

July 4, 2023

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building by videoconference and teleconference on Tuesday, July 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  
Sueann Musick, Director of Corporate Services/Deputy Clerk  
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**

Warden 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 Municipality's work and remember our indigenous communities. He acknowledges that we are on the ancestral territorial lands of the Mi'kmaq people and would like to thank the Mi'kmaq people today for their ancestors sharing these precious lands with all our ancestors, whether they arrived here 400 years ago or four years ago. May we all live in peace and harmony together.

## **AGENDA**

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

Clr. MacKeil made the following additions to the agenda:

1. Northumberland Ferries Interruption to Services
2. The Lack of Tourist Bureau Sites in Pictou West.

Warden Parker requested that two additional items be added to the agenda:

1. Anti Littering
2. Federal Housing Initiative

### **EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS**

There were no emergency resolutions brought forward.

### **ERRORS AND OMISSIONS/CORRECTION OF MINUTES**

Warden Parker made a correction to the minutes of the meeting of June 5, 2023. Under the heading Municipal Affairs and Housing, the first paragraph addresses the Coastal Protection Act and should have been placed in the Ecology Action Plan section.

The minutes of the June 5, 2023, Council Meeting were reviewed by the Municipal Council. The Warden proclaimed the meeting minutes of June 5, 2023, as the official record of the meeting.

### **PRESENTATION**

The MOPC presented Certificates of Recognition to GFL employees Matthew Deal, Jayden Stevens, and Jeff Wadden, whose actions saved a woman's life in Bailey's Brook on March 2, 2023. First responders say the actions of these men almost certainly saved her life. The Municipality of Pictou County thanks each of these men for their quick action and compassion.

Clr. Butler presented the men with a token of appreciation from Karen, the woman they helped to rescue. Karen could not attend the Council meeting, so the gift was presented by Clr. Butler on her behalf.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

North Nova Education Centre sent a thank you letter for the bursary contribution from the County Council.

### **RIVERVIEW HOME CORPORATION**

Clr. Parker said that in 2014, three people with disabilities took the Province of Nova Scotia to court regarding discrimination and were successful. A court-ordered remedy

involves a five-year program to move all residents from institutions and the closure of those institutions. Each resident will be housed in the community in a group home. Clr. Parker said the clock on those five years started in June 2023.

Riverview Adult Residential Centre, which has 33 residents, will be closed. The three group homes on site that currently house eight individuals must be changed to four individuals per home. The money currently allocated to Riverview Adult Residential Centre will be allocated to the individuals, and they will decide where they want to live and who they want to have as support personnel.

Clr. Parker said there are roughly 50 individuals in need of homes. Some people have been moved into group homes in the last three years.

Six municipalities own the building, and the mortgage is about \$26 million. The building was renovated and could have other potential uses. Clr. Parker said this will be an ongoing process that will evolve over the next five years and is hopeful that residents can be moved out sooner than that, especially the residents that need more support.

Warden Parker said that Council must be somewhat concerned with the other municipalities regarding the mortgage. Moving on to this matter sooner rather than later would be best.

Clr. MacKeil asked what Riverview has heard from the families regarding how they feel about this arrangement. Clr. Parker said that this hasn't been widespread to the families yet, and the families will have the right to bring their child home and manage their budgets. He expects there will be some foster families bringing residents into their homes, and this has been done in just about every province in Canada.

### **VALLEY VIEW VILLA**

Clr. Butler read the report on behalf of the Board of Directors for River Guest Home Corporation. The audited statement from MacDonald & Murphy Inc for the year ended March 31, 2023, showed a positive surplus on the revenue and expenditure statement. The report shows a \$545,511 surplus of retained earnings on the Statement of Changes in Net Assets. Clr. Butler noted that this is the first time in many years that there has been a surplus.

Re: Report to Pictou County Municipal Council on the Riverton Guest Home Corporation

On behalf of the Riverton Guest Home Corporation Board of Directors I am pleased to share the following report.

The audited statement from MacDonald & Murphy Inc. for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 showed a positive surplus on the revenue and expenditure statement. The Board is pleased to report a \$545,511 surplus of retained earnings on our Statement of Changes in Net Assets. This is the first time in many years that we have had a surplus. This has come to pass for a number of reasons.

#1: As we struggled through Covid-19, the province generously supported our many additional needs.

#2: Our management team was quick and alert to take advantage of all assistance that was available. Leveraging Long Term Care Aid funding to address staffing issues and improving CCA compliment.

#3: High Crest Solutions, our management provider for the past six and a half years introduced many changes in the administration of the Villa over that time period. Some showed quick improvements, while other took time to see positive results as indicated from the audited report.

#4: We are operating in the black and are in a stable financial position. Our debts have been paid including our loan from the Municipality.

Resident care has always been a priority of our board. The province has mandated that every resident receive 4.1 hours of care over a twenty four hour period. I am pleased to report that we have met this standard.

Plans are well underway to construct a new facility. Originally it was to have 113 beds. That has been increased to 144 single bed rooms with private baths. This is projected to be completed by 2026.

Pleased to report that both sick time and workers compensation claims have been reduced. This is an indication of an improvement in staff moral and overall safety culture.

