

Pugwash Village Commission

Regular Meeting #465

21st October 2024 at 7pm

Board Room, Pugwash Village Hall

Minutes

1 **Call to Order**

1.1 Chair Brent Wilson called meeting to order at 7:02pm

1.2 An in-camera meeting was held prior to this meeting.

1.3 Territorial Acknowledgement- read by Chair Wilson

We acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

2 **Roll Call**

Commissioners: Chair Brent Wilson
Commissioner Dave MacEwan
Commissioner Matthew Parker - Regrets
Vice Chair Sue Duncan
Commissioner Margaret Anderson - Regrets

3 **Approval of Agenda**

3.1 It was moved by **Commissioner MacEwan** and seconded by **Commissioner Duncan** approve the agenda.
Motion Carried.

3.2 Call of Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

4 **Approval of the Minutes**

6.1 IT WAS MOVED by **Commissioner Duncan** and seconded by **Commissioner MacEwan** to approve the minutes of Meeting #464 held September 9th, 2024.

5 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

5.1 Clerk Treasurer Blackie will be meeting with Jen Houghtaling tomorrow, October 22, 2024, to talk about community and planning and the municipal affairs. But we did have a quick, brief conversation about that today. The storm drain repairs were supposed to be happening this year, 2024, but it was pushed up until next year. It would be a great idea for the Commission to prepare a letter to push it along with the province. Okay. The municipality oversees the sewer and the water, but the storm drains are the province Oh, so they did do a study Two years

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ago, they came, and they did a study of all the storm drain system, and they decided needs to be fixed, in 2024 but will be in 2025 now. Support matters so if groups or individuals the better, and the only way that we can get to sidewalks is if we fix the storm. The villagers really want sidewalks.

- 5.2 Clerk Treasurer is looking at grant work for recreation, wellness, the art program, and stuff for the kids for the summer as well as all year round, because I think that we need to utilize our village year-round Searching for technology grants, because I'm looking at upgrading all the technology within the village and getting better Wi-Fi. Clerk Blackie is waiting on a quote from Corey Moore right now regarding these changes.

Accessibility grant that we did receive and looking into more things as the sunset residents will be moving to the new community housing. This is not just for the year but two three four five years down the road too.

Researching for more summer students as well as I have contacted the High School to have the o2 students get started here at the village. We could really utilize their skills, hoping to attend an assembly to speak with them. I know they love technology, and we need some help and help us with the newsletter. Having the students in this community and surrounding areas as well as their families be more involved is something that is going to very positive.

6 Presentations

- 6.1 Nil

7 Correspondences

- 7.1 Communities in Bloom will receive the budgeted amount of 400.00 dollars for the Volunteer appreciation luncheon on October 22, 2024. **IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Duncan and seconded by Commissioner MacEwan to approve the standing budget item in the amount of 400.00 dollars.**

MOTION CARRIED

- 7.2 The Pugwash Walks Plan has been implemented, and the QR codes are up and running to promote wellness and community.

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7.3 Wallace and District Volunteer Fire Department 51st Annual Banquet and Awards Evening – Saturday, October 26, starting at 630. Commissioner Wilson left it to other commissioners to attend if they wished as he attended the previous year.

7.4 Crime Prevention Symposium - Halifax 14 and 15th 2024. The commissioners thanked the Clerk for this information.

7.5 Letter from Elizabeth Smith McCrossin MLA—Please write a letter of support for the need for nurses by contacting the Premier and asking him to help us by allowing our hospital to have travel nurses in the province until we have an appropriate plan. If you are on social media, please share your concerns. Commissioners agreed to create a letter of support for this matter to send to the Premier in support of having travel nurses be able to provide support to the local hospitals as there are no permanent positions that are filled at this time, causing the reduction of staff shortages, impacting the over all well fair of patients.

