

## **Council Brief – Monday, March 17, 2025**

### **Attendance**

The individual meetings for Council and Committee of the whole attendance for Monday, March 17, 2025, included, Mayor Nancy Dicks, Deputy Mayor Jocelyn Dorrington, Councillors Jim McKenna, Dawn Peters, Jessica MacDonald. Chief Administrative Officer, Lisa MacDonald, Deputy Clerk Alison Tait and Town Solicitor Frank DeMont.

Regrets: Clyde Fraser, Joe MacDonald

The following Senior Staff Members were also in attendance, Kim Livingston, Earl MacKenzie, Michelle Ward, Rebecca Lewis-MacNeil, Ross White, Ryan Leil, Kim Dickson, Sean O'Connor, and Ross MacDonald, Municipal Advisor with the Department of Municipal Affairs.

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

#### **Presentations**

Cindy MacKinnon, Managing Director was in attendance to present to Mayor Dicks and Council on Destination Eastern and Northumberland Shores (DEANS)/Coastal Nova Scotia, highlighting their upcoming events, marketing efforts, and strategic partnerships, as well as providing a financial snapshot for their operations.

#### **Order to Appear-154 Alexander Street**

Pursuant to Section 346(3) of the Municipal Government Act, the Town of New Glasgow Council considered the recommendation to order the demolition of the property at 154 Alexander Street due to dangerous or unsightly conditions as defined under the Act. The property owner appeared and indicated that he planned to remedy the situation. Council moved to defer the decision on the demolition order for the property located at 154 Alexander Street until April 14<sup>th</sup>, the next Town Council Meeting. The property owners are required to submit a comprehensive plan and an engineer's report to the Office of the CAO on or before April 7, 2025, addressing all safety hazards and concerns identified in the Building Inspector's report in order for Council to make the demolition order.

#### **Proclamations**

##### **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, March 21, 2025**

The Town of New Glasgow joins communities and organizations across Canada in working toward the elimination of racial discrimination, ensuring that every resident can fully and equally participate in the life of our town, province, and country. We also recognize that education and vigilance are essential tools in playing a key role in ending racism. Therefore,



we proclaim March 21, 2025, as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

### **Earth Hour, March 22, 2025**

On March 22, the Town of New Glasgow encourages residents to turn off non-essential lights and electrical devices for one hour in a show of global solidarity for the planet and the urgent need to take action on climate change.

### **Purple Day for Epilepsy, March 26, 2025**

Epilepsy is one of the most common neurological conditions, affecting over 50 million people worldwide. In Canada, 42 people are diagnosed with epilepsy every day. Mayor and Council recognize March 26th as Purple Day and encourage residents to educate themselves on how to recognize common seizure types and respond with appropriate first aid.

### **National Tourism Week 2025, April 7-11, 2025**

Tourism is a cornerstone of Canada's prosperity. It creates 1 in 10 jobs nationwide, infusing the economy with over \$100 billion in expenditure. The Town of New Glasgow recognises the importance and impact tourism plays on our local economy and proudly declares April 7-11 as National Tourism Week 2025.

### **Autism Awareness & Acceptance Month-April 2025**

It is estimated that 1 in 50 people across the country are autistic or have autism, and 1 in 31 people, approximately 32,000 individuals in Nova Scotia are on the autism spectrum. The Town recognizes April as Autism Acceptance Month and encourages all citizens to acknowledge the contributions of autistic individuals, their family members, caregivers, educators, and other professionals who work to make Nova Scotia an inclusive and accessible place for everyone to call home.

### **Sexual Assault Awareness Month- April 2025**

The Town of New Glasgow strongly supports national, provincial, and local efforts to raise awareness about sexual violence, including understanding what it is, how to prevent it, how to help survivors connect with services, and how all sectors of society can work together to better address it. Mayor, Council, and Staff are proud to recognize April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the Town of New Glasgow.

### **National Poetry Month-April 2025**



Poetry Plays a vital place in Canadian arts, heritage and culture. The Town recognizes the month of April as National Poetry Month and encourages citizens to read, write, speak and perform all year long.

