



MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Monday, June 3, 2024 @ 7 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS/YOUTUBE STREAMING CHANNEL

1. Call to Order
2. Moment of Silence
3. Land Acknowledgement
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Emergency Resolutions
6. **Errors and Omissions/Corrections to Minutes**
 - a. Council Meeting May 6th, 2024
7. **Correspondence** (Information enclosed)
 - a. Letter from Chignecto Central Centre for Education regarding School Buses
 - b. Letter from Duane Stewart regarding the Internet Project
8. **Presentation:** Ship Hector Society
9. **Business Items or Items Requiring Action**
 - a. District 1 Municipal Service Grants - Clr. Butler
 - b. District 3 Municipal Service Grants - Clr. Turner
 - c. District 7 Municipal Service Grants - Clr. Parker
 - d. District 10 Municipal Service Grants - Clr. Dewar
 - e. Municipal Service Grant Transfer of Funds – Clr. Thompson
 - f. Tax Write-Offs – Clr. Wadden
 - g. Drug Concerns in Pictou County – Clr. Wadden
10. **Consideration of Deferred Business**
11. Community Announcements
12. Motions of Reconsideration
13. Adjournment



May 17, 2024

Mr. Brian Cullen
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
Municipality of the County of Pictou
46 Municipal Drive
Pictou, NS B0K 1H0

Via email: brian.cullen@munpict.ca

Dear Mr. Cullen:

In response to your correspondence to the Honourable Becky Druhan, Minister on April 12, 2024 regarding the shortage of bus drivers within Chignecto-Central Regional Centre for Education, please see below the link to our website where information on applying as well as the current positions available are located.

<https://ccrce.ss21.sharpschool.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=101022&pageId=244122&portletInstanceId=25132&portletAction=minimize>

We would appreciate any assistance the Municipality of Pictou County could provide in promoting the need for bus drivers in CCRCE through your various social media platforms and newsletters.

Thanking you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Chris Zwicker
Director of Operational Services

LETTER TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF PICTOU COUNTY COUNCIL

I am submitting this letter to be added to the next MOPC Council Meeting Agenda. Included is documentation to support this letter.

I have been a resident of Pictou County for over 35 years. Over this time, I have on two occasions approached Council to make submissions on given matters that were before Council. These matters were over 10 years ago. Both times the submissions were presented in a professional manner and in accordance with the rules of procedure. The conduct of one of the Council Members at the time was not in the same standing however and was address in a closed meeting at Council.

More recently I found myself approaching the Municipality of Pictou County and Warden Robert Parker due to a land issue I had encountered. Basically, due to the MOPC's internet project, poles had been installed adjacent to my property. They were legally placed. However, the guide wire anchor, trees that were cut, debris that was pushed onto my property and other property damage that had been caused were all done illegally and without an easement or color of right.

I had approached the MOPC and had conversations and e-mails with Rhiannon McNair (Director of Business operations – Broadband Project). At first the position taken by Rhiannon McNair was that the MOPC had nothing to do with the work being done and that NS Power was simply upgrading existing poles due to damage from recent storms. Considering these were poles placed in an area that never had any prior existing poles I did not believe the explanation. Next, she stated that someone in the process of erecting a new dwelling probably applied for power and thus the poles were being placed. Again, I rejected this explanation as I own the property on both sides of the road where the poles were installed, and I had not applied for power. Her stance was that the MOPC had nothing to do with the erection of the poles even though the poles were being placed due to fiber op being installed in the area and even though the MOPC was paying NS Power to install the poles.

After not being provided with requested information from the MOPC, I contacted Warden Parker. He was of assistance by providing me with some of the required information and after meeting with NS Power, the matter was resolved to my satisfaction. This should have been the end of the matter. However, it has now come to light what had transpired behind the scenes at the Municipality of Pictou County. The Information I requested was not being provided because the MOPC and Michael Richard (Project Governance) felt that I had "An axe to grind and a propensity to go to the media." Michael Richard stated this could "turn into a public relations matter" and that they could "strategize on how to respond."

