

July 4, 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 Monday July 4, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

- | | | |
|-------|----|----------------------------|
| Dist. | 1 | Clr. Don Butler |
| | 2 | Clr. Deborah Wadden |
| | 3 | Clr. Darla MacKeil |
| | 4 | Clr. Mary Elliott |
| | 5 | Deputy Warden Wayne Murray |
| | 6 | Warden Robert Parker |
| | 7 | Clr. David Parker |
| | 8 | Clr. Larry Turner |
| | 9 | Clr. Peter Boyles |
| | 10 | Clr. Randy Palmer |
| | 11 | Clr. Andy Thompson |
| | 12 | Clr. Chester Dewar |

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 videoconference)

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 Mikmaq people and would like to thank the Mikmaq 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.

AGENDA

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the agenda be approved.
Motion carried.

MINUTES

The minutes of the June 6, 2022, Council Meeting were reviewed by the Municipal Council. There were no additions, deletions, or clarifications entered by members of Council. The Warden proclaimed the minutes of the meeting of June 6, 2022, as the official record of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- a) Thank you, letters (not circulated), Joe Earle Memorial Race, Big Brother Big Sister's Bowl for Kid's Sponsorship.

RESOLUTION: COTTAGE COLLECTION

Clr. Elliott presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Pictou County Shared Services Authority manages curb-side solid waste collection on behalf of the Municipality of the County of Pictou;

WHEREAS as part of the collection service, cottages are provided solid waste, organic and recycling collection from the long weekend in May through to Thanksgiving in October;

WHEREAS the Municipality has received requests to extend this service beyond this timeframe, as more cottages are becoming permanent residences;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou authorize the Pictou County Shared Services Authority to extend cottage collection to December 31, 2022 as a pilot project at a cost of \$36,042.

DATED at Pictou, this the 4th day of July, 2022

Sgd. Mary Elliott
David Parker

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Elliott, seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION-MUNICIPAL SERVICES GRANTS

Clr. MacKeil presented a resolution to Council as follows:

Bellevue & Extension Cemetery Association	\$1,500.00	Maintenance of Bellevue & Hamilton Cemeteries
Salem Cemeteries	\$1,500.00	Maintenance
Mountain Road Cemetery	\$1,000.00	Maintenance
West Branch Community Hall	\$2,021.18	Renovate Hall Washrooms
Toney River Community Hall	\$3,000.00	Replace Ramp @ Hall
West Branch Hall Street Light	\$40.00	Yearly Cost
West Branch United Church Street Light	\$40.00	Yearly Cost
	Total \$9,101.18	
Salem Presbyterian Church Hall	\$2,500.00	Ice Guard Over Hall Door & Ramp
Durham Community Hall	\$3,000.00	Paint Hall, New Sign & Ladder

