

June 5, 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 Monday, June 5, 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 work of the Municipality and to 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 Mikmaqi 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. Elliott that the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Clr. Parker stated that this topic arose at the FCM conference, and several Nova Scotia officials expressed concern regarding the delay. A rush is going on with coastal development to try to avoid the regulations. Clr. Parker has been in favor of this for decades. Four years have passed since the act was passed, and municipalities still do not have the regulations.

Deputy Warden Murray requested CAO Cullen's input on this letter and if it was felt that the wording was too strong. The Deputy Warden also inquired if it would be better to prepare a letter directly from this Council to request the regulations for this act.

CAO Cullen responded that there was some verbiage throughout that jumped out but felt that the letter's premise was good.

Clr. MacKeil did not feel familiar with the act and the changes and protocol. Clr. MacKeil asked what the explanation is that they are giving for the delay. Warden Parker feels pressure is being put on from somewhere to put the brakes on implementing these regulations. The Warden feels this is hard to understand after seeing the damage caused in the fall by Hurricane Fiona. They are claiming to need more consultation. The regulations could require more costs for municipalities in building inspections and paperwork being filled out, depending on what comes out of these regulations.

Deputy Warden Murray said he would like to see the letter come from Council in this Municipality.

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Parker to sign the letter to be sent to Minister Halman.

Motion Carried

Nay Votes: Clr. MacKeil, Deputy Warden Murray, Clr. Palmer

REPORTS

FCM CONFERENCE REPORT

Clr. Parker said there is much happening at these conferences. The trade show consisted of a couple of hundred booths. Clr. Parker said that in discussions with others, they would have much in common if they were from a rural area. Rural internet came up in discussions and Clr. Parker said it felt good to discuss where things stood in this municipality. Another topic on the agenda was accessible housing. There were panels and businesses at the trade show. There were approximately 250 kiosks set up at the trade show. There were several with various forms of accessible housing—one which caught Clr. Parker's attention was an 8 x 12 collapsible building designed for transitional housing, priced at about \$15,000 Canadian. The company that designed these is called Pallet and they are based out of Oregon, U.S. These are short-term transitional housing. Clr. Parker said so much was offered at this conference and felt this was a good investment.

RESOLUTION

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

DISTRICT 1		
D01 Merigomish Cemetery Company	\$2100.00	Lawn maintenance
D01 Sutherlands River Pioneer Cemetery	\$500.00	Lawn maintenance
D01 Merigomish and Area Recreation	\$2200.00	Panic bars on two doors
D01 Pictou County Celtic Association	\$2500.00	Rug hooking kits
D01 Hatties Cemetery	\$2500.00	Damage from Fiona
D01 Freedom Bible Church	\$1000.00	Replacement of door
D01 St. Andrews Cemetery	\$1000.00	Maintenance of cemetery
D01 Kenzieville Cemetery	\$2000.00	Restoration of headstones
D01 Telford Cemetery	\$900.00	Headstone maintenance
D01 Sutherlands River Comm. Centre	\$625.00	Water heater for hall
D01 Kenzieville District Comm. Centre	\$2500.00	Operating expenses
D01 French River Cemetery Society	\$3200.00	Operations/building removal
D01 St. Mary's and Bailey's Brook Cemetery	\$500.00	Lawn maintenance and headstone revival
D01 Lismore Community Centre	\$2500.00	New generator
D01 Thorburn War Memorial	\$500.00	Maintenance
D01 District One Newsletter	\$1700.00	Monthly newsletter
D01 Merigomish Sch. House Street Light	\$40.00	Yearly Cost
DISTRICT 3		
D03 Caribou River Community Hall	\$3000.00	Hall maintenance
D03 Caribou River Upper Cemetery	\$2000.00	Maintenance
D03 Central Caribou Cemetery	\$5000.00	Maintenance
D03 Caribou Island Cemetery	\$700.00	Maintenance and Tree Removal
D03 Waterside Cemetery Company	\$2000.00	Maintenance
D03 Seaboard Cemetery	\$2000.00	Maintenance
D03 St. James Mill Dam Cemetery	\$1600.00	Maintenance
D03 Bayview Community Hall	\$2500.00	New deck on hall
D03 Caribou District Fire Department	\$5164.00	Replace 4 windows
D03 Haliburton – Pictou Cemetery	\$4000.00	Maintenance
D03 Bayview Hall Street Light	\$40.00	Yearly Cost
DISTRICT 9		
D09 Hillside Community Centre	\$10000.00	Kitchen cabinets, doors, windows

D09 Hillside Cemetery	\$2000.00	Maintenance
D09 Priestville Walkerville Cemetery	\$2000.00	Maintenance
D09 Linacy Fire Department	\$10000.00	Firefighting equipment
DISTRICT 10		
D10 Moore Lodge #17 Oddfellows	\$3000.00	Building maintenance

DATED at Pictou, N. S. on this 5th day of June 2023.

