou County was received except for the hand sanitizer, which is on back order, the goggles were delivered today. REMO reached out to Pictou Landing First Nations Band Chief and former CEO several times but have not heard back. A delivery protocol has been developed for rural fire departments that are making grocery deliveries to residents. Late last week Northern Pulp donated hand sanitizer for the long-term care facilities. Viola's Place has person protection equipment needs related to hand sanitizer and REMO is hoping some of the sanitizer from Northern Pulp can be given to them as well. A spreadsheet has been prepared indicating all CUPE employees in the Pictou County municipalities with their respective certifications and licenses in case another unit requires resources. No municipal unit has identified a requirement for resources at this time. A four-page REMO update newsletter will be going to every household the week of April 16. Public service announcements were prepared by the Mayors and Warden to be aired on the New Glasgow and Antigonish radio stations, banners are being made thanking the essential staff and indicating the

protocols to follow to prevent the spread of the virus. One of the banners will be on the banner wall on Stellarton Road, one on East River Road and one at the Gazebo on the river. Healthy Pictou County purchased five signs for each municipal unit to place through the community thanking the essential workers. People are being asked to refrain from going to their cottages at this time. There are no municipal operational concerns currently. The Police have received 54 Covid-19 related calls to date. The fire department responded to a fire on High Street last week and assisted with two fires in Pictou recently. The Johnny Miles events have been cancelled as well as the Race on the River, the Festival of the Tartans, Ribfest will be postponed, there is no decision yet on Ride the River, and the Black Gala Homecoming. She and Mayor Dicks will be participating in a call with the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities tomorrow on tax deferral. They will provide Council with an update after the meeting.

Councillor Proudfoot asked if the blue bags end up being placed in the landfill would residents have to continue separating the recycling from the garbage. The CAO stated that she will ask this question but assumed you still should separate.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the report be received.

Motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **MAYORS AND WARDEN UPDATE**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO providing an update on the Mayors and Warden meeting held on March 9, 2020.

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

Motion carried.

## **PCSSA UPDATE**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO providing an update on the Pictou County Shared Services Authority Meeting held on March 9 and the budget for fiscal 2020-21 was also included.

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

Motion carried.

## **LIBRARY FUNDING UPDATE**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO stating that the funding request for the Pictou Antigonish Regional Library will remain the same as last year and continue at the same level for the length of the funding formula. With the increase in Provincial base funding they look forward to continuing the development of vital programs and services for the communities.

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

Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ACCESSIBILITY ACT**

Council reviewed a letter from the Ministers of Justice and Municipal Affairs advising that the Accessibility Act was proclaimed in 2017 and as a result, municipalities are prescribed under the Act to undertake specific initiatives. The Town of New Glasgow must form an accessibility advisory committee and have an accessibility plan in place by April 1, 2021. They provided the Accessibility Planning Toolkit for Municipalities.

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

Motion carried.

### **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR THE NOVA SCOTIA BUILDING CODE REG.**

Council reviewed a letter from the Office of the Fire Marshal regarding proposed amendments to the N. S. Building Code Regulations which will require all new restaurants and spaces within existing buildings that are converted to restaurants to be constructed completely barrier-free in accordance with the N. S. Building Code Regulations including an accessible path of entry from the street level into and throughout the restaurant and accessible washroom facilities.

Councillor Dorrington noted that this speaks of existing buildings only.

The Town Engineer stated that with respect to accessibility the building standards have not yet been finalized.

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

### **WALKER STREET RENAMING REQUEST**

Council reviewed an email from Angela Bowden to Mayor Dicks requesting that Walker Street be renamed after Dr. Carrie Best who lived on that street.

It was regularly moved and seconded that this matter be referred to the Town Engineer for a report and recommendation back to Council.

Motion carried.

### **MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU – HIGH SPEED INTERNET**

Council reviewed an email from Warden Parker requesting that Council send a letter of support to the Minister of Business, Geoff MacLellan, for the Municipality of the County of Pictou Internet project. The Province, through Development Nova Scotia, has deemed the County's internet project ineligible for any funding from the Provincial Trust

Fund. The County wants to create its own network because they want to offer quality service to all its residents.

It was regularly moved and seconded that a letter of support be sent to the Minister of Business in support of the Municipality of the County of Pictou receiving funding from the Provincial Trust Fund for their internet project.

Motion carried.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Motion carried.