

April 15, 2024

The Financial Services Committee for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building by videoconference and teleconference on Monday, April 15, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

- 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
- 8 Clr. Larry Turner
- 9 Clr. Peter Boyles
- 10 Clr. Randy Palmer
- 11 Clr. Andy Thompson
- 12 Clr. Chester Dewar

ABSENT

- 7 Clr. David Parker

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
- Adam MacInnis, Communications Officer
- Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development
- Shellie Pettipas, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Clr. MacKeil, Chair of the Financial Services Committee called the meeting to order and acknowledged that we are on the ancestral territorial lands of the Mikmaq people.

AGENDA

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

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

Clr. Boyles said calls were received, and people are upset about what is happening with school buses. They asked if the Council could do anything to help. People are asking if schools could be opened earlier so that someone is there if kids have to be dropped off before work.

Warden Parker said that that battle was lost a long time ago when school boards were lost. The CCRCE now makes those decisions, and the Council cannot make changes. This problem must be fixed at the provincial level. The Warden said there needs to be a message to people that the Council is not the body to fix that problem.

Clr. MacKeil said a letter voicing concerns was sent to the Department of Education following the last meeting.

MINUTES

Clr. MacKeil asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for March 18, 2024. The members of the Committee entered no errors, omissions, or corrections. The Chair proclaimed the minutes of the meeting on March 18, 2024, as the official record of the meeting. **Motion Carried**

REPORTS

COMMUNICATION REPORT

The Communication Report for the month of March 2024 was received as presented.

RECREATION REPORT

The Recreation Report for the month of March 2024 was received as presented.

Clr. Thompson requested a breakdown of the Pictou County Minor Hockey program enrollment. Clr. Thompson said a grant was provided to the program for \$7,800.00 and would like to know how many children are now playing hockey.

WARDEN'S REPORT

The Warden's Report for the month of March 2024 was received as presented.

Warden Parker said there have been two significant announcements for youth in Pictou County over the past month. The first announcement was made at the AGM of the Aberdeen Health Foundation, introducing the FORBO Program for young people and families. No diagnosis is required; the family can go directly into Mental Health. This is the first area outside of Halifax that this project has been moved to. It is run by a doctor

who has already been running this program within Halifax. The second announcement was for Integrated Youth Services (IYS). There will be seven locations in the province, and Pictou County is one of them. The program is led by Big Brothers Big Sisters, the YMCA, and a couple of other bodies in the county. This program will take youths up to age 25. The Warden said this is a great opportunity to help young people with problems.

Warden Parker said there was also an announcement that \$500 million is budgeted for the country for youth mental health. The Warden said it was important to get that message out. There is a proposed meeting for May with all the Councillors; the date, time, and location will be confirmed. The Warden encouraged all Councillors to attend and to get this information out to the public.

Clr. Palmer asked when the new library and deCoste Centre will run. The Warden said at the last session, they stated that it had run behind over the winter. The first shows scheduled for the deCoste will be early in September. The library and deCoste Centre hope to have a lot done by mid-summer.

TAXES RECEIVABLE REPORT

The Taxes Receivable Report for the month of March 2024 was received for information purposes.

Clr. MacKeil asked for an update on tax collection letters that were sent out. CAO Cullen said that any individuals who received a letter and did not enter into an agreement on those properties had been sent off for a title search. Clr. Boyles asked when a tax sale would occur, and Mr. Cullen said it would probably be a couple of months following the title searches.

DEED TRANSFER TAX

The Deed Transfer Tax for the month of March 2024 was received as presented.

ACCOUNTS PAID – MARCH 2024

It was moved by Clr. Turner and seconded by Clr. Wadden that the Accounts Paid Report for the month of March 2024 be received as presented. **Motion Carried**

Clr. Turner asked about the Scotia Plumbing & Property Maintenance cheque for February plowing sidewalks. Clr. Turner said that amount seems to be excessive. The amount is \$72,628.25, and even with the major storm compared to some of the other costs, this amount does not seem to be in line with the \$72,628.25. Clr. Turner asked if that was simply a result of that snowstorm. Mr. McDowell said that is a huge amount, but Scotia Plumbing & Property Maintenance is a company that Public Works went to after the major storm to do the regular contracts and to clear out all of the other areas, including all the lift stations and hydrants, and they worked for days following the storm. They were in excessive of a week of straight work due to gigantic snowfall.

Warden Parker said that this is an area where this Council must consider the cost of snow removal and clearing. The Warden said that at some point, the municipality may need to decide whether it needs its own equipment. Mr. McDowell said that Scotia Plumbing and Property Maintenance took on far more than the standard contract.

Deputy Warden Murray said when reviewing some invoices, it is frustrating seeing the costs associated, and Council may have to look at that and see if it can get a better handle on the costs.

Clr. Turner said that there was tremendous damage done to the sidewalk in Abercrombie while clearing the snow, to the point of being dangerous in some areas. It is not only the operating costs but also the costs associated with rebuilding that sidewalk.

BUSINESS ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION:

MOPC SWITCH INTEREST RATES

It was moved by Warden Parker and seconded by Clr. Turner to reduce the County's share of interest charges on the loan from the reserve to zero percent for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Motion Carried

CONFIRMATION LETTER FOR LONG-TERM DEBT INTERNET PROJECT BORROWING

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Turner to commit to a 3-year debenture at an interest rate not exceeding 6.5 percent for the Internet Project.

Motion Carried

PICTOU COUNTY PARTNERSHIP AMENDED AGREEMENT

It was moved by Warden Parker and seconded by Clr. Palmer to accept the amended agreement with the Pictou County Partnership.

Motion Carried

2024 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

1. Advance Poll Date

It was moved by Clr. Butler and seconded by Clr. Boyles to approve October 12, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. as an Advance Poll Date for the 2024 Municipal Election.

Motion Carried

2. Polling Dates

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Wadden to approve from 12 a.m. on October 6, 2024, to 7:00 p.m. on October 19, 2024 as the Polling Dates for the 2024 Municipal Election.

Motion Carried
Nay Vote: Clr. Peter Boyles

3. Election Vendor

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Elliott that Intellivote Systems be the vendor of the electronic voting platform for the 2024 Municipal Election.

Motion Carried
Nay Vote: Clr. Peter Boyles

RECREATION PROGRAM GRANTS

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Palmer that the following Recreation Grants be approved:

Motion Carried

1. Fundy Highland Female Hockey	\$1,525.00
2. North Nova United Soccer	\$2,400.00
3. Pictou County Athletics	\$220.00
4. Pictou County Invasion Volleyball	\$320.00
TOTAL	\$4,465.00

CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

There was no deferred business.

MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION

There were no motions of reconsideration.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business before the meeting, so the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

MUNICIPAL CLERK

