

September 18, 2023

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, September 18, 2023, 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
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
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. Elliott and seconded by Clr. Parker that the agenda be approved as presented. **Motion Carried**

Clr. Boyles requested to add the approval of Richard Williams to the Climate Change Advisory Committee. This item is added to the agenda as item 8B.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

There were no emergency resolutions brought forward.

ERRORS, OMISSIONS AND CORRECTIONS

Clr. Palmer asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for August 21, 2023. The members of the Committee entered no errors, omissions, or corrections. The Chair proclaimed the minutes of the meeting on August 21, 2023, as the official record of the meeting. **Motion Carried**

CORRESPONDENCE (UNCIRCULATED)

A thank you letter was received from Riverview Volunteer Association for the MOPC grant.

A thank you letter was received from Issac Green, North Nova Education Centre Graduation Bursary recipient.

CORRESPONDENCE (CIRCULATED)

A letter was received from Nova Scotia Power in response to a letter asking about coal-fired generator units converting to heavy oil. Warden Parker said that the letter was lacking in response to a commitment not to convert to heavy oil and did not see anything in the letter stating they were not going to do that.

A letter was received from the Municipality of East Hants in response to the roads in the proposed Municipal Service Exchange. The Warden said there seems to be a general agreement from rural municipalities that this agreement is bad.

It was moved by Clr. Parker and seconded by Clr. Thompson to send a letter to UARB, with a copy to Dave Pickles and Honourable Tim Halman, Minister of Environment, indicating that the residents of the County of Pictou are strongly opposed to the burning of Bunker C oil. **Motion Carried**

RECREATION and MPAL REPORT

It was moved by Clr. Bulter and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the Recreation Report be received as presented. **Motion Carried**

COMMUNICATION REPORT

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Wadden that the Communication Report be received as presented. **Motion Carried**

EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Parker that the Emergency Services Report be received as presented. **Motion Carried**

FIRE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the Fire Inspector's Report be received as presented. **Motion Carried**

WARDENS REPORT

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. Boyles that the Warden's Report be received as presented. **Motion Carried**

MUNICIPAL AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Parker that the Municipal Audit Committee Report be received as presented. **Motion Carried**

Clr. Wadden stated the importance of getting the financials into the province as it looks like it will be by March again; the September 30th deadline should be met. Shortage of staffing is currently a big concern in the Finance Department. The \$94,000.00 deficit is shown from the internet program, and it now must be decided to continue carrying the deficit or to pay this amount from reserves.

The top priority going forward is the collection of back taxes, and a two-year program is being developed for people with these amounts. This will generate \$200,000 over two years.

ACCOUNTS PAID – AUGUST 2023

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Parker that the Accounts Paid for August 2023 report be received as presented. **Motion Carried**

DEED TRANSFER TAX (For Information Purposes Only)

The Deed Transfer Tax Report for the month of August 2023 was received for information purposes.

TAXES RECEIVABLE REPORT

The Taxes Receivable Report for the month of August 2023 was received for information purposes.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE GRANTS

District 4

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| a. Cape John Harbour Authority | \$1,800.00 | Repairs and Supplies |
| Total \$1,800.00 | | |

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the preceding Municipal Service Grants be approved for District 4. **Motion Carried**

District 7

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| a. Forest Hill Cemetery | \$1306.25 | Cemetery Maintenance |
| Total \$1,306.25 | | |

It was moved by Clr. Parker and seconded by Clr. Palmer that the preceding Municipal Service Grants be approved for District 7. **Motion Carried**

District 11

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| a. Plymouth Fire Department | \$1,500.00 | Equipment Purchases |
| b. Sunny Brae Cemetery | \$400.00 | Maintenance |
| Total \$1,900.00 | | |

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. Dewar that the preceding Municipal Service Grants be approved for District 11. **Motion Carried**

CLIMATE CHANGE SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTMENT

Clr. Boyles requested that Council members approve the appointment of Mr. Richard Williams to the Climate Change Advisory Committee.

Warden Parker said that Mr. Williams was a farmer for 25 years and is well educated. Mr. Williams worked in planning and is interested in joining this committee. The Warden said Mr. Williams is an excellent candidate and would be a qualified addition to the committee.

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Warden Parker that Council approve the appointment of Richard Williams on the Climate Change Subcommittee. **Motion Carried**

TOURISM MARKETING LEVY BYLAW

A discussion was held between Council members to decide whether to adopt the Tourism Marketing Levy Bylaw with DEANS. Clr. Elliott did not feel using taxpayer dollars to collect a levy for DEANS would be fair. She expressed concern for the small businesses and seasonal operations and will not support this levy.

Clr. Boyles said DEANS has helped the County and should be applauded. He said he felt in the long run, this would be better for business owners.

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. Turner to adopt the Tourism Marketing Levy Bylaw.

Clr. Wadden had the opportunity to speak to a Bed and Breakfast in District 2 and said they were happy this levy will be coming into effect. The money will be well spent on advertising local areas. There will not be a charge for this if a person is staying for hospital visit or emergency.

Clr. Parker voiced concerns about extending tax power to DEANS and will not support the levy. Clr. Parker called a Point of Order and stated that the mover spoke for a second time and stated the debate was over. Clr. MacKeil said that the rules have to be made clear for Council proceedings and Council has get the rules in order.

Motion Carried

Nay Votes: Clr. Elliott, Clr. D Parker, Clr. Dewar, Warden Parker

CAPITAL BUDGET SURVEY RESULTS

CAO Cullen said the Capital Budget Survey Results showed unanimous agreement to the water meter replacement and Hillside lift station to be considered for this fiscal capital plan. The Hopewell/Eureka pumping station, the Abercrombie sidewalk project, ERECC flow meters, Administration Building renovations and the Blue Acres sidewalk should be considered part of the plan. He said there is not enough time to complete the sidewalk projects this year.

The projects to be deferred for future consideration were the Churchville water, Little Harbour sidewalk, broader Municipal Building expansion and the Stanwood Drive paving project.

The remainder of the flow meters for ERECC are budgeted for the remainder of year two; the municipal building renovations carry over to year two.

CAO Cullen said that each project has a budget estimate, and as things progress in various components, there will be a budget review, and Council will have to approve.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Warden Parker for the CAO and staff to put the capital plan together with financing options and present that to the committee at the next meeting. **Motion Carried**

2022-23 J-CLASS SUBDIVISION STREET PAVING FUNDING

Clr. MacKeil said that a memo was received from Laura Cunningham, Nova Scotia Public Works, about the Capital Programming Cost Share Agreement with the cost overruns and tenders of Second Avenue, Hattie Lane and New Row paving projects.

CAO Cullen said that this included the original estimates and anything over 10% must be brought back for Council to approve.

It was moved by Clr. Parker and seconded by Clr. Thompson to accept the new tender and cost share amounts. **Motion Carried**

2023-24 J-CLASS ROAD SELECTION

Clr. Palmer wanted two additional roads submitted to the J-Class program to be considered. Clr. Palmer said that the roads are taken care of, which would never have been done without the cost-sharing of these roads.

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Thompson to submit Blackie Road, Greenwood Street and Old Row to be considered for cost-sharing in the J-Class Roads. **Motion Carried**

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business before the meeting, so the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

MUNICIPAL CLERK