

**TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2020**

A Committee of the Whole meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Monday, April 20, 2020 at 6:25 p.m. using the Microsoft Teams platform. Present were: Mayor Dicks; Deputy Mayor Lewis, Councillors Dorrington; Guthro, Fraser, Proudfoot and MacDonald. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Earl MacKenzie, Town Engineer; Corey Smith, Director of Corporate Services; Thiv Tharma, Director of Community Development; Ross White, Director of Fire, Inspection and Emergency Services; Kelly Sloan, Executive Assistant and Frank DeMont, Solicitor.

**AGENDA**

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

Motion carried.

**MATTERS FOR SENIOR STAFF**

**MORTGAGE ADMINISTRATION FEE INCREASE**

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Corporate Services stating that in April 24, 2006 Council passed an operating budget which included a charge to financial institutions for an administration fee to manage mortgage records and maintain listings of all residents who pay property taxes through their mortgage. This charge was \$6.00 per listing. This fee has never been adjusted over the years and in order to address the growing costs and time commitment, the Department of Corporate Services is increasing the fee to \$10. A survey was carried out with other units in Nova Scotia and the average fee was \$11.

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

Motion carried.

### **ASPHALT PATCHING TENDER 2020**

Council reviewed a recommendation report from the Town Engineer recommending that the lowest bidder, Webster Brothers, be awarded the contract for asphalt patching for 2020 at a cost of \$193,600 plus HST. It was noted that the contractor provided a covid response plan for the work.

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

Motion carried.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **COVID-19/REMO UPDATE**

The CAO provided a Covid-19/Remo update to Council. The Provincial State of Emergency has been extended another 2 weeks so essentially effective noon on April 19<sup>th</sup> to noon on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Forty six new cases announced today (highest number released so far) for a total of 721 cases with 248 cases considered recovered and 12 hospitalized, with 4 specifically in ICU. The province has experienced 9 deaths due to covid-19. 37 cases in the Northern Zone. Nine long term care homes (licensed and non-licensed) have Covid cases impacting 127 residents and 61 staff. Northwood is the facility most impacted with Covid and it was announced yesterday that additional NSHA support will be provided. MRF closure in Colchester has impacted PC Solid Waste's blue bags. The landfills are waiting for the approval from NSE for the variance. PC Solid Waste has stored as many blue bags as possible and other storage has been

allocated at the Guysborough facility. Residential pick-up has NOT changed, and residents must still comply with the separation expectations as well as pick-up limits on the bags. The spring clean-up will proceed and start on May 4<sup>th</sup>, this will mean residents will be able to put out an extra 20 bags. It was decided that proceeding with the spring clean-up may help to keep residents away and traffic down for the landfill site.

Temporary foreign workers have been arriving in the province for the purpose of working in the agriculture and fisheries sectors. These workers are under a federal program and are required to self-isolate for 14 days. There is a federal program that will support them of \$1500/each for their isolation. Local police agencies are to be notified of anyone in their area to do check-ins during the isolation period.

Burning Ban will be in place until at least May 15<sup>th</sup>. Burning permits are still available for agricultural land clearing through a permit process with Lands and Forestry.

The REMO Coordinator has made numerous attempts to reach the Pictou Landing and no success in contacting. The PLFN communications person has been invited to the last two REMO meetings and has not participated. We know they have a local state of emergency, but no other details are available currently.

The donation of hand sanitizer from Northern Pulp has been allocated for the long-term care facilities and Viola's Place. Gloves were donated by Celine Nails and some have been provided to Viola's Place. They also received funding from AHANS for a temporary full-time staff member. Their regular intake numbers of 8 per night have been dropped to 4 per night with the covid distancing protocols. Viola's Place have not

turned anyone away during this time. They also received \$1700 from the Atlantic Compassion Fund to support putting people in isolation, if required, in hotels.

REMO Coordinator reached out to EMHA regarding the complaints/concerns raised at our last meeting with respect to Autumn Crest and the social distancing protocols.

Another PPE order from the province is expected late this week and it will be delivered to our logistics location at the Westville Town Hall gym. Roots for Youth have been identified as a PPE need so some of the Northern Pulp hand sanitizer will be provided to them and other PPE will become available with the order expected later in the week.

. There are no municipal resources needed or identified for any units at this time. All municipal police departments have been asked for stand-by resources to support the RCMP during this time as they have 16 crime scenes to manage.

REMO Communications have added a banner on the highway sign on Mount Thom. Flags for essential workers has been sourced and an order went in today for one to place on our riverfront gazebo area. Regular posts and reminders are going up on the REMO Facebook and other social media. Videos have been added and new ones are being developed. PSAS on radio are running in both NG and Antigonish stations. At least half of the messages mention mental health options. The parade/non-parade for essential workers in front of the Aberdeen Regional Hospital was appreciated. The communications team is working on a frequently asked questions piece for REMO. The FAQ will be provided to the dispatchers throughout the county to ensure consistent messaging.