West River Presbyterian Church Hall	\$1,150.00	Gutters & Downspouts for Church Hall
West River Fire Department	\$3,000.00	Community Message Sign
Total	\$9,650.00	
Union Center Community Hall	\$3,000.00	A.E.D. Purchase
Stewart Cemetery	\$5,376.25	Cemetery Maintenance
Forest Hill Cemetery	\$1,900.00	Cemetery Maintenance
Friends of Caledonia Cemetery	\$2,800.00	Cemetery Maintenance
Salt Springs 4-H Club /Fraser-Irving Cemetery	\$4,000.00	Cemetery Repairs
Millbrook & Area Community Association	\$3,400.00	Heat Pump, Fridge, LED Lights, AED Batterie
Carpool Lot Street Light	\$490.00	Yearly Cost
Total	\$20,966.25	
Union Presbyterian Church	\$2,500.00	Install Electrical Panel
MacLellans Mountain Cemetery	\$3,100.00	Operating Expenses
Union Presbyterian Church Youth Group	\$1,000.00	Operating Expenses
Total	\$6,600.00	
Blue Mountain Fire Dept	\$1,500.00	Operating Costs & Equipment
Bridgeville Community Club	\$2,000.00	Operating Costs
East River Valley Community Develop. Assoc.	\$1,500.00	Newsletter Expenses
East River Valley Fire Department	\$1,500.00	Equipment Purchases
Garden of Eden Cemetery	\$400.00	Cemetery Maintenance
Plymouth Community & Recreation Assoc.	\$4,000.00	Installation of Entrance Door
Plymouth Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary	\$950.00	Equipment Purchases
Plymouth Fire Department	\$1,500.00	Operating Expenses & Equipment
Springville Cemetery	\$400.00	Cemetery Maintenance
Sunny Brae Cemetery Company	\$400.00	Cemetery Maintenance
Total	\$14,150.00	
Lorne Community Hall	\$5,000.00	Hall Upgrades
Friends of Iona Park Association	\$1,500.00	Maintenance of Park
Eureka & District Volunteer Fire Dept	\$3,000.00	On Going Project & Expenses
Hopewell First Presbyterian Church	\$500.00	War Memorial Maintenance
Elgin Cemetery	\$1,000.00	Cemetery Maintenance
Hopewell Cemetery	\$1,000.00	Cemetery Maintenance
Hopewell 4H	\$1,500.00	War Memorial Maintenance 4H Projects
East River Valley & Development Association	\$5,000.00	Newsletter & Hall Upkeep
East River Valley Recreation C/O Plymouth Community Center	\$1,500.00	Recreation for East River Valley /Plymouth
Total	\$20,000.00	
Grand Total	\$80,467.43	

DATED at Pictou, NS this 4th day of July, 2022.

(Sgd.) Darla MacKeil
Mary Elliott

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil, seconded by Clr. Elliott that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION-STREET LIGHT, HYDRANT, SEWER MAINTENANCE AREA RATES

Clr. Thompson 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 authorize the rating and collection of area rates for street lights, hydrant protection and sewer maintenance fees on applicable properties assesses in all districts as follows for the fiscal year 2022-23:

<u>Type of Area Rate</u>	<u>Rate per \$100 Assessment</u>	<u>Flat Rate Per Property</u>
Street Lights	\$ 0.052	
Street Lights (Little Harbour/Pictou Landing)	\$ 0.016	
Street Lights (Abercrombie/Granton)	\$ 0.017	
Street Lights		\$49.35
Street Lights (District 1)		\$9.09
Hydrant Fire Protection Residential		\$270.00
Hydrant Fire Protection Commercial	\$ 0.430	
Hydrant Fire Protection Institutional	\$ 0.470	
Sewer Maintenance Fee		\$325.00

DATED at Pictou, NS this 4th day of July, 2022

(Sgd.) Andy Thompson
Randy Palmer

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Thompson, seconded by Clr. Palmer that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented. Motion Carried
(1 Nay Vote-Clr. Boyles)

RESOLUTION-FIRE DEPARTMENT AREA RATES

Clr. D. Parker 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 authorize the rating and collection of the following fire rates on properties assessed in the fire coverage areas throughout the Municipality for the fiscal period 2022-23:

#	Fire Department	Rate per \$100 Assessment	Rate per Acre	Flat Rate
1	Abercrombie	\$ 0.100	\$ 0.01	\$
2	Alma	0.098	0.01	
3	Barney's River	0.195	0.01	
4	Blue Mountain	0.195	0.01	
5	Caribou	0.086	0.01	
6	East River St. Mary's	0.195	0.01	
7	East River Valley	0.195	0.01	
8	Eureka	0.133	0.01	
9	Linacy	0.162	0.01	
10	Little Harbour	0.100	0.01	
11	Merigomish	0.174	0.01	
12	Pictou Landing	0.195	0.01	
13	Plymouth	0.190	0.01	
14	River John	0.095	0.01	
15	Scotsburn	0.124	0.01	
16	Thorburn	0.133	0.01	
17	Trenton		0.01	60.45
18	West River	0.124	0.01	

BE FURTHER IT RESOLVED, that all rates and taxes as set out above shall be due and paid by the 15th day of October 2022. If such rates and taxes are not paid by the 15th day of October, 2022 an additional charge will be payable in accordance with the Municipality's Interest Rate Policy.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this the 4th day of July 2022.

