

January 4, 2016

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Monday, January 4, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Dist.	1	Clr. Sally Fraser
	2	Clr. Deborah Wadden
	4	Warden Ronald Baillie
	5	Clr. Robert Parker
	6	Clr. Jim Turple
	7	Clr. David Parker
	8	Clr. Leonard Fraser
	9	Clr. Larry Turner
	11	Deputy Warden Andy Thompson
	12	Clr. Chester Dewar
	13	Clr. Randy Palmer
	14	Clr. Scott Johnston

ABSENT

	3	Clr. Edward MacMaster
	10	Clr. Jamie Davidson

IN ATTENDANCE

Don Fraser, Solicitor, MacIntosh, MacDonnell & MacDonald
Brian Cullen, CAO/Municipal Clerk-Treasurer
Karen E. Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer
Jane Johnson, Recording Secretary

BY APPOINTMENT

Scott Adamson re Dunmaglass Rd. Cell Tower

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Baillie called the meeting to order and requested that Councillors stand and take a moment in silence to pray or simply reflect, as may be their preference, to help Council focus and properly do the work of the County.

WELCOME

Warden Baillie welcomed Tim Houston, MLA for Pictou East and Karla MacFarlane, MLA for Pictou West to the Council Chambers.

AGREED – CLOSED SESSION

It was agreed that Council meet in closed session following the committee reports to discuss matters relating to personnel.

AGENDA

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. S. Fraser that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

MINUTES

It was moved by Clr. L. Fraser and seconded by Clr. Palmer that the minutes of December 7, 2015 be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- a) NS TIR – Outlining the variety of methods used to rehabilitate and preserve driving surfaces which have allowed the Department to upgrade an increased overall number of roads and kilometers of roads within the same budget constraints.
- b) UNSM – Suggesting that Council write to the Minister of Health & Wellness & the Department of Seniors in support of the Province’s direction in developing the draft Active Transportation Policy Framework and expressing interest in being a key partner in the formation of the Framework’s implementation strategies.
- c) A card of appreciation (uncirculated) has been received from the “Kicken Vixens” Roller Derby Team for the recreation grant provided by Council.

Clr. Turple asked if Highways 376 and 256 will be considered for further upgrading because of the poor condition of these roads.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Turple and seconded by Clr. R. Parker that a letter be sent to Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal asking if Highways #376 and #256 are going to be resurfaced.

Motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF INDIVIDUALS & GROUPS

There were no recognitions of individuals or groups.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

POWER OUTAGE – HEAT PUMPS

Clr. Dewar reported that on December 28, 2015 there were power outages throughout Pictou County and in Lorne there were 12 homes that had their heat pumps destroyed. These pumps were installed properly but the power outage has created a huge expense for these residents.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. Turple that a letter be sent to Nova Scotia Power Inc. asking that the company reimburse the 12 residents in Lorne who had their heat pumps destroyed as a result of the power outage.

Motion carried.

LISMORE DINNER THEATRE

Clr. S. Fraser informed Council that on March 4th – 6th a dinner theatre will be held at the Lismore Hall and tickets can be purchased from her for \$30 each for anyone wanting to attend.

MEETING REMINDER

Warden Baillie reminded Council of the off-site Council meeting that will be held at the Plymouth Community Hall on January 23, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

PRESENTATION – DUNMAGLASS RD. CELL TOWER, SCOTT ADAMSON (7: 10 P.M.)

Mr. Scott Adamson addressed Council and advised that he is representing his neighbors as well as himself who live on the Dunmaglass Road. Copies of information, a petition and pictures were distributed to Council in regards to the installation of a cell tower on the road. Mr. Adamson reported that 100% of year-round residents on the Dunmaglass Road oppose the tower's location and are requesting that Council support the removal of the tower. He advised that Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal granted a permit to install this tower with no specification on setback from vehicular traffic. Mr. Adamson reported that he e-mailed the local Area Manager indicating that there are concerns about the tower's location as it affects road maintenance, safety and snowing clearing. Mr. Adamson received an e-mail response from Troy Webb in regards to the cell tower and noted TIR granted a permit for this tower. Mr. Adamson informed Council that the residents are requesting that the tower be removed. In the e-mail received from Troy Webb he states, "There was no offset distance specified in the permit application by the applicant and this is a matter I will be reviewing with the applicant, as I do agree with you that the pole placement appears to be rather close to the edge of the gravel road." Mr. Webb also stated, "There is no public consultation process for the erection of utility poles within highway right-of-way limits, however we often encourage applicants to consult with abutting landowners to investigate possible concerns (mainly when abutting a residential property) but there is no requirement to do so, provided the installation is situated within highway right-of-way. This particular cell tower is 17 ft. from the center of Dunmaglass Road to the south face of the tower.

