

August 6, 2024

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building by videoconference and teleconference on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, 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
Sueann Musick, Director of Corporate Services/Deputy Clerk
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer
Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services
Shellie Pettipas, Administrative Assistant
Adam MacInnis, Communications Officer

ABSENT

Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development

CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Warden Parker called the meeting to order and invited Councillors 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 four years ago. May we all live in peace and harmony together.

AGENDA

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the agenda be approved as presented. **Motion Carried**

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

No emergency resolutions were brought forward.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Warden Parker asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for the July 2, 2024 Council Meeting. The minutes of the July 2, 2024, Council Meeting were reviewed by the Municipal Council. Warden Parker proclaimed the minutes of the meeting of July 2, 2024, as the official record of the meeting.

Clr. Wadden noted that the New Scotland Business Park report was missing from the minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Thank you from Northumberland Regional High School for MOPC Graduation Bursaries.
- b. Thank you from North Nova Education Centre for the MOPC Graduation Bursaries.
- c. Thank you from Northumberland Regional High School Graduate Austin Cullen for the MOPC Bursary.
- d. Thank you from North Nova Education Centre Graduate Lane MacFarlane for the MOPC Bursary.
- e. Thank you from North Nova Education Centre Graduate Blaine Wilson for the MOPC Bursary.
- f. Thank You from Tatamagouche Regional High School for the MOPC Bursary.
- g. Letter from NS Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding Canada Community-Building Fund.
- h. Letter from NS Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the coordination of the Emergency Alert System.

BUSINESS ITEMS NOT REQUIRING ACTION

The East River Business Park Business Development Report was received as presented.

BUSINESS ITEMS OR ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL POLICY

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. Dewar adopt the following Committees of Council Policy. **Motion Carried**

RESOLUTION

BE It RESOLVED the Municipality of the County of Pictou adopt the following resolution, which updates the Committees of Council Policy:



POLICY # 2024-08-06

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL POLICY

In accordance with Section 23(1) (c) of the Municipal Government Act, being Chapter 18 of the Revised Statutes of Nova Scotia, 1998, the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou hereby enacts a policy with respect to committees of Council as follows:

1. POLICY

1.1. The Council hereby establishes the following standing committees:

- 1.1.1. Committee of the Whole Council.
- 1.1.2. Executive Committee.
- 1.1.3. Financial Services Committee.
- 1.1.4. Property Services Committee.
- 1.1.5. Audit Committee.

2. NOMINATIONS

- 2.1. The Financial Services Committee shall nominate:
 - 2.1.1. at the regular November meeting of the Council, the members to all standing committees and other committees for a period of one year unless otherwise specified by the terms of reference for that committee.
 - 2.1.2. at the regular November meeting of the Council, the members to all boards and commissions where a vacancy exists due to the expiration of the term of office of any such member, and the Municipality is authorized to fill such vacancy.
 - 2.1.3. at the April meeting of the Council appoint citizen representatives to Committees or to district and county offices as are required by By-Laws or Statutes of Nova Scotia, for a period of ~~one~~ two years.
- 2.2. Notwithstanding anything in this policy, in any election year, at the regular November meeting, the Warden shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of three members of Council as a special committee of Council and the nominating committee at that meeting shall nominate all members of the standing committees of Council.
- 2.3. Every such nomination shall be subject to the approval of the Council, to be determined at the meeting at which such nomination is presented, unless otherwise expressly provided, and the Council may reject any nominee of the Financial Services Committee and appoint another in his stead.
- 2.4. If any Councilor appointed a member of a standing committee, or a committee other than a standing committee, ceases to be a Councilor, he shall thereupon cease to be a member of such Committee, and the Financial Services Committee shall, subject to the approval of the Council, appoint another to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

2.5. A vacancy happening in respect of any member appointed by the Council, or any board or commission, may be filled by resolution of the Council, at any meeting, and without giving any notice of motion.

2.6. The Council may, by a majority vote, remove any member of a committee, or any member of a board or commission, which it has power to appoint.

3. SPECIAL COMMITTEES (Ad-HOC)

3.1. A special committee consisting of at least three members may be appointed from time to time, for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting upon any matter referred to such committee by resolution of the Council.

3.2. It will be the duty of all committees to report on matters referred to them by the Council. The report shall be in writing, signed by the Chairman or a majority thereof. If the committee is not unanimous, the minority may submit a separate report. Such reports shall be filed in a convenient form and be preserved as part of the records of the proceedings of the Council.

