

PUGWASH VILLAGE COMMISSION

Regular Meeting #428

13th September 2021 at 7pm

Pugwash Village Hall Board Room

Minute Number 428

CALL TO ORDER

428.1 Chair Roger Mundle called the meeting to order at 7pm

ROLL CALL

428.2 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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION

428.4 It was moved by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner MacEwan that the minutes of regular meeting 427, 9th August 2021 be approved. **MOTION CARRIED**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

428.5 **Policy procedure review and development**

This discussion had been deferred to this date in the previous meeting (see Minute 427.10). Policies are often developed in reaction to a problem or issue that, with no guiding policy to follow, had been difficult to manage. The Commissioners agreed that a review of current policies would be useful, particularly for newer members. New policies may be developed if a need is detected. The Clerk explained the current format being used by the Village and that there is a set of model policies available from the Association Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia. The committee plans to meet quarterly. Commissioners Wilson and MacEwan agreed to serve on the committee.

MOTION

428.6 It was moved by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner Wilson to strike a committee to review existing policies. **MOTION CARRIED**

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428.7 Centre for Local Prosperity

After much discussion, the Commission agreed that the organization was now offering programming that more closely followed the proposal made to the Commission in 2018. The Commission agreed to release the final funding payment of \$1,000 to the organization.

428.8 The organization has organized a Thinkers Lodge Summit on Nuclear and Climate Crises (September 29th to October 3rd). The Clerk will confirm there is an invitation for a commissioner to attend a dinner function at the Lobster Factory on October 2nd. Commissioner Martin agreed to attend.

ACTION LIST

428.9 See attached list.

428.9.1 Completed tasks include sending approved donations, the wayfinding sign on the train station property has been removed and the additional streetlight on Water Street is now installed and has made a great difference.

428.9.2 A number of options for internet service have been investigated. The Clerk has been looking at option that would reduce the cost of phone and internet service from Aliant. Having a business account raises costs substantially. At this time, not all options are available to business customers. The Clerk will look into the availability of fax to email. Starlink is not expected to be available to business/commercial customers until end 2023.

PRESENTATION

428.10 None.

CORRESPONDENCE

428.11 None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

428.12 Clerk Treasurer's Reports

428.12.1 **Reserves**

Some Village taxes have been received putting the Village in a better financial position to put funds into reserves and to move ahead with a couple of capital projects. The Commission would like to prioritize the Village Hall roof and the accessible washroom.

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428.12.2 **Summer staff**
Reports from Malory Rushton (Recreation Director) and Christie Blackie (Admin Assistant and Visitor Information Councilor) were presented. Their reports will be very helpful to start the next season. John Linihan was the Gardener. The Clerk was very happy with all three. Good reports and compliments have been received from the community.

428.12.3 **RV dumping station**
There are no dumping stations for RVs locally. The Commissioners agreed that to assist tourism, and specifically the Municipality's Tourism Initiative, in the area this service is required. Fill water and electric charging stations would be good additions too

MOTION

428.12.4 **It was moved by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner Wilson to ask the Municipality of Cumberland County to install a dumping station in Pugwash.**

MOTION CARRIED

428.12.5 **2021 Financial Statement**
The audit committee will meet with the auditor to discuss the financial statement with the intention of being in a position to submit that for adoption by the Commission at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The Clerk gave a brief report to the Commission of the audit process and past audit companies used by the Village. The contract with the current company expires at the end of this fiscal year. The Commissioners were approved that the auditor could present his report to the AGM by videoconference.

428.13 **Accessibility (Municipality)**

The Joint Accessibility Committee is to present a plan to the Municipality by April 1st 2022. It is suggested that the Village adopts the appropriate parts of the same plan. Commissioner MacEwan will look into finding replacement committee members from staff or clients at the Sunset Community.

428.14 **Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV)**

Commissioners Mundle, Martin and Duncan and the Clerk will attend. Commissioner Martin (vice president of the ANSV) endorsed the value of the workshops and AGM and was encouraged to have so many from Pugwash plan to attend. He asked if any Commissioners were interested in serving as the ANSV representative in the provincial Accessibility Committee.

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428.15 Audit Committee

No report (see 428.12.5).

428.16 Physician Recruitment and Retention

Doctor Meuler and his wife will not be staying in Pugwash past their six month contract which ends in October. There are hopes for an upcoming Physician Recruiting Fair in New Brunswick that will be attended by the Municipality. The Premier and Health Authority are scheduled to soon tour the province to consult with health professionals for input on the health system.

428.17 Communities in Bloom (CIB)

The Volunteer Appreciation luncheon will not be held this year. Another form of recognition may be used.

428.18 Library

No report.

MOTIONS

428.19 None.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

428.20 None.

NEW OR OTHER BUSINESS

428.21 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation - September 30th

As of September 3rd, Nova Scotia is one of the Provinces that will recognize the Federal Statutory Holiday announced in June. Municipal units generally adopt these same observances as the Province.

MOTION

428.22 It was moved by Commissioner MacEwan and seconded by Commissioner Wilson that the Village of Pugwash will observe National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th. MOTION CARRIED

428.23 Annual General Meeting - September 21st

The AGM agenda will now include reports from Commission committees. The current plan is to hold the AGM in the Village Hall Board Room.

428.24 Recognition of Mi'kma'ki - this has become a standard statement at the beginning of many Municipal and some business meetings in Nova Scotia. The

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Municipality of Cumberland County has been doing this when opening a public meeting for about a year.

MOTION

428.25 It was moved by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner MacEwan that Village Commission meetings should be opened with *We acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.* **MOTION CARRIED**

428.26 Tides Inn - sidewalk/step

An inquiry has been made as to whether the Village has any ownership or responsibility for the steps in front of 47 Water Street, known for many years as the Tides Inn. The Village does not have any jurisdiction over this area. This issue is being addressed by the Municipality and the NS Department of Transportation and Active Transit, on whose right of way the area appears to be located. The Clerk gave a brief report on history and precedent Other Villages and Municipalities

428.27 A garbage complaint made to the Municipality at/near Durham and Church has been recently resolved.

428.27 The next regular meeting of the Pugwash Village Commission will be Monday, 7pm 18th October, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

428.28 The meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm by motion from Commissioner Wilson.

Respectfully submitted

Lisa Betts

Clerk Treasurer

Chair _____

Clerk Treasurer _____