Mr. Adamson referred to an e-mail he sent out to various people about the concerns of the residents who live on Dunmaglass Road regarding the location of the cell tower. In the e-mail he stated, "I am sure that such a pole would not be erected at the pull off in Arisaig as that too is one such beautiful view. So why here! Anyone would be readily able to assess that this pole is too close to vehicular traffic." Mr. Adamson reported that MLA Tim Houston was out to visit the site and measured the distance of the NSP pole to the center of the Dunmaglass Road and that was 32 ft. The measurement from the center of the Dunmaglass Road to the north side of the Dunmaglass Road and the face of the cell tower is 17 ft. On November 17, 2015 Mr. Adamson sent Mr. Webb another e-mail indicating he had problems with his previous e-mail. In an earlier e-mail he had shared the Municipality's policy on Antenna Siting with Mr. Webb and he indicates he was not aware of this information pertaining to cellular tower installations.

Mr. Adamson referred to the photographs distributed this evening that show the location of the cellular tower. There is a meter box attached to the tower that will be snowed under because the tower is located so close to the road. He informed Council that he was speaking with Mr. Todd White, Executive Director with CRINS who informed him that a representative was out and visited the site. Mr. Adamson referred to Section 9.2.3 of the Antenna System Siting Review and Consultation Protocol, advising that according to Mr. White he had no knowledge of this tower's presence. If things are as untoward as they appear to be with this tower then what might be the next step Council may take in regards to Section 9.2.3?

The CAO replied that if the proponent has not followed the protocol the Municipality would write to Industry Canada stating we have a non-compliant proponent and ask them to become party to our protocol and work through the system.

The Solicitor explained when the protocol was implemented it was largely a tool that the Federal Government and Industry Canada has allowed municipalities and local authorities to get public input. The role of the Municipality under the protocol would be largely to identify issues to the Federal Government.

Mr. Adamson pointed out the tower is over 15 m. so according to the Municipality's policy there needs to be consultation with proper notice given.

The CAO pointed out that we are referencing the proponent and not CRINS.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. S. Fraser and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the matter of the cell tower on the Dunmaglass Road be referred to CRINS and that CRINS be instructed to ask the proponent to cease any work on the cell tower until they are in compliance with our Antenna Siting Protocol.

Clr. D. Parker asked if there was electricity on the pole and Mr. Adamson replied that it was pre-wired and it would be even more obtrusive because of the wires that would need to be strung from the pole. He also informed Council that Mr. White has been in contact with the proponent and has advised them not proceed any further. Mr. Adamson reported that he asked Mr. White what authority CRINS has to notify NSP for refusal to hook it up and Mr. White informed him that authority is not available in Nova Scotia.

Clr. D. Parker asked Mr. Adamson if he met with the proponent and identified other possible sites and Mr. Adamson responded that he called the proponent who informed him that he would get back to him but he didn't call back. Additionally Troy Webb had also indicated to the proponent that he should contact Mr. Adamson but that has not happened either. They did check into other sites and there may be one on MacGillivray Lane.

Clr. R. Parker reported that people want good reception but the issue is where the cell towers are sited and asked if the proponents know this protocol exists or are they just ignoring it. He also questioned the onus on the Municipality to notify Industry Canada of these concerns now that CRINS is involved.

The CAO responded that part of the Federal regime is that the carriers are to contact the local authority. He reported having spoken with Mr. White at CRINS today who indicated that the larger carriers are required to notify the authorities but this particular proponent is not a carrier under the act because they are not a telecommunications carrier so an exemption could apply to them. The onus is on the carrier to contact the local authority as a requirement of the Act. CRINS does represent the Municipality so it would be fair to use them as the process for the flow of information to Industry Canada.