We have a full compliment of staff. Pleased to welcome back some staff who left our employment during covid-19, have now returned.

Capital Upgrades include:

- Heat Pumps in dining rooms to create "cool" zones during extreme heat.
- 3 New Hydrosound Bath Tubs to improve resident bathing experience.
- Towel warmers, floor scrubbers, lifts, scales, are small equipment purchased over the year.

- Upgraded dining rooms to allow for food delivery on the units vs central kitchen. Big improvement to our care delivery as residents can have more choice as to when they can get up for breakfast.
- Upgraded board room for a designated meeting area and space for staff education.

Implemented a social committee to help address burnout and show staff appreciation. Movie night was provided where staff attended a free movie and snacks.

Recreation has 11 students for the summer to help with resident programming and lawn care.

Future Plans:

- Modernized Scheduling and HR system. This will give staff access to schedules, time off requests, policy, training and access to personnel files.
- Continue to design and build 144 bed facility
- Improvements made to our safety program. Done in consultation with SSI Consulting.
- Host CCA training programs

We have not just arrived at this present positive position. It has taken over six years of experienced leadership from our management team as well as a dedicated board of directors. We have a challenging agenda ahead of us over the next few years, however, we are committed.

Warden Parker asked when the construction of the new unit is expected to start and if the location for the new facility is firm. Clr. Butler responded that the hope was to start turning the sod later this fall, and the location is still being deliberated over.

Clr. Boyles followed up regarding the statement that Worker's Compensation claims are down with this care facility. Clr. Boyles said that in every case in the last while for Valley View Villa, they get a letter from Worker's Compensation stating that they can't contact the employer. Clr. Boyles asked Clr. Butler to look further into that. Clr. Butler responded that would be looked into and then would get back to Clr. Boyles about this.

## **SCOTSBURN MEETING REGARDING DANGEROUS OFFENDER**

Deputy Warden Murray attended a community meeting with RCMP at the Scotsburn Fire Hall regarding concerns from the residents following the release of a dangerous offender who has relocated to District 5. The Deputy Warden said that the meeting was very well attended. Deputy Warden Murray said that Scotsburn is a very active family community with a school, community centre, fire department, and trails. The residents have expressed concerns about using these facilities out of fear that their children may be in danger.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Boyles to send a letter to the Department of Corrections and the Federal Justice Minister, David Lametti and Sean Fraser, Member of Parliament for Central Nova to ask what precautions are taken when a high-risk offender moves into an area and what supports are in place for the community's residents.

**Motion Carried**

## **2023/24 TAX RATE AND GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET**

Clr. MacKeil presented the following resolution to Council:



### **RESOLUTION - TAX RATES 2023-24**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Municipal Council that the estimated expenditures of the Municipality of the County of Pictou for the fiscal period **April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024** is approved in the amount of **\$23,277,798** and after making the allowance for estimated revenue in the amount of **\$5,150,877** the amount of **\$18,126,921** is required from general taxation of the assessed valuation of **\$1,988,707,550**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Tax Rate for the fiscal period **April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024** be set at **\$0.815** per \$100 of assessment for residential and resource property and at **\$1.825** per \$100 of assessment for commercial property;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the rates and taxes for the current period may be collected by Warrant of Distress without further notice if not paid on or before the **16th day of October 2023**, with all costs and expenses of levy and on all proceedings incidental thereto: and further, if the said taxes are not paid before the 16th day of October 2023 an additional penalty charge will be payable in accordance with the Municipality's Interest Rate Policy.

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

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

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Clr. MacKeil  
Deputy Warden Murray  
**Motion Carried**  
Nay Vote Clr. Wadden

Clr. Wadden thanked staff for the enormous job done and the work put into the budget, but she still did not agree with taxation. She said the hope is that the Municipal Council will develop a more appropriate means of helping these fire departments.

Clr. Parker said he would support the budget but was concerned about the amount of money spent on water and sewer. He said about 3 million a year is taxed from the general public, but only about 1/3 of residents are getting service. He said 2/3 are subsidizing water and sewer expenses. We expect homeowners to cover the cost of the well and septic. But if the homeowner is in a municipally serviced area, they pay \$2,500.00 upfront, and the county maintains that, and there is a significant imbalance. Clr. Parker said that in next year's budget, it would be good to access a program that will help them address that. Clr. Parker also thanked staff for working hard to keep the budget in line.



**MUNICIPALITY OF PICTOU COUNTY**  
**GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET**  
**April 2023- March 2024**

