

August 2, 2022

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building, and by videoconference and teleconference on Tuesday August 2, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Dist. 1 Cir. Don Butler  
2 Cir. Deborah Wadden  
4 Cir. Mary Elliott  
5 Deputy Warden Wayne Murray  
6 Warden Robert Parker  
8 Cir. Larry Turner  
9 Cir. Peter Boyles  
11 Cir. Andy Thompson  
12 Cir. Chester Dewar

**REGRETS**

Dist. 3 Clr. Darla MacKeil (Illness)  
7 Cir. David Parker (Out of Province)  
10 Cir. Randy Palmer (Representing Council at Canada Games  
Athlete event)

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Brian Cullen, CAO, Municipal Clerk-Treasurer  
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer  
Sueann Musick, Communications Officer  
Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development  
(by video-conference)  
Evan Hale, Emergency Services Director

**BY APPOINTMENT**

Community Support Society of River John represented by Alan  
McNutt, Dolly Mertin, Sally Jackson and Mike Jackson

**CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Warden R. Parker called the meeting to order and invited Councilors to pray or reflect, as may be their preference, to help Council focus and properly do the work of the Municipality, and to remember our indigenous communities. He acknowledges that we are on the ancestral territorial lands of the Mikmaqi people and would like to thank the Mikmaqi people today for their ancestors sharing these precious lands with all our ancestors whether they arrived here 400 years ago or 4 years ago. May we all live in peace and harmony together.

Warden Parker asked that Council remember the families of the four individuals

killed in a car accident this past weekend near Exit 26 on Highway 104.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Clr. Boyles, seconded by Clr. Elliott that the agenda be approved as accepted.

Motion Carried.

### **ERRORS AND OMISSIONS/CORRECTION OF MINUTES- JULY 4, 2022**

The minutes of the July 4, 2022, Council Meeting were reviewed by the Municipal Council. Clr. Elliott pointed out that under the FCM report, "Cowessess" was incorrectly spelled and that the word "pack" is missing under comments by Clr. Turner on page 10. There were no further additions, deletions, or clarifications entered by members of Council. The Warden proclaimed the minutes of the meeting of July 4, 2022, as the official record of the meeting.

### **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION:**

Thank you letters for grants:(not circulated): Pictou County Ground Search and Rescue; French River Cemetery Society; Riverview Volunteer Association; Festival of the Tartans.

Thank you letters for Bursaries: North Nova Education Centre (Principal), Tatamagouche Regional Academy (Principal), Northumberland Regional High School; Taryn Musick, Ashley Kenney, Eilidh Cameron

### **PRESENTATION: COMMUNITY SUPPORT SOCIETY OF RIVER JOHN**

Alan McNutt presented to Council on the River John Food Bank project. The Community Support Society is a registered not-for profit organization in Nova Scotia. The idea started was as a food bank to support the people in need of food security, and it quickly grew to be in a foodbank and Health Center initiative. The society is now in the process of registering with the federal government as a charitable organization.

The society members are going to run the Health Center and the Food Bank. At this time there are no plan on having no employees, most of the food, usually 30 to 45%, will come from Feed Nova Scotia.

There will be a food bank in the back of the building and will be mainly food storage. In the front will be the Health Center, which will have a reception area. It'll have an examination room and there will be a few rooms for community groups like 4H or anything of that nature that was just the use the room as well. Any nonprofit, it's certainly free of charge for them to use it.

When this building was first proposed the lands were next to the ball field in River John. Unfortunately, as the project developed it became apparent that land was not suitable as it was just too small, we couldn't get the proper amount of parking. We had issues with the line of site for our driveway and things of that nature. We ended up purchasing 4 acres which was on the lands where the Community Garden was, tying our whole organization altogether. Our plan is to put the greenhouses there so we can grow food and the plan is to certify the kitchen.

The medical room examination room is a big part of the building. Currently we are in discussions with a nurse practitioner who would be operating in the building on a part time basis. We have discussed with nurses to hold foot clinics and blood collection.

