

February 6, 2023

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 Monday, February 6, 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 Parker asked people to remember the people of Turkey and Syria and those with family in Pictou County following earthquakes in these parts of the world. Warden 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 four 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 as presented.

Motion Carried

MINUTES

Warden Parker asked that minutes reflect that Presenter Tyler MacLean did not read a speech to Council during the December 2022 meeting but gave a speech to Council. No other changes were brought forward, and the minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE (Required for Action)

No correspondence requiring action was presented.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES

Thank you from NNEC’s Food Insecurity Committee

A letter from the Minister of Public Works regarding Glen Road. Clr Elliott asked that the letter be forwarded to Mr. Rutledge, who made a presentation to the Council on the condition of the road.

PROCLAMATION SIGNING – WOMEN’S INSTITUTE WEEK

Warden Parker read the Women’s Institute Week Proclamation to Council, followed by an official signing with Women’s Institute members:

RESOLUTION
WOMEN’S INSTITUTE WEEK

WHEREAS the Women’s Institute organization is celebrating 126 years in Canada;

WHEREAS the first Women’s Institute in Nova Scotia was formed in 1913 in Salt Springs, Pictou County;

WHEREAS for 110 years, the Women’s Institutes in Nova Scotia continue to provide women opportunities to improve the quality of life for families in their local and global communities through community service and involvement, education, and personal and leadership development;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council proclaim the week of February 19th – 25th as “Women’s Institute Week” in the Municipality.

DATED at Pictou, NS, this 6th day of February 2023.

(Sgd.) _____

Following the signing, Warden Parker acknowledged the importance of the Women's Institute in rural communities and the good work that is done by this volunteer group.

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Warden Parker welcomed Athena to Council Chambers and her owners, Liam Green and Renee Kilburn Green. He said that during the early morning hours of December 12, 2022, Liam Greene and his wife Renee Kilburn-Greene were woken by their 18th-Month-Old German Shepard Athena and that there was danger near them.

The couple had recently purchased the Waterside home and were settled in for the evening, but Liam woke when he heard Athena whining in the kitchen.

Liam told the Pictou Advocate that Athena usually sleeps in their bedroom, so it was strange that she was not there and even stranger that she was upset in the middle of the night.

When he went to find her, he spotted a fire on their front porch. Liam tried to extinguish the flames but could not save the home.

Liam and Renee were treated for smoke inhalation and were taken to the hospital for further treatment, but credit Athena with saving them from a much worse situation.

On behalf of Council for the Municipality of Pictou County, we want to thank Athena for being a GOOD DOG and alerting her owners to the fire. Her heroic ways have captured the hearts of many in our County and show once again how special it is to have pets in our lives.

Athena was given a Certificate of Recognition and dog treats by Warden Parker on behalf of Council.

DANGEROUS AND UNSIGHTLY HEARING – 436/438 THORBURN ROAD

Mr. McDowell spoke about concerns and conditions of a house and buildings at 436 and 438 Thorburn Road, Pictou County. He showed council photos of the multi-unit and confirmed that discussions had taken place with the owners of the property, who say they had no interest in repairing it.

RESOLUTION – ORDER FOR DANGEROUS AND UNSIGHTLY PROPERTY

Clr. Randy Palmer presented the following resolution to Council.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council finds that the property located at 436 Thorburn Road, Thorburn (Tax Account #03400565), and further described in the attached Order is dangerous and unsightly;

AND BE IT RESOLVED that Council, pursuant to Section 346 of Part 15 of Chapter 18 of the Acts of 1998, the *Municipal Government Act*, make an Order in the form attached

hereto and forming part of this resolution, the said Order to be signed and issued forthwith on behalf of the Council by the Chief Administrative Officer of the Municipality or his designate.

DATED at Pictou, N. S. this 6th day of February 2023.

(Sgd.) Randy Palmer
Andy Thompson

Motion Carried

DRAFT ORDER

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT, STATUTES OF NOVA SCOTIA, 1998, CHAPTER 18

ORDER REQUIRING DEMOLITION

TO: Harold Naugle and Helen (Myers) Naugle
P.O. Box 96
Thorburn, Nova Scotia B0K 1W0

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Section 346 of *The Municipal Government Act*, The Council of the Municipality of the County of Pictou ("the Council" and "the County") has determined that the property located at 436 Thorburn Road, Thorburn, Pictou County, associated with Tax Number 03400565, and PID #00892620, which lands are included in those more particularly described in Schedule "A" hereto attached and forming a part hereof ("the Property") is dangerous or unsightly.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that the Council orders you to remedy these conditions by doing all of the following work, acts or things ("the work") on the property, that is to say:

Complete all required work to the property as listed below:

- (1) Demolish all sheds and structures which are in a ruinous or dilapidated condition, leaving the site in a safe condition.