	Unaudited			Budget Difference %
	2022-23 Year to Date (as at 03-31-2023)	2022-23 BUDGET Approved	2023-24 BUDGET Proposed	
<b>REVENUE</b>				
<b>TAXES</b>				
Residential	12,207,525.86	12,208,886.00	13,703,020.00	
Commercial	3,204,349.93	3,178,961.00	3,357,320.00	
Resource	935,577.68	938,414.00	1,029,808.00	
Area Rates	3,971,601.66	3,969,983.00	0.00	
Business Property	884,267.03	899,286.00	875,884.00	
Deed Transfer Tax	1,135,833.25	900,000.00	1,000,000.00	
Sub-total	<u>22,339,155.41</u>	<u>22,095,530.00</u>	<u>19,966,032.00</u>	8.3%
				(excluding Area Rates)
<b>GRANTS IN LIEU OF TAXES</b>				
Federal government	13,825.90	12,784.00	11,594.00	
Provincial government	249,931.24	243,890.00	252,083.00	
Sub-total	<u>263,757.14</u>	<u>256,674.00</u>	<u>263,677.00</u>	2.7%
<b>SALE OF SERVICES</b>				
Local Towns	539.95	500.00	500.00	0.0%
Recreation Services	10,944.86	5,000.00	23,000.00	360.0%
NSP - Sale of Wind Power	134,883.19	200,000.00	150,000.00	-25.0%
Sub-total	<u>134,883.19</u>	<u>200,000.00</u>	<u>150,000.00</u>	
<b>OTHER REVENUE FROM OWN SOURCE</b>				
Licenses and permits	106,122.19	80,600.00	95,700.00	
Return on Investment	567,549.72	255,000.00	530,000.00	
Miscellaneous	36,772.21	23,325.00	31,996.00	
Sub-total	<u>710,444.12</u>	<u>358,925.00</u>	<u>657,696.00</u>	83.2%
<b>UNCONDITIONAL TRANSFERS FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES</b>				
Provincial Government	439,094.00	439,095.00	448,165.00	2.1%
Sub-total	<u>439,094.00</u>	<u>439,095.00</u>	<u>448,165.00</u>	
<b>CONDITIONAL TRANSFERS FROM FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES</b>				
Federal Government	19,032.00	31,610.00	12,363.00	
Provincial Government	12,692.84	9,496.00	17,996.00	
Sub-total	<u>38,353.87</u>	<u>41,106.00</u>	<u>30,359.00</u>	-26.1%
<b>OTHER TRANSFERS</b>				
Valuation Allowances	0.00	0.00		
Transfer from Other Funds & Depts.	306,000.00	489,882.00	1,738,369.00	
Sub-total	<u>306,000.00</u>	<u>489,882.00</u>	<u>1,738,369.00</u>	254.9%
<b>TOTAL GENERAL REVENUE</b>				
	<u>24,243,172.54</u>	<u>23,886,712.00</u>	<u>23,277,798.00</u>	-2.5%
Less Area Rates	3,971,601.66	3,969,983.00	0.00	-100.0%
Net General Revenues	<u>20,271,570.88</u>	<u>19,916,729.00</u>	<u>23,277,798.00</u>	16.9%





**MUNICIPALITY OF PICTOU COUNTY**  
**GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET**  
**April 2023- March 2024**

	Unaudited 2022-23 Year to Date (as at 03-31-2023)	2022-23 BUDGET Approved	2023-24 BUDGET Proposed	Budget Difference %
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES</b>				
Legislative	431,269.26	435,834.00	479,652.00	
General Administrative	1,180,785.28	1,367,006.00	2,799,822.00	
Taxation	255,033.00	264,000.00	298,102.00	
Assessment Services	492,102.52	492,103.00	490,436.00	
Banking & Interest Expense	14,000.93	12,000.00	15,000.00	
Reserve for Uncollectable Accounts	196,211.02	180,000.00	190,000.00	
Elections	135.70	0.00	0.00	
Council Grants	223,206.03	213,800.00	385,033.00	
Communications	52,699.33	84,933.00	78,828.00	
Intergovernmental relations	21,007.90	20,750.00	22,000.00	
Liability Insurance	102,453.00	102,453.00	112,549.00	
Sundry	29,391.85	35,440.00	35,451.00	
Sub-total	<u>2,998,295.82</u>	<u>3,208,319.00</u>	<u>4,906,873.00</u>	52.9%
<b>PROTECTIVE SERVICES</b>				
Police Protection	3,952,317.00	3,953,217.00	4,191,996.00	
Court Expenses	19,602.44	20,000.00	25,000.00	
Corrections	299,953.08	299,953.00	300,000.00	
By-Law Enforcement	90,916.58	83,754.00	92,472.00	
Fire Protection	844,799.27	881,844.00	738,265.00	
Area Rates	2,489,876.82	2,716,663.00	0.00	
Emergency Services Department	105,536.68	105,870.00	149,089.00	
Emergency measures organization	33,672.52	33,673.00	34,407.00	
Building Inspect. Dept. - Expense	244,127.61	267,533.00	330,759.00	
Unsightly Property & Dog Control	9,910.58	17,000.00	16,000.00	
Sub-total	<u>8,090,712.58</u>	<u>8,379,507.00</u>	<u>5,877,988.00</u>	2.6%
<b>TRANSPORTATION SERVICES</b>				
Roads & Streets	247,797.09	252,986.00	267,729.00	
Sidewalks	135,246.44	85,000.00	110,000.00	
Street Lighting	13,723.29	9,500.00	14,500.00	
Area Rates	77,368.56	233,756.00	0.00	
Sub-total	<u>474,135.38</u>	<u>581,242.00</u>	<u>392,229.00</u>	7.7%
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES</b>				
Area Rates	878,744.35	1,019,564.00	0.00	
Sewer Services	70,000.00	70,000.00	80,000.00	
Garbage & Recycling Services	1,476,027.73	1,506,265.00	1,633,836.00	
Public Works Department Expenses	642,403.04	674,385.00	702,321.00	
Other Environmental Health	2,594.99	3,000.00	3,000.00	
Sub-total	<u>3,069,770.11</u>	<u>3,273,214.00</u>	<u>2,419,157.00</u>	5.1%
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH &amp; WELFARE</b>				
Housing Authority Deficit	140,000.00	138,984.00	156,000.00	12.2%
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT</b>				
GIS Department Expenses	99,071.81	103,738.00	119,513.00	
Municipal Planning	153,351.31	50,000.00	20,000.00	
Development Officer Expense	85,265.85	87,287.00	96,771.00	