I find it perplexing that the MOPC feels it is a better course of action to get together and “strategize” how to deal with a complaint from a resident of the Municipality because of their paranoia of it becoming a public relations matter. It certainly speaks to the professionalism and integrity of the MOPC. These actions were all taking place without any apparent concern from CAO Brian Cullen.

As for the involvement from Warden Robert Parker, on the onset when he was given a “heads up” that I would be contacting him, his response back to Rhiannon McNair about my complaint was for him to state “Duane has a long history of being a problem.” Warden Parker had been informed by Rhiannon McNair that I had been “quite calm” with her, and his warning back was “You’re lucky he has been polite with you so far.”

Had these comments been made by Robert Parker as an ordinary resident of Pictou County they would have meant nothing to me. However, the accusations and comments were made by Robert Parker the Council Member and Warden for the MOPC. His words are certainly untrue, disrespectful, unprofessional and I submit, against the Code of Conduct for a Council Member. It is unclear to me if Warden Parker has some personal issue with me and is using his position as influence to advance his personal agenda, or if he is simply abusing his position by making slanderous and unsubstantiated comments about a resident of the area. Either way, it simply creates a poisonous and toxic atmosphere that need not exist. I wonder how many other residents of the area who have approached the MOPC or Warden Parker with a concern have been spoken about in such a disgraceful manner behind their back, surely, I am not the only one. If Mr. Parker has any concerns with me, he is free to approach me at any time and I will gladly meet with him and attempt to remedy the situation as it may exist.

Both Warden Parker and the MOPC should be displaying a professional, courteous, respectful and helpful approach towards how they work with residents and create an atmosphere of trust and not one of making enemies. I submit to you that the actions of the MOPC were unprofessional and unwarranted. They should be ashamed of their actions. I submit that the actions of Warden Parker were also unprofessional, disrespectful and unwarranted and if this is the way a representative of the MOPC conducts themselves, then Robert Parker is unworthy of sitting as a Warden at the Council table and representative of the residents of the county. He should be ashamed of his conduct and representation as it serves as a black eye to the good members at Council.

I am asking the Members of Council for the MOPC to act professionally and openly discuss the content of this letter at the next Council meeting. I am asking you to let the residents of the MOPC know if you feel this is acceptable conduct as a representative of the people. I am asking you to be responsible to the residents of the MOPC that you are representing. Thank you for your time.

Regards

Duane L. Stewart



WARNING:

This email originated from a sender outside of your organization.

Good morning:

This e-mail is a follow up to a voice message I left for Mr. Bos this morning. I own property in Pictou County located on the Loch Broom Loop. Poles for the purpose of internet service were installed yesterday (04th October 2023) at this location. My understanding is that the Municipality of Pictou County has entitlement to use a section of the roadway consisting from the center of the existing lane back 33 feet. One of the poles is situated within this area however my land was cleared of trees for a further 15 feet (plus or minus). The trees, roots and soil have been pushed back onto my property. There is property damage as a direct result of the pole being installed. Also, the guide wire is set to be installed approximately 12 feet onto my property without consent or permission.

I also have an existing driveway on the property that is gated and has 4 signs posted stating No trespassing, No Hunting, No Parking. Machinery used to install the poles traveled on my private driveway causing some damage to the surface and side of the driveway. There was no permission granted to use this driveway and it was posted otherwise.

Take note that this letter is to inform you, as the person I was directed to as the representative for the Municipality of Pictou County, that :

- Damage has been incurred to my property as a direct result of the installation of poles by the MOPC.
- That no further encroachment is to be made to my property located at Loch Broom Loop. This includes but is not limited to the installation of pole guide wires.
- **That no employee or company hired by the MOPC is to be on my property without written consent by myself for any purpose.**

I am requesting that you or a representative from the MOPC contact me to arrange an on-site meeting and discuss the matter at hand. I look forward to your earliest reply.

