

July 17, 2023

The Property 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
Sueann Musick, Director of Corporate Services/Deputy Clerk
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer
Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development
Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services
Adam MacInnis, Communications Officer
Shellie Pettipas, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Clr. Palmer, Chair of the Property 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. MacKeil and seconded by Clr. Palmer 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 minutes of the meeting on June 19, 2023, as the official record of the meeting. **Motion Carried**

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT

It was moved by Deputy Warden and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the Building Inspection Report be received as presented. **Motion Carried**

BYLAW DOG CONTROL REPORT

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. MacKeil that the Bylaw Dog Control report be received as presented. **Motion Carried**

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REPORT

It was moved by Clr. Elliott and seconded by Clr. Butler that the Development Officer report be received as presented. **Motion Carried**

NSFM REPORT ON POLICING

Clr. Wadden said there was a phone call last week and there is a lot of concern across this province with policing. The NSFM now wants to get feedback from Councillors and hear their concerns and what they like about it. Clr. Wadden said that another meeting will be planned for the fall, and if anybody has any suggestions or concerns, they can contact Wesley at the Municipality office. Clr. Wadden stated that people are not against the RCMP, the concerns are the bureaucracy and the little say that municipalities have with the police force.

Warden Parker said he was also on that phone call and thinks things are moving too slowly. The Warden said this is more urgent than the attention given to it, and a better system is needed. A common concern is that the municipality often does not get the number of officers paid for. Warden Parker gives credit for the NSFM trying to change things but said it's going too slow; it is time to modernize the system to meet the needs of people better today. This needs to be pushed a little harder.

Clr. Wadden said the NSFM is trying to assemble a committee and is looking for input. The Councillor said this is a huge issue and won't be fixed overnight. This will take time,

and everybody wants it done right. Council members must support the NSFM going forward.

MEADOWVILLE STATION ROAD INTERSECTION

Deputy Warden Murray received a letter from a concerned resident regarding the intersection of Meadowville Station Road and River John Road in Poplar Hill.

The request was for a safety audit to be completed at the intersection and for steps to be taken to ensure that further accidents do not occur.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. MacKeil is to send a letter to the Transportation Minister along with copies to the MLA and Keith MacDonald, safety officer in River John, requesting a safety audit at this intersection.

Motion Carried

Clr. Dewar was glad this was being done and mentioned that something should be done about the Foxbrook and Stellarton Trafalgar Road with the number of trees and bushes. Clr. Dewar said that people were upset about this at the ratepayer's meeting, and he has received calls about it.

Clr. Butler voiced being in favour of the motion. It took a few years to get results in District 1, but they were positive. Clr. Parker stated that the Meadowville Station Road and the River John Road intersection need attention.

BARNEY'S RIVER SCHOOL HOUSE MUSEUM

CAO Cullen said this dates back to 1994. At that time, there was a recommendation by Council, which was recorded in the registry of deeds, which starts the 30-day clock and for objections. Once the 30 days are up, the Municipality serves notice on the owners that consideration is being given. There is a requirement under the Heritage Property Act to conduct a hearing, and that group would have the opportunity to speak at the hearing in favour of the hearing.

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. Butler to set a date for the hearing to register the Barney's River School House Museum as a heritage property.

Motion Carried

WILD PARSNIP INVASION

Warden Parker received a call a few weeks ago from Gerald Romsa, a resident of District 12. Mr. Romsa is 81 years old and is pulling wild parsnips to prevent them from affecting his fields more than they already have. Warden Parker and staff have investigated since then and felt that who's responsible for this looks confusing. From the correspondence received, Warden Parker felt it seemed to come down to the Province with the responsibility. The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture administered the Agricultural Weed Control Act and regulations to address the control of noxious weeds that present

significant economic, social or ecological risks to the agricultural industry. Wild parsnip is not currently listed as a noxious weed in the Province of Nova Scotia and therefore does not fall into that scope of activities.

The Warden said that at one point, there was a weed inspector, and if you had some weeds in your pasture, the weed inspector would visit and recommend what to do to get them out. They are a threat to the agricultural industry. Not only for agriculture but for personal safety, these weeds, if gotten on the skin, can cause burns. These weeds tend to take over and can compete with the native weeds here. He said you will see them in many places, and they seem to like ditches. Warden Parker said that these weeds do hurt the production of animals. They are not a good plant to have in your fields. The Warden said it is not just the weeds, insects are also a problem in the Province, affecting the trees.

It was moved by Warden Parker and seconded by Clr. Dewar that staff study that policy that HRM integrated pest management. Look at bringing something forward for Council to look at in this County.

Motion Carried

LAND USE PLANNING UPDATE

Director of Public Works and Development McDowell said a progress report from Upland Planning + Design was received on July 7. They are continuing to work and expect to have additional information in August. Upland has requested that Councillors respond and complete the survey on the engagement strategy. They want to find out who may be the key stakeholder within each district. They are finishing the background report and expect to submit it in the first week of August.

Deputy Warden Murray asked Mr. McDowell to confirm who completed the survey as it seemed to take a while to upload when it was completed.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS – MACLELLAN’S BROOK/COALBURN WATER PROJECT

Mr. McDowell said three consultants had submitted tenders. Consultation will occur with First Nations and will take a month or two. Mr. McDowell said that after that time, they will be looking to make a recommendation to this Council.

Clr. Palmer asked if things would proceed after 60 days if there is no feedback from the First Nations. CAO Cullen said a report would have to be submitted to Infrastructure Canada to detail who was sent the letters, if any responses were given and if they signed off on it saying it was complete. The CAO said it intends to hold off on awarding the tender until Federal funding is approved. September 22, 2023, is the date that was given that all 13 First Nations in the Province have been consulted.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business before the meeting, so the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

MUNICIPAL CLERK