

TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2021

A Committee of the Whole meeting of New Glasgow Town Council was held on Monday, January 18, 2021 at 6:15 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers. Present were: Mayor Dicks; Deputy Mayor El-Haddad, Councillors Dorrington; Borden, Fraser, Peters, and MacDonald. Also present were: Lisa MacDonald, CAO; Corey Smith, Director of Corporate Services; Earl MacKenzie, Town Engineer; Kelly Sloan, Executive Assistant; Rachel Mitchell, Climate Change Co-ordinator, Sarah Santos, Community Engagement Co-ordinator and Frank DeMont, Solicitor. Present using the Microsoft Teams platform were: Thiv Tharma, Director of Community Development; Ryan Leil, Deputy Police Chief; Ross White, Director of Fire, Inspection and Emergency Services and Derek Eisan, Director of Information Technology.

AGENDA

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

MATTERS FOR SENIOR STAFF

FCM MUNICIPAL ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM RESOLUTION

Council reviewed a memo from the Climate Change Co-ordinator stating that at the December 14 meeting Council approved the recommendation to apply for a grant from the FCM Municipal Asset Management Program. The recommendation has been amended to ensure compliance with FCM's application criteria.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the following resolution be approved.

Be it resolved that Council directs staff to apply for a grant opportunity from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Municipal Asset Management program for Asset Management Inventory, Operationalization and Preliminary Capital Projections.

Be it therefore resolved that the Town of New Glasgow commits to conducting the following activities in its proposed project submitted to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Municipal asset Management Program to advance our asset management program:

Activity 1: Prepare an asset register and undertake condition assessments of major assets and set up in spreadsheet and GIS. Activity 2: Operationalize Asset Management and Activity 3: Prepare State of Infrastructure Reports, a Preliminary Capital Program and Fact Sheets for public information.

Be it further resolved that the Town commits \$12,500 from its budget toward the cost of this initiative.

Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ACCESSIBILITY DIRECTORATE UPDATE

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO stating that municipalities in Nova Scotia were originally required to have their Accessibility Committee established and an Accessibility Plan in place by April 1, 2021, however, an update was received from the Accessibility Directorate that due to the COVID-19 pandemic an extension has been granted until April 1, 2022.

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

Motion carried.

The Town Engineer noted that there are six standards to be released and as part of phase one, recommendations have been released today for public input on two of the standards: built environment and education.

PCWCBAI YEAR END MARCH 31, 2020 DEFICIT

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO stating that the Town received their invoice for the operational deficit for the Pictou County Wellness Centre for the fiscal ending March 31, 2020. Due to the amount being outside of the accrued amount within the Town's audited financial statement for March 31, 2020, it was appropriate to flag as the shortfall will be required to come from the Town in the current fiscal in the amount of \$46,386.

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

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Council reviewed a memo from the Climate Change Co-ordinator recommending that Council approve the Community Climate Change Committee Terms of Reference as presented and authorize the public advertising of the three community representatives and youth representative opportunities.

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

Motion carried.

PCWCBAI UPDATE

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO providing an update of the meeting of the Pictou County Wellness Centre Building Authority Inc held on December 14, 2020.

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

COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL VACANCIES

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO listing the citizen appointments whose terms have expired. She recommended that these positions be advertised.

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

Motion carried.

MENTORING PLUS UPDATE

Councillor Dorrington provided an update on the Mentoring Plus Committee. She noted that the three pilots are up and running and they are currently working on the Terms of Reference which should be completed by the end of the month.

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

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

LETTER CUPE – NOTICE TO BARGAIN

Council reviewed a letter from Bev Strachan, CUPE National Representative, which served as notice that they wish to seek amendments to the Collective Agreement CUPE 281 expiring on February 28, 2021.

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

Motion carried.

LETTER PICTOU COUNTY HOUSING COALITION

Council reviewed a letter from the Pictou County Housing Coalition which is an ad-hoc working group made up of several local non-profits serving low-income and at-risk individuals and families including Kids First, Roots for Youth, Viola's Place, Big

Brothers Big Sisters, Pictou County Safe Harbour and the Pictou County Women's Resource and Sexual Assault Centre. This group is hoping to address the lack of safe, affordable, and accessible rental accommodations for low-income individuals and families in our community. They are requesting the Town to support this group by applying for one full-time summer student through Canada Summer Jobs to work on addressing affordable housing.

Council also reviewed a memo from the CAO stating that if the Town if the applicant for a summer student grant application, the Town is only eligible to receive up to 75% funding for the position therefore it would leave a need to come up with the additional 25% of the funding required for the role whereas not-for-profit organizations are eligible for 100% funding. The Town could still be a supportive partner by providing management, office space and payroll services on behalf of the not-for-profit organization applicant/Pictou County Housing Coalition.

Councillor Peters stated that she believed the Pictou County Women's Resource and Sexual Assault Centre would be applying for the funding for a summer student.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Town provide a letter of support for the grant application for a summer student and offer to provide management, office space and payroll services for this position.

Motion carried.

CHICKEN/ROOSTER ISSUE - 461 HIGH STREET

Council reviewed a letter from the Development Officer, Jeffrey Turnbull, stating that he had received a complaint in August 2020 regarding the keeping of chickens and a rooster at 461 High Street which is not permitted under the Land-Use Bylaw. He has

sent written notice of the issue and request for remedy to the property owner and occupant and had conversations on two separate occasions however the issue remains unsolved. He recommended that it may be more effective to engage the Town Solicitor to provide written notice to the property owner.

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

Motion carried.

EMAIL – TRANSHEALTH ENDORSEMENT

Council reviewed a memo from Joy Polley of the Pictou County Rainbow Community stating that the Rainbow Community has drafted a letter to send directly to Doctors and Nurse Practitioners in Pictou County to encourage them to participate in a free 3 hour training program to prescribe hormones for trans and gender diverse patients. They are requesting Council to aid their efforts by adding their endorsement to this letter.

It was agreed that this matter is not within Council's jurisdiction.

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

Motion carried.

HIGHLAND DISTRICT SOCCER ASSOCIATION FUNDING REQUEST

Council reviewed an email from the Highland District Soccer Association stating that the William Sobey Indoor Sports Complex is working on a pilot project with 3 sports clubs in the county (volleyball, basketball and pickleball) and two Provincial groups (Communities, Sport & Recreation Division, Communities, Culture & Heritage and Sport Nova Scotia) that will see them installing a removable multisport playing surface in the complex from January to April for the purposes to assist in determining if this can help

meet the facility needs of these groups while also evaluating the potential to expand our offerings at the complex in order to attract more clients and improve the sustainability of the facility. The project also includes a Facility Allocation review that is intended to develop allocation policies and guidelines to provide all clients with fair and equitable access to the facility as needed. They are requesting funding assistance from the Municipality of the County of Pictou, the Town of Stellarton and the Town of New Glasgow in the amount of \$2,000.

Council reviewed a memo from the CAO stating that the Town of New Glasgow Policy is that capital funding may be considered for facilities not owned by the Town, however, operating funding is not a consideration. Staff recommend that the request be denied as we have our own municipal assets to maintain and we have a strained budget due to Covid-19 as well as unexpected overages beyond our control in the PCWCBAI operating investment and the Eastern Mainland Housing Authority operating budget. If Council wishes to discuss it further, it can be considered at the upcoming budget discussions for 2021-2022.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the request be referred to 2021-2022 budget discussions.

Motion carried.