7.6 Crossroads requests a letter of support for the new subdivision they have been approved to build within the village limits. There was some discussion around this topic between the commissioners and our county Councilor, Jennifer Houghtaling. The province is pouring millions of dollars into housing in this province; however, the province needs to plow Willow Lane, Pleasure Cove and hundreds of private roads and subdivisions throughout Cumberland County, Nova Scotia. We looked to Councilor Houghtaling, and she commented that if the precedent is set based on the previous statement, The roads in Springhill and Parrsboro are the only places that the county plows, as when the amalgamation happened, they needed to take that responsibility. Crossroads has sent a letter to the county requesting an exception. The commissioners agreed that the Clerk prepare a letter of support for Crossroads as this would benefit the village.

8 **Committee Reports**

Standing Committees

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8.1.1 **Accessibility** (MacEwan)

Meeting November 6, 2024, at Sunset Community building.

The committee has concerns about the community not being ready for such a big change. They have some questions they want to ask directly to community services. Greg Fahie brought up some good points, the concerns are that we don't have the staff to take care of those crosswalks that will go all the way to the new space being developed. Equipment that will be needed for the village is one of the biggest concerns. "We don't have the equipment, and we do not have the staff to maintain that. Where is that money going to come from?" This is something that we will need to have part of strategically planning for the village.

8.1.2 **Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV)** (Duncan)

Commissioner Duncan, Terry Duncan and Clerk Treasurer Blackie attended the two-day event on September 20 and 21st 2024. There was discussion of the Code of Conduct that will be due to the province by December 19, 2024. This will be in effect in January of 2025. The Nova Scotia Guard was discussed and looking for recruits to volunteer and be part of the registry. Overall, very informative conference. We have additional information if any one is interested.

8.1.3 **Audit** (Duncan) – No Report

8.1.4 **Policy Review** (MacEwan/Wilson) - No report.

8.2 **Special Committees**

8.2.1 **CN Train Station** (MacEwan, Wilson, Houghtaling)

Jennifer Houghtaling, district 4 councillor, spoke that the Market Hub is doing exceptionally well, and a young couple will be moving here to keep it operating three days per week.

8.3 **Advisory Committee**

8.3.1 None.

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8.4 **Community Committee or Organizations with Village Commission/Staff Representation**

8.4.1 **Communities in Bloom (CIB)** (Blackie)

Clerk treasurer Blackie attended the meeting and discussed repairing the post office heritage sign, and gateway sign. I have discussed this with Greg, and we are working on a plan. The planters will need to be replaced at the village Hall in the Spring of 2025 as well as the bench and flower box by Dinghy Beach, this will be discussed later.

8.5 **Clerk Treasurer Reports** (Blackie)

A motion was passed to pay the Insurance Policy for the year 2024/2025 in the amount of \$36,691.93. **Commissioner MacEwan moved that the commission will agree to pay the insurance bill in full in the amount of \$36,691.93 and seconded by Commissioner Duncan.**

The official acknowledgement of **Christie Blackie**, excuse me, as our acting clerk treasurer, until further notice. If necessary for the bank or any other companies, the clerk will draft a letter for the **Chair, Commissioner Wilson** to sign and approve.

I am looking into being a Commissioner of Oath and the costs as this will be an asset in this position.

8.5.1 **Action List**

Continuous List and all in ongoing

Looking into Grants, technology upgrades, Continuing with upgrades and renovations to the village hall/properties.

8.5.1.1 **Train Station Washrooms**

Washrooms are completed

8.5.1.2 **Recreation**

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Great summer and will be improving this program with grants and funding for summer employees to offer a fun filled recreation program for 2025.

8.5.2 Gathering of the Clans

Nothing.

8.5.3 Vandalism

Nothing.

9 Motions

9.1 None.

10 Notices of Motion

10.1 None.

11 New or Other Business

11.1 The next regular Village meeting is 7:00p.m. November 18th, 2024

12 Adjournments

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41p.m. by motion from Chair Wilson.

Respectfully submitted,
Christie Blackie
Acting Clerk Treasurer

Chair _____

Clerk Treasurer _____