

January 4, 2023

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 Tuesday, January 4, 2023, 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 four years ago. We are all treaty people.

AGENDA

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the agenda be approved. Warden Parker announced that Clr. Turner would read the resolution for the Fire Inspector Appointment since Clr. Palmer was online rather than in chambers.

Motion carried.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of December 5, 2022, Council Meeting were reviewed by the Municipal Council. There were no additions, deletions, or clarifications entered by members of the Council. The Warden proclaimed the minutes of the meeting of December 5th, 2022, as the official record of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence received from Adele MacKay received by council.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION:

- a) Thank you letter from Ryan Cooley, NNEC grant recipient
- b) Thank You Letter from Hannah Fleury 4-H

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION TYLER MACLEAN

Warden Parker presented Tyler MacLean with a Certificate of Recognition. Sixteen-year-old Tyler MacLean of Durham has been involved with the Scotsburn 4H Club for the past eight years. He is a Grade 11 student in Northumberland Regional High School's International Baccalaureate Program and is a very active 4H member. He has taken on the role of club secretary and vice president and currently serves as president. His major project with the club focuses on food, and according to his leaders, his forte is public speaking. He recently combined these two interests by placing first in Nova Scotia for Young Speakers for Agriculture Competition. This qualified Tyler for the senior Canadian Young Speakers competition at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto in November, where he placed second. He is the only member from the Scotsburn 4H club to ever participate in this Young Speakers competition at the Royal Fair. Tyler competed against people in the age range of 16 to 24 years, and his speech focused on careers in agriculture. His 4H Leader Cathy Lavers said Tyler's speech is important for everyone to hear because, as he points out when people think of jobs in agriculture, they visualize wearing overalls. Yet, many jobs in agriculture require a lab coat. He spoke about the innovation and scientific discoveries in today's agriculture that can lead to more career choices for people with a passion for studying and working in agriculture. Tyler read his speech for Council before being presented with a plaque by the Warden.

PRESENTATION: PICTOU COUNTY PARTNERSHIP

Scott Ferguson, CEO of the Pictou County Partnership, presented to the council. He was joined by Heidi Sinclair, who is the Partnership's Director of

Communications. Mr. Ferguson provided Council with an update on their work in the last few years and plans moving forward. He highlighted four principles: economic development, the importance of a thriving business, Immigration, and looking at partnership as an investment.

Clr Turner asked how the link happens between organizations in Pictou County and businesses. Mr. Ferguson said the Partnership meets with businesses and supports them. He said the Partnership connected with over 125 businesses since the summer and hosted events during small business week. It has identified businesses that need more planning sessions that will allow them to utilize to grow their businesses. He said the Partnership has heard businesses are burnt out. Lack of employees, lack of transportation for employees and lack of time to navigate programs that might support them. Access to capital is always a challenge for small business owners and succession planning is also something that is rarely considered. Immigration programs have benefitted the workforce in Pictou County. Warden Parker thanked Mr. Ferguson and Ms. Sinclair for their presentation.

REPORTS:

Municipal Alcohol Project

Clr. Wadden reported 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.

If you all would be able to 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 Feds 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. Really exciting program and already being well used.

Tactile Art Workshops are waiting for final approval by Sara Mosher. These are monthly workshops for the visually impaired. Again, much anticipated by library users, and the hope is to move the workshops around our various libraries. Melissa Marshall is now the new coordinator for Virtual Care. This program is to continue until the end of March. It was a pilot project by the province but was received well, so we hope a request to extend this program will be approved. Pat Dunn has met with Library staff concerning Adopt a Library. He is a very strong supporter of this program and recognizes its merits. Hopefully, he will be successful in getting funding for this program. A request was placed through his office for \$2000 for books, resulting in this program's ability to receive \$40000 in books. Our next fundraiser will be Chili in a pottery bowl. Details are still being worked on. Tickets will be available with half the purchase price being a Tax Donation. So, we should be hearing more on that soon. Family Literacy Day Challenge starts on Jan 20 and runs until Feb 4 with a chance to do some activities; check off your card and enter it for a chance to win a prize package. Family Literacy Day is January 27 to raise awareness about the importance of reading and doing literacy-related activities as a family.