REMO is working with the Town of Pictou and Ship Hector Society regarding the lifting of the Ship Hector. The removal of the boat is scheduled for May 11<sup>th</sup> and will be covered by the Hector's web cams on REMO Facebook site. Earl MacKenzie and Kyle Slaunwhite building an incident action plan (IAP) for the removal of the ship. REMO will do messaging that if go to the site, you run the risk of being fined \$1000 for not social distancing if the state of emergency is still in place.

The REMO communications team have been in touch with Mary MacLellan and Barb Smith regarding the seniors' outreach groups and updates from Riverview Home and Valley View Villa from the county council members. The REMO Coordinator reached out to Kids First and things are going well supporting over 800 families in Pictou, Antigonish and Guysborough counties. PC Food Bank has changed their delivery process at the site and REMO has provided the protocol for delivery service to Jim McKenna's volunteer group who are providing home delivery.

Federal direction on prescriptions being filled for 30 days to protect the drug supply and not the normal 3 months supply. This results in an increase in dispensing fees for citizens, province is looking into the matter.

No municipal operational concerns currently from any of the municipalities in Pictou County. Waiting on the provincial direction for public hearings, there is supposed to be something coming out shortly on the way to hold a hearing that meets the provincial and MGA requirements. NGRP have received 144 Covid calls as of this morning with 23 tickets issued (12 were on the weekend).

NSFM has another video call with the Mayors, Wardens and CAOs on Wednesday night to discuss where things are with the provincial proposal on the tax deferral program.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Community Development stating that the Inclusive Communities Committee is recommending amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Committee as they feel there is a need for more inclusive representation at the table.

Council reviewed the proposed amendments. Councillor Proudfoot noted that one section of the Terms of Reference states that members of the Committee can be from the Town of New Glasgow or from within Pictou County but another section in the full terms of reference says the members have to be from the Town of New Glasgow.

Councillor Dorrington asked if any other Town Committees allow members who are not citizens of New Glasgow.

The CAO stated that the only Committee that has outside representatives is the Watershed Committee which has members from the Municipality of the County of Pictou as it is in the County.

The CAO stated that something could be included in the Terms of Reference that the outside New Glasgow members were ex-officio or don't have voting privileges.

Mayor Dicks stated that she has a problem with the following sentence "It is the role of Municipal Councillors to acknowledge their position of privilege and power, listen carefully and take back to Council what they understood from the citizen members."

Councillor Lewis agreed. Mayor Dicks requested that this sentence be deleted from the terms of reference as it diminishes the role of Council members who were elected by the citizens and whose voice is important.

It was regular moved and seconded that this matter be deferred for the Director of Community Development to bring it back to the Committee for further review.

Motion carried.

### **PICTOU COUNTY WELLNESS CENTRE BUILDING AUTHORITY INC.**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO providing an update on the PCWCBAI meeting held on April 17.

Councillor Proudfoot stated that the report indicates that the County has advised that it is required to complete a traffic study for submission to TIR for a sidewalk which has not been completed.

The CAO stated that the Engineer for the County is on leave and has been for some time.

Councillor Proudfoot stated that the lack of a sidewalk in this area is very dangerous and mainly affects our citizens and businesses and stated that we should be pushing the County more on this matter.

Councillor Dorrington stated that this has been going on a long time and asked if there were other options.

Mayor Dicks stated that the problem is that this area is not in our jurisdiction.

Councillor Proudfoot suggested that we could help facilitate a traffic study if they don't have an Engineer.

The CAO stated that once we have an Operations Engineer, we may be able to consider providing assistance.

Councillor Fraser stated that he agrees that we have to keep pushing this matter.

Councillor MacDonald asked if there would be any liability issues if we assisted with the traffic study in this area.

The Solicitor stated that operating outside of lawful authority of your jurisdiction puts you at risk.

Councillor Proudfoot stated that we have invested a lot in the Wellness Centre so it is our concern and maybe the Wellness Centre should become involved in this matter.

The Town Engineer stated that there would have to be enough room under the overpass to construct the sidewalk. He also indicated that TIR specifications are different than the municipal sidewalk specifications.

The CAO suggested maybe the Province would consider gifting that portion of land on Westville Road to the lights at the offramp to the Town of New Glasgow who could then install a sidewalk.

Councillor Fraser stated that the lighting is another issue in this area.

The Town Engineer stated that he will consider this matter and report back to Council.

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

Motion carried.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Motion carried.