

## **Council Brief – Tuesday, February 18, 2025**

### **Attendance**

The individual meetings for Council and Committee of the whole attendance for Monday, February 18, 2025, included, Mayor Nancy Dicks, Deputy Mayor Jocelyn Dorrington, Councillors Jim McKenna, Clyde Fraser, Dawn Peters, Joe MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer, Lisa MacDonald, Deputy Clerk Alison Tait and Town Solicitor Frank DeMont.

Regrets: Jessica MacDonald

The following Senior Staff Members were also in attendance, Kim Livingston, Earl MacKenzie, Michelle Ward, Rebecca Lewis-MacNeil, Ross White, Ryan Leil and Ross MacDonald, Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Affairs Advisor.

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

#### **Presentations**

Ron Jones and Terry Cornet were present to join Mayor Dicks and the Council as the Mayor read a special proclamation in honor of Kin Canada Week, February 16-22, 2025. The Town extends its appreciation to Kin Canada members for their unwavering dedication and commitment to enhancing and supporting the communities in which they live.

Dr. James Lees, along with fellow members of the Pictou County Historical Society (John McMullin, Krystle Barclay, Rebecca Lees and Susan MacIntosh), provided a brief overview of the organization's long-term strategic plans and vision for the next five years. The society aims to redevelop the museum space through grant and donor funding to make the location more sustainable, while also adding office, storage, and conservation facilities. A request has also been made for the Town of New Glasgow to contribute toward a feasibility study focused on the sustainability of the Carmichael Stewart House.

#### **Proclamations**

#### **International Mother Language Day February 21, 2025**

Mother language is the cornerstone of culture and plays a vital role in shaping an individual's sense of identity. Unfortunately, thousands of mother languages around the world are endangered, leading to a significant loss in the preservation and transmission of culture and heritage. The Town of New Glasgow encourages all residents to acknowledge the crucial role mother languages play in promoting cultural and linguistic diversity on February 21<sup>st</sup>.



## **Kin Kindness Day February 20 & Kin Canada Week February 18-24**

In celebration of Kin Kindness Day, the Town encourages everyone to practice kindness and spread positivity within their communities and beyond on February 20th. The Town of New Glasgow is also proud to support Kin Canada Week and deeply appreciates the efforts of Kin Canada members who contribute through fundraising and volunteer work in our community.

## **Amyloidosis Awareness Month March 2025**

The Town of New Glasgow recognizes March as Amyloidosis Awareness Month and encourages residents to raise awareness about amyloidosis, including both hereditary and non-hereditary forms of the disease. Increasing awareness can help build healthier communities across Canada. The Town would also like to remind residents that early diagnosis can lead to better outcomes for both patients and their families affected by this disease.

## **International Women's Day March 8, 2025**

On March 8th, the Town of New Glasgow proudly celebrates International Women's Day. Residents are encouraged to take a moment to reflect on the invaluable contributions women have made and continue to make in their communities and countries. Let us all work together to ensure that positive change continues!

## **Town Council Reports**

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

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

- Award of contract for the provision of new wastewater flowmeters to BioMaxx Environmental, in the amount of \$126,264 plus HST (\$131,645 Net HST).
- Recommendation to permit the Director of Engineering to travel out of province to attend the Accessibility Professional Network Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia from March 27-28, 2025.
- Recommendation for the permanent implementation of the optional four-day workweek for non-unionized staff, pending confirmation that the arrangement continues to align with the required delivery levels for Town of New Glasgow residents and Town Office operations hours from 8:00AM-5:00PM.
- Recommendation for the exploration of Carbon Run's River Alkalinity Enhancement Project for the East River with key parties to facilitate the initial discussions on the project.



## Finance Report

April 1, 2024 - January 31, 2025, Revenue Actuals equated to \$23,368,812 with a budgeted sum of \$24,244,593 leading to a variance of \$ 875,781. 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 January included but were not limited to:

Department or Program	Actuals December 2024	Budget 2024/25
Protective Services - NGRP	\$4,306,662	\$5,509,482
General Government	\$2,086,819	\$2,445,900
Community Development	\$742,601	\$1,079,422
Town Owned Properties	\$72,368	\$115,000
Other Protection-Fire Department	\$2,096,525	\$2,3455,017
Transportation Service	\$2,705,987	\$3,607,200
Transportation Equipment	\$684,152	\$950,500
Refuse Collection & Disposal	\$606,373	\$670,922

## Engineering and Public Works

While there are currently no major projects to report on as of January 31, 2025, Engineering and Public Works activity and winter maintenance included:

- Street and sidewalk plowing/salting
- Cold patching work throughout the Town as required
- Regulatory sign maintenance
- Catchpit cleaning and repairs
- Valve locates and repairs
- Hydrant inspection and repairs
- Manhole repairs
- Water meter repairs
- Response to various water line leaks
- Watershed maintenance
- Various equipment repairs and preventative maintenance work conducted on TNG equipment and vehicles.

