

October 5, 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 Wednesday, October 5, 2022, at 7:45 p.m.

PRESENT

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|-------|----|----------------------------|
| 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 |
| | 10 | Clr. Randy Palmer |
| | 11 | Clr. Andy Thompson |
| | 12 | Clr. Chester Dewar |

ABSENT

- | | | |
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| | 9 | Clr. Peter Boyles (Attending conference) |
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IN ATTENDANCE

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

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.

AGENDA

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

RESOLUTION: MUNICIPAL GRANTS

Clr. Elliott presented a resolution to Council as follows:

WHEREAS tender responses were reviewed by the Director of Public Works and Development to confirm compliance with tender specifications;

WHEREAS THE Director is recommending acceptance of tenders which offer the best equipment for specific sites, the best hourly rates, and the most efficient response times;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council accept the following tenders for snow clearing for the 2022-23 and the 2023-24 winter seasons:

1. Hidden Cove Drive	C&G Yorke Construction Ltd
2. Holland Lane and Jean Street	C. F. Construction Ltd.
3. Lakeside Court	Hans Rauh
4. MacIntosh Drive	Hans Rauh
5. Maple Estates Drive	Hans Rauh
6. Maple St., Oak St., & Pine St.	Hans Rauh
7. Stanwood Dr. & Barclay Ridge Crescent	Hans Rauh
8. Nancy's Way	Hans Rauh
9. MoPC Administration Building	C & G York Construction Ltd
10. Gordon Buck MacLean Rd. & Riverton Wind Tower Site	Scott Hale
11. Alma Wastewater Pump Stations PS1/PS2 Chlorine Booster Station & Water Booster Station	Scott Hale
12. Hopewell Eureka Wastewater Treatment Plant	Scotia Plumbing
13. River John Wastewater Treatment Plant	Eugene Mertin
14. Thorburn Wastewater Treatment Plant	Scotia Plumbing
15. Riverton Wastewater Pumping Station PS1	Scotia Plumbing
16. Scotsburn Wastewater Pumping Station PS6	Randy Hunink
17. Coalburn Wastewater Pumping Station PS1	Scotia Plumbing
18. McLellans Brook Pumping Station PS1	Scotia Plumbing
19. Hopewell Eureka Wastewater PS3	Scotia Plumbing
20. Abercrombie Sidewalks	Scotia Plumbing
21. Alma Sidewalks	Scotia Plumbing
22. East River Road and Walkerville Road Sidewalks	Scotia Plumbing
23. Hopewell Sidewalks	Scotia Plumbing
24. Lyons Brook Sidewalks	Scotia Plumbing
25. Priestville Sidewalks	Scotia Plumbing
26. River John Sidewalks	Eugene Mertin
27. Riverton Sidewalks	Scotia Plumbing

28. Scotsburn Sidewalks
29. Westville Road Sidewalks

Nathan Carpenter
Scotia Plumbing

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 5th day of October, 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. Clr. D. Parker expressed concern with the cost of sanding on Holland Lane and Jean Street and asked that the Director of Public Works and Development monitor this road for costs. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION-J CLASS ROAD FUNDING

Clr. Turner presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou approved the amount of \$64,000 in the 2022-23 Operating Budget for J-Class Subdivision paving in conjunction with the Province of Nova Scotia;

WHEREAS when the tender results for this paving were received by Public Works Nova Scotia, there is a cost overrun exceeding more than 10% on the project;

WHEREAS the Financial Services Committee has recommended continuing with the project;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the new estimated cost share amount of \$56,000 for Ash Street and \$52,000 for Saunders Road for a total of \$108,000 with the additional \$44,000 to be funded from the Operating Reserve.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 5th day of October, 2022.

(Sgd.) Larry Turner
Randy Palmer

MOTION

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

The Warden reported that Pictou County Solid Waste have waived the tipping fees for organic material. Pictou County Solid Waste was not in favour of placing bins through the county as there would be no way to ensure the bins would not be contaminated. The CAO added that the other issue, is that there is a lack of bins available. Deputy Warden Murray added that contractor does not have a spare fleet of vehicles to add additional pickups of materials.