(Sgd.) David Parker
Mary Elliott

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker, seconded by Clr. Elliott that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented. Motion Carried

RESOLUTION-WATER UTILITY BUDGET

Clr. Palmer 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 approved the Water Utility Budget for the 2022/23 fiscal period in the amount of \$499,800.00, the same having been reviewed and approved by the Financial Services Committee of Council.

DATED at Pictou, N. S. this 4th day of July, 2022.

(Sgd.) Randy Palmer
Andy Thompson

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Palmer, seconded by Clr. Thompson that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented. Motion Carried

RESOLUTION-RECREATION GRANTS

Clr. Dewar 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:

Recreation Grants

District 13 Recreation and Planning Commission	\$350	Start-Up Grant Pickle Ball Program
Community Recreation Program Funding	\$750	Communities of Lismore, Plymouth, River John and Thorburn

DATED at Pictou, NS this 4th day of July, 2022.

(Sgd.) Chester Dewar
Andy Thompson

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Dewar, seconded by Clr. Thompson that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented. Motion Carried

RESOLUTION-TAX EXEMPTION POLICY

Deputy Warden Murray presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that the Tax Exemption and Tax Reduction Policy be amended to delete the following from “Schedule A”:

AAN	OWNER	PROPERTY	EXTENT OF APPLICATION	CHARITABLE #
02512297 02512254 02512246	John David Lees (leased to Lansdowne Outdoor Recreation & Development Association	Lands & Buildings at 1480 Gairloch Road, Lansdowne & Lands at New Lairg, Lansdowne	The whole of the lands & buildings at Lansdowne	0761809-56-03

DATED at Pictou, NS this 4th day of July, 2022.

(Sgd.)

Wayne Murray
Peter Boyles

MOTION

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

RESOLUTION: MUNICIPAL SERVICES GRANTS DSITRIBUTION

Clr. Butler presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Policy #2019-05-51 requires Council to identify on annual basis the amount of money that will be provided in Municipal Services Grants;

WHEREAS the Municipal Council as part of its General Operating Budget has approved an expenditure of \$300,000 for the fiscal year 2022/2023;

WHEREAS the \$300,000 represents an increase of \$50,000 and the Council by Policy is required to approve the distribution of funds;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou authorize the distribution of Municipal Services Grants to the Council Districts in the following manner:

The first \$200,000 shall be distributed to each district based upon the districts' average percentage of voters, dwelling units, residential assessments, and capped residential assessment values;

The remaining funds (\$100,000) shall be distributed to each district based upon a formula that attempts to equalize the grants within the districts, a practice commonly referred to equalization.

DATED at Pictou, this the 4th day of July, 2022

(Sgd.) Don Bulter
Darla MacKeil

MOTION

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

Motion Carried

(2 Nay Votes- Clr Palmer, Wadden)

RESOLUTION: SHEEP VALUER

Clr. Dewar presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Section 9(1) of the Sheep Protection Act provides for the annual appointment of Sheep Valuers;

WHEREAS appointments to this office have been made throughout the various districts of the County of Pictou;

WHEREAS in accordance with the aforementioned Statutes of Nova Scotia, these appointments require the approval of Council;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the appointment of the following Sheep Valuers for 2022/23:

DIST. #12 Willard MacDonald

DATED at Pictou, NS, this the 4th day of July, 2022.

(Sgd.) Chester Dewar
Andy Thompson

MOTION

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

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION: NEW SCOTLAND BUSINESS PARK AREA RATE

Clr. Turner presented a resolution to Council as follows:

BACKPACK PROGRAM UPDATE

The CAO reviewed the results of the survey of the schools in Pictou County regarding the availability of a backpack program. Warden Parker stated that the decision for Council is whether to fund this program through council grants or individual district municipal services grants.

