

TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025

A regular meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 6:35 p.m. in Chambers. Present were Mayor Dicks, Deputy Mayor Dorrington, Councillors Peters, Fraser, Joe MacDonald, and McKenna. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Kim Livingston, Director of Corporate Services; Ross White, Director of Fire, Inspection and Emergency Services; Earl MacKenzie, Director of Engineering and Public Works; Rebecca Lewis-MacNeil, Director of Human Resources and Corporate Communications; Michelle Ward, Director of Community Development; Ryan Leil, NGRP Chief; Alison Tait, Deputy Clerk; Jeff Hamelin, Information Technology Support Services; and Frank DeMont, Solicitor. Absent from the meeting were Councillor Jessica MacDonald; Audrey Buchanan, Assistant Director of Engineering; and Derek Eisan, Director of IT.

AGENDA

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

Motion carried.

MATTERS FOR SENIOR STAFF

RECOMMENDATION DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – EQUITY AND ANTI-RACISM PLAN

Council reviewed a recommendation submitted by the Director of Community Development recommending that the adoption of the Town of New Glasgow’s Equity and Anti-Racism Plan “Celebration of Diversity: The Path for Our Future” be approved.

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

Councillor’s Peters and McKenna extended appreciation to the Director of Community Development and

stated that the recommendation was well done and very comprehensive.

Councillor McKenna asked if there was any method to record incidents of racism in relation to newcomers.

Director of Community Development, Michele Ward, explained that communication plays a key role in the engagement strategy. Through conversations within the community, it has become clear that there is an increase in escalation and a rise in anti-hate rhetoric and racism, not only in our Town but across Canada. The focus is on collaborating with other organizations and multicultural associations, with communication being the top priority. Citizens are encouraged to take a stand against racism.

Mayor Dicks asked for input from Chief Leil.

Chief Leil stated that the department is working with the HEDI consulting company on the education and differentiation between hate crimes and hate incidents. All officers are being trained on hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. A hate motivated incident may not involve criminal activity, and the department's aim is to educate the public on the distinction between the two, emphasizing the importance of reporting both to the police to aid in data collection. The department hopes to launch this initiative between March and April 2025.

Councillor McKenna stated that some of the newcomers to the Town have past experiences with police in their home country which influences their trust in our police service.

Chief Leil advised that the department is mindful of this and are working with the Pictou County Partnership to help educate newcomers about police services in Canada.

Deputy Mayor Dorrington stated that this issue has been ongoing for years without being addressed. The Town needs to work proactively and collaborate with organizations that support new arrivals. Also, there is no criminal code for hate and it is misleading as there is no federal law in place.

Chief Leil explained that there is an offence for the willful promotion of hate; however, it becomes an aggravating factor for sentencing as a conviction.

Deputy Mayor Dorrington stated that residents need to be educated that there is no specific statute addressing a hate crime. When an incident occurs, it is our social responsibility to take action, regardless of whether the individuals involved are existing residents or newcomers.

Motion carried.

Mayor Dicks thanked the Director of Community Development, Michelle Ward, for the work that was completed to bring forward this recommendation and plan. It was acknowledged that this is a Town of New Glasgow plan and all Council, Staff, and residents are committed to the work.

RECOMMENDATION DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – COMMUNITY RESILIENCY HUB POLICY

Council reviewed a recommendation submitted by the Director of Community Development recommending that the adoption of the Town of New Glasgow's Resiliency Hub Policy be approved.

Mayor Dicks inquired if all necessary enhancements will be completed in each community centre to enable it to be a resiliency hub.

Director of Community Development, Michelle Ward, advised that the enhancements identified will be outlined in the community centres budget line within the Community Development Department budget.

Deputy Mayor Dorrington inquired if, in the event of an emergency, would a core group of volunteers be established to assist in managing the resiliency hub.

CAO Lisa MacDonald advised that the NS Guard has been established by the Province and its purpose is to support emergencies in the province and to help prevent local volunteer burnout that may occur when comfort centers are set up.

Councillor Peters asked if all three community centre representatives were in attendance at the meeting with Community Development and did they all endorse the recommendation for the resiliency hub .

Director of Community Development, Michelle Ward, confirmed that the recommendation was endorsed by the three community centres.

RECOMMENDATION ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS – AWARD

RECOMMENDATION – TNG25-PW-001 FORBES LAKE DAM AND SPILLWAY UPGRADES

Council reviewed a recommendation submitted by the Assistant Director of Engineering & Public Works recommending that Mitchelmore Engineering Company Ltd. (Meco), the only qualified bid submission, be awarded the contract for the TNG25-PW-001 Town of New Glasgow: Dam and Spillway Upgrades at a cost of \$300,000 plus HST [\$312,856 Net HST] for the design phase of the project to be started in 2024/2025 with completion in 2025/2026 and that Mitchelmore Engineering Company Ltd. (Meco) be awarded the Provisional Item Construction Services included in the request for proposals TNG25-PW-001 Town of New Glasgow: Dam and Spillway Upgrades in the amount of \$285,000 plus HST [\$297,214 Net HST], along with \$30,000 plus HST [\$31,286 Net HST] for material testing.

