

January 16, 2023

The Financial Services Committee 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, January 16, 2023, at 7 p.m.

PRESENT

Dist. 1 Clr. Don Butler
2 Clr. Deborah Wadden
3 Clr. Darla MacKeil (Chair)
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

Clr. Darla MacKeil, Chair of the Finance Committee to, order and acknowledged that we are on the ancestral territorial lands of the Mikmaq people.

AGENDA

A municipal service grant extension for the Millbrook and Area Community Association would be listed at 8C on the agenda. Clr. Boyles asked that a discussion about Red Cross gift cards be added to the agenda, but Chair MacKeil said this would be put on the next council agenda for (Feb. 6).

It was moved by Clr. Elliott, seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the agenda be approved with the addition of the grant extension request for the Millbrook and Area Community Association

Motion Carried.

Nay vote Clr. Peter Boyles

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II JUBILEE RECIPIENTS

Chair MacKeil congratulated Clr. Thompson and Clr. Dewar on being recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medals. The Medals are awarded to people who have a person who is a resident of Nova Scotia or have a strong direct connection with the province and have made a significant contribution to Canada, Nova Scotia, or to a particular region or community.

MINUTES

Chair MacKeil asked if there were any errors, corrections, or omissions in the minutes for Dec. 19, 2022. There were no errors or omissions entered by the members of the Committee, the Chair proclaimed the minutes of the meeting on December 19th, 2022, as the official record of that meeting.

PRESENTATION

A presentation on Basic Liveable Income was given by Hallett Llewellyn and Karen King Llewellyn, who are volunteer coordinators of the Liveable Income of the United Church of Canada. Mr. Llewellyn said a Basic Liveable Income gives people the confidence to be part of society and the incentive to better themselves.

Clr. Turner said he supports the Basic Liveable Income, and the time has come for change. Clr. Palmer said it is difficult to fill positions in the workforce and has concerns that Basic Liveable Income would hinder this even more. Clr. Parker said it can have a short-term impact on the workforce but would like to see a stipulation that required people to upgrade their education or life skills while receiving the wage.

Warden Parker said the spread between those who have and don't have is getting greater and if nothing is done, more issues are created, and people's mental health deteriorates. However, he questioned where the federal government would find the money for this without taking it from another program.

Clr. Thompson thanked the Llewellyns' for their presentation and agreed that this would incentivize people to improve their lives. Clr. Wadden agreed that the programs in place are not working, and she commended the Llewellyns for bringing a new idea forward. Clr. Elliott said there are many unanswered questions and she will need to see a plan in place before she can support it.

The Llewellyns left a draft proclamation for Council to consider that asks the federal 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.

MOTION RECREATION REPORT

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker, seconded by Clr. Palmer that the recreation report for the month of December 2022 be received for information purposes,
Motion

Carried

MOTION COMMUNICATON REPOT

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Warden Parker that the communications report be received for information purposes. Warden Parker noted that the views for Tyler McLean on the Facebook page show the public's interest in the talents of young people in our community, and council should consider having similar presentations in the future. Motion Carried

MOTION EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the Emergency Services Report be received for information purposes. Motion Carried

MOTION WARDEN'S REPORT

Chair MacKeil acknowledged that the Warden's Report contains November and December reports.

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. Wadden that the Warden's Report for the Month's of November and December 2022 be received for information purposes.

Clr. D. Parker asked for an update on the Crisis Mental Health Group meeting. Warden Parker said the group met with provincial reps and members of NS Health. It focused on Pictou County having its own crisis mental health area and place for in-patients if necessary. Motion Carried

MUNICIPAL ALCOHOL PROJECT.

Clr. Wadden reported that the central zone Mental Health and Addictions Health Promotion Team is tracking establishments that sell alcohol to track how access to alcohol increases over time. They hope to use this information in the future for alcohol harm reduction efforts.

Our MAP committee agreed to track establishments that sell alcohol in Pictou County. Other alcohol groups in the Northern Zone will track in their areas. Clr. Wadden asked if the members could email me a list of establishments that sell alcohol products

in your District, not restaurants but places that sell sealed/closed alcohol products like convenience stores or farmer's markets or distilleries, I will be able to forward those lists for this project.

PICTOU ANTIGONISH REGIONAL LIBRARY

Clr. Wadden reported that the Pictou Project is still waiting to hear back on the final grants from the Federal government. A maker Lab grant for \$14,000 has been approved, as well as a Micmac Presentation grant of \$5000. Both these are being added to the new Pictou Library.

The Town of New Glasgow is preparing an RFP for the Architectural design for their planned renovations.

SMS Messaging and the Same Page projects are implemented and working well. 8 of the 9 Regional Libraries are using these programs.

Hoopla was launched through the library last Monday. This is a streaming service; you only need a library card and email address to register. This is a really exciting program and already being well used.

MOTION ACCOUNTS

It was moved by Clr. Butler and second by Clr. D. Parker that the accounts paid for the month of December 2022 be received for information purposes. Motion Carried

DEED TRANSFER TAX FUND

The Deed Transfer Tax Report for the month of December 2022 was received for Information Purposes Only

OUTSTANDING TAXES RECEIVABLE REPORT

The Taxed Receivable report for the month of December 2022 was received for Information Purposes Only

CORRESPONDENCE

Council accepted correspondence from Honourable John Lohr on 12 Month Notice Letter Construction and Demolition Guidelines. Warden Parker said no official numbers had been provided regarding how much extra would be trucked to the landfill in Guysborough. He said the Municipality has no control over this, but it will be extra work for contractors who need to sort the items themselves.

The Municipal Code of Conduct Working Group report was received. It was noted that the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities would notify councillors of the time the workshops took place.

MOTION MUNICIPAL TAX EXEMPTION 2023/24

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Warden Parker to accepted the recommendation of keeping the Municipal Tax Exemption at \$25,000 for total household income, and the amount of the exemption remains at \$200.

Clr. Dewar rescinded this motion after a recommendation was made to Council that the total household income and exemption amount be raised.

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. Turner for the total household income to be increased to \$30,000, with the amount of the exemption being raised to \$250. Motion Carried.

MOTION - GRANT REQUEST

It was moved by Warden Parker and seconded by Clr. Turner the following grant be recommended to Council for approval

Salem and Area Recreation - \$350 Start-Up Grant - Operational Expenses
Motion Carried

MOTION - GRANT EXTENSION REQUEST

It was moved by Warden Parker and seconded by Clr. Dewar that the following grant extension be recommend for approval:

D06 Salem Presbyterian Church - \$2500.00 Extension of time of Jan 31, 2024
for Hall Renovations
Motion Carried

MOTION- GRANT EXTENTION REQUEST

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the following grant extension be approved:

D07 Millbrook Area Community Centre- \$307.00 Extension of time for Jan. 31, 2024,
purchase of AED battery
Motion Carried

MOTION- APPOINTMENT OF BUILDING INTERN

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. Elliott be approved that Cody Avery is approved as the Municipality of the County of Pictou's Building Intern.
Motion Carried

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

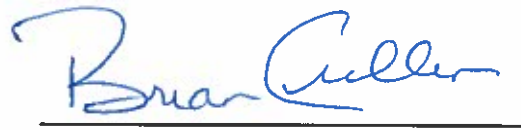
There were no emergency resolutions brought forward.

ADOURN

There was no further business before the meeting, so the Chair declared the meeting to be adjourned (8:45 pm).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul MacNeil", written over a horizontal line.

CHAIRPERSON

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Cullen", written over a horizontal line.

MUNICIPAL CLERK