3.3. A number of three members or a majority of members of each special committee, whichever is the greater, shall form a quorum of such committee.

3.4. The Warden shall be a member ex-officio of all special committees and shall be entitled to vote at any meeting thereof.

4. COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

4.1. Except for the Executive Committee, the standing and special committees of Council shall elect a Chair and a Deputy Chair from among their members.

- 4.2. The standing and special committees of the Council may constitute such subcommittees as they deem necessary to the proper discharge of their duties.
- 4.3. A majority of members of each committee shall form a quorum of each committee.
- 4.4. Every standing committee shall determine the time and place of the regular meetings of such committees, provided, however, that the Chairman may call other meetings of such committee at such time and place as he deems advisable.
- 4.5. If the Chairman determines that a quorum of the Committee will not be present for any meeting of the committee to be held as provided in subsection (2) of this section, he may name another day for the holding of such meetings or may cancel such meeting.

5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 5.1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Warden, who shall be Chairman, and all members of Council.
- 5.2. The Clerk shall act as secretary of the Executive Committee.
- 5.3. The Committee shall, by resolution, determine the time and place of the regular meetings of such Committee, provided however, that the Chairman may call other meetings of such Committee at such time and place as he deems advisable.
- 5.4. If the Chairman determines that a quorum of the Committee will not be present for any meeting of the Committee to be held, as provided in subsection (3) of this section, he may name another day for the holding of such meeting or may cancel such meeting.

5.5. The Executive Committee shall consider and report on matters arising in relation to the following subjects:

5.5.1. community economic development.

5.5.2. emergency measures;

5.5.3. human resources matters, including:

5.5.3.1. negotiating, for later ratification by Council, any labor contracts with employees of the Municipality, or their representatives.

5.5.3.2. dealing with all labor-related issues, including employee grievances, under any collective agreement or otherwise.

5.5.3.3. dealing with any other personnel-related issues.

5.5.3.4. any other matters as from time to time are assigned to it by Council or committees of Council.

5.6. For greater clarity, to fulfill its mandate, the Committee may engage any expertise required.

6. FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

6.1. The Financial Services Committee shall consist of all members of Council.

6.2. The Clerk shall act as Secretary of the said Committee.

6.3. The Committee shall, by resolution, determine the time and place of the regular meetings of such Committee, provided however, that the Chairman may call other meetings of such Committee at such time and place as he deems advisable.

- 6.4. If the Chairman determines that a quorum of the Committee will not be present for any meeting of the Committee to be held as provided in subsection (3) of this section, he may name another day for the holding of such meetings or may cancel such meeting.
- 6.5. The Financial Services Committee shall consider and report on matters arising in relation to the following subjects:
- 6.5.1. all financial matters, in accordance with governing legislation.
 - 6.5.2. drafts of by-laws, policies as provided for in the Municipal Government Act, agreements, easements, leases, and any other documents or any other matter of legal nature;
 - 6.5.3. proposals and suggestions for amendments and additions to by-laws, policies as provided for in the Municipal Government Act, and enactments of the Legislature relating to municipal affairs;
 - 6.5.4. all matters relating to the issue of licenses of every nature or kind in the Municipality.
 - 6.5.5. nominations.
 - 6.5.6. recreation.
 - 6.5.7. Report of monthly activities of the Warden
 - 6.5.8. any other matters as from time to time may be assigned to it by Council or committees of Council.

7. PROPERTY SERVICES COMMITTEE

- 7.1. The Property Services Committee shall consist of all members of Council.
- 7.2. The Clerk shall act as Secretary of the Property Services Committee.
- 7.3. The Committee shall, by resolution, determine the time and place of the regular meetings of such Committee, provided however, that the Chairman may call other meetings of such Committee at such time and place as he deems advisable.
- 7.4. If the Chairman determines that a quorum of the Committee will not be present for any meeting of the Committee to be held, as provided in subsection (3) of this section, he may name another day for the holding of such meeting or may cancel such meeting.
- 7.5. The Property Services Committee shall consider and report on matters arising in relation to the following subjects:
 - 7.5.1. municipal services;
 - 7.5.2. all matters relating to land and buildings owned or under the control of the Council with which the Council is authorized to deal with under the by-laws or Statutes of Nova Scotia, and which the Council has not assigned to any other committee;
 - 7.5.3. wastewater management;
 - 7.5.4. building inspection;
 - 7.5.5. Fire Inspection
 - 7.5.6. by-law enforcement;

7.5.7. dog control;

7.5.8. Emergency Services Department

7.5.9. any other property services-related matters or such other matters as from time to time are assigned to it by Council or committees of Council.

