

PUGWASH VILLAGE COMMISSION
Regular Meeting #427
9th August 2021 at 7pm
Pugwash Village Hall Board Room

Minute Number 427

CALL TO ORDER

427.1 Chair Brent Wilson called the meeting to order at 7pm

SWEARING IN OF COMMISSIONERS

427.2 Roger Mundle, having won the Village election by acclamation in July, was sworn in as Commissioner of the Village of Pugwash by Lisa Betts, Commissioner of Oaths.

SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING

427.3 Chair Wilson yielded the chair to the Clerk who then called for nominations for Commission Chair, Vice Chair and Signing Officers.

427.4 Election of Village Commission Chair

- 427.4.1 Commissioner Wilson nominated Commissioner Mundle for Chair.
- 427.4.2 Commissioner Mundle indicated that he would accept the nomination.
- 427.4.3 The Clerk called for any additional nominations. Hearing none, Commissioner Roger Mundle was acclaimed as Chair of the Pugwash Village Commission.

427.5 Election of Village Commission Vice Chair

- 427.5.1 Commissioner Duncan nominated Commissioner Wilson for Vice Chair.
- 427.5.2 Commissioner Wilson indicated that he would accept the nomination.
- 427.5.3 The Clerk called for any additional nominations. Hearing none, Commissioner Brent Wilson was acclaimed as Vice Chair of the Pugwash Village Commission.

427.6 Appointment of Signing Officers

- 427.6.1 Commissioner Martin nominated Commissioner Duncan for signing officer
- 427.6.2 Commissioner Duncan indicated she would accept the nomination.
- 427.6.3 Commissioner Martin nominated Commissioner Mundle for signing officer
- 427.6.4 Commissioner Mundle indicated he would accept the nomination.
- 427.6.5 There being no further nominations, Commissioners Duncan and Mundle were appointed as signing officers for the Village of Pugwash (and *de facto* the Gathering of the Clans)

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ROLL CALL

427.7 Commissioners: Chair Roger Mundle
Vice Chair Commissioner Brent Wilson
Commissioner Bill Martin
Commissioner Sue Duncan
Commissioner Dave MacEwan

Staff: Clerk Treasurer, Lisa Betts (recording secretary)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION

427.8 It was moved by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner McEwan that the agenda be accepted as amended. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION

427.9 It was moved by Commissioner Duncan and seconded by Commissioner MacEwan that the minutes of regular meeting 426, 14th June 2021 be approved. **MOTION CARRIED**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

427.10 None.

[Note: at approximately this part of the meeting, a page for the Pugwash Volunteer Fire Department was issued. Vice Chair Wilson left to go to the call. Chair Mundle and Commissioner Martin, also in the fire department, opted to remain in the meeting. Vice Chair Wilson returned to the meeting just as the motion for adjournment was being made.]

ACTION LIST

427.11 See attached list.

427.11.1 **Crosswalk request - Church Street connecting the high school and elementary school driveways.** There has been no recent communication from the regional manager in charge. The area manager, Aam Cameron, will be contacted to see if he would be interested in addressing the Commission on crosswalks and other traffic matters.

427.11.2 **Thrive Outside - playground project.** A second application has been submitted. Using funds from a recent donation, a sling seat

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has been installed, replacing one of the two bucket seats. Further funding is pending approval. The Municipality has granted the Village \$10,000 towards the project.

427.11.4 **Gathering of the Clans mugs** - Commissioner Duncan will order four mugs.

427.11.5 **Streetlight.** Responsibility for streetlights has been recently reassigned within the Municipality. The requested light should be installed soon.

PRESENTATION

427.12 None.

CORRESPONDENCE

427.13.1 **Farmers' Market** - Letter of Support for their solar energy project, to assist in funding.

427.13.2 **Testimonial** - to TD Friends of the Environment Foundation - report in support of the 2020 Pugwash Communities in Bloom tree planting project

427.13.3 **Confederation of Mainland Mi'kmaq** - information on Canada's first Mi'kmaw electoral office.

427.13.4 **Pugwash District High School** - card of thanks and a receipt for the 2021 scholarship.

427.13.5 **Truro Chamber of Commerce** - confirmation of funding for the 2021 tourism season.

427.13.6 **Municipality of Cumberland County** - confirmation of \$3,000 funding for a Recreation Director. Commissioner Martin said that many positive comments on the recreation program had been received at Six Rivers Radio.

427.13.7 **Municipality of Cumberland County** - confirmation of \$10,000 funding for the Thrive Outside project.

427.13.8 **Centre for Local Prosperity** - request for final of three \$1,000 grants as made by motion 319.14 in April 2019. Commissioner Martin commented that the organization had not been producing the programming that included Pugwash as had been discussed in the original application for

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funding. There has been some online conferences. Commissioner Wilson was concerned there may be a legal obligation to grant the final \$1,000. The Clerk was directed to ask the organization for an update on the past year's activities and upcoming plans.