- (2) Remove all debris on the property, including but not limited to, barrels, tires, construction and demolition materials, car wash equipment, household items and all materials that were burnt and then buried.

THE WORK IS TO BE COMPLETED AND DONE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF THE DATE OF SERVICE OF THIS ORDER.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE

THAT in the event of failure by you to comply with the requirements of this Order within Thirty (30) days after its date of service, the administrator may enter upon the property without warrant or other legal process and carry out the work specified in this Order;

THAT the cost of the work, with interest at the rate determined by the Council, from the date of the completion of the work until the date of payment:

- (a) Is the first lien on the property upon which the work was done and that the property is liable to be sold in a tax sale in accordance with *The Municipal Government Act*, and;
- (b) May at any time be sued for and recovered in an action in the name of the County.

THAT after this Order is served; any person who permits or causes a dangerous or unsightly condition, continues to permit or cause a dangerous or unsightly condition or fails to comply with the terms of the Order is liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty of not less than One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars, and not more than Five Thousand (\$5000.00) Dollars, and, in default of payment, to imprisonment for not more than three (3) months;

THAT every day during which the condition is not remedied is a separate offence.

DATED at Pictou, Nova Scotia, this 6th day of February 2023.

LOGAN MCDOWELL, P.ENG

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS & DEVELOPMENT

ADMINISTRATOR

RESOLUTION: ORDER FOR DANGEROUS AND UNSIGHTLY PROPERTY

Clr. Randy Palmer presented the following resolution to Council.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council finds that the property located at 438 Thorburn Road, Thorburn (Tax Account #03400565), and further described in the attached Order is dangerous and unsightly;

AND BE IT RESOLVED that Council, pursuant to Section 346 of Part 15 of Chapter 18 of the Acts of 1998, the *Municipal Government Act*, make an Order in the form attached hereto and forming part of this resolution, the said Order to be signed and issued forthwith on behalf of the Council by the Chief Administrative Officer of the Municipality or his designate.

DATED at Pictou, N. S. this 6th day of February 2023.

(Sgd.) Randy Palmer
Andy Thompson

Motion Carried

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AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that the Council orders you to remedy these conditions by doing all of the following work, acts or things ("the work") on the property, that is to say:

Complete all required work to the property as listed below:

- (3) Demolish all sheds and structures which are in a ruinous or dilapidated condition, leaving the site in a safe condition.
- (4) Remove all debris on the property, including but not limited to, barrels, tires, construction and demolition materials, car wash equipment, household items and all materials that were burnt and then buried.

THE WORK IS TO BE COMPLETED AND DONE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF THE DATE OF SERVICE OF THIS ORDER.

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THAT the cost of the work, with interest at the rate determined by the Council, from the date of the completion of the work until the date of payment:

- (c) Is the first lien on the property upon which the work was done and that the property is liable to be sold in a tax sale in accordance with *The Municipal Government Act*, and;
- (d) May at any time be sued for and recovered in an action in the name of the County.

THAT after this Order is served; any person who permits or causes a dangerous or unsightly condition, continues to permit or cause a dangerous or unsightly condition or fails to comply with the terms of the Order is liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty of not less than One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars, and not more than Five Thousand (\$5000.00) Dollars, and, in default of payment, to imprisonment for not more than three (3) months;

THAT every day during which the condition is not remedied is a separate offence.

DATED at Pictou, Nova Scotia, this 6th day of February 2023.

LOGAN MCDOWELL P. ENG

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS & DEVELOPMENT

ADMINISTRATOR

PRESENTATION – COUNCIL VISIONING SESSION INTRODUCTION

Warden Robert Parker welcomed Frank Gallant of Peak Experiences Consulting, hired to do a visioning session with Council since it is halfway through its term. He said the focus has been on the internet project for about six years, but it is well-established in getting off the ground. He said Council agreed during a recent planning session that it's time to look at the future and to see if a new vision can be determined. Mr. Gallant said he would be in one-on-one sessions with councillors and a session with staff.

