

July 17, 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, July 17, 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
- 10 Clr. Randy Palmer
- 11 Clr. Andy Thompson
- 12 Clr. Chester Dewar

ABSENT

- 9 Clr. Peter Boyles

IN ATTENDANCE

Brian Cullen, CAO, Municipal Clerk-Treasurer
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 Mi'kmaq people.

AGENDA

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

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

There were no emergency resolutions brought forward.

MINUTES

Clr. Palmer asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the June 19, 2023 minutes. The members of the Committee entered no errors, omissions, or corrections. The Chair proclaimed the meeting minutes on June 19, 2023, as the official record of the meeting.

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence presented.

RECREATION and MPAL REPORT

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Wadden that the Recreation Report be received as presented.

Motion Carried

COMMUNICATION REPORT

It was moved by Warden Parker and seconded by Deputy Warden Murray that the Communication Report be received as presented.

Motion Carried

EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT

It was moved by Clr. Elliott and seconded by Clr. Palmer that the Emergency Services Report be received as presented.

Motion Carried

FIRE INSPECTORS REPORT

It was moved by Clr. Butler and seconded by Clr. Wadden that the Fire Inspector's Report be received as presented.

Motion Carried

WARDENS REPORT

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. Parker that the Warden's Report be received as presented.

Motion Carried

ACCOUNTS PAID – MAY 2023

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Deputy Warden Murray that the Accounts Paid for June 2023 report be received as presented.

Motion Carried

DEED TRANSFER TAX (For Information Purposes Only)

The Deed Transfer Tax Report for June 2023 was received for information purposes.

TAXES RECEIVABLE REPORT

The Taxes Receivable Report for June 2023 was received for information purposes.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE GRANTS

District 6

a. Loch Broom Log Church Comm	\$2,000.00	Maintenance
b. Salem Presbyterian Church Hall	\$6,000.00	New Ramp & Door at Hall
c. West River Fire Department	\$8,000.00	Assist with Gen. Purchase
d. West River Presbyterian Church	\$3,466.00	Painting at Church
Total	\$19,466.00	

It was moved by Warden Parker and seconded by Clr. Turner that the following Municipal Services Grants be approved for District 6. **Motion Carried**

District 11

a. Blue Mountain Fire Dept	\$3563.00	Contrib to Gen Project
b. East River St. Mary's Fire Dept	\$3,500.00	Contrib to Gen Project
c. Garden of Eden Comm Centre	\$4,000.00	Opt Costs/Gen Project
d. Green's Brook Cemetery	\$400.00	Operating Costs
e. Churchville Hall	\$1,750.00	Operating Costs
f. East River Valley Fire Dept	\$1,500.00	Equipment Purchase
g. ERV Community Development Assoc	\$1,500.00	Newsletter Expense
h. East River Valley Recreation Assoc	\$2,000.00	Operating Costs
i. Glencoe Community Hall	\$950.00	Operating Costs
j. Plymouth Comm & Rec Assoc	\$3,000.00	Landscaping Costs
k. Plymouth FD Ladies Aux	\$950.00	Equipment Purchase
l. Springville Cemetery	\$400.00	Cemetery Maintenance
m. Trustees of Springville Pres. Church	\$2,000.00	Contribution to Gen Project
Total	\$25,513.00	

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. Dewar that the following Municipal Service Grants be approved for District 11 with the correction that the Garden of Eden Community Center will be used for operating costs and the generator project. **Motion Carried**

District 12

a. Lorne Hall	\$6,000.00	Operating Costs
b. Friends of Iona Park	\$2,000.00	Operating Costs
c. Hopewell First Presbyterian Church	\$750.00	War Memorial Upkeep
d. MacLean Cemetery	\$1,000.00	Maintenance Costs
e. Marshdale Cemetery	\$1,000.00	Maintenance Costs
f. Hopewell 4H	\$1,750.00	4H Expense/Kiosk Maint.

g. ERV Comm Development Assoc Newsletter	\$6,000.00	Riverton Hall Operations &
h. East River Valley Recreation	\$2,000.00	Recreation Program Costs
Total	\$20,500.00	

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. Thompson that the following Municipal Services Grants be approved for District 12. **Motion Carried**

Recreation Grants

a. PC Trap and Skeet Club	\$350.00	Start-Up Grant
b. PC Arts Society	\$350.00	Start-Up Grant
Total	\$700.00	

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the following Municipal Service Grants be approved. **Motion Carried**

c. Union Pres. Church Youth Group	\$1,500.00	Operating Grant
Total	\$1,500.00	

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Parker that the following Municipal Service Grant be approved. **Motion Carried**