Clr. MacKeil asked if there was a budget established for this program and if there was a recommendation on how to provide funding to the schools. The CAO responded that there is no budget and that if Council decided to fund the program it would need to come from the grant contingency fund. At present there is no recommendation on the amount of funding, as Council must first decide on how the program will be funded, either council or municipal services grants.

Clr. Wadden stated that there is a need for the program and asked if the schools provided any data on the usage. The CAO responded that most schools just indicated whether or not they had the program and that there was no specific data provided on usage.

Clr. Boyles stated that the backpack program helps not only feed students but their families. Clr. Boyles stated that he felt that perhaps municipal services grants would be the best way to approach this as the groups could maybe get more money from the districts rather than a council grant.

Clr. Turner stated that the back pack program and the breakfast programs are something that is really needed and there are many factors in our communities that contribute to the need.

MOTION

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray, seconded by Clr. MacKeil that the administration be directed to develop a funding recommendation for the Backpack Program through the Council grants.

Motion Carried.

RURAL INTERNET PROJECT

The CAO provided the Council and update on the progress on the Rural Internet Project. The CAO reviewed the financial status of the project for both Phase 1 and the Wireless Project as of the end of May 2022.

The CAO indicated that work on the colocation towers is scheduled during the month of July and the Eureka tower is to be erected this week. Telecon are continuing to do the splice work in the Lyon's Brook Area and this should be completed within a couple of weeks.

The CAO indicated that the East Link Connection went down today due to a motor vehicle accident. The CAO stated that this is why we are building redundancy into the project through multiple connections to Halifax and Moncton.

The CAO indicated that the three services providers are being on boarded so they can be ready to provide service to the first 280 customers in the Lyon's Brook.

The CAO in response to a question from Clr Turner stated that the only monies that have been advanced on the next phases of the project are make ready costs and we pre-ordered some fibre to avoid some supply chain issues. The current phases of the project are trending on budget.

The CAO indicated that wireless project has received an extension to March 2023; however, we are looking at September 2022 to have the majority of towers operational.

The CAO provided an overview on how customers will be contacted and how they will arrange for service once the wireless service becomes available.

Clr. Butler asked if Starlink would have an impact on the project and the CAO indicated that it may have a 1-3 percent impact on the overall project.

Clr. Thompson asked if we have all the design work completed under phase 1 of the project. The CAO replied that we have a complete digitized design for the network, and it has been updated to reflect the fact we are not building to Truro.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clr. Boyles reported to Council that on June 25th the Linacy Fire Department hosted a fundraiser for the burn camp and they raised over \$6000.

Clr. Boyles stated that the Hillside Hall has completed its renovations and that it will be hosting an open house.

Clr. D. Parker stated that on June 24th, residents of Nancy Way gathered for the official unveiling of the Nancy's Way. Preston Lockhart wished to express his thanks to the Council for renaming the road in honour of his late wife Nancy.

Clr. Dewar indicated that the bridge in Eureka will be closed for several months to be replaced. Balodis Construction has received the contract.

Clr. Elliott reported that on Sunday July 17th, the Toney River Hall will have a BBQ takeout.

Deputy Warden Murray reported that the Scotsburn Pork BBQ will take place on July 27th with only 1000 tickets being sold.

Deputy Warden Murray informed the Council that the Lyon's Brook Women's Institute hosted a meet and greet for new comers on June 27th. The event was well attended with over 100 people from the community gathering.

Deputy Warden Murray asked the Council to send a letter to Daniel Sims for hosting the Northumberland School after prom party. It was agreed to send a letter to Mr. Sims for his assistance.

Clr. Thompson informed the Committee that the summer recreation program in the East River Valley starts tomorrow.

Clr. Elliott reminded Council of the Pictou Lobster Carnival and encouraged residents to come out and support this event.

Warden Parker informed the Council of the Grand Reopening of Trenton Park scheduled for this Wednesday.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

There were no emergency resolutions.

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Clr. Turner seconded by Clr. Elliott that Council meets in closed session to discuss matters legal matters.

Motion Carried (8:35 pm)

Open Session

Council resumed in open session at 9:00 pm

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the meeting the Warden declared the meeting adjourned.