

## **Council Brief – Monday, January 20, 2025**

### **Attendance**

The individual meetings for Council and Committee of the whole attendance for Monday, January 20, 2025, included, Mayor Nancy Dicks, Deputy Mayor Jocelyn Dorrington, Councillors Jim MacKenna, Clyde Fraser, Dawn Peters (via MS Teams), Joe MacDonald, Jessica MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer, Lisa MacDonald, and Deputy Clerk Alison Tait.

The following Senior Staff Members were also in attendance, Kim Livingston, Earl MacKenzie, Michelle Ward, Rebecca Lewis-MacNeil, Ross White, Ryan Leil, Jeff Hamelin, Rohan Mishra, and Prasad Patil.

### **Petitions/Delegations/Presentations**

#### **Presentations**



Barb Young of the Aberdeen School of Nursing Alumni, met with Council to present on and request assistance towards the Healing Garden Project at the Aberdeen Hospital outdoor space themed “Echoes of Healing” spearheaded by the Aberdeen Hospital Archives Committee, a project of the Aberdeen Hospital Auxiliary. The matter was referred to staff for budget consideration.

#### **Proclamations**

##### **Alzheimer Awareness Month - January 2025**

The Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia is dedicated to alleviating the personal and social impacts of Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias, while also supporting research into their causes and potential cures. The Town of New Glasgow officially recognizes January as Alzheimer Awareness Month.

### **Martin Luther King Junior Day - January 20, 2025**

The third Monday of January is celebrated worldwide to honor the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. King, an African American Civil Rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize recipient, was a transformative figure whose leadership changed the course of history. The Mayor, Council, and Staff are proud to proclaim January 20, 2025, as Martin Luther King Jr. Day in the Town of New Glasgow.

### **African Heritage Month - February 2025**

The Town of New Glasgow values and celebrates the rich cultural diversity of its community and honors the sacrifices and leadership of African Nova Scotian citizens in New Glasgow, Pictou County, and across Nova Scotia. In recognition of the achievements and legacy of the African Nova Scotian community, the Town proclaims February 2025 as African Heritage Month. This observance also looks ahead to future accomplishments. We remain committed to promoting awareness, knowledge, and understanding among all people, while fostering pride, dignity, and inspiration in those who identify with African heritage.

### **Wear Red Canada Day - February 13, 2025**

Heart disease is the leading cause of death among women worldwide and the top cause of premature death for Canadian women. On February 13th, the Town of New Glasgow encourages residents to wear red to raise awareness about heart disease in women, and to promote improved prevention, diagnosis, and care. By doing so, we aim to reduce the number of women who die prematurely from heart disease.

## **Town Council Reports**

### **Committee of the Whole Report**

Council approved the following recommendations in the Committee of the Whole report:

- Award of contract for the provision of the new Municipal Tractor to Atlantic Coastal Equipment, in the amount of \$209,621.08 plus HST [\$218,613.82 Net HST)
- The recommendation to send a letter to the Municipality of Pictou County, expressing the Town's interest in participating in the MOPC Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw Initiative as it relates to designating the Forbes Lake Watershed as a protected area with their work.
- Transfer the General Operations operating surplus of approximately \$350,800 for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024, to the General Operating Reserve.



- The recommendation to adopt the legislated Municipal Elected Officials Code of Conduct.

## Finance Report

April 1 to December 31, 2024, Revenue Actuals equated to \$22,779,597 with a budgeted sum of \$24,244,593 leading to a variance of \$ 1,464,996. Residents are reminded that the 2025/2026 fiscal year for the Town of New Glasgow will commence on April 1, 2025.

Expenses for the month of December included but were not limited to:

Department or Program	Actuals December 2024	Budget 2024/25
Protective Services - NGRP	\$3,758,507	\$5,509,482
General Government	\$1,799,073	\$2,445,900
Community Development	\$590,964	\$1,079,422
Town Owned Properties	\$61,468	\$115,000
Other Protection-Fire Department	\$1,797,158	\$2,345,017
Transportation Service	\$2,324,819	\$3,607,200
Transportation Equipment	\$540,613	\$950,500
Refuse Collection & Disposal	\$467,242	\$670,922

## Engineering and Public Works

As of January 8, 2025, Engineering and Public Works provided an update on the major projects and/or initiatives, which include but are not limited to:

- The 8th Street Sewer Project has remained on hold due to an ongoing easement / land issue; the project was originally estimated to cost \$980,000; it is expected the contract price will have to be adjusted due to significant delay.
- HVAC Energy Upgrades are currently underway at the Town’s Fire Hall.
- Demolition of the Tomlik properties (formally known as American House) project is now complete with the erecting of fencing, with privacy slats to accommodate neighbours on the James Street Side. Additional streetlights will be installed in the coming months.
- The installation of the oil/water separator and associated piping has been completed as part of the concrete floor replacement at 635 East River Road. The project was finished under the budgeted amount

- A Post Tender Addendum to finalize a Cost Savings Plan has been issued for the Library Renovation Project, a response to the addendum is expected early mid January.
- The Vale Road Realignment is nearing 95% completion, with new roadway opened to motorist and the former intersection now converted to a 3-way stop. Restoration, tree planting, and landscape work will continue in Spring of 2025
- RFPs have been prepared by the Assistant Director of Engineering and Public Works for the following projects:
  - Forbes Lake Dam and Spillway Upgrades
  - Waste Water Flow Meters

### Solid Waste

A total of 89.56 tons of organics was collected during the month of December 2024, as compared to 83.38 tons of organics collected for the month of December 2023. A total of 56.18 tons of garbage was collected during the month of December 2024, as compared to 47.63 tons of garbage collected for the month of December 2023. A total of 39.09 tons of recycling was collected during the month of December 2024, as compared to 33.08 tons of recycling collected for the month of December 2023.

A monthly average (tons) for the following years:

2022	2023	2024
Organics-102.29	Organics-99.49	Organics-99.00
Garbage-58.79	Garbage-56.96	Garbage-56.30
Recycling-38.46	Recycling-36.35	Recycling-37.77

### New Glasgow Regional Police

In December, the New Glasgow Regional Police responded to a total of 573 occurrences, leading to 28 arrests. Notable call drivers included 69 reports of suspicious persons, 51 mental health, and 63 calls related to the Motor Vehicle Act. Other significant issues included 48 calls for assistance, 32 property checks, 13 well-being checks, 12 assaults, 6 family-related incidents, 4 assaults of a police officer, 4 family investigations, 6 fraud, 1 counterfeit money and one fatality investigation.

### Noteworthy Public Safety Operations

**December 4, 2024:** An adult male was arrested and charged with possession of a weapon, uttering threats, causing disturbance, and failure to comply. Community Response Officer, Cst. Ryan Thibeau played a key role in the investigation, apprehension, and public engagement.



**December 22, 2024:** An adult male made frivolous 911 calls and false reporting of a “hostage situation” on Marsh Street. The matter currently remains under investigation and the individual is set to be charged under the 911 Act and Public Mischief.

**December 30, 2024:** An adult male was charged under the Criminal Code for Personation of Peace Officer Act.

### **NGRP Training & Development**

Throughout December, New Glasgow Regional Police officers participated in various training opportunities, including:

- Phased Interviews
- Group Traumatic Episode Protocol
- Advanced Sexual Assault Investigators Course

### **Department of Community Development**

After a successful holiday season, which included Letters to Santa, community events, and beautiful street and green space landscaping, the Department of Community Development is now focused on ensuring another successful year. One of the department’s main priorities is advancing the Town of New Glasgow’s Equity and Anti-Racism Plan, which will be presented to Council in February. All municipalities and villages are legislated to have a plan in place by April 1, 2025. The plan will outline actions and deliverables for the next three years.

Other exciting projects within Community Development, set to launch in the coming months, include New Glasgow 150 and the Business Wall of Fame.

Building on the success of the Fall Guided Hikes, the Town of New Glasgow is partnering with external organizations to offer a Winter Guided Night Walk Series. Dates and locations include:

January 29th: Samson Trail

February 12th: Trenton Park

February 26th: Acadia Park

March 12th: Roy Island Loop

Additionally, two Make Your Move New Glasgow (MYMNG) strategic planning sessions were held earlier this month, with over 40 participants joining the live sessions. More than 170 individuals also contributed to the data collection for MYMNG. You can now follow Make Your Move New Glasgow on Facebook (@MakeYourMoveNewGlasgow) and Instagram (@makeyourmove\_ng)



Sustainable actions and efforts continue to play an important role within the Town of New Glasgow with projects, workshops and funding opportunities that include but are not limited to:

- Atlantic Canada Solar Summit
- Resilient Homes Retro Fits
- Community Resiliency Hubs
- Low Carbon Resiliency Pilot Program

Residents interested in learning more about these opportunities are encouraged to reach out to Rohan Mishra, Environment & Sustainability Lead for the Town of New Glasgow, at [rohan.mishra@newglasgow.ca](mailto:rohan.mishra@newglasgow.ca).