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

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMO – PICTOU COUNTY SHARED SERVICES ASSOCIATION UPDATE AND DECISION REQUIRED

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the regular meeting update which took place on Monday, January 20, 2025.

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

Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Dorrington expressed concern that the collection of books will end when the Extended Producer Responsibility program kicks in on December 1, 2025.

Council reviewed the PC Solid Waste optional service of bulky waste collection.

Mayor Dicks advised that this is an additional service allowing residents to place one bulky item out on collection days.

CAO MacDonald explained that the new collection contract includes the optional provision for one additional bulky item per collection. This item will not be collected during the regular collection and notification

will be provided so pick up can be dispatched for collection. The municipality is responsible for covering all costs associated with the provisional item including the cost per household, as well as the transportation and tipping fees associated with the actual collection of bulking items.

Councillor McKenna asked if this was in addition to the spring clean-up.

CAO MacDonald advised this is in addition to the items already included in our current collection which is the annual two-week spring clean-up.

CAO Lisa MacDonald advised that other municipalities have already made the decision not to participate in the optional item of the collection contract.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Town will opt out of the implementation of the optional service of bulky waste collection.

Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Dorrington stated that citizens of New Glasgow will need to be notified that starting December 1, 2025 soft and hard covered books will not be picked up curbside.

CAO MacDonald advised that communication is being facilitated through the Pictou County Shared Services Authority under the Extended Producer Responsibility Program. Any updates regarding recycling collection will be communicated by the Pictou County Shared Services Authority and we will distribute accordingly.

Deputy Mayor Dorrington asked what residents should do with their books.

CAO MacDonald advised this will not come into effect until December 1st and that more information will be released as it becomes available from Pictou County Shared Services Authority on the book disposal options.

MAYORS AND WARDEN COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO regarding the regular monthly meeting update which took place on January 20, 2025.

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

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

VIOLA'S PLACE SOCIETY PROPOSAL

Council reviewed a proposal from Viola's Place Society regarding the approval of funding allocation towards the development of a regional strategy to address housing and homelessness across Pictou County to a maximum of \$2500 provided all municipal units equally contribute to the overall study cost.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the proposal and recommendation to fund New Glasgow's 1/6 of the cost be approved as presented.

Councillor Joe MacDonald inquired if this would come out of the 2024 budget.

CAO Lisa MacDonald advised that it would come out of the 2025 fiscal year budget.

Councillor Joe MacDonald asked for the result of the vote with the other municipalities.

CAO MacDonald advised that the Towns of Trenton, Stellarton and Westville have confirmed their participation and respective cost sharing, we will be notified once the Town of Pictou and the Municipality have made their decision.

Councillor Peters asked what the annual costs are for dealing with homelessness incurred by the town.

CAO Lisa MacDonald advised that there is no data available reflecting the cost at the present time, but it is likely to exceed \$2500.

Director of Finance, Kim Livingston stated that the cost of dealing with encampment and needle clean ups alone is \$6100 year to date.

Motion carried.

LETTER FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF CHESTER – CODE OF CONDUCT

Council reviewed a letter from the Municipality of Chester regarding the Code of Conduct.

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

Motion carried.

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Council reviewed a letter from the Minister of Emergency Management requesting that municipalities

move toward implementing consistent and impactful Emergency Response Protocols, including the activation of Emergency Operations Centres.

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

Motion carried.

LETTER FROM THE TOWN OF STELLARTON – RESPONSE TO MINISTER OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Council reviewed a letter from the Town of Stellarton regarding the activation of the Emergency Operations Centres.

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

Motion carried.

MEMO AND LETTER FROM PICTOU COUNTY SPORTS HERITAGE HALL OF FAME

Council reviewed a memo and letter from the Pictou County Sports Heritage Hall of Fame regarding a fiscal 2025-2026 funding request for consideration.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the request be referred to 2025-2026 budget consideration.

Motion carried.

MEMO AND LETTER FROM RYAN’S CASE FOR SMILES

Council reviewed a memo and letter from Ryan’s Case for Smiles regarding a fiscal 2025-2026 funding request for consideration.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the request be referred to 2025-2026 budget consideration.

Motion carried.

LETTER FROM MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Council reviewed a letter from the Minister of Municipal Affairs requesting the Town’s support for better integration of local economies with other Canadian provinces and territories to enhance self-reliance.

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

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

It was regularly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Motion carried.