8. AUDIT COMMITTEE

8.1. The purpose of the Audit Committee is to provide advice to the Council on matters relating to audit and finance.

8.1.1. The Audit Committee shall fulfill the requirements as outlined in Section 44 of the Municipal Government Act; and

8.1.2. The Audit Committee shall assist the Council in meeting its responsibilities by ensuring the adequacy and effectiveness of financial reporting, risk management and internal controls.

8.2. The Audit Committee shall consist of eight (8) members, five (5) of which shall be members of the Municipal Council.

8.3. The Members of the Audit Committee shall be appointed by the Council as follows:

8.3.1. Warden

8.3.2. Deputy Warden

8.3.3. The chair of the Financial Services Committee

8.3.4. Two Council members

8.3.5. Three (3) citizen members appointed at large.

8.4. The term of each appointment shall be two (2) years.

8.5. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected annually in November, by the Members.

8.6. The Audit Committee shall:

8.6.1. review the qualifications, independence, quality of service and performance of the External Auditors annually; and

8.6.2. recommend to the Council the appointment or discharge of the External Auditors;

8.6.3. carry out the responsibilities of the Audit Committee as outlined in subsection 44 (2) of the Municipal Government Act , including:

8.6.3.1. reviewing, in detail, the financial statements of the Municipality with the External Auditors,

8.6.3.2. evaluating internal control systems and management letters with the External Auditors,

8.6.3.3. reviewing the conduct and adequacy of any internal audit undertaken,

8.6.3.4. reviewing matters arising out of any internal audit that require further Investigation, and

8.6.3.5. undertaking other actions determined by the Council to be the duties of the Audit Committee; and

8.6.3.6. review with management and the External Auditor and recommend to the Council for approval, the annual audited financial statements.

8.7. The Audit Committee shall:

8.7.1. review with Finance management the financial forecast and performance indicators to be presented to the Council;

8.7.2. review annually the debt and interest risk management activities proposed for the upcoming year by management;

8.7.3. review annually with Finance management and report to the Council on the appropriateness of financial accounting policies, disclosures and forecasts.

8.7.4. ensure the adequacy and effectiveness of the systems of internal control in relation to financial controls and risk management as established by Administration;

8.7.5. review with management, risk management and financial implications coming from such risk and implications, including: Environmental, Human Resources, Operational and the insurable risks and insurance coverage strategy of the Municipality; and

8.7.6. review, as required, any other policies, procedures, forecasts, reports or process as agreed to mutually by the CAO and the Committee.

8.8. The Audit Committee shall review and make recommendations on proposals coming to the Council outside of the annual budget or tender process including:

8.8.1. new programs or services not yet approved or funded;

8.8.2. programs or services that are being substantially altered;

8.8.3. proposed changes in any operating or project budget items;

8.8.4. the commitment of funds where there is insufficient approved budget;

8.8.5. new or increased capital projects not within the approved budget;

8.8.6. increases in project budget due to cost sharing; and

8.8.7. the creation or modification of reserves and withdrawals not approved in the approved budget.

8.9. The Audit Committee shall meet no less than four (4) times annually or as determined by the Committee.

9. GENERAL

9.1. Administrative and meeting procedures shall be in accordance with the policies established by the Municipal Council.

9.2. The Council may at any time, by resolution, amend or add to the committee structure of the Council as herein established.

9.3. All former policies heretofore enacted with respect to committees of Council are hereby repealed.

Dated at Pictou, NS, on this 6th day of August 2024.

(Sgd) _____

Motion Carried
Clr. Andy Thompson
Clr. Chester Dewar

AUDIT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Turner to approve the following appointment to the Audit Committee. **Motion Carried**

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED the Municipality of the County of Pictou appoint John Carruthers to its Municipal Audit Committee for a term ending in March 2026.

Dated at Pictou, NS, on this 6th day of August 2024.