### **Business Development**

The East River Business Park is progressing with key development activities, which includes but is not limited to:

- A letter of intent has been submitted for the purchase of one acre (Lot 5C), with the due diligence period set to expire on February 24th.
- A signed purchase and sale agreement is now in place for Lot A-1 and an adjacent 1.4-acre parcel. Construction of a multi-unit building is scheduled to begin in Spring/Summer 2025.

### **Fire and Fire Inspection Reports**

The New Glasgow Fire Department responded to a total of 21 calls during the month of December. Calls were comprised of; four alarms, four medical assist and three MVC. Additional fire calls included flue fire, electric fire, tree on power line, EHS assist, vehicle fire, CO2 alarm, flooding and smell of propane. The Town of New Glasgow Fire Department also participated in one training practices last month.

A combined total of three fire inspections and follow-up visits throughout the month of December were also conducted.

### **Information Technology**

Departmental activities and projects include but are not limited to:

- Implementation of Year-End Updates for the Town of New Glasgow's finance applications and software to ensure accurate reporting and seamless operations in the new fiscal year.

- Enhancement of security measures for internal IT services, which includes securing 17 production applications and configuring a system for efficient batch updates.
- Installation of new fibre optic cabling and upgrading generator power electrical services to improve efficiency, reliability, and monitoring capabilities.
- Expansion of fibre optic cabling to the Pictou County Shared Services Authority and key Town of New Glasgow facilities, boosting network services such as internet, email, telephone, Wi-Fi, and CCTV.
- Coordination of the interconnection of the Wellness Centre to the Municipality's fibre optic network, enhancing internet and network access for improved services.
- Implementation of equipment upgrades to support the recording and publishing of Council meetings on YouTube, increasing accessibility and public engagement.

### **Committee of the Whole**

#### **Recommendation, Assistant Director of Engineering and Public Works**

Town Council has approved the recommendation to award the contract to highest overall qualified bidder, BioMaxx Environmental, in the amount of \$126,264 plus HST [\$131,645 Net HST) to provide new wastewater flowmeters with specified required attachments. The purchase of this equipment had previously been approved in the 2024/25 General Capital Budget.

#### **Recommendation, Director of Engineer and Public Works – Approval to Travel**

Council has approved the Director of Engineer and Public Works attendance at the Accessibility Professional Network (APN) Conference in Vancouver B.C., on March 27-28, 2025. The conference will provide the required Continuing Education Units to maintain the professional designation of Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification.

#### **Recommendation, Director of Human Resources and Corporate Communications**

Council has approved the recommendation for the for permanent implementation of the optional four-day workweek for non-unionized staff, which also includes extended operational hours for residents to access Town Hall services. Participation in the four-day workweek is voluntary and considered a privilege. However, if this arrangement no longer serves the best interests of Town operations or its residents, the Town reserves the right to revert to a five-day workweek and return to traditional business hours.

#### **Memorandum, Environmental and Sustainability Lead**

Council received a memo from the Environmental and Sustainability Lead regarding CarbonRun proposal to explore the feasibility of applying their River Alkalinity Enhancement (RAE) methodology to East River. Staff will now host an information session and invite representatives from Pictou Landing First Nation, Stellarton, and Trenton to discuss the proposed project as well as organize a site visit to the West River Pictou RAE site to observe the project in operation.

### **Municipal Corporation and Committee Reports**

Council also received memos with updates from the meetings of the Pictou County Transit Authority, Pictou County Wellness Centre Building Authority Inc, and the Pictou County Partnership Liaison and Oversight Committee.

#### Construction Engineering Flight (CEF) Committee Update

Councillor McKenna provided a verbal update on the recent CEF meeting where two community projects were approved for assistance.

#### Riverview Home Corporation Update

Councillor McKenna provided a verbal update on the recent Riverview Home Corporation meeting where a new executive was approved and a status report on the implementation of the Remedy Report as well as the Adult Residential Centre Campus in Rivertown.

### **New Business**

Mayor Dicks and the Council received letters from the Nova Scotia Association of Realtors congratulating the newly elected council. Additionally, the Council received a letter from former New Glasgow resident Michelle Johnson, requesting that the Town reconsider the elimination of supplemental fluoride in the potable water supply.

The Council also received a letter from the Honourable John A. Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs, commending the successful adoption of the legislated Code of Conduct. Minister Lohr remarked that the province-wide adoption of this essential framework reflects a shared commitment to fostering respectful and constructive dialogue at the Council table.