RESOLUTION MUNICIPAL SERVICES GRANTS

Clr. Parker 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 7

Gairloch Cemetery	\$400	Replace Hurricane-Damaged Doors
Forest Hills Cemetery	\$800	Removal of Hurricane Trees/Debris
New Larig Pioneer Cemetery	\$500	Replace Sign and Maintenance.
St. Andrew's Cemetery and Annex	\$2750	Removal of Hurricane Trees/Debris
Hill Cemetery	\$1000	Removal of Hurricane Trees/Debris
Middle River Birch Hill Cemetery	\$3000	Removal of Hurricane Trees/Debris

Total \$11,224.00

DATED at Pictou, Nova Scotia, this the 4th day of January 2023.

Sgd David Parker
 Mary Elliott

RESOLUTION COMMUNITY GENERATOR PROGRAM

Clr. Wadden presented the following resolution to Council.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Province of Nova Scotia created a program to help community centres buy and install generators so the centres can provide a gathering place for the community when needed.

WHEREAS the Province of Nova Scotia will contribute 80 percent of the total project costs to a maximum of \$50,000;

WHEREAS during disasters and emergencies, these community centers may be called upon by the local emergency management office to become a comfort centre, where residents can get a warm drink, support one another, get information and other resources;

WHEREAS the local community centre is required to fund at least 20 percent of the project costs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council create a community generator fund for \$60,000 in the 2022/23 fiscal year to be funded from surplus general funds or a transfer from the General Operating Reserve;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that a community centre may apply to the Municipal Council for a grant of no more than 10 percent of their project costs to a maximum of \$5000.

DATED at Pictou, N. S. this 4th day of January 2023.

(Sgd.) Deborah Wadden
Don Butler

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION FIRE INSPECTOR APPOINTMENT

Clr. Thompson presented the following resolution to Council.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Section 19 of the Fire Safety Act requires that the Municipality has a system of fire inspections in place for the scheduling of fire inspections.

WHEREAS the Fire Safety Act requires that the Municipality appoint a fire inspector to implement the system of fire inspection;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council appoint Jason Le Greca as the Fire Inspector and this appointment shall remain in force until repealed by the Municipal Council.

DATED at Pictou, Nova Scotia on the 4th Day of January 2023.

(Sgd.) Andy Thompson
Larry Turner

Motion Carried.

MOTION - DECLINING LANDLINE TELEPHONE SERVICE

Deputy Warden Murray assumed the chair.

Warden Parker told the council he has been hearing residents from across the county about their concerns about waiting for landlines to be repaired or being told the repair service is no longer available in Pictou County. The Warden said the MOPC is working on an internet project in the county that will make high-speed internet available to all rural residents, but it has nothing to do with landline phone service, nor should it affect the service that another company offers to its customers. He said there had been an increase in cell phone usage and a decrease in landlines, but many people live in areas where cell service is poor, so landlines are necessary.

Clr. Dewar said if he had an emergency in his house while the power was out, his wife would need to get in the car and drive to an area with cell service to call 911.

CAO Cullen said telephone service is regulated by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission and complaints can be made directly to it.

It was moved by Warden Parker, seconded by Clr. Dewar to write a letter to Central Nova MP Sean Fraser requesting that he investigate with the CRTC the lack of landline service in rural Pictou County for safety and security purposes.

Motion Carried

Warden Parker assumed the chair.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clr. Dewar said on Jan. 9th, the official opening of the Eureka Bridge will take place at the bridge. The provincial government will be hosting the event.

Clr. Boyles said the Kitchen Party at the Hillside Hall will take place Friday, January 6 from 630- 9 p.m. \$5 at the door with a free lunch. Entertainers are free.

Clr. Wadden said the Christmas Dinner at St. George’s Church was well attended.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

There were no emergency resolutions.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Warden declared the meeting adjourned.

Warden

Municipal Clerk