Clr. Palmer asked Mr. Adamson if there was a tower in the area that would serve the same purpose and Mr. Adamson replied that there is no other tower. He informed Council that this tower was originally on the south side of the Ardness/Bailey's Brook Road but it was removed and installed on the Dunmaglass Road.

Mr. Adamson commented that if TIR was not able to permit any of these cell towers prior to the Municipality approving them through the Antenna siting protocol then a lot of agony would be avoided. This tower is very easy to service because of its accessibility and cell signal.

Clr. Palmer pointed out if a cell tower is under 50 ft. the Municipality has no jurisdiction.

Motion carried.

Warden Baillie thanked Mr. Adamson for his presentation and excused him from the balance of the meeting. (7:50 p.m.)

PROPERTY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

Clr. D. Parker presented the report of the Property Services Committee as follows:

PROPERTY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

For information purposes the Property Services Committee submits the following report on the activities of the Committee for the month of December:

1. Met in closed session to discuss matters relating to litigation or potential litigation and contract negotiation, and provided appropriate direction to staff.
2. Reviewed the report of the Building Inspector, By-Law/Dog Control Officer and Warden for the month of November.
3. Discussed the status of on-going projects. Construction has started on the Highway 4 Water & Wastewater Project with completion expected in the spring. The Lyon's Brook/Scotsburn System

requires a meeting with the Solicitor to review contract documentation before a legal opinion is offered on a proposal from the contractor. Public consultation is on-going on a proposed sewer line extension on Smith's Lane in Abercrombie. The design documents for the Hopewell Wastewater Extension are complete in anticipation of a spring tender call. 10% of the LED street lights were installed at the end of November, primarily in the western portion of the Municipality.

4. Reviewed correspondence from the Department of Environment outlining amendments to the Municipality's current operating approval for the Hopewell/Eureka Sewage Treatment Plant which will require the Municipality to work towards adherence to the Atlantic Canada Wastewater Guidelines Manual for Collection, Treatment & Disposal by January 1, 2020, as well as adding an expiry date of December 15, 2025 to the approval.
5. Agreed to discuss the possibility of investigating the bulk purchase of insurance for community halls throughout the Municipality at the January meeting.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 4th of January, 2016.

(Sgd.) David Parker
Jim Turple

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. Turple that the report of the Property Services Committee be received for information purposes.
Motion carried.

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

Clr. Palmer presented the report of the Financial Services Committee as follows:

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

For information purposes the Financial Services Committee submits the following report on the activities of the Committee for the month of December:

1. Reviewed the List of Accounts Paid for the month of November.
2. Reviewed tender results for the replacement of lift stations in Priestville/Walkerville. (Resolution to follow)
3. Agreed to proceed with advertisements for the disposition of two surplus vehicles.
4. Reviewed the report of the Recreation Coordinator for the months of October & November.
5. Considered several requests for financial assistance. (Resolution to follow)
6. Discussed the accumulated operating deficit for the Pictou County Wellness Centre as at March 31, 2015.
7. Received a briefing from Clr. D. Parker on the recent activities of the Pictou County Firefighters Association.
8. Agreed to discuss material received from DSTN at the January meeting.
9. Met in closed session to discuss matters relating to personnel.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 4th day of January, 2016.

(Sgd.) Randy Palmer
Chester Dewar

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Dewar that the report of the Financial Services Committee be received for information purposes.

Motion carried.

REPORT – MUNICIPAL ALCOHOL PROJECT

Clr Wadden reported that the MAP Committee met on December 9, 2015 to work on more details for the Inter-generational forum to be held, tentatively in February, 2016 at the Wellness Centre. Once plans are finalized we will be issuing invitations. Two very positive meetings with the reps from our high schools have been held at North Nova Education Center so far with our final meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 7, 2016 at Northumberland Regional High School. We are very pleased with the leadership roles the youth have taken on this initiative and the motivation they have to see this project through. Basically, what is being planned is multiple generations working together on a common long-term goal with those who have mutual interests. The long-term goal(s) we would like to see after our forum is the sense we are having an impact on our community, that all community members involved leave the forum feeling encouraged and empowered with a better understanding of each other by sharing our experiences and a stronger foundation of respect - somewhat a bridging the gap between each generation represented at this forum. I think it is so important that Council realizes this committee is not just about the harms of alcohol and how we can get that message out especially to our youth in our community but also to show the youth that they can learn from our generation just as we can learn from theirs. Each youth committee member (and there are 7 members) is being asked to invite three (3) adults between 19 – 30, 31 – 55 and 55+. The youth are really eager to work on this project and we anticipate approximately 20 students from each of the three high schools, so we anticipate a pretty lively crew. As MAP Committee members we too have suggested some participants so if any of you have any suggestions please let me know.