RESOLUTION – RECREATION START-UP GRANT

Clr. Turner 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 payment of the following Municipal Grants:

Recreation Start-Up Grant

D06	Salem and Area Recreation Assoc.	\$350	Operating Expenses
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DATED at Pictou, NS, this 6th day of February 2023.

(Sgd.)

Larry Turner
Peter Boyles

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION – MUNICIPAL SERVICE GRANT EXTENSIONS

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 Council approve the extension of the following Municipal Grants:

Municipal Services:

D06 Salem Presbyterian Church	\$ 2500.00	Extension of time to Jan. 31/24 for Hall Renovations
D07 Millbrook Area Community Centre to Jan.	\$307.90	Extension of time 31/24 for purchase of AED battery

DATED at Pictou, NS this 6th day of February, 2023.

(Sgd.)

Clr. Dewar
Clr. Thompson

Motion Carried

Clr. Elliott brought the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Municipality recently invited applications for the position of Building Intern and Cody Avery was the successful applicant.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the appointment of Cody Avery as Building Intern for the Municipality;

DATED at Pictou, N. S. this 6th day of February 2023.

(Sgd.) Clr. Elliott
Clr. D. Parker

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION – LOW INCOME TAX EXEMPTION

Clr. D. Parker brought the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council adopt the following policy with respect to low income tax exemption:

POLICY #2023-02-06



MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU

LOW INCOME TAX EXEMPTION POLICY

In accordance with the provisions of Section 69 of the Municipal Government Act, being Chapter 18 of the Statutes of Nova Scotia, 1998, the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou hereby enacts the following policy with respect to low income tax exemption:

1. In this policy “income” shall be as defined in Section 69 (1) of the Municipal Government Act and means a person’s total income from all sources for the calendar year preceding the fiscal year of the Municipality, and includes the income of all other members of the same family residing in the same household, but does not include an allowance paid pursuant to the *War Veterans Allowance Act (Canada)* or pension paid pursuant to the *Pension Act (Canada)*.

Motion Carried

NSP TREE CLEARING REGULATIONS

Deputy Warden Murray said that Nova Scotia Power wants to cut trees back further from poles and lines than they are allowed now, but they don't have the easements from the property owners. NSP wants a list of the roads in rural Pictou County that should be trimmed.

Deputy Warden Murray recommended that a letter be sent to the Nova Scotia Government asking that easements by the province be extended so that Nova Scotia Power can do a better job of clearing trees from power lines, thus preventing future damage.

Clr. Palmer said for NSP to have the easements extended, it would need to expropriate land from residents. He said similar procedures are followed when the Department of Transportation changes roadways. It is a large and costly process.

Clr. Wadden said she would want more information and requested NSP come to chambers to answer questions about this and other issues, such as debris cleanup from Hurricane Fiona.

Warden Parker said a meeting with NSP did take place, and the issue of cleaning up debris from Hurricane Fiona was addressed. He said it was suggested that Council send a list to NSP with areas of concern. He said NSP could come to a future meeting so Deputy Warden and Clr. Wadden's concerns are addressed in person.

Clr. MacKeil said she understands Deputy Warden Murray's concerns but feels other issues must be addressed first, including fixing damaged powerlines by Hurricane Fiona.

Clr. Dewar said he is concerned about the number of people who need NSP to hook up their power and have to long for this service.

Deputy Warden Murray said he would wait for NSP to come to Council Chambers to answer questions, so he withdrew his motion to send a letter.

RESOLUTION – BASIC LIVABLE INCOME

Coun. Thompson brought the following resolution to Council.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the growing social crisis and impacts of poverty have downstream effects on our municipality, putting unsustainable pressure on our limited resources to

deliver necessary public services and social infrastructure supports as we struggle to keep up with the evolving needs of our community.

WHEREAS Basic Income addresses key social determinants of health, such as income and housing, it can alleviate pressures on municipalities to address poverty and fill gaps in social supports, such as shelter, housing, food security and mental health. Research and pilots show that when people have a sufficient and secure income their mental and physical health improves; they have the capacity to secure more affordable, suitable, and safe housing, childcare, healthy food, and transportation; and poverty rates decrease.

WHEREAS the provision of a guaranteed livable basic income would benefit individuals, families and communities and protect the most vulnerable in society, it would also support community resilience by facilitating the transition to a local economy that responds to the climate crisis and other major challenges. Evidence shows that a federally funded basic income that improves people's financial stability is possible, as successful income transfer programs already exist in Canada for seniors (Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement) and for parents (Canada Child Benefit (CCB))

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Municipality of Pictou County directs that a letter be written to the Prime Minister and Premier of Nova Scotia calling on these orders of government to work towards implementing a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income to eradicate poverty and homelessness and ensure everyone has sufficient income to meet their basic needs.