In March the Province surprisingly contributed to the project equal to the amount that had been projected as the total cost of the building (\$651,000). With the need for another property, we encountered increased cost including the cost of the land, surveyors, fees, legal fees just to name a few and increased costs also came in cost of a sewer or septic system. The system is estimated to cost \$58,000. The Province of Nova Scotia has said that they would cost share on the project and the CAO has received that confirmation as well. With the provincial money available to cost share the extension of the sewer, the Support Society is asking for Council's support in this worthwhile project to extend sewer 200 meters at a cost, of \$58,000.

Clr. Wadden asked the intention of kitchen and if they would be trying to teach people how to cook different meals? Mr. McNutt responded that is the intention to have cooking classes and then teach people how to cook or traditions meals.

Clr. Turner thanked Mr. McNutt for the presentation and commented that the project is very admirable. Clr, Turner asked how many people would be in their catchment area? Mr. McNutt responded that according to government statistics there are about 3700 homes and approximately 6000 people and usually a participation rate of 12 percent.

Deputy Warden Murray asked if the Provincial Department of Health are assisting with the supplies and equipment for the health centre and who will work in the centre. Mr. McNutt stated they are working with the department and the centre will be completely run by volunteers.

Warden Parker thanked Mr. McNutt and the other members for their presentation and excused them from the balance of the meeting. Warden Parker stated that the Council will debate the request at our next meeting.

### **BACKPACK PROGRAM FUNDING**

The Council reviewed a recommendation report from staff on the funding distribution for the backpack program.

It was moved by Clr. Boyles, seconded by Clr. Elliott that Council funds the backpack program as presented in the staff recommendation.



Clr. Wadden stated that she believes in this program and will support the motion as there is a tremendous need. Deputy Warden Murray asked where the funds for the program would come from. The CAO responded that the funds would come from the contingency funds in the community grants committee. Clr. Boyles asked if the Council could revisit the program later in the year if there is a need for additional funding and that the schools should report back to us on the usage.

Clr. Turner asked for clarification on what happens if a school does not have a program. Clr. Dewar suggested that it is the principal who would make the decision on whether a program is started or continued. It was agreed that the schools could use the money for any purpose if it is related to food security or enhance the basic needs of the students.

Motion Carried.

## **RESOLUTION MUNICIPAL SERVICES GRANTS**

Clr. Turner 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 Services Grants:

#### **District 4**

River John & Area Recreation	\$3,000.00	Operating Expenses
River John Action Society	\$2,300.00	Community Projects
River John Legion Branch 108	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	Maintenance of Memorial Garden & AED Battery
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,300.00</b>	

#### **District 8**

Abercrombie Cemetery Co	\$6,000.00	Repairs & Maintenance
Abercrombie Community Centre	\$3,652.00	Repairs & Maintenance
Abercrombie Volunteer Fire Department	\$8,000.00	Down payment on Fire Truck
Alma Cemetery Trust	\$2,535.00	Grounds Keeping
Mount William Cemetery	<u>\$2,850.00</u>	Annual Maintenance
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,037.00</b>	

#### **District 11**

Churchville Cemetery	\$400.00	Cemetery Maintenance
Garden of Eden Community Centre	\$2,000.00	Operating Costs
Glencoe Hall Community Association	\$950.00	Operating Costs
SBI 4-H	<u>\$950.00</u>	Program Costs

<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$4,300.00</u></b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$34,637.00</b>

**DATED** at Pictou, NS this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 2022.

(Sgd.)                      Larry Turner  
    Peter Boyles

**MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. Turner, seconded by Clr. Boyles that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented.

Clr. Elliott stated that RJ Legion amount should be \$900 rather than \$2000. It was agreed by the mover and seconder to make this change.                      Motion Carried.

