

December 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 Monday, December 5, 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
- 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 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.

The Warden also asked that people remember the events that forever changed the lives of many Canadians thirty-three years ago at the École Polytechnique in Montreal. Fourteen women were murdered; another ten women and four men were injured.

AGENDA

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

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 7th, 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 November 7th, 2022 as the official record of the meeting.

PRESENTATION: RESIDENTS OF GLEN ROAD REGARDING TRUCK TRAFFIC

Mr. Fred Rutledge and Harry Aikens appeared on behalf of the residents of the Glen Road to discuss concerns with truck traffic on the road. Mr. Rutledge stated that he and the residents of the Glen Road want it closed to heavy truck traffic. They are not looking for it to be upgraded and have lots of dollars spent on the road. Mr. Rutledge asked Council for support in getting the provincial government to close the road to truck traffic because of safety concerns for residents and motorists. He said the narrow dirt road spans between Mt Thom and West Branch and is close to gravel and rock pits. \

In a two-week period in September, Mr. Rutledge counted more than 2444 tractor-trailer gravel trucks travelling on the road. "That road is not safe for that sort of traffic," he said. "There are 54 blind corners on that road and 11 blind hills, multiple blind driveways that go into cottages and residences, and it's just not safe. That's 54 tons travelling at you on that road, and there are steep embankments, no guardrails, and no safety and caution or warning signs. I don't know anyone travelling on that road who hasn't had a bad encounter with those trucks. They travel in the centre of the road, and if you are unfortunate to meet one of those trucks on a blind hill or corner, this road is very narrow in places where cars can barely pass, so you have nowhere to go. "

Most roads in rural Pictou County are owned and maintained by the province. Rutledge said he had contacted his MLA and the Department of Transportation, but nothing has changed the situation. Mr. Rutledge said there are alternative routes for the trucks to travel, and it would like council's support in voicing its concerns to the province. Photos of the road conditions were also circulated, but he said residents are not asking the province for any major upgrades, only that heavy trucks stay off.

Mr. Rutledge stated that they hope you can help us to get the road closed to trucks over 3,000 kilograms except for local delivery. They don't need to go on that road, and it's not safe for anyone. Warden Parker thanked Rutledge for his presentation and said Council would discuss the issue at its December Property and Finance committee meetings, but he also reminded him this road is owned and maintained by the province, not the municipality.

Warden Parker stated that the most we can do is apply pressure to the provincial government. The trucking company chooses which road it wants to go on, and I think that needs to change. When the tenders are put out and the government of the day should say these are paths to travel, so they stick to the safer roads, then all of the companies will be competing on an even basis, but If you leave it up to the companies to pick the roads, they will do it the shortest way."

CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

There was no correspondence requiring action.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION:

- a) Thank you letters Backpack Program (not circulated): Thorburn Consolidated
- b) Thank You Letter for Donations/Grants: Riverbank Cemetery Toney River

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION TYLER MACLEAN

Warden Parker informed the members of Council that Mr. MacLean was unable to be here this evening due to illness and that he will attend the January 2023 meeting.

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION AMELIA PARKER

Warden Parker introduced Amelia Parker, 17, of Central West River, as a talented young musician who is one of 11 young people in Canada, and the only Nova Scotian, to receive the 2022 Music Counts Amplify Scholarship. The \$3,500 scholarship is awarded each year to emerging music leaders, producers and performers who are judged to represent the future of Canada's music industry. A team of music industry professionals from The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences awards the scholarship.

Warden Parker stated that Amelia has played the fiddle since she was six and will graduate from Northumberland Regional High School this June. She will attend Dalhousie University in the fall and study music. She not only performs but also competes in many fiddling competitions in Canada and the United States. In 2019, she received awards in the National Scottish Championships and in 2022, she was invited to compete in the Canadian Grand Masters in Winnipeg. She also teaches fiddle lessons and released her first Intertwined CD in 2019. She is working on her second CD to be released in late 2023.

Warden Parker, along with Clr. D. Parker, who are Ms. Parker's uncles presented on behalf of the council for the Municipality of Pictou County a plaque to Amelia and wished her great success as she furthers her studies in music.

Warden Parker thanked Amelia for playing a medley for the Council and thanked her family for their dedication and support for her music.

LONG SERVICE AWARD-KAREN CORNISH

The Warden and CAO presented Karen Cornish with a long service award recognizing 45 years of service to the Municipality.

RESOLUTION HURRICANE FIONA CLEANUP

Clr. MacKeil presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Municipality the Financial Services Committee reviewed a plan presented by the Administration to facilitate the cleanup of debris left behind after Hurricane Fiona;

WHEREAS the Municipality intends on seeking funding from the Disaster Relief Fund;

WHEREAS the Municipality is required to incur the expenditures prior to submission of an application for assistance under the Disaster Relief Fund.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council authorize the payment of costs for the Hurricane Fiona Debris Cleanup estimated at \$969,338 from the General Operating Reserve until such time that financial assistance is obtained from the Disaster Relief fund.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 5th day of December, 2022.