## **Town Council Reports**

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

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

- The recommendation for the adoption of the Town of New Glasgow’s Equity and Anti-Racism Plan, "Celebration of Diversity: The Path for Our Future," was approved. The Department of Community Development will lead the Town’s Equity and Anti-Racism Plan, with a completion date of April 2026.
- Recommendation for the approval of the Town of New Glasgow’s Resiliency Hub Policy.
- Award of contract the 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 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).
- Approval for the funding allocation to Viola’s Place Society to put towards the development of a regional strategy to address housing and homelessness across Pictou County, to a maximum of \$2500.00, provided all municipal units equally contribute to the overall study cost.

### **Finance Report**

April 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025, Revenue Actuals equated to \$23,908,402 with a budgeted sum of \$24,244,593 leading to a variance of \$ 336,191. 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 February included but were not limited to:

<b>Department or Program</b>	<b>Actuals December 2024</b>	<b>Budget 2024/25</b>
Protective Services - NGRP	\$4,801,477	\$5,509,482
General Government	\$2,325,906	\$2,445,900
Community Development	\$844,649	\$1,079,422
Town Owned Properties	\$82,191	\$115,000

Other Protection-Fire Department	\$2,187,314	\$2,345,017
Transportation Service	\$3,074,989	\$3,607,200
Transportation Equipment	\$787,343	\$950,500
Refuse Collection & Disposal	\$630,647	\$670,922

### **Engineering and Public Works**

As of February 28, 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 Sanitary Sewer Expansion Project is expected to commence in Spring 2025. It is anticipated that the original contract price will be adjusted due to delays in the project.
- HVAC Energy Upgrades are currently underway at the Town’s Fire Hall, with work expected to begin at Town Hall in April/May.
- The Wastewater Capacity Study is currently underway and is being overseen by Dillion Consulting Ltd.
- The contract for the Library Renovation Project is set to be awarded to PCL Constructors in the coming weeks, upon finalization of the scope of work. Fathom Studio will provide “Issued for Construction” drawings based on the finalized scope of work.
- The RFP for the Westside Pressure Study has been awarded to sole bidder Dillion Consulting Ltd, work on the validation hydraulic model has started.
- The waterline replacement for Little Harbour Road is currently in design phase and near completion.

### **Solid Waste**

A total of 65.51 tons of organics was collected during the month of February 2025, as compared to 70.77 tons of organics collected for the month of February 2024. 47.43 tons of garbage was collected during the month of February 2025, as compared to 47.83 tons of garbage collected for the month of February 2024, a total of 33.17 tons of recycling was collected during the month of February 2025, as compared to 34.72 tons of recycling collected for the month of February 2024.

### **New Glasgow Regional Police**

In February, the New Glasgow Regional Police responded to a total of 487 occurrences, leading to 24 arrests. Notable call drivers included 33 reports of suspicious persons, 28 mental health, and 32 calls related to the Motor Vehicle Act and Alarms. Other significant issues included 37 theft, 36 property checks, 29 assistance, 27 well-being, 12 assaults, 9



criminal harassment, 6 impaired operation, 2 fatality investigation, 2 theft of a motor vehicle, 3 sexual assaults and 1 forcible confinement

### **NGRP Training & Development**

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

- Domestic Violence Workshop
- Surviving & Thriving on the Front-Line Wellness Workshop
- Hate Crime/Incident Training

### **Department of Community Development**

In February, the Town of New Glasgow focused on the completion of the Equity and Anti-Racism Plan, "Celebration of Diversity: The Path Forward for Our Future," which was approved during the regularly scheduled February Council meeting. A work plan is currently being developed, and the focus for the next six months will be on community engagement and the development of an Engagement and Communications Strategy.

The Town of New Glasgow was delighted to host the launch of African Heritage Month at Summer Street Industries, which allowed for the accommodation of a larger crowd. The Town would also like to offer special thanks and sincere appreciation to Deanna Mohamad, who provided MC services for the event!