REPORT – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

Clr. R. Parker reported the Economic Development Working Group's next meeting is to be held on January 14, 2016 where the group will try and come up with a focus on the key areas whether it is through education or a method to sell this county. It is Council's job to provide the political leadership to make something happen in conjunction with the other groups working in a similar direction.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clr. Turple reported that he received a telephone call from a resident who informed him that the recycling truck is not going up the Campbell Hill Road on a regular basis to pick up the recycling. Clr. Turple reported that he called the Landfill Site last Friday and asked that someone call him back so he would know that the recycling was going to be picked up but he did not receive any call.

Warden Baillie informed Clr. Turple to call the Landfill Site and ask to speak with Earle Cameron about the issue.

CLOSED SESSION - PERSONNEL

Council met in closed session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss matters relating to personnel.

OPEN SESSION

Council resumed in open session at 8:20 p.m.

RESOLUTION – LIFT STATION TENDERS

Deputy Warden Thompson presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS public tenders were called for the replacement of two lift stations in Priestville/Walkerville identified as PS1 & PS2 on an inventory of municipal infrastructure;

WHEREAS three tenders were received and considered as follows:

	<u>TENDER AMOUNT (Excluding HST)</u>
C. F. Construction	\$475,000.00
Dexter Construction Company Ltd.	541,900.00
S. W. Weeks Construction Ltd.	871,000.00

WHEREAS all tenders have been reviewed by the Director of Public Works & Development to determine compliance with tender specifications;

WHEREAS all bidders have exceeded the estimated project cost of \$370,000;

WHEREAS the Director of Public Works & Development advises that no material changes to the scope of work required can be carried out to reduce tender costs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council accept the lowest tender received for the replacement of 2 lift stations in Priestville/Walkerville and award the contract to C. F. Construction in the amount of \$475,000 + HST.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 4th day of January, 2016.

(Sgd.) Andy Thompson
Randy Palmer

MOTION

It was moved by Deputy Warden Thompson and seconded by Clr. Palmer that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented.

Clr. D. Parker asked if we will be budgeting to replace 2 or 3 lift stations every year for the next several years and the CAO replied we will be budgeting a minimum of 1 for the next several years.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – MUNICIPAL GRANTS

Clr. L. Fraser presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the payment of the following Municipal Grants:

Council:

Dr. W. a. MacLeod Consolidated	\$ 500.00)	
East Pictou Middle School	500.00)	
F. H. MacDonald Elementary School	500.00)	
North Nova Education Centre School	500.00)	
Northumberland Regional High School	500.00)	Breakfast Program Expenses
Saltsprings Elementary School	500.00)	
Scotsburn Elementary School	500.00)	
Thorburn Consolidated School	500.00)	
West Pictou Consolidated School	500.00)	
Pictou West Food Bank	500.00	Operating Expenses
Pictou East Food Bank	<u>500.00</u>	Operating Expenses
TOTAL:	\$ 5,500.00	

Municipal Services:

D07 Greenhill Alma United Church	\$ 5,000.00	Repurposing of funds originally approved on July 6, 2015 to replace the roof. The funds will now be used to update the wiring for exterior lighting
	\$ 5,000.00	
GRAND TOTAL:	<u>\$ 10,500.00</u>	

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 4th day of January, 2016

(Sgd.) Leonard Fraser
Larry Turner

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. L. Fraser and seconded by Clr. Turner that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – RETURNING OFFICER APPOINTMENT

Deputy Warden Thompson presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the four partners of the Memorandum of Understanding on Municipal Reform have agreed on the merits of appointing one single Returning Officer to conduct the proposed plebiscite in May, 2016;