**MUNICIPALITY OF PICTOU COUNTY**  
**GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET**  
**April 2023- March 2024**

	Unaudited			Budget Difference %
	2022-23 Year to Date (as at 03-31-2023)	2022-23 BUDGET Approved	2023-24 BUDGET Proposed	
Regional Development	101,583.48	102,758.00	130,176.00	
Grants	18,250.00	18,250.00	20,000.00	
Climate Change Initiatives	4,180.31	10,000.00	15,000.00	
Boundaries	710.04	0.00	1,000.00	
Wind Farm Expenses	131,032.25	131,000.00	152,000.00	
Affordable Housing Options	0.00	0.00	51,532.00	
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>593,445.05</b>	<b>503,033.00</b>	<b>605,992.00</b>	<b>20.5%</b>
<b>RECREATION SERVICES</b>				
Recreation Wages & Expenses	227,298.42	242,329.00	257,416.00	
Recreation Grants	291,338.00	305,483.00	272,900.00	
Recreation Program Expense	43,052.56	40,000.00	53,000.00	
Intermunicipal Contributions	223,090.50	265,378.00	297,379.00	
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>784,779.48</b>	<b>853,190.00</b>	<b>880,695.00</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
<b>CULTURAL SERVICES</b>				
Regional Library	195,112.00	195,112.00	195,112.00	
Branch Library	40,641.20	43,000.00	43,000.00	
Heritage Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Community Services	0.00	0.00	18,000.00	
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>235,753.20</b>	<b>238,112.00</b>	<b>256,112.00</b>	<b>7.6%</b>
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
Mandatory Contribution	5,297,112.00	5,297,111.00	5,650,482.00	6.7%
<b>SPECIAL ITEMS</b>				
Municipal Services Grants	300,000.00	300,000.00	300,000.00	
Deed Transfer Tax	1,056,238.06	900,000.00	1,000,000.00	
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1,356,238.06</b>	<b>1,200,000.00</b>	<b>1,300,000.00</b>	<b>8.3%</b>
<b>FINANCING and TRANSFERS</b>				
Capital from Revenue	176,289.51	214,000.00	832,270.00	
Transfer to Reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>176,289.51</b>	<b>214,000.00</b>	<b>832,270.00</b>	<b>288.9%</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL EXPENDITURE</b>				
	<b>23,216,531.19</b>	<b>23,886,712.00</b>	<b>23,277,798.00</b>	<b>-2.5%</b>
Less Area Rates	3,445,989.73	3,969,983.00	0.00	-100.0%
<b>Net General Expenditures</b>	<b>19,770,541.46</b>	<b>19,916,729.00</b>	<b>23,277,798.00</b>	<b>16.9%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>1,026,641.35</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	

## AREA RATE FOR STREETLIGHTS, HYDRANT AND SEWER

Deputy Warden Murray presented the following resolution to Council:



### RESOLUTION

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Municipal Council for the Municipal of the County of Pictou, that Council authorize the rating and collection of area rates for streetlights, hydrant fire protection and sewer maintenance fees on applicable properties assessed in all districts as follows for the fiscal period 2023 - 24:

<u>Type of Area Rate</u>	<u>Per \$100 Assessment Assessment Rate</u>	<u>Per Property Flat Rate</u>
Street Lights	\$ 0.052	
Street Lights (Little Harbour/Pictou Landing)	\$ 0.016	
Street Lights (Abercrombie/Granton)	\$ 0.017	
Street Lights		\$ 49.35
Street Lights (District 1)		\$ 9.09
Hydrant Fire Protection Residential		\$ 270.00
Hydrant Fire Protection Commercial	\$ 0.430	
Hydrant Fire Protection Institutional	\$ 0.470	
Sewer Maintenance Fee		\$325.00

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all rates and taxes as set out above shall be due and paid to the Treasurer on or before the 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023. If such rates and taxes are not paid by the 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023 an additional charge will be payable in accordance with the Municipality's Interest Rate Policy.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 4<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

(Sgd.)

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Clr. Boyles said he would not support this motion because of the fire hydrant fees. He said people in Hillside are being hit with this hydrant fee, and the fire departments don't use these hydrants.

Deputy Warden Murray  
Clr. Parker  
**Motion Carried**  
Nay Clr. Boyles

**WATER UTILITY**

Clr. Elliott presented the following resolution to Council:

**RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approved the Water Utility Budget for the 2023/24 fiscal period in the amount of \$553,540.00, the same having been reviewed and approved by the Financial Services Committee of Council.

**DATED** at Pictou, N. S. this 4<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

(Sgd.)