The Mayor and Council also expressed their appreciation for the winter maintenance on the trail system throughout New Glasgow.

## **Solid Waste**

A total of 85.43 tons of organics was collected during the month of January 2025, as compared to 90 tons of organics collected for the month of January 2024. 58.33 tons of garbage was collected during the month of January 2025, as compared to 59.94 tons of garbage collected for the month of January 2024, a total of 44.27 tons of recycling was collected during the month of January 2025, as compared to 38.75 tons of recycling collected for the month of January 2024.

## **New Glasgow Regional Police**

In January, the New Glasgow Regional Police responded to a total of 524 occurrences, leading to 20 arrests. Notable call drivers included 33 reports of suspicious persons, 25 mental health, and 45 calls related to the Motor Vehicle Act. Other significant issues included 36 property checks, 30 assistance, 24 well-being checks, 18 fraud, 8 assaults, 4 family-related incidents, 5 family investigations, 2 arson, 2 sexual assaults and 1 forcible confinement

## **Noteworthy Public Safety Operations**

**January 2, 2025:** Police responded to a barricaded person call, receiving assistance from RCMP Critical Incident Command & Police Dog Services, as well as Stellarton Police.

**January 17, 2025:** An adult male was arrested and remanded in custody, facing 17 Criminal Code convictions, which include various charges such as assault, weapons offenses, resisting arrest, and threats. The male is currently facing charges under 36 Criminal Code offenses.

**January 17, 2025:** The New Glasgow Regional Police are assisting in an ongoing arson investigation. The matter remains under investigation.

## **NGRP Training & Development**

Throughout January, New Glasgow Regional Police officers participated in several training opportunities, including:

- Search Warrants
- Internet Child Exploitation Training Initiatives
- Advanced Sexual Assault Investigators Course

## **Department of Community Development**

In January, the Town of New Glasgow focused on the development of the Equity and Anti-Racism Plan, "Celebration of Diversity: The Path Forward for Our Future." This plan aims to guide future efforts to address systemic hate, inequality, and racism in our community. The Office of the CAO extends special thanks and gratitude to Deputy Mayor Jocelyn Dorrington and African Affairs Project Officer Crystal States for their support toward to this important work.

The plan was presented and approved during the February Committee of the Whole meeting. Moving forward, key actions and deliverables will be regularly presented to Council.

The Town of New Glasgow is partnering with external organizations to offer a Winter Guided Night Walk Series. Upcoming dates and locations are as follows:

- February 26th: Acadia Park
- March 12th: Roy Island Loop

Residents are encouraged to stay tuned for more information about March Break activities in the coming weeks!

Sustainability remains a key focus for the Town of New Glasgow, with ongoing projects, workshops, and funding opportunities that include:

- Atlantic Canada Solar Summit
- Resilient Homes Retrofits
- Community Resiliency Hubs
- Towards Net Zero Housing Project
- Direct Energy Project
- Carbon Run's River Alkalinity Proposal

Residents interested in learning more about these initiatives are encouraged to contact Rohan Mishra, Environment & Sustainability Lead, at [rohan.mishra@newglasgow.ca](mailto:rohan.mishra@newglasgow.ca).

## **Business Development Report**

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

- Ongoing development work in collaboration with the potential buyers of lot 5C
- Development work is underway in support of lot 10A, with a confirmed summer construction start date.

## **Department of Fire and Fire Inspection Reports**

The New Glasgow Fire Department responded to a total of 25 calls during the month of January. Major call drivers were comprised of; 11 alarms and 3 MVC. Additional fire calls included flue fire, trailer fire, EHS assist, dumpster fire, flooding, structure fire, garbage fire, car fire, hazmat and smoke in house. The Town of New Glasgow Fire Department also participated in three training practices last month.

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

## **Department of Human Resources and Corporate Communications**

January key highlights and initiatives include but are not limited to:

- **New Glasgow 150:** Developing sponsorship and communication packages in support of the upcoming celebrations and collaborating with local historians for weekly social media updates and creating branded marketing items.
- **Housing Accelerator Fund:** Working in collaboration with external consultants, to develop a landing page and promoting public engagement sessions scheduled for February 15, 2025.
- **African Heritage Month:** Preparations began in early January in order to support the successful launch of African Heritage Month, which included the creation and distribution of invitations for the Proclamation Ceremony, and communications developed to support the event with media, social media posts, and video messaging.
- Additionally, the team handled various internal and external communication tasks, including updates on proclamations, job opportunities, and community events.

