

**TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024**

A Committee of the Whole meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Monday, March 18, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Present were: Mayor Dicks; Councillors Dorrington, Peters, Fraser, and El-Haddad. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Earl MacKenzie, Director of Engineering and Public Works; Ross White, Director of Fire, Inspection and Emergency Services; Peter Douthwright, Director of Community Development; Rebecca Lewis-MacNeil, Director of Human Resources; Kim Livingston, Director of Corporate Services; Prasad Patil, Communications and Engagement Manager; Police Chief Chisholm, Kelly Sloan, Executive Assistant; and Solicitor DeMont. Present using Microsoft Teams was Deputy Mayor MacDonald. Absent from the meeting was Councillor Borden.

**AGENDA**

Mayor Dicks requested that Eighth Street Sewer Separation Project be added to the agenda.

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

Motion carried.

**MATTERS FOR SENIOR STAFF**

**TRANSFER OF SURPLUSES 2021, 2022 AND 2023**

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Corporate Services stating that the unaudited March 31, 2021 non-consolidated financial statements show a forecasted surplus of approximately \$882,200 in General Operations of the Town; the unaudited

March 31, 2022 non-consolidated financial statements show a forecasted surplus of approximately \$1,337,300 in General Operations of the Town and the unaudited March 31, 2023 non-consolidated financial statements show a forecasted surplus of approximately \$398,100 in General Operations of the Town. She recommended that Council approve the transfer of the March 31, 2021 General Operations operating surplus of approximately \$882,200 to the General Operating Reserve; the transfer of the March 31, 2022 General Operations operating surplus of approximately \$1,337,300 to the General Operating Reserve and the transfer of the March 31, 2023 General Operations operating surplus of approximately \$398,100 to the General Operating Reserve.

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

Motion carried.

#### **PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION 2024**

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Corporate Services recommending that Council approve a property tax exemption for the 2024-2025 taxation year in the amount of \$400 for income not exceeding \$23,850.00.

It was agreed that a motion be made at the April 15 Council meeting.

#### **ACTIVATE YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD**

Council reviewed a memo from the Active Living Manager stating that the Town submitted an expression of interest to the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association and Recreation Nova Scotia to become an Activate Your Neighbourhood Pilot Community, which was accepted. The purpose of the Activate Your Neighbourhood

initiative is to re-imagine, re-think, and re-purpose our neighbourhoods to increase physical activity and social connections through tactical placemaking.

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

Motion carried.

### **AFTER ACTION DEBRIEF MEETING REPORT**

Council reviewed a report prepared by the CAO which provided a debrief on the multi-day winter weather emergency that took place over February 3-5, 2024.

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

Councillor El-Haddad suggested that information be placed in the water bills on the Town's policy with respect to snow clearing for the residents to be aware. He also noted that REMO did not reach out until 4 or 5 days after the storm and thought they should reach out earlier.

The CAO stated that she, along with CAO's of the other municipal units in Pictou County, were in daily contact with Pictou County REMO and the Provincial EMO prior to, during and after the storm. REMO's primary responsibility is coordinating resources and as the storm affected all municipalities all available resources to deal with the snow were already in use.

Councillor Dorrington stated that communication is critical for severe storms. She suggested that the information sheet to be sent out with the water bills indicated that if a street has a sidewalk on each side of the street only 1 side will be plowed during these severe weather events. She also suggested that a list of vulnerable persons has be created and a list of volunteers to connect with the vulnerable people.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald stated that the Storm Policy has not been updated since 2019. He suggested that it be updated.

The Director of Engineering and Public Works agreed.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald also suggested that the Director of Engineering and Public Works look into entering service agreements with contractors that could be hired if required after snow events of this nature. He also noted that he did not see anything about the recent flooding at the Glasgow Square Parking lot in the report.

The Director of Engineering and Public Works stated that the report presented this evening was only about the snow event. They will also be looking at the flooding event.

Councillor El-Haddad stated that with respect to communications, the facebook posts should be limited to 1 or 2 posts a day when we are trying to get a strong message out in the case of a severe storm.

Motion carried.

### **EIGHTH STREET SANITARY SEWER SEPARATION PROJECT**

Council reviewed a memo from the Director of Engineering and Public Works recommending that the low bidder, B.D. Clifton Contracting Ltd. of Antigonish, be awarded the contract for the Eighth Street Sanitary Sewer Separation at a cost of \$1,040,609.75. The project has been approved for MCGF funding; however, the bids exceeded the funding allotment. In order to stay within the project funding budget, the removal of provisional items will take place bringing the contract price to \$858,896 + HST.

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

Motion carried.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **REQUEST TO ATTEND FCM CONFERENCE – MAYOR DICKS**

Mayor Dicks requested permission to attend the FCM Conference in Calgary from June 6-9.

It was regularly moved and seconded that Mayor Dicks be granted permission to attend the FCM Conference in Calgary.

Motion carried.

### **MEMO RESOLUTION FOR RAILWAY CROSSING**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO requesting Council to formally approve the resolution to support the required rail safety capital project to improve the railway grade crossing at John Street in New Glasgow that was previously approved virtually via email.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the motion be ratified.

Motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PICTOU COUNTY PARTNERSHIP LOC UPDATE**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the Pictou County Partnership Liaison and Oversight Committee meeting held on February 22, 2024.

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

Motion carried.

## **PICTOU COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY UPDATE**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the Pictou County Transit meeting held on March 7, 2024.

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

Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **LETTER JOHN TOMLIK**

Council reviewed a memo from John Tomlik asking for six months to raise the money to pay his taxes for his properties on James and Marsh Streets which are currently scheduled for tax sale.

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

Motion carried.

### **NNEC 2024 GRADUATION SUPPORT REQUEST**

Council reviewed a request from NNEC requesting financial support for their graduation ceremony,

It was regularly moved and seconded that the request be referred to 2024-2025 budget consideration.

Motion carried.

### **CARMA 2024 FUNDING SUPPORT REQUEST**

Council reviewed a memo from CARMA requesting financial assistance.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the request be referred to 2024-2025 budget consideration.

Motion carried.

## **RIVERVIEW HOME VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION 2024 FUNDING SUPPORT**

### **REQUEST**

Council reviewed a memo from the Riverview Home Volunteer Association requesting financial assistance.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the request be referred to 2024-2025 budget consideration.

Motion carried.

## **CREATIVE PICTOU COUNTY 2024 FUNDING SUPPORT REQUEST**

Council reviewed a letter from Creative Pictou County requesting financial assistance.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the request be referred to 2024-2025 budget consideration.

Motion carried.

## **IMAGINATION LIBRARY OF PICTOU COUNTY FUNDING SUPPORT REQUEST**

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding a request from the Imagination Library of Pictou County requesting financial assistance. She recommended that the request be referred to the Mayors and Warden Committee for discussion as it appears to be a regional initiative. After discussion at the Mayors and Warden Committee, information will be brought back to Council and if warranted referred for consideration during the grant discussion for the 2024-2025 budget deliberations.

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

Motion carried.

### **LETTER MP TODD DOHERTY – 988**

Council reviewed a letter from Todd Doherty, MP Caribou-Prince George, Shadow Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, requesting Council to pass a motion to display the 988-information poster – 3 digit suicide prevention hotline – in all municipal properties.

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

Motion carried.

### **LETTER FROM PROVINCE – COASTAL PROTECTION**

Council reviewed a letter from Minister John Lohr, Municipal Affairs and Housing and Minister Timothy Halman, Environment and Climate Change regarding: The Future of our Coastline: Nova Scotia's plan to protect people, homes, and nature from climate change.

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

Motion carried.