**RESOLUTION EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT VEHICLE TENDER**

Deputy Warden Murray presented a resolution to Council as follows:

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS** tenders have been called for the purchase of two SUV's for the Emergency Services Department;

**WHEREAS** the Financial Services Committee recommended that the Administration attempt to secure two Ford Escape Hybrid vehicles, rather than one standard and one hybrid:

**WHEREAS** Highland Ford provided the lowest tender for the hybrid vehicles

	<b>TENDER AMOUNT (Excluding HST)</b>
Highland Ford Sales Limited	\$76,000

**WHEREAS** the Director of Emergency Services recommended the purchase of two SUV vehicles from Highland Ford;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council accept the tender submitted by Highland Ford Sales Limited in the amount of \$76,000 for the purchase of two vehicles as detailed above.

**DATED** at Pictou, N. S. this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 2022.

(Sgd.)

Wayne Murray  
Chester Dewar

### **MOTION**

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray, seconded by Clr. Dewar that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented.

Clr. Boyles stated that everyone knows his opinion on Ford vehicles and that he will not be supporting the resolution. Clr. Boyles stated that we should be expanding our tendering area, as we have had to deliver tender packages to dealers to get them to bid. The CAO responded that while bid packages are given to local dealers to inform them of the opportunity, the tenders are issued provincially through the tender portal so anyone can take the opportunity to bid.

Motion Carried  
(1 Nay Vote: Clr. Boyles)

### **DISTRICT 9 POLICING CONCERNS SPEEDING/STAFFING LEVELS**

Clr. Boyles stated that he recently held a community meeting and invited the RCMP to attend the meeting to discuss speeding and littering within the district. The officer that attended was only able to attend for a short time as he was called to an emergency call. He did inform the people present that if a call came in, he would have to leave as there were only two people working.

The Warden thanked Clr. Boyles for bringing this issue forward. The Police Advisory Committee did meet with S/Sgt. MacCallum in June to discuss these types of concerns. This is not a concern only here in Pictou County but is being experienced province wide by municipalities. The Warden said the NSFM are looking at hosting a session in September to discuss this topic as it is a provincial issue. The Warden reminded Council that we agreed back in June not to look at doing anything related to policing until Colchester and Cumberland released details of their policing studies that are ongoing.

Clr. Boyles stated that the members of the community are not saying that we need to add additional officers, we just need to get what we are presently paying for, as there are a number of vacancies.

### **RURAL INTERNET PROJECT UPDATE**

The Committee reviewed the report circulated with the Council Package.

Clr. Wadden asked if the CAO could clarify the make ready processes. The CAO responded that it is a two-step process. Bell does a site/pole assessment on the communication space where the fibre will be placed to ensure there is room and how the fibre will be connected. Nova Scotia Power then assess the pole to ensure that the trees are cut and that the pole is still usable and that there are not interferences with the power supply.

Clr. Butler asked about the recent announcement from Development Nova Scotia and the fact that residents from Pictou County are being excluded from the



program. It was agreed that the staff would investigate this and report back to Council.

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Clr. Boyles informed the Council of a Trivia Night to be held at the Hillside Hall on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

Deputy Warden Murray thanked everyone who took part in the annual bbq to support the Scotsburn Fire Department.

Clr. Dewar thanked everyone who turned out on July 24<sup>th</sup> to assist with the evacuation of Valley View Villa.

Warden Parker highlighted the announcement made earlier in the day for funding the renovations to the deCoste Centre and the addition of the new library.

Viola's Place will be having a fundraising walk on August 20<sup>th</sup> to help with the cost of operating 20 beds.

### **EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS**

There were no emergency resolutions.

### **IN-CAMERA**

It was moved by Clr. Boyles, seconded by Clr. Turner that the meeting goes in-camera to discuss the sale of municipal property. Motion Carried (8:35 p.m.)

### **OPEN SESSION**

The meeting resumed in open session at 8:55 p.m.

### **EAST PICTOU SCHOOL PROPERTY**

It was moved by Clr. Butler, seconded by Clr. Turner that Council accepts the proposal from Rob Secco to divide the existing east Pictou school Property into three lots (school garage, former school and a lot for future development)

Motion Carried.  
(1 Nay Vote: Clr. Wadden)

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the meeting the Warden

declared the meeting adjourned. (9:00 pm).

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WARDEN

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MUNICIPAL CLERK