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Clr. Elliott  
Clr. Parker  
**Motion Carried**

**FIRE AREA RATES**

Clr. Butler presented the following resolution to Council:



**RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou, that Council authorize the rating and collection of of the following fire rates on properties assessed in the fire coverage areas throughout the Municipality for the fiscal period 2023-24:

#	Fire Department	Rate per \$100 Assessment	Rate per Acre	Flat Rate
1	Abercrombie	\$ 0.100	\$ 0.01	\$
2	Alma	0.098	0.01	
3	Barney's River	0.195	0.01	
4	Blue Mountain	0.195	0.01	
5	Caribou	0.086	0.01	
6	East River St. Mary's	0.195	0.01	
7	East River Valley	0.195	0.01	
8	Eureka	0.133	0.01	
9	Linacy	0.162	0.01	
10	Little Harbour	0.100	0.01	
11	Merigomish	0.174	0.01	
12	Pictou Landing	0.195	0.01	
13	Plymouth	0.190	0.01	
14	River John	0.095	0.01	
15	Scotsburn	0.124	0.01	
16	Thorburn	0.133	0.01	
17	Trenton		0.01	60.45
18	West River	0.124	0.01	

**BE FURTHER IT RESOLVED,** that all rates and taxes as set out above shall be due and paid by the 16th day of October 2023. If such rates and taxes are not paid by the 16th day of October, 2023 an additional charge will be payable in accordance with the Municipality's Interest Rate Policy.

Dated at Pictou, this 4th day of July, 2023.

(Sgd.) \_\_\_\_\_

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Clr. Butler  
Clr. Boyles  
**Motion Carried**  
Nay Clr. Wadden

**NEW SCOTLAND BUSINESS PARK**

Clr. Palmer presented the following resolution to Council:



**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS** New Scotland Business Inc., the Municipality of the County of Pictou and the Town of New Glasgow have agreed that the tax rates for the East River Business Park should not exceed \$1.89 per \$100 of assessment as a residential rate and \$2.90 per \$100 of assessment as a commercial rate and:

**WHEREAS** the Municipality of the County of Pictou has set the 2023-24 tax rates at \$0.815 per \$100 of assessment as a residential rate and \$1.825 per \$100 assessment as a commercial rate:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Municipal Council for the Municipal of the County of Pictou, that Council authorize the rating and collection of an area rate for the East River Business Park for the for the fiscal period 2023 – 24 as follows :

Residential Rate	\$1.075 per \$100 of assessment
Commercial Rate	\$1.075 per \$100 of assessment

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all rates and taxes as set out above shall be due and paid to the Treasurer on or before the 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023. If such rates and taxes are not paid by the 16th day of October, 2023 an additional charge will be payable in accordance with the Municipality's Interest Rate Policy.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 4<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2023.

(Sgd.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Clr. Palmer  
Clr. Parker  
**Motion Carried**

## COUNCIL GRANTS

Clr. Parker presented the following resolution to Council:

### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS numerous applications for funding were received and considered by the Municipality during the preparation of the 2023/24 General Operating Budget;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the payment of the following grants:

#	APPLICANT	PURPOSE	FUNDING DECISION
<b>COMMUNITY GRANTS</b>			
1	Big Brothers Big Sisters Big Brunch	Programming Expenses	\$1,000.00
2	CARMA Pictou County Chapter	Operating Expenses	\$3,000.00
3	CHAD Transit	Operating Expenses	\$60,000.00
4	Citizens for Healthy Pictou County	Operating Expenses	\$24,200.00
5	DEANS	Operating Expenses	\$18,000.00
6	Northern Region Respite	Programming Expenses	\$750.00
7	Northumberland Fisheries Museum	Site Maintenance	\$1,000.00
8	Pictou Agricultural Society	Site Maintenance	\$12,000.00
9	Pictou Agricultural Society	Barn (One of Two Years)	\$45,000.00
10	Pictou County Christmas Fund	Telethon Donation	\$1,000.00
11	PC Mental Health Illness Family Support Association	Bright Smiles Project	\$2,500.00
12	Pictou County Seniors Outreach Council	Lunch and Learn Sessions	\$7,500.00
13	Pictou County Women's Resource Centre	Building Improvements	\$5,000.00
14	Pictou County Vol. Ground Search and Rescue	Operating Expenses	\$6,883.00
15	Pictou United Pillowcase Project	Ryan's Case for Smiles	\$1,000.00
16	Remembering Can. Heroes	Programming Expenses	\$600.00
17	School Backpack Program	Operating Expenses	\$9,550.00
18	School Breakfast Pgms.	Operating Expenses	\$9,550.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$208,533.00</b>
<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS</b>			
19	District One Development Society	Community Coordinator	\$5,000.00
20	District 13 Recreation & Planning Comm.	Community Coordinator	\$5,000.00
21	River John and Area Recreation and Dev.	Community Coordinator	\$5,000.00
22	East River Valley Comm. Dev. Association	Community Coordinator	\$5,000.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>
<b>RECREATION/CULTURE GRANTS</b>			
23	Autism Pictou County	Swim Program Expenses	\$5,000.00
24	Creative Pictou County	Operating Expenses	\$2,500.00
25	deCoste Entertainment Society	Operating Expenses	\$15,000.00
26	Dist. 13 Rec. & Planning Commission	Operating Expenses	\$25,000.00
27	East Pictou Rural Fair	Operating Expenses	\$2,500.00
28	East River Valley Recreation	Second Installment	\$10,000.00
29	Hector Arena	Operating Expenses	\$15,000.00
30	Hector Arena Ice Plant	Second Installment	\$35,000.00
31	Highland District Soccer/WM Sobeyes Sports Complex	Operating Expenses	\$2,500.00