(Sgd.) Clr. Don Butler
 Clr. Boyles
Motion Carried

RESOLUTION COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY FUND POLICY

Deputy Warden Murray presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council adopt the following policy with respect to its grants program:

POLICY # 2023-05-06



**COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY
 GRANTS PROGRAM POLICY**

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.
- c) To identify criteria upon which grant applications will be evaluated.

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 projects.
 - i) For Fiscal year 2023/24 the amount shall be \$150,000
 - ii) Any unspent money from the fund may be placed in a special reserve as directed by the Council for use in subsequent years.
- 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) Grants shall generally be paid in one instalment; however, if budget constraints do not allow for the payment in one year a recommendation be made that the award may be funded over multiple years.
- g) Letters shall be sent to any unsuccessful applicants of grant applications.
- h) The applicant shall be in good standing with the County of Pictou and shall not have a debt or legal claim outstanding.
- i) All grant applications shall be submitted on a form specified by the Municipality. The form may include but is not limited to a request to disclose financial statements of the organization, organizational structure, proposed budget and sources funding.

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.

b) Manses, fire halls, church halls and arenas are not eligible for this grant.

6) **GRANTS**

- a) The Municipal Council may grant funds to community organizations from the Community Connectivity Fund:
 - i) To assist with the creation of new recreational opportunities or destinations such as parks, ballfields, tennis courts, pickleball.
 - ii) To refurbish existing community halls or centres.
 - iii) To build new community halls or centres.
- b) Facilities must be located within the Municipality of the County of Pictou
- c) The Municipality may provide up to 40 percent of the project cost up to a maximum of \$50,000, which do not include in-kind contributions.

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.
- b) The applicant will keep accounting records for all receipts and expenditures relating to the grant allocation.
- c) The applicant will make available for inspection by the Municipality or its Auditors all records and books of accounts of the applicant upon request of the Municipality.
- d) 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.
- e) Failure to report may result in ineligibility for further grant funding.
- f) 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) The deadline for applications for the April 1st to March 31st fiscal year is the last working day of February of the preceding fiscal year.
- b) In January of each year, the Municipality shall advertise in a local newspaper the Grants Program, indicating details of the program and the deadline for applications to be submitted for consideration.

- c) Additional information may be requested by the Grants Review Committee or the Financial Services Committee, if the application is incomplete, an incomplete application shall not be considered late.
 - d) The Grants Review Committee shall submit a report to the Financial Services Committee explaining the rationale for the recommendations.
 - e) All Grants shall be approved by the Municipal Council by way of resolution at a duly called meeting of Council.
- 9) **EVALUATION CRITERIA**
- a) The Grants Review Committee shall review each application against the following:
 - i) Application is consistent with Council's Strategic Priorities, Recreation Master Plan, Capital Improvement Plan or other formal documents approved by Council.
 - ii) Promote and enhance the wellbeing of the Municipality and its citizens.
 - iii) Ensures that the service, activity of program is open to the community.
 - iv) Encourage more active involvement in the community organization, programs, and activities.
 - v) Ensures that the funds will be administered by a competent body and that there is an adequate administrative system of review and oversight implemented with groups and activities.
 - vi) Actively seeking additional sources of funding.
 - vii) Quality of management (established track record)
 - viii) Evidence of financial need.
 - ix) Evidence of clear goals and expected outcomes.
 - x) Demonstrated need to the community.
 - xi) Demonstrated uniqueness of the service or program.
 - xii) Prioritization of awards to organizations shall be made on the basis that:
 - (1) Each Council District should have access to the fund prior to an organization from a Council district that has already received funding in previous years.
 - (2) To organizations that have not received funding in the previous three years; unless there are funds available in the program to support the applications.

DATED at Pictou, N. S. on this 5th day of June 2023.