Community Generator Fund

a. ERV St. Mary's Fire Dept	\$3,410.00	MOPC Contribution
b. MARSHA	\$3,557.00	MOPC Contribution
c. Lismore & District Rec Centre	\$3,448.00	MOPC Contribution
d. Toney River Community Centre	\$4,567.00	MOPC Contribution
Total	\$14,982.00	

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the following Municipal Service Grants be approved. **Motion Carried**

VEHICLE SALE TENDERS

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Dewar to accept the highest bid on the surplus Municipal vehicle tenders. **Motion Carried**

COST OF HOOKING UP SEWER LATERALS

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Warden Parker to have staff look at the costs of putting in the sewer laterals and to update policies and the sharing of this cost. **Motion Carried**

COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY EVENT POLICY

Clr. Wadden presented the following resolution to Council:



MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY EVENT GRANT PROGRAM

POLICY # - 2023-07-17

1) PURPOSE

- a) To establish equitable guidelines for the distribution of funds to the not-for-profit sector and charitable organizations in the community.
- b) For the Municipality to recognize and support the efforts of community organizations to provide cultural, social, environmental, heritage, economic, recreation programs, facilities, and events to the benefit of municipal residents.

2) AUTHORITY

- a) Authority is provided under Section 65, Municipal Government Act, as amended.

3) OBJECTIVES

- a) To identify on an annual basis the amount of funding that the Municipality will provide in grants.
- b) To establish a process for applying for grant money which is fair and consistently applied, as well as a process by which the Municipality will consider grant requests.

4) GENERAL POLICY STATEMENTS

- a) The Municipal Council shall determine annually as part of its budget deliberations the amount of funds to be provided to support the various events.
 - i) For Fiscal year 2023/24 the amount shall be \$18,000
 - ii) Each of the Council Districts shall receive \$1500.

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- b) Grants shall not be awarded to individuals, businesses, industry, or sole proprietorship.
 - c) Only one application can be submitted by an organization per fiscal year.
 - d) Applicants must agree to recognize the Municipality for its contribution. This may include a banner, public statement, sign, or other method agreed to by the Municipality.
 - e) Letters shall be sent to all grant recipients, noting program reporting requirements and any restrictions.
 - f) The applicant shall be in good standing with the County of Pictou and shall not have a debt or legal claim outstanding.

5) **ELIGIBILITY**

- a) The applicant must be:
 - i) a federally registered charity.
 - ii) non-profit society registered and active with the Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stocks.
 - iii) A society within the meaning of the Children and Family Services Act.
 - iv) A mental health clinic in receipt of financial assistance from the Province of Nova Scotia.
 - v) An exhibition held by an educational institution in the Municipality.
 - vi) A club, association or exhibition within the meaning of the Agriculture and Marketing Act.
 - vii) Any charitable, nursing, medical, athletic, educational, environmental, cultural, community, fraternal, recreational, religious, sporting or social organization within the Province of Nova Scotia.
 - viii) The applicant must provide a service to residents of the Municipality of the County of Pictou or that the residents may access.

6) **GRANTS**

- a) The Municipal Council may grant funds to community organizations from the Community Connectivity Event Fund:
 - i) To assist with an event or activity that brings people together for a social gathering such as a supper, welcoming event, community recreation event, or fundraising event that supports community infrastructure.
 - ii) The event must be held within the Municipality of the County of Pictou

7) REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- a) All grant recipients have until January 31st to submit their reporting form and documentation to demonstrate the grant was spent in accordance with the terms of funding, if the amount granted is more than \$1000.00.
- b) The applicant will keep accounting records for all receipts and expenditures relating to the grant allocation.
- c) If the project is completed without requiring the full use of the grant allocated by the Municipality, then the unspent portion shall be returned to the Municipality.
- d) Failure to report may result in ineligibility for further grant funding.
- e) In rare circumstances, an applicant's eligibility may be suspended for a specified period for misappropriation of funds, failure to report, or misrepresentation.

8) APPLICATION and REVIEW PROCESS

- a) A Municipal Councilor may receive a request to contribute to the event at any point throughout the fiscal year.
- b) The Municipal Councilor shall request payment of a grant on a form approved by the Administration.
- c) If the grant request meets the terms of the policy, then payment shall be approved by the Administration and the Administration shall report to the Financial Services the amount of the grant paid.
- d) Grant requests more than \$1000 shall be approved by the Municipal Council by way of resolution at a duly called meeting of Council.