(Sgd)

Motion Carried
Clr. Deborah Wadden
Clr. Larry Turner

MUNICIPAL SERVICE GRANTS

It was moved by Clr. Turner and seconded by Clr. Wadden to approve the following Municipal Service Grants for Districts 2, 8, 9 and 12. **Motion Carried**

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED the Municipality of the County of Pictou approve the following Municipal Service Grants:

District 2:

a. Little Harbour Community Centre \$10,000.00 – Improvements to Comm. Centre
Total \$10,000.00

District 8:

a. Abercrombie Community Centre \$ 8,233.00 Cost of Plan for Grant Application
b. Abercrombie Cemetery \$ 7,000.00 Construct Stairway @ Cemetery
c. Mount William Cemetery \$ 3,049.00 Maintenance
d. Alma Cemetery \$ 1,700.00 Maintenance
e. Alma United Church \$ 5,700.00 Heat Pump Purchase/Installation
Total \$25,682.00

District 9:

a. Linacy Fire Department \$10,000.00 Bunker Gear/Breathing Apparatus
b. Hillside Cemetery \$ 2,000.00 Cemetery Expansion
Total \$ 12,000.00

District 12:

a. Lorne Hall \$ 6,000.00 Maintenance of Hall
b. Hopewell First Presbyterian \$ 1,275.00 Maint of War Memorial

c. MacLeod Cemetery	\$ 1,000.00	Lawn/Replace the Battery in the Church Defibillator
d. Elgin Pioneer Cemetery	\$ 1,000.00	Cemetery Maintenance
e. ERV Comm. Development Ass	\$ 6,000.00	Maintenance of Cemetery
		Newsletter and Riverton Hall Assistance
f. ERV Recreation	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	Maintenance of Field and Program Support
Total \$17,275.00		

Dated at Pictou, NS, on this 6th day of August 2024.

(Sgd)

Motion Carried
Clr. Larry Turner
Clr. Deborah Wadden

REQUEST TO WRITE A LETTER TO NSFM ABOUT COASTAL COMMUNITIES ACT

Clr. Elliott said that coastal protection is a concern, the province is responsible for this, and it should be held accountable. The province has chosen to put this responsibility on to municipalities. Clr. Elliott said that the NSFM is here to represent municipalities. Clr. Elliott said that there needs to be a push to the provincial government to reclaim the Coastal Protection Act.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Elliott and seconded by Clr. Parker to write a letter to the NSFM to make the Coastal Protection Act a priority.

Warden Parker turned the chair over to Deputy Warden Murray. The Warden has followed this issue since the provincial government opted out of the Coastal Protection Act. All parties agreed that this was important to have in place, and it is unknown why the province has decided to opt-out, and it appears that they have gone against the voice of the people. Warden Parker said whether individuals are for or against this, the big concern is that the province has handed this responsibility down to municipalities. The Warden said a meeting was held with Ms. Spencer from the NSFM and three Councillors were in attendance. There was concern that the NSFM should have a louder voice on this issue. Ms. Spencer said they had not heard much from other municipalities about this. Warden Parker said that the feeling in the room was that they needed to go through an incident like Hurricane Fiona.

Warden Parker agreed that it is time for the NSFM to play a key role in bringing together the province and the municipalities to work on this issue together. One of the

biggest sales tools in Nova Scotia is the coastline. Warden Parker stated being in full support of this motion and to push for a cooperative effort.

Clr. Parker concurs with the Warden and says that the province did not have the courage to do the right thing and introduce a set of rules. This is a deep band of hypocrisy when requiring land use bylaws and restricting wood lots in the county.

Clr. Thompson asked what the letter would accomplish and stated that the NSFM is already doing something to work with the province. Clr. Thompson asked what Council is requesting the NSFM to do.

Clr. Elliott said the letter's purpose would be to take the onus off the municipalities. Clr. Thompson would not support this motion and said that background information should be provided when items get put on the agenda. There is a policy on how the agendas are set up. Clr. Thompson said if someone wishes to build by the water, they have to follow the regulations now in place and is not sure what a Coastal Protection Act would do and said the onus is on the land owner to do the right thing. The province does not have enough regulators now and must have a small army of people for the Coastal Protection Act.

Clr. Elliott said there was no additional information to include, and the request is to ask the NSFM to support municipalities.

Clr. Turner asked if Clr. Thompson believed the Coastal Protection Act should be a provincial or municipal responsibility, and, in terms of the implementation and execution of the policy, is the municipality capable of sending out a small army to regulate? Clr. Thompson does not believe it is the municipality's job to tell somebody they shouldn't build close to a coastline and that common sense should prevail. Clr. Thompson said that the insurance industry and building codes would suffice, and regulations on protecting property from erosion already exist. Clr. Thompson said that the information from the province should be shared with homeowners, but the municipality should not be involved in it. Clr. Turner asked if the private insurance industry should be involved in the common good of the province.