(Sgd.) Deputy Warden Murray
Clr. Palmer

Clr. Wadden felt that the eligibility requirements in number 5 were so broad and felt this would cause more competition for this money. Warden Parker confirmed that the intent is for this money to be used for community halls and recreation fields. Clr. Wadden stated that the requirements might make it more confusing who is eligible for this funding.

Motion Carried
Nay Vote Clr. Wadden

RESOLUTION GO PLAY FUND

Clr. Wadden presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Municipality of the County of Pictou encourages all residents to be active and maintain a healthy lifestyle by enjoying activities in their own and surrounding communities.

WHEREAS the cost of being active in recreational programs or purchasing equipment can be a financial burden for people, preventing them from participating in activities that could improve their mental and physical health.

WHEREAS the Municipality of the County of Pictou has recognized that the establishment of a fund dedicated to assisting residents with the expenses of joining recreational programs or purchasing equipment would make such programs more accessible to everyone.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Municipality of the County of Pictou establish a Go Play Fund with a budget of \$2,000 that would be made available to Municipality of the County of Pictou residents who are not eligible for any other recreational funding.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipality accept donations to the program from the community. These donations will be matched by the Municipality of the County of Pictou in the first month of the program and a donation receipt will be issued pursuant to the Income Tax Act.

Dated at Pictou, Nova Scotia, this the 5th Day June 2023.

(Sgd.) Clr. Wadden
Clr. Turner
Motion Carried

RESOLUTION TAX EXEMPTION POLICY UPDATE

Clr. Parker presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Community Support Society of River John owns and operates the River John Community Food and Health Centre at 2456 River John Station Road, River John;

WHEREAS the Community Support Society of River John is registered as a not-for-profit in the Nova Scotia Joint Registry of Stocks.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou place the Community Support Society of River John in Schedule A of its Tax Exemption and Reduction Policy (Policy Number 2023-04-21).

DATED at Pictou, NS, this the 5th day of June 2023.

(Sgd.) Clr. Parker
Clr. Elliott
Motion Carried

RESOLUTION COST SHARING FOR J CLASS ROADS AGREEMENT

Clr. Palmer presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou, that the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to sign Cost Share Agreement No. 2023-016" between His Majesty the King in Right of the Province of Nova Scotia and the Municipality of the County of Pictou for cost sharing on the paving of subdivision (J Class) Streets.

DATED at Pictou, Nova Scotia this the 5th day of June 2023.

Clr. Palmer
Clr. Parker
Motion Carried

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clr. Elliott said there will be a community meeting with the Pictou County District RCMP in District 4 for River John and area residents on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the River John Legion.

Clr. Wadden said there will be a community meeting with the Pictou County District RCMP for District 2 residents on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Little Harbour Community Centre.

Clr. Parker said the MOPC Internet information meeting has been scheduled for District 7 on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Union Centre Community Hall.

Clr. Thompson made a good news announcement. A group of parents in Springville organized a T-Ball league for ages 4-9 at the Springville Ball Field. The program will run from June 19, 2023, and runs until the middle of August. A lot of people in the East River Valley are excited and remember the time that the ball field was packed. They are excited for the playground and hope to have pickle ball nets this summer. They are planning for

3 on 3 basketball tournament in the middle of August. Clr. Thompson said a thank you to Mike and the volunteers at East River Recreation.

Clr. MacKeil said on Saturday, June 10, 2023, there will be a community yard sale at the Caribou District Fire Hall between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Clr. MacKeil said there will be a fundraiser lobster dinner take out on Saturday, June 17, 2023, at the Lyon's Brook Community Hall. Check out the Facebook page for contact information to order tickets. The cost is \$20.00.

Clr. Parker said there will be a fundraising dance held on Saturday, June 10, 2023, at the late Elwood Fraser barn at 535 Murray Road, Pleasant Valley. This is a fundraiser for the Pictou North Colchester Exhibition cattle/horse barn. The cost is \$15 and is a 19+ event. The dance will run from 8:00 p.m. to 12 a.m. Music will be provided by Hannah's Boys.

Clr. Butler said that in District 1 there will be a district wide yard sale on Saturday, June 10, 2023, between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Warden Parker said there will be a Spring Fling Market at the Salem Recreation Field from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. All funds raised will support the field and park development. There will be kids' games, 50/50 draws and a BBQ.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Warden declared the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

WARDEN

MUNICIPAL CLERK