DATED at Pictou, Nova Scotia this the 6th day of February 2023.

Sgd Clr. Thompson
Clr. Wadden

Warden Parker said Council had a good presentation on this topic and the letter calls for the federal government to begin working on the plan.

Clr. Elliott said she is struggling with this concept because she is unsure how the federal government will decide who will get the money and how they will tell people they are not supporting it. She said she would not be supporting the motion.

Clr. Butler said it is more effective to target people most in need through programming already in place rather than everyone. He said he would not be supporting the motion.

Clr. Turner said he supports the motion because this will change the economy for the better, and concerns about employment needs to be focused on the employer. He said wealth stays at the top, and there are too many people suffering from poverty and food insecurity, and we have to find ways to raise them up, and a guaranteed basic income will do this.

Clr. D. Parker said it would relieve some of the worst poverty that exists. He said some programming, such as child and senior benefits, helps, but more needs to be done. He said Council has to ask if it wants to help those most in need in our society. He said this is about dignity and sharing our humanity. This is not a huge shift; it is not an economic question but a moral one. He said all that is being discussed is the principle of the matter.

Clr. MacKeil said she feels the system is not working and needs a complete overhaul. This should be done before introducing another program. She said she was bothered by the term “meaningless jobs” used during the presentation. She said those jobs are part of our society’s function and are important. She said the working class is struggling now, and extra money coming into everyone would be helpful, but there is no such thing as free money with the government.

Clr. Wadden said a program like this has great potential and this resolution tells the government we want to see this move forward.

Clr. Boyles said he does not have enough information to support the motion.

Clr. Dewar said all Council is doing is sending a letter, but it could make a big difference in helping move this along and helping others in this country. He said if it ever happened, he would like to be able to say he helped someone who needed it.

Clr. Palmer said he sees no harm in sending a letter, but it is the federal government’s decision and will determine to fund other programs. He said he agreed the system put in place is not working, but he saw during COVID that people who received CERB assistance stayed home and never returned to the workforce.

Warden Parker said Council only sends a letter, and someone else has to work out the details. On the subject of meaningless jobs, he said workforces are having trouble filling positions, but people don’t want to do certain jobs anymore. He said he worked long, hard hours as a youth picking potatoes, but that work ethic is not with us anymore. He said we need to pull some people up, and they will look at the world in a more positive way. The idea of looking at a different way of doing something is a good idea.

Clr. Thompson said it is important to raise people up, and they will do better for themselves and their community. He said if someone wants to aspire to be better, they have to go into a deep debt; this is a way to even it out and lifts people up. He said

current programs do not do that, particularly the welfare program that takes back money if someone wants to work while collecting welfare. He said this program is not universal and reaches the lowest income people. In our County, he said one of the growth industries now is food banks, the usage of food banks, their expansion, and relocation of them. He said he wants to eliminate food banks and a program like this has that ability.

Motion Carried 7 to 5
Nay votes
Clr. Elliott
Clr. MacKeil
Clr. Butler
Deputy Warden Murray
Clr. Boyles

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clr. Boyles said District 9 wants to thank Evan Hale and Jason LeGreca for their actions to help save a person's life in this cold weather snap.

Clr. Elliott said a family of five lost their home in a fire, and she encourages people to reach out and support the family.

Clr. Butler said after three years of absence, the Lismore Wintertime Review would take place this year. Ticket sales will begin on Feb. 18 and take place in Lismore on March 3, 4 and 5th.

Clr. Wadden reminded Council she is looking for information about establishments that sell alcohol in their communities. It is being collected for research for the Municipal Alcohol Project.

Clr. Boyles said there would be a dance at the Hillside Community Hall on Feb. 11, and its Friday Night Jam session will also take place on Feb. 10th.

Warden Parker said he attended a meeting at the Durham Community Hall about the wireless internet project. More meetings are planned, including the River John Legion on Feb. 9 and the Hillside Community Hall on March 2.

Warden Parker congratulated Sueann Musick for accepting the Director of Corporate Services/Deputy Clerk position for the Municipality of Pictou County.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

No emergency resolutions were brought forward.

ADJOURN

There was no further business to come before the meeting, so the Warden declared the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Warden

Municipal Clerk