

Pugwash Village Commission

Regular Meeting #471

April 14, 2025, at 6 pm

Board Room, Pugwash Village Hall

Minutes

1. Call to Order

1.1 Chair Brent Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

1.2 An in-camera meeting was held before this meeting.

In-camera Per Section 408B (2) of the Municipal Government Act, the Commission moves into the in-camera as per Section 408B (2) of the Municipal Government Act to discuss the following: [specific topics addressed in the in-camera meeting].

(a) Village property acquisition, sale, lease, and security.

(e) Contract Negotiations

1.3 Return to Public Meeting at 7:00 pm

1.4 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

Brent Wilson, Chair

Commissioner Sue Duncan, Vice Chair

Commissioner Dave MacEwan

Commissioner Matthew Parker

Commissioner Margaret Anderson

Clerk-Treasurer Christie Blackie

3. Approval of Agenda

3.1 The agenda was approved as presented.

3.2 Call for Declaration of Conflict of Interest.

4. Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Parker moved, and Commissioner Duncan seconded, that the minutes of Meeting #471, held April 14th, 2025, be approved.

Motion Carried

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5. Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 – The Village commission meeting was cancelled on March 10th, 2025.

5.2 - Core Active Transportation (AT) Network Partnership Agreement meeting on April 1st at the library – Community Engagement.

6. Correspondences

6.1 Resignation: Lisa Betts resigned from her village Clerk-Treasurer position. A retirement party is scheduled for May 10 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM.

Commissioner MacEwan moved, and Commissioner Duncan seconded, that a motion be passed to spend \$ 200 on a gift for Lisa as her retirement gift.

Motion Carried

6.2 ER Closure Letter from Elizabeth Smith McCrossin – discussed in Presentation.

6.3 Pugwash Legion: Request for \$500–\$1000 in renovation support towards the kitchen—decision pending.

6.4 Communities in Bloom: proclamation for the week of May 5th

Commissioner Parker moved, and Commissioner Duncan seconded, that the week of May 5, 2025, be designated as Communities in Bloom Week.

Motion carried.

6.5 Pugwash District High School Bursary: \$1,300 request, to be decided at the May meeting.

6.6 The ANSV conference will take place in Port Williams on September 19–20. We must confirm attendance by July 17 for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Nova Scotia Villages Association.

6.7 The 2025 litter cleanup is on April 26 at 9:00 AM. I will forward this and post the QR code to sign up.

7. Presentation

Elizabeth Smith McCrossin by telephone

Elizabeth has provided the commission with updates regarding the pay cut for Emergency Room locum doctors at the Pugwash Collaborative Care Center since April 1, 2025. Locums are now being paid at rates equivalent to urgent treatment

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center staff, significantly less, despite working in emergency conditions. Doctors are leaving not because of a preference, but because they feel disrespected.

The Village Commission was asked to send a formal letter to the Premier and Minister of Health requesting the reinstatement of previous pay rates. A press release was also recommended for public awareness.

Commissioner Parker moved, and Commissioner MacEwan seconded the motion to draft a letter and release a public statement regarding the matter related to the Emergency Room Locum and the decrease in wages for emergency room doctors.

Motion Carried

8. Reports

8.1 Clerk-Treasurer Report

- We are hosting our first annual egg hunt in the park on Friday. I have 60+ people signed up so far. It is happening Saturday at 1:00 PM
- I hired administrative assistant Kesiina Kushner. Also hired VIC staff, who will start when the farmer's market opens—the long weekend in May.
- The VIC center setup is progressing, and we are applying for a grant to support fall renovations.
- Rachel Galbraith is returning as recreation director! We are working with the county and Schools Plus on summer projects and activities. We are excited that the county is joining us in these efforts.
- I received funding from Canada Revenue for two summer students.
- On Wednesday, Duncan and I are attending the Empowering Cumberland event. We will be on a panel to discuss Duncan's role at the village hall and how we support employees who identify as having a disability.
- We have renovated another room. Elizabeth Smith McCrossin and her team are relocating, and the parole officer will also be relocating to work there.
- Code of conduct training is to be completed by the commissioners by April 30th, 2025.

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8.2 Financials

Village of Pugwash Taxes 2025/2026

This is to confirm that the Pugwash Village Commission held its monthly meeting on April 14th, 2025, and passed the following motion:

MOVED by Commissioner David MacEwan, SECONDED by Commissioner Matthew Parker that the Pugwash Village tax rate for the 2025/2026 Fiscal year will be set at \$.37 per \$100.00 for residential resource properties and \$.44 per \$100.00 for commercial properties per assessment.

MOTION CARRIED

Therefore, the Pugwash Village tax rate will remain the same as the 2024/2025 Fiscal year rate.

- Village Funds: \$119,000 in the village account.
- Gathering of the Clans: \$35,000 available

8.3 Standing Committees

8.3.1 Accessibility

- Commissioner MacEwan reported that the Final report was submitted.
- Amanda Purdy was awarded the Community Accessibility Work.

8.3.2 Audit

- The audit committee is to meet on April 23, 2025, at 3:30 pm.

8.4 Community Committees

8.4.1 Communities in Bloom

- Meeting Thursday from 1 to 3 PM. Concerns include cleaning street signs, replacing a spray-painted stop sign, and a dangerous walkway at the train station.

8.4.2 Association of Nova Scotia Villages

- **No updates – The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 17, 2025.**

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8.5 Advisory Committees – None to report

9. New or Other Business

9.1 Event Planning – Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter egg hunt is scheduled for Friday, April 18, 2025, with a rain date set for Saturday, April 19, 2025. Parker Overhead Doors and DJ Dave Services provided sponsorship of \$300.00 each.

New Business

A discussion took place regarding the proper installation of a flagpole and the necessary adjustments for the strings and mounting. This was to discuss the erection of a third flagpole in the park, which was taken out during the construction of the stage.

10. Adjournments

The meeting was adjourned at **8:05 p.m.** by a motion from Commissioner Duncan.

The next regular Village meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on June 9th, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Christie Blackie
Acting Clerk-Treasurer

Chair _____

Clerk Treasurer _____