32	NaGaisgh Pipes and Drums	Programming Expenses	\$500.00
33	PC 4H Leaders Council	Site Maintenance	\$8,000.00
34	Pictou County Athletics	Equipment Upgrades	\$5,000.00
35	Pictou County Forest School	Site Improvements	\$7,500.00
36	Pictou County Historical Society	Programming Expenses	\$500.00
37	Pictou County Sports Hall of Fame	Operating Expenses	\$1,500.00
38	Pictou County Trails Association	Operating Expenses	\$20,000.00
39	Pictou County 55 Plus Games	Sponsorship	\$5,000.00
40	Pictou Lobster Carnival	Sponsorship	\$5,000.00
41	River John Festival Days	Sponsorship	\$2,500.00
42	Riverview Home Corporation	Programming Expenses	\$5,000.00
43	Ship Hector Society	Ship Restoration	\$20,000.00
44	Gut Bridge Repair	New Recreational Bridge (One of Two Years)	\$35,000.00
45	The Jubilee	Operational Expenses	\$2,500.00
			<b>\$230,500.00</b>
		<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$459,033.00</b>
	<b>COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY FUND</b>		
1	MacDonald Rebekah Lodge Sunny Brae	Building Improvements	\$18,997.00
2	Sutherland's River Comm. Association	Building Improvements	\$37,992.00
3	River John Pickleball	Court Construction	\$37,992.00
4	Salem and Area Recreation	Field Development	\$28,882.40
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$123,863.40</b>

DATED at Pictou, NS. this 4<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

(Sgd.)

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Clr. Parker  
Clr. Elliott  
**Motion Carried**  
Nay Vote Clr. Thompson

Warden Parker said that it was difficult for the committee to reduce requests from over one million dollars to about \$500,000.00. The Warden said that not everybody that applied would receive funding, but in this group, many good things in the County are getting help from taxpayer money to keep things going.

### MUNICIPAL SERVICE GRANTS

Clr. Elliott presented the following resolution to Council:



## RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou adopt the following resolution for municipal service grants:

### **District 2**

a. Little Harbour Pioneer Cemetery Assoc.	\$1,000.00	Maintenance of Cemetery
b. Little Harbour Pickleball Club	\$2,000.00	Assist with Purchase of AED
c. Little Harbour Presbyterian Church	\$10,000.00	Replace Four Doors
d. Little Harbour Community Centre	\$10,000.00	Hall Renovations
e. Bethel Presbyterian Church	\$1,700.00	Audio Visual Equip Purchase
<b>Total \$24,700.00</b>		

### **District 4**

a. Beallvue and Ext. Cemetery Assoc.	\$2,600.00	Maint. on two Cemeteries
b. West Branch & Area Comm. Assoc.	\$1,193.00	Purchase of AED Machine
c. River John Legion, Branch 109	\$900.00	Maintenance
d. Campbell Point Cemetery	\$1,600.00	Maintenance on Cemetery
e. Mountain Road Cemetery	\$1,000.00	Maintenance on Cem.
f. RJ and Area Recreation Assoc.	\$3,400.00	Operating Expenses
g. RJ and Area Historical Society	\$3,000.00	New Windows
h. Riverbank Cemetery	\$1,600.00	Maintenance on Cemetery
i. RJ Community Action Society	\$1,500.00	Maint, Security to Docks
j. Helping Hand Lodge #34 River John	\$1,600.00	Refurbish Hardwood Floors
k. St. John the Baptist Anglican Church	\$1,000.00	Roof Replacement
l. Toney River Community Centre	\$3,744.00	Electrical Upgrades to Hall
m. Melville Seafoam Comm. Hall	\$1,600.00	Kitchen Renovations
n. West Branch Hall Street Light	\$40.00	Yearly Cost
o. Salem United Church Street Light	\$40.00	Yearly Cost
<b>Total \$24,817.00</b>		

### **1. District 5**

a. Bethel Presbyterian Church	\$14,000.00	Accessibility Improvements
b. Lyons Brook Hall Society	\$6,100.00	Hall Improvements
c. Elmfield Community Centre	\$4,100.00	Hall Improvements
d. Scotsburn Fire Department	\$8,120.00	Covered Shelter for Pond
e. Elmfield Hall Street Light	\$40.00	Yearly Cost
f. Meadowville Hall Street Light	\$40.00	Yearly Cost
<b>Total \$32,400.00</b>		

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

(Sgd.) \_\_\_\_\_

Clr. Elliott  
Clr. Parker  
**Motion Carried**

## EAST PICTOU SCHOOL TENDER APPROVAL

Clr. Thompson presented the following resolution to Council:

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS public tenders were called to demolish the former East Pictou School at 163 School Road, Sutherland's River, Pictou County.