- 427.13.9 **Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Active Transit** - information on storm water maintenance and repair in the village. There is a concern that future development in the Village, such as side walk extensions, could depend on better drainage in the area.
- 427.13.10 **Canada Revenue Agency** - thanks for continuing support in the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP). The Village supports this program by providing free space for CVITP. The space has not been used for the past two seasons due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Clients have been helped online, by phone or with home visits.
- 427.13.11 **Letter of Support - Sunset Community** - in support of an application to install tennis and pickleball courts at the Sunset property at Sunset Lane.
- 427.13.12 **Pugwash Fire Department** - Information on the annual mackerel and striped bass fishing tournament. Commissioner Martin said that this important tournament has raised funds for the department to purchase a rescue boat and now the department would like to use funds to purchase an all-terrain vehicle (side-by-side) to assist in back country incidents or rescue.

MOTION

- 427.13.13 **It was moved by Commissioner MacEwan and seconded by Commissioner Duncan to grant the Pugwash Volunteer Fire Department \$1,500.** **MOTION CARRIED**

- 427.13.14 **Cumberland Trails** - request for (1) annual funding towards upkeep of a washroom at a trail head and (2) a letter of support for the continuing development of the trail. The Commissioners asked the Clerk invite Greg Nix to make a presentation about the trail.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

427.14 Clerk Treasurer's Reports

- 427.14.1 **PDHS Graduates' banners** - The volunteers who put the banners up will be reminded to take them back down.

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- 427.14.2 **Summer staff** - have been working hard over a very busy season with the recreation programming and many more tourists at the Visitor Information Centre as COVID-19 restrictions ease.
- 427.14.3 **Train Station** - this historic building has had all the loose brickwork on the north side of the building repaired. It looks vastly improved and much safer. Thanks to Christie Blackie for donating the bricks used by Blair Mackinnon's staff.
- 427.14.4 **Internet** - there was some discussion and comparison of the different internet connections available in the Village. The Clerk will investigate further, in particular the Starlink option.
- 427.15 Accessibility (Municipality)**
Staff met with the chair of the committee, Maggie Pitts, to discuss the audit tools and process. This should be complete in the next few weeks.
- 427.16 Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV)**
The ANSV AGM and conference will be in New Minas. All commissioners and staff are encouraged to attend.
- MOTION**
- 427.17 It was moved by Commissioner MacEwan and seconded by Commissioner Duncan that Commissioner Martin be the voting representative for the Village of Pugwash at the ANSV AGM. MOTION CARRIED**
- 427.18 **Audit Committee**
No report
- 427.19 **Physician Recruitment and Retention**
A stand alone website for *Pugwash* doctor recruitment will be developed.
- 427.20 **Communities in Bloom (CIB)**
The CIB AGM is coming up later this month.
- 427.21 **Multi Purpose Centre**
As the Municipality has changed the function of the structure to being primarily a library, it was agreed that the name of the committee be changed to Pugwash Library Committee.

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MOTIONS

427.22 None.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

427.23 None.

NEW OR OTHER BUSINESS

427.23 **Use of the Harbourfront Centre** - Background: A volunteer worker for Independent candidate for the pending (August 17th) provincial general election booked the stage for a political rally with very little notice and no accompanying information as requested by the online booking app the Village uses (Skedda). With no policy yet in force and a prompt response required, the Clerk initially denied permission to the applicant. The candidate then appealed to Commissioner Mundle who, being out of town at the time and also not yet sworn in as Commissioner since being acclaimed at the July 10th Village election, referred the matter to *de facto* chair Wilson. After some discussion within the Commission, the decision was made to allow the rally. The booking date has been changed a few times, with the most recent date set as August 13th.

The Clerk reported that since this incident, research has demonstrated that most Municipal units do not allow political events or signage on their properties. The Commission did not wish to restrict freedom of expression. They would be interested in hearing a report as to how this rally was received and any positive or negative feedback. A policy for the use of the Harbourfront Centre will be drawn up as soon as possible.

427.24 **Policy procedure - review and development.** Commissioner Wilson had asked to add this to the agenda, but then was called away to attend a fire call (see note at minute 427.10). The Commission agreed to defer this subject to the next meeting.

427.24 The next regular meeting of the Pugwash Village Commission will be Monday, 7pm 13th September, 2021.

427.25 The Village Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be Tuesday, September 21st, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

427.27 The meeting was adjourned at 8:49pm by motion from Commissioner Martin.

Respectfully submitted

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Lisa Betts
Clerk Treasurer

Chair _____

Clerk Treasurer _____