Sgd Darla MacKeil
Larry Turner

MOTION

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

RESOLUTION MUNICIPAL SERVICES GRANTS

Clr. Dewar presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

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

DISTRICT 11

Greenbrook Cemetery	<u>\$400</u>	Operating expenses/maintenance
	Total	\$400

DISTRICT 12

Hopewell Footbridge Ceihlidh
and candy cane committee

\$1000
Total \$1000

Maintenance

Grand Total \$1400

DATED at Pictou, Nova Scotia, this the 5th day of December 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 CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Clr. Boyles presented the following resolution to Council.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the following appointment for two years through November 2024:

Boards and Committees	
Climate Change Advisory Committee Youth Member	Pierre Bredell

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

(Sgd.) Peter Boyles
Larry Turner

MOTION

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

RURAL INTERNET UPDATE

The CAO presented the following information to the Council on the Rural Internet Project.

Construction status & projections

- MOPC to Durham and Hardwood Hills to Owen Rd in production
- CWR to Durham recently completed and tested ready for hook-ups
- 2/3 done on route 4 (Salt Springs area) from CWR to Mt Thom
- Updated timeline post-Fiona- NSP make ready work suspended until January 2023, we lost 4 months of construction due to the hurricane

Outstanding issues

- Haliburton still has cable down, scheduled to be restored on December 5th. Waited on NSP, however many requests to restore were ignored, so alternate resources are being used.
- Project Management staff are reviewing all grade one crossings to have them diverted from NSP poles, many other options are being evaluated to avoid NSP's process.

On vs off track

NSP not completing any Make Readys until the new year. Citing Fiona repairs as the delay. The areas affected by this in the near term are; CWR to New Glasgow, Greenhill tower and Loch Broom Loop.

RDN Network

- **Mt Thom** – Planned go live date Dec 9th, 2022. Main dish fell from tower during Fiona
- **Eureka** – Construction complete, power on site, go live date Dec 9th
- **River John** – Tower being erected this week, radio installation Dec 12th week, hopeful go live date Dec 16th week
- **Bailey's Brook** – Construction completion date Jan 27, 2023, radio installation 17 Feb, 2023.
- **Poplar Hill** – Public Consultations due to MOPC Dec 10th. Construction complete Jan 13th, 2023, radio installation 17th Feb, 2023

- **Blue Mountain** – Land Consultation for CBC tower and/or land for lease completed. Awaiting clarity and timeline and purchase of ideal location
- **East River Valley** – Public Consultations due to MOPC Dec 10th. Construction complete Jan 13th, 2023 week. Radio installation 17th Feb, 2023
- **Eden Lake** - Public Consultations due to MOPC Dec 10th . Construction complete Jan 13th, 2023 week. Radio installation 17th Feb, 2023
- **McLellans** – Focus to go live before Christmas
- **Town of Pictou Water Tower** – Radio installation date Dec 16th, 2022 week
- **SunnyBrae** – Awaiting formal lease for signature. Install work commenced
- **Meikefield** – Radio installation date Dec 16th, 2022 week.
- **Willowdale** - Radio installation date Dec 16th, 2022 week
- **MOPC Hardwood Hills** – Driveway permit declined twice, however, feedback suggests approval coming, ETA unknown. Evan Hale following up with TiR.

Public Consultations due for Eden Lake, East River Valley & Poplar Hill December 12th.

MOPC “FirstHome” now branded and a link from MOPC homepage to FirstHome has also been setup. Door knockers being left in the next available areas. MOPC, Hardwood Hill, and Greenhill towers are all live and installation for connections currently ongoing. Customers in the River John, Mt Thom, and Eureka areas should be signing up now as well- those towers will all be ready for installations sometime in January.

Clr. Wadden asked about the level of subscription in the areas currently being serviced. The CAO responded that we have approximately 90 orders on the fibre side. The Wireless is just launching in many areas, so we do not have a large number on that side, likely a dozen to fifteen homes. On the fibre side, the 90 orders are positive as we are in an area that has incumbents providing service.

Clr. Turner asked what level of marketing has been done in this area. The CAO replied that each household receives a letter from the Municipality indicating that the service is available to be installed to their home. The ISP’s market the services and to date the marketing has been fairly low, although one provider has started going door to door.

In response to the Warden, the CAO indicated that the wireless towers are performing well. The TVWS is able to reach about 10 km without line of sight, which is better than projected. The LTE service from the towers is reaching about a km with direct line of sight, which is less than projected.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clr. MacKeil informed the Committee that Santa will be at the Caribou Fire Hall this Saturday after touring the district starting at 1:30 pm.

Clr. Boyles informed that Committee that every Friday night, the Hillside Hall will be hosting a country jam. The cost is \$5 and it starts at 6:30 pm.

Clr. Boyles told the committee that NSP has done a lot of work clearing trees in his district along the road right-of way and that he has not seen it this clean in many years.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

There were no emergency resolutions.

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray, seconded by Clr. Palmer that the Council meet in closed session to discuss the sale of municipal property. (8:25 pm)

Motion Carried

OPEN SESSION

The meeting 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 (9:00 pm).

Warden

Municipal Clerk