WHEREAS the Towns of New Glasgow, Pictou and Stellarton have each expressed willingness to purchase Returning Officer service from the Municipality rather than staff their elections internally or through contracted employees;

WHEREAS the Financial Services Committee, in its capacity as the Nominating Committee, has agreed to sell Returning Officer services to its MOU partners for both the plebiscite in May and the Council election(s) in October, 2016, and has directed staff to advertise for a term employee to carry out this work;

WHEREAS advertisements were placed in the local papers resulting in 12 applications which were reviewed independently by the CAO and Deputy Municipal Clerk who agreed on the selection of 2 applicants for interviews;

WHEREAS interviews were conducted on December 10th & 11th which included an explanation of the process of the MOU, the typical election process, and the process around a possible amalgamated Council, together with an review of the previous experience of each applicant, their understanding of the requirements of the Municipal Elections Act and their abilities to manage the complexities facing the municipal units over the next 12 months;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council appoint Josephine MacDonald as Returning Officer for the Municipality to conduct all elections on behalf of the MOU partners in the 2016 calendar year.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 4th day of January, 2016.

(Sgd.) Andy Thompson
Sally Fraser

MOTION

It was moved by Deputy Warden Thompson and seconded by Clr. S. Fraser that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented.

Motion carried.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

There were no emergency resolutions.

MOU UPDATE & QUESTIONS

Clr. Johnston asked what happens if the Municipality has a surplus before the 4 units amalgamate and Warden Baillie responded that the surplus stays with the Municipality.

Clr. Johnston asked what happens if the Municipality has a surplus after amalgamation and Warden Baillie responded that post-amalgamation surpluses go to the new Municipality.

The CAO pointed out that we are required by law to budget on a balanced budget so a surplus is performance-based.

Clr. D. Parker asked if Municipal Services Grants will still be available with a new municipality and the CAO replied that part of the MOU has them maintained but we do not know what they will look like.

Clr. R. Parker reported he was a bit concerned that if the plebiscite was in favor of amalgamation then this Council loses control because at that time a Transition Officer will be appointed. The Transition Officer will then be charge of hiring a CAO and getting everything all set up for a new regional municipality. Clr. R. Parker asked what the post plebiscite period looks like and what ability this Council has between June and October, particular with regard to control over the process at that point.

The CAO explained that once the plebiscite is held Council has a period of time to decide whether it is in or out of the amalgamation application and the UARB issues its final order on June 28th, 2016. Once that order is issued there is the appointment of the Transition Manager who is then charged with setting up the new municipality and who reports to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. That individual then arranges for the fall election so the Returning Officer will report to the Transition Manager. Under the provisions of the MGA the Transition Manager is charged with hiring a CAO because you need that person hired relatively quickly. The Transition Manager will hire the individual and the new Council will appoint the CAO as soon as practical. The current Council has its functions to do up until October 31, 2016 with the new Municipality coming into effect on November 1, 2016.

Clr. Dewar asked what will happen if the plebiscite results oppose amalgamation and Warden Baillie replied that everything would remain the same except that Council will be reduced from 14 members to 12.

Clr. Turple asked the percentage of the vote at the plebiscite that would determine the Municipality will move forward with amalgamation.

Warden Baillie responded that the tally would be based on the number of people who voted and it would have to go back to each Council to make a decision to support amalgamation or not. The plebiscite will give Council a good understanding of what the people want.

Clr. R. Parker pointed out once a Transition Manager is appointed it will take a lot of the democracy out of the process. Clr. R. Parker asked if this was the choice of the UARB, the MGA or the Steering Committee because it puts Council in a position where it cannot make any big decisions.

The CAO clarified that anything that the Transition Manager does the new Council ratifies so that person is developing the structure but the new Council will decide what its direction will be. The Transition Manager and the CAO will come up with the operating budgets for the new Municipality. The transition period is ensuring that when Council takes office it has the tools in place it needs.

Clr. Turner pointed out that we really need an informed public on this vote and he asked what strategies we have in place to communicate to the public what the MOU is about.

Warden Baillie explained that information on the issue will come out later in the month so the 4 Councils will look at the final package before it go to the UARB. Each Council will vote yay or nay on the pre-conditions and then move onto the plebiscite. There will probably be mail-outs to all residents and advertising for public meetings. Warden Baillie suggested that every Councillor should have a meeting in their own area so the residents can receive an overview on the voluntary and conditional application that has been made to the UARB.