Upcoming March events include, but are not limited to, Kenny vs Spenny, the New Glasgow Farmers Market Trivia Fundraiser, a Teabag Making Workshop, and various private bookings within the Glasgow Square facility.

Winter Bike Week took place from February 9–15. Activities included a partnership with the YMCA of Pictou County, which offered five Cyclefit classes, a Bike Maintenance Workshop in collaboration with Pictou County Cycle, and a children's coloring contest. Following the success of the Winter Guided Night Walk Series, a series of Spring-Summer guided hikes and walks will be announced soon, offering participants who complete all nine hikes the opportunity to earn the Hike Nova Scotia Pictou County Coast Badge. Residents are encouraged to stay tuned for more information and confirmed dates!

The department was also pleased to partner with the New Glasgow Regional Police in support of the Walking School Bus with New Glasgow Academy, with approximately 47 students participating!

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



- Low Carbon Resiliency Pilot Program
- Towards Net Zero Housing Project
- Deep Energy Retrofits
- Clean Leadership Program 2025
- Sustainable Communities Conference 2025
- Low Carbon Communities

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, which also includes an extension on the due diligence period, which has been moved to March 10, 2025, in support of obtaining full construction quotations.
- 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 26 calls during the month of February. Major call drivers were comprised of; 8 alarms 3 medical/assist, 2 MVC and 1 fire. Additional fire calls included hazmat, smoke conditions, cardiac arrest, mutual aid, powerlines, propane smell/leak, and rescue truck. The Town of New Glasgow Fire Department also participated in two training practices last month.

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

### **Information Technology**

Departmental activities and projects include but are not limited to:

- **Laserfiche Procurement:** An RFQ for the Laserfiche Records Management System was released and is expected to be awarded in early March.
- **Core Network Change:** The successful delivery of a network change took place on February 5th, 2025, without impacting Town services due to backup links.



- **IT Inventory Management:** A new IT inventory system was implemented to improve tracking and maintenance of IT assets, including user devices.
- **Email Security Awareness:** Ongoing efforts continue to be in place in order to identify and mitigate phishing attempts, viruses, and deploy user awareness training for email security.

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

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

### **Training and Development**

Both unionized and non-unionized employees participated in the Town of New Glasgow's Code of Conduct and Business Ethics Training sessions. Additionally, several employees attended the February "Lunch and Learn" session, which focused on an introduction to Excel.

### **Recruitment and Retention**

In February, recruitment efforts were focused on the launch of the NCO Promotion Routine, the Atlantic Police Academy Sponsorship Seat selection process, the continued search for a full-time Constable, and the hiring of a new Senior Building Official, who will be joining the Town at the end of March.

In collaboration with the CAO, Assistant Director of Public Works, and Director of Corporate Services, workforce planning and succession management plans are underway to address anticipated retirement gaps in the workforce in the coming years.

### **Marketing & Communications**

- **New Glasgow 150 Branding:** Ongoing development of marketing materials with the New Glasgow 150 branding, including updates to social media and the website.
- **Housing Accelerator Fund:** Collaboration with an external consultant to promote public engagement pop-up sessions continues. These sessions were held at the New Glasgow Farmers Market, Glasgow Square and the New Glasgow Public Library to inform citizens about the public engagement process.
- **Volunteer Awards 2025:** February saw the creation and launch of the online and paper surveys for nominations. Nominations were promoted through social media and email notifications.

## **Committee of the Whole**

### **Recommendation-Core Active Transportation, Active Living Manager**

The Town of New Glasgow Council has approved the recommendation to move forward with Option One (Community Engagement and Class D to Class C) for the continuation of the Core Active Network Project in New Glasgow. This project will be funded through the \$70,000 Cycling Nova Scotia received from the province to continue the Core Active Transportation Network Project in New Glasgow.

### **Recommendation- Nova Scotia Department of Public Works Cost Share Application 2025, Assistant Director of Engineering and Public Works**

Town Council has approved the recommendation to endorse the updated proposed multi-year Cost Shared Capital Paving Program application with the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works. Priority projects for road rehabilitation include:

- Westville Rd. Phase II (Western Ave. – Stellarton Rd.)
- Westville Rd. Phase I (Town Limits – Western Ave.)
- Little Harbour Rd. (Norma St. – Town Limits)
- Trenton Rd. Phase I (Town Limits – Rose Auburn Dr.)

The Town will be required to contribute a minimum of 50% of the total eligible project costs for the projects listed above if the application is approved.

### **Recommendation- Property Tax Exemption for 2025, Director of Corporate Services**

Council approved the recommendation put forward by the Director of Corporate Services to authorize a property tax exemption for the 2025-2026 taxation year in the maximum amount of \$405. To be approved for this exemption, the following conditions must be met:

- The property is assessed as taxable in the Town of New Glasgow
- The property must be occupied by that person as their principal residence.
- The total income for the calendar year 2024 from all sources, including the income of a spouse or partner and other family members residing at the same property but excluding an allowance or pension paid pursuant to the War Veterans Allowance Act, is equal or less than \$24,300.

### **Recommendation-Accessibility Action Plan, Director of Engineering and Public Works**

Council approved the recommendation to adopt the updated Accessibility Action Plan for the 2025-2028 period. Under the Accessibility Act (2017), Municipalities are required to update their Accessibility Plans every three years. New Glasgow's initial Plan "Meaningful Access" was published in April 2022. Residents should note that this plan is a living document and will be updated as required.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Memo-Library Project Funding, Chief Administrative Officer**

Council approved the formal recommendation in relation to the Library Redevelopment Project to accept the revised amount of \$11,028,000 plus HST, as proposed by PCL Constructors Canada Inc. and vetted by Fathom Studios, bringing the total capital costs to an estimated \$14,941,000 (non-rebateable HST included). This total estimated capital cost does not include relocation costs or operating costs at the temporary space.

## **New Business**

Mayor Dicks and Council received the following letters and memos:

- A letter from Green for Life (GFL) notifying the Town of an upcoming increase in tipping fees for solid waste being sent to the GFL Guysborough Landfill through our PC Solid Waste contract.
- A request from the Pictou County Community Health Centre and their partner organization, Pictou County Seniors Outreach, seeking funding for a fall prevention program aimed at older adults living in Pictou County. The one-time grant request amounts to \$11,490, with consideration contingent upon all six municipal units contributing their respective share of funding was deferred to budget discussions.
- A funding request from CHAD Transit, which seeks \$45,335 in support of their operations for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to be considered for budget discussions.
- A letter from CARMA Cat Rescue Maritimes requesting consideration for a \$1,000 grant contribution was deferred to budget discussions.
- A request from Highland Community Residential Services for funding towards their existing summer camp program and the hiring of an Inclusion Camp Coordinator. The Town of New Glasgow would provide a lump sum of \$2,600, contingent upon all six municipal units contributing their share pending approval was deferred to budget discussions.
- A funding request from Pictou County Volunteer Ground Search and Rescue for a \$1,500 grant was deferred to budget discussions.
- A funding request from Pictou County Pride for a \$500 grant was deferred to budget discussions.
- A funding request from Creative Pictou County for a \$3,000 grant was deferred to budget discussions.
- A funding request from the Riverview Home Volunteer Association for a \$250 grant was deferred to budget discussions.
- A funding request from North Nova Education Centre for \$500 in support of their upcoming graduation ceremony costs was deferred to budget discussions.



- A letter from the Honourable John A. Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, providing an update on new regulations regarding the maximum distance between a commercial wind turbine and a dwelling.

All funding requests will be reviewed during the grant discussions for consideration in the 2025-2026 fiscal budget.

### **Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference**

Permission for the following Councillors to attend the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference has been approved: Jessica MacDonald, Jim McKenna, and Dawn Peters. The conference will take place in Ottawa from May 29 to June 1, 2025. All travel reimbursements will be in accordance with the Travel Expense Policy