Clr. Wadden
Clr. Turner
Motion Carried

VOLUNTARY VULNERABLE PERSONS REGISTRY

Clr. Thompson presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the climate emergency is here (recent wildfires and Fiona) and climate change has been identified as a priority area of municipal interest; and

WHEREAS all Nova Scotians have a right to public safety and this area is identified one of six priority areas of municipal interest; and

WHEREAS the United Nations (https://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/events/wcdrr/background_DiDRR.docx) Identified people with disabilities are two to four times more likely to die in a disaster; and

WHEREAS equity and community well-being is another priority area to serve the 30% of Nova Scotians, and 41% of seniors identify as having a disability (<https://novascotia.ca/accessibility/prevalence/>), and aging in place is being encouraged; and

WHEREAS First Voices are advocating for better emergency management and planning for people with disabilities <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-2-as-it-happens/clip/15992821-disability-rights-advocate-calls-vulnerable-persons-registry-great>; and

WHEREAS disasters do not respect administrative boundaries (<https://masscasualtycommission.ca/final-report/>); and

WHEREAS all forty-nine municipalities may not have the same technical capacity or paid staff (and rely on volunteers) to respond to these needs and it's important for all Nova Scotians to have access to the same level of public safety; and

WHEREAS a Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry (VVPR) is recognized best practice in the emergency field <https://www.sovpr.com/Home>. This is a voluntary registry so those with privacy concerns need not register and only location and accommodation needs are required data. A paid coordinator who manages the Registry ensures it is constantly updated; and

WHEREAS HRM's Chief of Emergency Management, in her report <https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/230620rc1511.pdf> to HRM asking for a VVPR (recently passed by HRM) identified that the risk of not doing a VVPR (death and injuries) outweighs the risk (managing expectations) of doing one; and

WHEREAS a leading expert in disaster planning and managements Paul Kovacs, (Executive Director of the Institute for Catastrophic Loss, Univ. Of Western Ontario) says "all mechanics of a Registry have been sorted out and every question that can be asked, there is an answer for."; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT we at *Municipality of the County of Pictou* ask the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, newly formed Public Safety Advisory Committee to prioritize collaboration and partnership between municipal governments with possible support from the provincial government to ensure implementation of Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registries province-wide that are integrated into the 911 system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED a copy of the resolution be sent to the NSFM and the Minister responsible for Emergency Management Office.

Dated at Pictou, Nova Scotia, July 17, 2023.

(Sgd.) _____

Clr. Thompson
Clr. Wadden
Motion Carried

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN ANTIGONISH COUNTY/BARNEY'S RIVER FIRE DEPARTMENT

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Warden Parker to accept the adoption of the Mutual Aid Agreement between Antigonish County and Barney's River Fire Department.

Motion Carried

APPOINTMENTS

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. Thompson to appoint Willard MacDonald as the District 12 Sheep Valuer.

Motion Carried

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clr. Parker said there will be a fundraiser barn dance at Elwood Fraser's Event Barn in Union Centre for the Union Centre Community Hall on Saturday, August 5, 2023, from 7:00 pm -12 am. The cost is \$15.00 per ticket.

Warden Parker said a musical concert will be held at the Salem & Area Recreation Association - SARA ballfield on Sunday, July 30, 2023, from 1:00-4:00 pm. The cost will be \$10.00, and you should bring your chair. The Island Boys, Amelia Parker, and Katie Aucoin will be the entertainment.

Deputy Warden Murray said the Annual Scotsburn Fire Department Pork Chop BBQ Fundraiser will be held on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, from 4:00-7:00 pm. This fundraiser will be for preorders only, the cost is \$15 for Adults.

Clr. Elliott said the Toney River Chicken BBQ will be held on July 23, 2023, at the Toney River Community Hall. This event will begin at 11:00 am and will be takeout only. The cost is large, \$15.00 and small \$10.00.

Clr. Wadden announced that the annual Little Harbour Salmon dinner would be held on August 20, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. The cost is \$25.00 per ticket; tickets can be purchased online this year.

The Warden will host the Warden's Tea in River John on Thursday, July 27, 2023, at the River John Fire Hall from 2:00-4:00 pm. The Warden will announce the River John Pickle Ball Field at 2:30 pm.

Clr. MacKeil said that the Caribou District Fire Department will host their annual lobster dinner on Saturday, August 5, 2023, at 1:00 pm. The cost is \$20.00 each and this event

will be take-out only. Preorders are now being taken and you can call or text 902-759-0686 to place an order.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business before the meeting, so the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7.31 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

MUNICIPAL CLERK