

**TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022**

A Committee of the Whole meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers. Present were: Mayor Dicks; Deputy Mayor Dorrington, Councillors; Borden, Fraser, El-Haddad, and MacDonald. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Earl MacKenzie, Town Engineer; Corey Smith, Director of Corporate Services; Thivjan Tharmaratnam, Director of Community Development; Ross White, Director of Fire, Inspection and Emergency Services; Kelly Sloan, Executive Assistant; Rachel Mitchell, Climate Change and Sustainability Manager; Frank DeMont, Solicitor; Mike Dean representing the Northumberland Shore Rehab Society; Sarah Santos, Joe MacEachern and Denise Lynch representing Creative Pictou County. Present using the Microsoft Teams Platform were: Councillor Peters, Derek Eisan, Director of Information Technology; Rob Kerr from Quest and Emily McIntosh, Climate Action Co-ordinator.

Mayor Dicks welcomed everyone to the first in-person meeting since the last wave of covid and acknowledged that state of the world with our thoughts of Ukraine at this time. She stated that as we gather this evening, we pause to remember that in this province we live and work on lands that are by law the unceded territories of the Wabanaki peoples - predominantly the land of the Mi'kmaq. May we live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with its people.

## **AGENDA**

It was regularly moved and seconded that the agenda with the addition of 5f – Council Chambers Microphone & Livestream Technology Upgrade be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

## **MINUTES**

It was regularly moved and seconded that the minutes of the meetings held on February 14, 2022 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

## **PETITIONS/DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

### **NORTHUMBERLAND SHORE EMERGENCY SCENE REHAB SOCIETY**

Mike Dean made a presentation on behalf of the Northumberland Shore Emergency Scene Rehab Society. The Society was formed in 2016 and now has several members including registered nurses, LPN's that attend scenes for fires, emergencies, evacuations to monitor and provide service for the firefighters, police, RCMP officers etc. involved in the incident. They assisted the firefighters during the recent fire on Provost Street in the building across from the Town Office. Their focus is the health and wellbeing of the first responders to the events.

The Fire Chief stated that this service is very valuable to the fire fighters and other first responders.

Mayor Dicks thanked Mr. Dean for his presentation.

## **CREATIVE PICTOU COUNTY**

Sarah Santos and Joe MacEachern made a powerpoint presentation to Council outlining the strategic plan for Creative Pictou County.

Mayor Dicks thanked Sarah, Joe, and Denise for their presentation.

## **MATTERS FOR SENIOR STAFF**

### **PRESENTATION QUEST & RECOMMENDATION COMMUNITY GHG REDUCTION**

#### **TARGET & COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

The Climate Change and Sustainability Manager presented an overview of the proposed Community Climate Action Plan.

Rob Kerr from Quest presented a power point presentation to Council regarding the Climate Plan Economic Analysis. He indicated that the analysis shows a possible benefit of a savings of \$19.6 million in energy costs by 2030.

Mayor Dicks thanked Rob for his presentation.

Council reviewed a recommendation from the Community Climate Change Committee recommending that Council approve the Community GHG Reduction target to reduce emissions by 50% from 2018 levels by 2030 and approve the Community Climate Action Plan.

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

Motion carried.

### **REQUEST FOR TAX WRITE OFF – 31 PINE ST.**

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Corporate Services recommending that Council approve a refund of property taxes for 31 Pine Street based

on the current value of the land as the house was destroyed by fire and was not on the property for the full taxation year.

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

Motion carried.

### **VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2022**

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Community Development regarding the timelines for the Provincial and Town Volunteer Awards. The nominations for the Town awards are due April 4.

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

Motion carried.

### **DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

Council reviewed a memo from Climate Change and Sustainability Manager recommending that Council declare a Climate Emergency.

It was regularly moved and seconded Council declare a Climate Emergency in the Town of New Glasgow and adopt the Climate Emergency Actions to minimize the catastrophic threat of climate change.

Motion carried.

### **COADY'S PLACE**

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Corporate Services stating that the Nova Scotia Co-operative Council, at the direction of the Province of NS and CMHC, has requested that Council approve a reduction in taxes in relation to the operation of affordable housing (Coady's Place). A further request has been made for the forgiveness or avoidance of the required deed transfer tax related to the purchase of

the Tara Inn which closed on Feb 28. He recommended that Council approve an exemption from taxation for the property formerly known as the Tara Motel for the purposes of the Affordable Housing Initiative Project of Coady's Place and further recommended that Council deny the request for an exemption or for the Town to pay on behalf of, the Deed Transfer Tax on the intended purchase.

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

Councillor Fraser noted that the motion does not include the amount of the exemption.

The movers agreed to a friendly amendment to grant a complete exemption for Coady's Place for a 20-year period, to match the Province's funding commitment.

Deputy Mayor Dorrington asked if we have to commit to 20 years.

The CAO stated that a change could cause complications with the Province's commitment.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the friendly amendment be approved.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the motion be approved as amended.

Motion carried.