In the event that 1 of the 4 units votes against amalgamation, Clr. L. Fraser asked if the 3 remaining units would continue with the process and Warden Baillie responded that it would not stop the process.

Deputy Warden Thompson pointed out that this transition has happened in Springhill and Canso but was mandated by the UARB. The UARB is going to hold public sessions and this process has already been carried out in the last 5 years since it first started in Canso.

Clr. Turple commented that the 4 units are still moving forward with amalgamation with this Municipality still having the voting power, and asked if this Municipality would continue to have the voting power if the Towns of Trenton and Westville join the new regional government.

Warden Baillie explained that the Municipality has approximately 23,000 people, however amalgamation is not about power but is about doing something that is right and making Pictou County a better place to live.

Clr. R. Parker reported that he disagrees with the Deputy Warden that the blueprint has already been set as was done in Springhill and Canso. This is a voluntary amalgamation where we have to set up a new system. He still has a concern over democracy when our Council and other Councils have no input into that future Council. Once the decision is made by this Council and the other Councils to go ahead with the plebiscite he questioned if we as Councillors should be acting in a selling mode or information mode to the residents.

Warden Baillie expressed his opinion that we go into information mode where we inform the residents that public information is available through the UARB and the Councils. It is up to the individual Councillors to make that decision but it is important that we give the correct information.

Clr. Palmer asked if a new Council would work with the current fiscal budgets of the 4 municipal units.

The CAO replied that the Municipality of the County of Pictou will pass a 12 month operating budget so at the end of October it is a book entry where the revenues are pro-rated for that portion and set-up on the County of Pictou's books as deferred revenue. This deferred revenue is then transferred to the new unit.

Clr. Turner asked if there will be public consultation on the different modules and the CAO replied that the Human Resources report was presented to staff.

ABERDEEN HOSPITAL – MENTAL HEALTH UNIT

Clr. D. Parker recognized MLAs Tim Houston and Karla MacFarlane for their efforts on this process. He reported that he feels frustrated and there are people in his district as well as people that he knows that have mental health issues. He understands that the hospital has hired a psychiatrist and we were told from the beginning they had to find one in order to open the Mental Health Clinic again. He suggested sending

another letter with specific information and timeframe when the clinic may open again. The people that are desperate need to know we are trying to resolve this and there is hope.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. Dewar that a letter be sent to the Minister of Health with a copy to the Nova Scotia Health Authority asking for specific information on when the Mental Health Unit of the Aberdeen Hospital will be re-opened and that the Chair of the N.S. Health Authority meet with Council.

Clr. S. Fraser informed Council the Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team Unit is a service that is available to help people cope with mental illness. The # is 1-888-429-8167 and is 24/7 so you can call from anywhere in Nova Scotia.

Clr. R. Parker reported as the months move on the Minister has stated the money is there but even after 5 months have passed they are saying they cannot find anyone for the Mental Health Unit. You can read between the lines that the Minister is looking for other options which means they will not be re-opening the unit. Clr. R. Parker reported that this is a result of 1 giant health board which is supposed to be good for us and now we do not have a health board in Pictou County to speak for us. We are trying to attract businesses and people here but we cannot have our own mental health unit for people when they really need it. A lot of these cases are really urgent and to compound what is going on the help line is about to close so that is where a lot of people go first. We need to invite the Minister to come here and meet with Council to explain to people what is going on.

Clr. L. Fraser pointed out there is a big turmoil with mental health in the province of Nova Scotia and not just Pictou County. This is a very important topic to the people who need the service but it seems like it is not very important to the Minister. If the Premier was doing his job he would tell the Minister to get this issue resolved.

Warden Baillie informed Council that he talked with the Minister about this issue and he too is very disappointed.

Motion carried.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES & NOTICES OF MOTION

Clr. S. Fraser asked that the administration review the policy on cell towers to ensure that it meets all the guidelines established by Industry Canada.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. S. Fraser that the meeting adjourn.
Motion carried. (9:15 p.m.)

Ronald Baillie
Warden

Carolyn MacIntosh
Deputy Municipal Clerk