## Information Technology

Departmental activities and projects include but are not limited to:

- **Year-End Updates for Finance Software:** The IT department is working on implementing necessary year-end updates for the Town of New Glasgow's finance applications to ensure smooth operations and accurate reporting as the new fiscal year begins.
- **Cloud Migration Plans:** There is an exploration of migrating services to the cloud, which will decrease the need for local infrastructure, reducing associated costs and potentially increasing operational efficiency.
- **Council Meeting Enhancements:** Efforts are being made to improve the recording process of Council meetings, with plans to introduce live streaming and real-time overlays, enhancing the accessibility and transparency of the meetings.
- **Asset Management System Implementation:** The department is focusing on implementing an asset management system to better track both tangible and intangible technology assets, which will help in planning for future budgets and replacements.

## **Public Notice**

### **Motions & Notice of Motions**

A development agreement proposed by Sueann MacNeil/Beloved Homes was presented for the construction of two 4-unit residential buildings on North Avenue, New Glasgow (PID: 01006485). A request for a supplementary development report has been made to address concerns raised by residents and brought before Council for further consideration.

## **Committee of the Whole**

### **Recommendation-Adoption of the Equity & Anti-Racism Plan, Director of Community Development**

The Town of New Glasgow Council has approved the recommendation to adopt the Equity and Anti-Racism Plan, titled "Celebration of Diversity: The Path for Our Future." To ensure residents are well-informed, the report will be shared through various platforms, including community conversations and collaborations with local partners once the graphics and design are completed.

It is important to note, the Town of New Glasgow recognizes that the development of an Equity & Anti-Racism Plan is an important and necessary step towards reconciliation. Equity and anti-racism are not simply words to fulfill a requirement – instead they are



actions necessary in planning, decision making, and citizen-centered service delivery which impacts social change.

### **Recommendation-Adoption of Resiliency Hub Policy, Director of Community Development**

Council has approved the recommendation to adopt the Town of New Glasgow's Resiliency Hub Policy. Information regarding next steps and the distribution of necessary supplies will be shared with the three Community Centers in the coming weeks to ensure adequate service levels.

### **Recommendation-Award of Dam and Spillway Upgrades, Assistant Director of Engineering and Public Works**

Town Council has approved the recommendation to award the contract for the Dam and Spillway Upgrades Design Phase to the only qualified bidder, Mitchelmore Engineering Company Ltd. The contract value is \$300,000 plus HST, totaling \$312,870 including net HST. Additionally, the Council has approved provisional items for construction services at a cost of \$285,000 (\$297,284 net HST), as well as materials and testing at a cost of \$30,000 (\$31,286 net HST), to be funded through the fiscal 2025/2026 and fiscal 2026/2027 Capital Water Utility Budget.

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

The Council received updates through memos from the Mayors and Warden Committee, as well as from the Pictou County Shared Services Authority. The latter requested consideration of including bulky waste collection (one large item per pickup, such as a television, sofa, etc.) at a cost of \$1.25 per household, plus disposal fees.

Due to the undetermined budget required for transportation, tipping fees and risk of illegal dumping, the Council approved the staff recommendation to not implement this optional service at this time.

### **New Business**

Council received a proposal from Violas Place Society regarding the approval of funding allocation for the development of a regional strategy to address housing and homelessness across Pictou County. The proposal requests that the Town of New Glasgow contribute a maximum of \$2,500.00 towards a study conducted by ORGCODE, provided all municipal units in Pictou County equally share the overall study cost.

Mayor Dicks and Council received the following letters and memos:

- A letter from the Municipality of Chester, addressed to Minister John Lohr, seeking clarification on Clause 14(2) of the Model Code of Conduct for Municipalities.
- An update from the Office of the Minister of Emergency Management, Kim Masland, directed to Mayors, CAOs, and Wardens, outlining the province's efforts toward consistent and impactful emergency response management. Additionally, Mayor and Council received a letter from the Town of Stellarton regarding their response to the Minister of Emergency Managements letter.
- Memos and letters requesting financial support were received for consideration in the 2025/2026 budget from the Pictou County Sports Heritage Hall of Fame and Ryan's Case for Smiles. These requests have been referred to staff for further review and decision by Council.
- Lastly, a letter from the Honourable John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs, was sent to Nova Scotia's Mayors and Wardens, calling for better integration of local economies with other Canadian provinces and territories to enhance self-reliance. Council has agreed to receive the letter but will hold off on further actions including response until more information is available in the coming weeks as recommended by the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities.