

A meeting of Committee of the Whole was held on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, beginning at 6:00 PM in Council Chamber.

**Present:** Mayor Donald Hussher  
Deputy Mayor VJ Earle- Chair  
Councillor Steven Cotter  
Councillor Heather Head  
Councillor Nicole LeBlanc  
Alanna MacDonald – CAO

**Call to Order by Deputy Mayor Earle**

**Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Councillor Head

Seconded by Councillor Cotter

To accept the Agenda as presented with additions to Other Business of:

- Accessibility Committee
- Bylaw No. 98-002 Fire Prevention discussion moved to the end of the meeting
- Update for Healthy Pictou County

Motion carried.

**Presentation:** Oliver Browning- PDI Engineering Group Inc.

Re: State of infrastructure of Town streets

Gave an update to Council on infrastructure & Town streets, with the scope & objectives to assess & rate the current level of service of the street network as it stands now, the physical conditions of the streets, probability & consequence of failure, prioritization of the streets, and full repair of the entire network.

**Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor LeBlanc

Seconded by Councillor Mayor Hussher

That the Minutes of November 29, 2022, be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

- Decision on annual donation amount for the Pictou County Fuel Fund still pending as the Town has not yet received their donation request. CAO has reached out but has not heard back yet.
- Councillor Head noted & thanked resident Greg MacGillvray & Deputy Mayor Earle for removing the Communities in Bloom Christmas decorations from planters along Main Street.

**Other Business**

**NS Dept. of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal- New Highway Sign**

Moved by Councillor LeBlanc

Seconded by Councillor Head

To accept the information from the CAO and discuss at budget time.

Motion carried.

## Committees of Council

To accept as information:

- Deputy Mayor Earle added to the Planning Advisory Committee
- Councillor Head added to the Accessibility Committee

## Nova Scotia SPCA- New Facility

To accept the information and anticipate future discussion on how to contribute to the project.

## Healthy Pictou County

To accept the information, they will be sending an official request for a renewal of 5-year funding commitment with no cost increase.

**Deputy Mayor Earle passed Chair position to Councillor Cotter due to conflict of interest.**

## Bylaw No. 98-002 Fire Prevention

Moved by Councillor LeBlanc

Seconded by Councillor Head

Discussion on making understandable and enforceable amendments to the Bylaw. Fire Chief Allain & Deputy Chief Raymond Anderson were present to answer questions from Council. To approve a notice of intention to amend the Fire Prevention Bylaw through consultation and recommend the Bylaw go to Council for first reading when prepared and ready.

Motion carried.

**Councillor Cotter passed Chair position back to Deputy Mayor Earle.**

## Round Table

- Councillor Cotter thanked Public Works taking down the Christmas decorations last week. Kudos for getting all the lights up with only one light going out during the holiday season. Public Works was out a couple times recently with snow and noticed the Winter Parking Ban for snow removal in newsletter.
- Councillor LeBlanc thanked the Fire Chief & Deputy Fire Chief for attending the meeting to review the Fire Prevention Bylaw again. Inquired if we, or can we, check on the structural integrity of the Smelt Brook bridge where it is on an unmaintained trail and has seen a lot of snow and flooding recently. CAO will follow-up with Director of Parks & Recreation. During presentations to Council, the setup/location of the television should be reviewed for reconfiguration.
- Mayor Hussher questioned whether any further reports of flooding around Town have been received. CAO confirmed nothing further has been received.

## Residents

- Robin Morash questioned if the current Fire Prevention Bylaw is still in place after this meeting and commented he would be very upset if someone called 911 on a small fire in his yard as 911 should be for a major concern and inquired what questions are asked when these calls are made.

- Stephanie MacKinnon agreed with Robin Morash about 911 calls and questioned if the Town had reached out to other Town's, specifically Westville about their fire bylaws. Inquired why this seems to be such an issue over the past few years.
- Wayne Allain questioned if the Fire Prevention Bylaw will be amended prior to summary of offence in place.

Moved by Mayor Husher  
Seconded by Councillor LeBlanc  
To move into "In Camera"

Moved by Councillor LeBlanc  
Seconded by Councillor Head  
To move out of "In Camera"  
Motion carried.

**Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Cotter  
That the meeting be adjourned.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

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VJ Earle  
Deputy Mayor

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Alanna MacDonald  
Chief Administrative Officer