The Warden addressed the issue of a press release following up on the Saturday meeting. The Warden expressed disappointment that the press release was shared outside of the organization prior to it being released to the press. The Warden said that he was informed by the CAO within an hour of the release being sent to Council Nova Scotia Power was requesting a meeting. The Warden stated that he is meeting with Nova Scotia Power tomorrow morning.

Clr. Dewar expressed concern that the phone system did not work after the storm. He said that in many ways we have taken steps backwards as systems do not work like they use to, and the offices only have battery backups.

Clr. Palmer expressed concern with the message contained in the press release. Clr. Palmer stated that it is not Nova Scotia Power's trees that are falling on the lines, rather they are on private property. Clr. Palmer said that the crews did an amazing job at restoring power.

The Warden said that it is his job as Warden to speak on behalf of Council and he prepared the press release based upon the direction of council. The Warden stated that he did not need council approval and that a message needs to be sent to Nova Scotia Power.

Clr. MacKeil stated that she has received calls from constituents that have lost food and suffered property damage. People are hurting and Nova Scotia Power needs to be made aware and they need to understand that people have suffered real effects from this storm. People are appreciative of the efforts to restore power; however, things need to change.

Clr. Wadden stated that her residents are concerned with how they are going to get this mess cleaned up. The concern is what can be done now to get the power restored and get things picked up. Clr. Wadden feels that we should be sending the message of what we are going to do to help now. The Warden said we simply just do not have the answers at present on what we are going to do as we do not have answers or resources identified.

Clr. Thompson said that he agrees with Clr. Palmer and does not believe that we should issue this statement. Clr. Thompson read a post from a resident on the efforts of the crews to restore power. Clr. Thompson said it is not helpful to point fingers at this point; we need to provide a message of hope.

Clr. Turner said the issue seems to be around the timing of the release; however, should the question be asked of Nova Scotia Power, after the autopsy of this event, Did Nova Scotia Power respond appropriately; did they have the appropriate resources and hopes that a full review will take place. Is Nova Scotia Power able to respond to another storm in three years. The tone may not be palatable to all, but the questions are appropriate. Clr. Turner said that he was disappointed by the breach of protocol that the release was given to Nova Scotia Power prior to its release.

Clr. D. Parker said that he agrees with Clr. Palmer's assertion that the trees that fell were not Nova Scotia Power's trees. Nova Scotia Power did not have the appropriate resources deployed to our area. Clr. Parker stated that they need to lose their monopoly and their excessive profits. This storm was massive, but the response was not properly assessed, and the resources needed to restore the damage. In his district, in particular the community in which he lives they did not see a power crew for 11 days. There is a lot of anger and there needs to be answers to many of the questions about the assessments made in the hours after the storm.

The Warden asked for a show of hands on who was in favor of sending out the press release. The majority of councillors were in favour of sending it out.

Clr. Wadden asked about streetlights that are lying in the ditch. Mr. McDowell responded that residents should report those occurrences to the office and we can respond and assess the situation for repair and recovery.

Clr. Wadden asked about the trails and park clean up. The CAO responded that the primary focus has been on restoring access to properties and

Clr. MacKeil stated that she received a complaint that garbage collection in part of her district was not completed today. The Warden said that staff will check with Pictou County Solid Waste on what changes are made.

Clr. Parker asked if a state of emergency would have given the local authorities to protect fuel supplies for emergency vehicles. The CAO replied that the state of emergency could give powers such as this. The fuel supply issue was examined and was resolved quickly, so declaring the state of emergency did not provide any advantages to local authorities. The state of emergency declared today was to enable the military to assist private individuals and do other taskings directed by the province.

Clr. Wadden asked about the financial assistance programs and the help we can provide on this. The CAO replied that the programs are provincial, and we were supposed to receive training on how to assist residents; however, that training did not happen so at this point the appropriate thing is to refer them to MLA offices.

NSFM CONFERENCE

The members of Council identified to staff who would be attending the conference (D1, D2 (spouse), D4, D5 (spouse); D6, D7, D9, D11).

ADJOURN

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