WHEREAS four tenders were received for this work as follows

	<u>TENDER PRICE</u> <u>HST Included</u>
1. Bennett Construction	\$1,996,224.46
2. Dexter Construction	\$ 1,928,550.00
3. Verhagen Demolition	\$ 1,879,100.00
4. Budget Demolition	\$ 1,579,525.00

WHEREAS the Director of Public Works & Development has reviewed both proposals and confirms compliance with tender specifications;

WHEREAS the Financial Services Committee supports the recommendation of the Director of Public Works & Development on award to the lowest bidder;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council accept the bid submitted by Budget Demolition in the amount of \$1,579,525.00 for the demolition of the former East Pictou Rural High School and authorize the execution of a contract between the Municipality and the Contractor for this work.

DATED at Pictou, NS, this 4th day of July 2023.

(Sgd.)

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Clr. Thompson  
Clr. Butler.  
**Motion Carried**  
Nay Votes  
Clr. Dewar  
Clr. MacKeil  
Clr. Boyles  
Clr. Elliott

Clr. Dewar will be voting against this because the tender was not awarded to a local company. He is hopeful that some of the work will be passed on to those who live in Pictou County. Clr. Elliott and Clr. Boyles also stated they would not support this due to the same reasoning. Clr. MacKeil also stated the disappointment that this was not a local

company and will not support this and said that preference should be given to local contractors moving forward.

CAO said that once a Municipality puts out the tender for demolition and indicates to bidders what the situation is, they bid on specifications. Under contract law, you have asked them to submit bids, and the company has accepted the terms put out. Local preference is allowed within a threshold which is surpassed in this instance. Under provincial and federal law, preference is to be given to the lowest bid; otherwise, this could open Council up to litigation.

Warden Parker said he understood councillors wanting to support local businesses and employees, but when running a fiscally responsible operation, \$300,000 is a big difference. The Warden said that the dollar difference is too significant to try to find a way to work around it.

### **EAST PICTOU SCHOOL LOAN AGREEMENT**

Clr. Parker presented the following resolution to Council:

#### **RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS public tenders were called for the demolition of the former East Pictou School at 163 School Road, Sutherlands River, Pictou County;

WHEREAS the Municipal Council will soon enter a contract with a company for the demolition of the former school.

WHEREAS the Financial Services Committee has reviewed a plan for the financing of the demolition contract.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the transfer from the General Operating Reserve in the amount of \$1,432,368.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council repay the general operating reserve the principal amount of \$1,432,368 with interest over a term not to exceed 15 years starting in fiscal 2024/2025; with interest being calculated at the rate set for the consolidated deposit banking balance as of April 1<sup>st</sup> of the fiscal year; that rate currently being 4.8 percent.

DATED at Pictou, N. S. this 4<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

(Sgd.) \_\_\_\_\_

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Clr. Parker  
Clr. Elliott  
**Motion Carried**

**SALEM WATER TENDER APPROVAL**

Clr. MacKeil presented the following resolution to Council:

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou has agreed to fund the Salem Water Project using the Federal Gas Tax Reserve.

WHEREAS the Municipality of the County of Pictou accepted tenders from four companies to improve water in the Salem area.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipality of the County of Pictou accepts the lowest tender bid of \$2,327,105.50 from BD Clifton to complete the Salem Water Project.

DATED at Pictou, NS. this 4<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

(Sgd.)

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Clr. MacKeil  
Deputy Warden Murray  
**Motion Carried**

## **CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT**

Clr. Boyles presented the following resolution to Council:

### **RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS the Municipality of the County of Pictou's Climate Change Advisory Committee is key in promoting environmental issues that affect County residents.

WHEREAS voices of all ages need to be involved in the committee, especially the youth who will be feeling the effects of climate change for many generations.

BE IT RESOLVED that Alyssa McIvor, a student with North Nova Education Centre, be appointed to the Municipality of the County of Pictou's Climate Change Advisory Committee for a term of two years, ending in April 2025.

DATED at Pictou, NS. this 4<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

(Sgd.)

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Clr. Boyles  
Clr. Dewar  
**Motion Carried**

## **SHEEP VALUER APPOINTMENTS**

Clr. Wadden presented the following resolution to Council:

### **RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS Section 9(1) of the Sheep Protection Act provides for the annual appointment of Sheep Valuers;

WHEREAS appointments to this office have been made throughout the various districts of the County of Pictou;

WHEREAS in accordance with the aforementioned Statutes of Nova Scotia, these appointments require the approval of Council;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the appointment of the following Sheep Valuers for 2023/24:

DIST. #2     Allan Keefe  
DIST. #3     William Ferguson

DATED at Pictou, NS. this 4<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

(Sgd.)

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Clr. Wadden  
Clr. Turner  
**Motion Carried**

## **WATERSHED BOARD MEMBER REDUCTION**

Clr. Turner presented the following resolution to Council:

### **RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS Councillors with the Municipality of the County of Pictou are appointed to community boards to represent the interests of the Municipality and support local organizations.

WHEREAS it recommended that the Municipality of the County of Pictou's representation on the Source Water Protection Committee for Pictou be reduced by one member.