### **COUNCIL CHAMBERS MICROPHONE & LIVESTREAM TECHNOLOGY UPDATE**

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Information Technology stating that the replacement of Audio equipment for the Council Chambers was not included in the 2021-2022 budget due to total overall cost and budget constraints. Recently the audio/video vendor provided updated pricing based on a new standing offer with the Province of Nova Scotia for livestreaming equipment which is considerably lower. He recommended the replacement of the 30 plus year old audio equipment including

microphones, speakers, and outdated cabling in Council Chambers and to install livestreaming technologies to enable the livestreaming of Town Council and Committee of the Whole meetings using the Town's social media platforms and Town's website.

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

Motion carried.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **GLEN HAVEN MANOR – FACILITY REPLACEMENT**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO stating that as previously discussed in camera, Council has agreed to proceed with the construction of new beds equaling the current equity ownership share that New Glasgow holds within the existing Glen Haven Manor Corporation.

It was regularly moved and seconded that a letter of commitment be sent to the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care for the construction of a new facility representing the Town's equity share within the existing Glen Haven Manor Corporation.

Motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **NSFM PLAN FOR ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO stating that the NSFM circulated a document on its planned organizational changes for its membership and are requesting feedback. She requested that Council provide any feedback they may have to her by March 4 so she can prepare a document for Council's review before the information

session to discuss the proposed changes which is being held on March 10 at the Wellness Centre.

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

Motion carried.

### **PC REN BUSINESS PLAN FOR FISCAL 2022-2023**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO stating that the PC REN Liaison and Oversight Committee approved the annual business plan for fiscal year 2022-2023. PC REN is currently in year four of the five-year IMSA and municipalities are required to provide their long-term intentions of renewing the REN five-year agreement by March 31, 2022.

It was regularly moved and seconded to renew the Town's five-year commitment for the Pictou County REN IMSA.

Motion carried.

### **PCWCBAI REPORT**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the PCWCBAI meetings held on February 14, 2022.

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

Motion carried.

### **DEANS**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO and a report from DEANS regarding their Strategic Direction for 2022-2025 and funding for 2022-2023.

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

Motion carried.

## **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

### **ELECTRONIC SPEED SIGN UPDATE**

Councillor Peters asked for an update on the electronic speed signs.

The CAO stated that two signs have been purchased and the Traffic Authority has determined that one sign will be placed just past 129 Almont Avenue and the second will be placed on Vale Road across from Ghana Avenue. They will not be installed until the bases can be constructed in the warmer weather.

### **DEER UPDATE**

Councillor Peters asked for an update on the deer issue.

The CAO stated that the Department of Natural Resources had some changes in personnel. The new representatives will meet internally and then provide her with an update which will be passed along to Council once received.

### **TREES**

Councillor Peters stated that a resident of Brookside Avenue was concerned that an old tree was removed from Brookside Avenue by the Town. She wondered if there were alternative ways to deal with trees instead of cutting them down.

The Town Engineer stated that this tree was on Town property was diseased and had to be removed to replace the sidewalk in that area.

### **FRASER STREET/ALMONT AVENUE INTERSECTION UPDATE**

Councillor Peters asked for an update on the intersection of Fraser Street/Almont Avenue. She noted an accident occurred at this location recently.

The CAO stated that the Traffic Authority has investigated this area and are moving the stop sign and stop line closer to the intersection. They also indicated that

this was the only accident at this location in 20 years based on the police occurrence reports and the police noted it was driver error.

### **MUNROE AVE./STELLARTON ROAD FLOODING**

Councillor El-Haddad stated that the intersection at Munroe Avenue and Stellarton Road flooded badly during the recent rain event. He asked if there is anything that can be done to help improve this situation for future rain events.

The Town Engineer circulated a map of the area of the piping structure and stated that this could have been a capacity issue – too much water in a short timeframe for the pipes to handle so there was surcharging. To install new pipes at this location would be a major infrastructure project.

## **PROCLAMATIONS**

### **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

Deputy Mayor Dorrington read a proclamation proclaiming March 8 International Women's Day in New Glasgow.

Mayor Dicks proclaimed March 8 International Women's Day in New Glasgow.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **FUNDING REQUEST CARMA**

Council reviewed a letter from CARMA requesting financial assistance.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the request be referred to 2022-2023 budget discussion.

Motion carried.

### **FUNDING REQUEST PC VOLUNTEER GROUND SEARCH AND RESCUE**

Council reviewed a letter from Pictou County Ground Search and Rescue requesting financial assistance.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the request be referred to 2022-2023 budget discussion.

Motion carried.

### **FUNDING REQUEST CHAD**

Council reviewed a letter from CHAD requesting financial assistance. was regularly moved and seconded that the request be referred to 2022-2023 budget discussion.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the request be referred to 2022-2023 budget discussion.

Motion carried.

### **FCM ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO stating that the FCM Conference will be held in Regina on June 2-5, 2022. The Travel Policy states that the Mayor and two Councillors will be permitted to attend the FCM Annual Conference and/or the FCM Sustainable Communities Conference. If any members of Council wish to attend, they are to let the CAO know asap so the hotel can be confirmed.

### **RFP PROVINCIAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Council reviewed a request for proposals which was issued for a Provincial Housing Needs Assessment by the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The

RFP closing date is March 7, 2022 and the outcome of the RFP work is to have a housing needs assessment for each of the 49 municipalities in Nova Scotia.

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

Motion carried.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Motion carried.