Clr. Palmer said that the province developed guidelines for homeowners for coastal protection. Clr. Palmer said the government gets too involved in what people can and cannot do on their property. Clr. Palmer felt the municipality should avoid it and does not support this motion.

Clr. MacKeil said she is not in favour of having many restrictions on land and that residents should be free to do as they see fit if it does not harm or encroach on others. She said it is important for this to stay at a Provincial level and that the province owns beaches, so it makes sense for this to be provincial.

Clr. Butler said that many discussions took place in 2018-2019, and all parties in the province came together and agreed to act on this legislation. Several hurricanes have

heightened the need for coastal protection, and the province has given no good reason why this was dropped. The province should be held accountable.

Clr. Wadden expressed concern about sending a letter to the NSFM and is unsure of the expectation. The NSFM is currently working with the province on a toolbox that can be used if necessary. Clr. Wadden said that Tim Houston has made it abundantly clear that this is a municipal issue. Clr. Wadden is uncomfortable with sending a letter to the NSFM and does not support the motion.

Warden Parker said that the letter requests that the NSFM work with the province toward a cooperative effort between municipalities and the province.

Clr. Turner said the Ecological Action Centre has joined the call for the province to open the regulations entirely. Clr. Turner said that the letter would be to ask the NSFM to take a leadership position on this and to support municipalities to protect the coastline for future generations.

Motion Carried
Clr. Mary Elliott
Clr. David Parker

Nay Votes: Clr. Andy Thompson
Clr. Deborah Wadden
Clr. Randy Palmer

CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

Clr. Boyles said many residents have been asking about when the tax sale will take place. CAO Cullen said there will be an update at the next committee meeting. Mr. Cullen said there is not a firm date at this time, but it will be within the next few months. Warden Parker said this would be put on a future agenda for an update.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clr. Dewar said the Hopewell Ceilidh will be held on Sunday, August 11, 2024. About 60 people attended the meeting to keep the Ceilidh going. Everything has been cleaned up and mowed, and people have put lots of work into the event. Clr. Dewar said they are hoping for good weather.

Clr. MacKeil congratulated the Caribou Fire Department for the annual lobster supper on Saturday, August 10, 2024, sold out from the pre-order tickets. Clr. MacKeil said this was a good news story for District 3.

Clr. Parker said the Kathy Skoke Martin Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on August 24, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the Abercrombie Golf Course. The contact person is Vince Angst. This will be an 18-hole tournament for \$440.00 per team. The tournament is a fundraiser for the Pictou County SPCA's new Sharon and Elmer MacKay building. The deadline to register is Friday, August 10, 2024.

Clr. Palmer said the East Pictou Rural Fair will occur from August 13 to August 18, 2024. This event required a lot of planning and volunteer hours.

Clr. Boyles said that on Saturday, August 17, 2024, Hillside Hall will host a Hillside School reunion for any former students of the former Glenfalloch School. The reunion will take place from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Clr. Thompson said Premier Houston announced funding for some worthy non-profit organizations in Pictou East. The MacDonald Rebekah Lodge will receive \$70,000 from two provincial funds, the Sutherland's River Community Centre will receive \$100,000 from two different funds to do work on the community centre, Merigomish will receive \$35,000, and the Ivor MacDonald Memorial Rink also received funding. Clr. Thompson was thankful to the provincial government for funding these important community projects.

Clr. Elliott said a community ham dinner will be sponsored by the Salem United Church on Friday, August 9, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at the St. George's Presbyterian Church in River John. This take-out dinner consists of ham, potato salad, a roll, and apple crisp with whipped cream. The cost is \$15.00 and is to be booked in advance by calling 351-2759

Clr. Wadden said that Little Harbour also received a provincial grant and that residents were highly pleased with the work Clr. Thompson did so on their behalf to secure that funding. Clr. Wadden thanked Clr. Thompson for his help.

Warden Parker said that on Saturday, August 14, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., there will be a Family Fun Day at SARA Park. The event will be open to all young people in the county, and everyone is welcome. The Warden thanked the Recreation Staff who would be helping that day.

Warden Parker said the new Gut Bridge for the Jitney Trail is now in place. The bridge looks good and will serve the county residents and the Town of Pictou. It will open at the end of the month. Warden Parker said the municipality contributed significantly to the bridge replacement.

MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION

There were no motions of reconsideration.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Warden declared the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

WARDEN

MUNICIPAL CLERK