BE IT RESOLVED that Clr. Darla MacKeil remains as a Source Water Protection Committee for Pictou and Deputy Warden Wayne Murray be removed to reduce the number of committee members.

DATED at Pictou, NS. this 4<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

(Sgd.)

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\_\_\_\_\_

Clr. Turner  
Clr. Wadden  
**Motion Carried**

## **RURAL INTERNET PROJECT UPDATE**

CAO Cullen said the Nova Scotia Internet Trust Agreement between the Municipality and the Province is complete. The Province has agreed to contribute \$10.6 million to the next. The Universal Broadband Project's final stages are being drafted and verified. All inputs from the Municipality and the design team are in; it is now a back-and-forth process.

A map that shows the current construction status of the project was included. Currently Route 6 Sunrise Trail from Pictou to Toney River is under construction. From Pictou to Central West River and Central West River to Mt. Thom is fully operational. Central West River to Alma, as is Loch Broom, most of the fieldwork there is done. Alma to Central

West River, the equipment on the network is ready, and Loch Broom Loop is being done this week. The following two areas will open up for customers.

Warden Parker said that customer service for the project is very important as things move along. It is necessary to have people in place who can answer those questions. CAO Cullen said that a person will be in place soon. It is also, hiring a second position on logistics that helps coordinate the installs.

CAO Cullen stated that all towers are 99.9% complete. They are just waiting for the final sign-off on the towers, which will happen this week. The final report is to be received by July 15, 2023, for the federal funding that was received.

Clr. Turner asked if there was any movement on cellular service.

CAO said there is an initial discussion with carriers, and some are interested in the tower structures, but this is preliminary.

### **FERRY SERVICE DISRUPTION**

Clr. MacKeil spoke regarding the Prince Edward Island to Caribou ferry service disruption. She said service is down to one ferry, and when it is not operational, there is no service.

Clr. MacKeil stated that this is a vital tourist route for this area, a big issue for tourism and the movement of goods and services. Clr. MacKeil expressed the importance of this service to this county and the province.

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Clr. Boyles to send a letter to Central Nova MP Sean Fraser and copy to the MLA and the Federal Transportation Minister stating that this is a necessary service for the area and asking if there are any plans to support this.

**Motion Carried**

### **LACK OF TOURIST BUREAU SITES IN PICTOU WEST**

Clr. MacKeil said that the lack of tourist bureau sites has come up from residents and has been brought up at the District 3 ratepayers meeting. There is currently no place where people can stop and ask for maps. They have been replaced by cell phones for some people but not for all. She said most people keep going, and as of recently, there is a visitor information booth at the Pictou County Wellness Centre, which doesn't logistically make sense because it is so far away.

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Clr. Dewar to write a letter to the Minister of Tourism, Pat Dunn and a copy sent to MLA Karla MacFarlane and MLA Tim Houston stating that something permanent needs to be done here to service the needs of people coming to the County.

**Motion Carried**

## **ANTI-LITTERING**

Warden Parker said that money is being made available from Divert NS that could be used toward anti-littering efforts. The Warden said it is \$3,500.00 that could be used for these efforts but there is a close deadline of July 17, 2023. The Warden said there have been phone calls over the past year with people asking what can be done. Warden Parker said the only restriction to this fund is that it has to be used based on the behavioural study done by Divert NS last year.

Clr. MacKeil said that District 3 is interested in a fall clean-up, which would give people another opportunity to get rid of their trash responsibly.

Warden Parker said to leave this with staff to apply for the money, and then The Warden, The CAO and the Deputy Warden all have a meeting scheduled.

## **FEDERAL HOUSING INITIATIVE**

Warden Parker asked staff to look at The Housing Accelerator Fund information that was received from Sean Fraser's office. The deadline for this is August 18, 2023. This program allows municipalities to work with the federal government to try to increase to 100,000 new homes over the following number of years. The Warden asked if there are changes that can be made to the regulations to make it easier for people to build homes, and the Warden asked if this would apply to the project in Alma.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Deputy Warden Murray said the annual Scotsburn Fire Department Barbeque will be held on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, from 4:00-7:00 pm. This BBQ will be pre-orders only. The cost is \$15.00 Adult. Tickets can be ordered online or in person at A & M Small Engines.

Clr. Parkers said there will be a community fundraiser dance for Union Centre Community Hall on Saturday, August 5, 2023, 6:30 pm BBQ for families and a dance beginning at 9:00 pm. This will be an opportunity to meet and greet many new members in the community and for people to get out to have a good time and drop a few dollars into a donation basket.

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.

Clr. Boyles said on Saturday, July 15, there will be BBQ, bake sale and yard sale at the Hillside Community Hall from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm.



Warden Parker said on Saturday, July 15, West River Fire Department will be hosting a family fun day at John's Country Canteen.

Warden Parker said on July 29, 2023, there will be a fun day at the Salem and Area Recreational Field. This event is meant to get people out in the nice weather in the summertime and to meet new neighbours.

Clr. Elliott said from Thursday, July 6 until Saturday, July 8, 2023, River John will be hosting Read by the Sea. This will be held at the River John Legion if the weather is sunny and if rainy it will be moving to the fire hall.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Warden declared the meeting adjourned at 9:41 pm.

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WARDEN

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MUNICIPAL CLERK