Regards

Duane L. Stewart


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UBIQUITY
CAPITAL

Michael Richard

Principal, DUC

Project Governance

Text/Voice: [REDACTED]

e-mail: [REDACTED]

[LinkedIn](#)

From: Rhiannon McNair <[REDACTED]>

Date: Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 11:50 AM

To: Mike Richard <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Ian Bos <[REDACTED]>, Scott Hewey <[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE: Internet Poles

Duane is located at 155 Loch Broom Loop.

Let me know what you find out from NSP Mike.

Rhiannon

From: Mike Richard <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 11:46 AM

To: Rhiannon McNair <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Ian Bos <[REDACTED]>, Scott Hewey <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Re: Internet Poles

WARNING:

This email originated from a sender outside of your organization.

Rhiannon, please see the thread below, as this could turn into a public relations matter. We can strategize on how to respond.

UBIQUITY
CAPITAL

Michael Richard

Principal, DUC

Project Governance

Text/Voice: [REDACTED]

e-mail: [REDACTED]

[LinkedIn](#)

From: Mike Richard [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 2:12 PM
To: Rhiannon McNair [REDACTED], Brian Cullen [REDACTED]
Cc: Ian Bos [REDACTED], Scott Hewey [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Internet Poles

Please note that this guy has an axe to grind and a propensity to go to the media, for this reason looping in Brian as no doubt he will be contacting his political representative.

UBIQUITY
CAPITAL

Michael Richard
Principal, DUC
Project Governance
Text/Voice: [REDACTED]
e-mail: [REDACTED]
[LinkedIn](#)

From: Scott Hewey [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 1:49 PM
To: Mike Richard [REDACTED], Rhiannon McNair [REDACTED]
Cc: Ian Bos [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Internet Poles

I did a video drive by....

 [IMG_1231.MOV](#)

From: Mike Richard [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 1:37 PM
To: Rhiannon McNair [REDACTED]
Cc: Ian Bos [REDACTED]; Scott Hewey [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Internet Poles

WARNING:
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Note this guy will go to the media, see link

<https://www.saltwire.com/atlantic-canada/federal-election/resident-upset-over-companys-encroachment-on-property-79851/>

Rhiannon McNair

From: Rhiannon McNair
Sent: Friday, October 6, 2023 8:31 AM
To: Mike Richard; Brian Cullen
Cc: Ian Bos; Scott Hewey
Subject: RE: Internet Poles

Yes I did, and he seemed calm, cool and collected on the phone while I explained the scenario and let him know we had forwarded his concerns to the appropriate department at NSP. He thanked me for the and is asking me to provide him with either the contact we had forwarded to or the department because as you can imagine, he plans on following up. He also indicated he would be contacting his lawyer right after our call, I'm not sure if that's good or bad for us, but I didn't ask!

I told him I would follow up with him by responding to his email formally, but wanted to see if I could get more info regarding NSP.

Rhiannon

From: Mike Richard [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 6, 2023 8:19 AM
To: Rhiannon McNair [REDACTED] Brian Cullen [REDACTED]
Cc: Ian Bos [REDACTED] Scott Hewey [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Internet Poles

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WARNING:
.....
This email originated from a sender outside of your organization.
.....

By way of follow up, we discussed this with NSP on Thursday and we sent out Telecon to measure the pole and anchor locations to get the facts in hand. If NSP's contractors did encroach on private property, this will be dealt with by NSP.

Rhiannon, did you contact the complainant?

**UBIQUITY
CAPITAL**

Michael Richard
Principal, DUC
Project Governance
Text/Voice: [REDACTED]
e-mail: [REDACTED]
[Linkedin](#)

Brian Cullen

From: Robert Parker
Sent: Friday, October 6, 2023 4:15 PM
To: Rhiannon McNair
Cc: Brian Cullen
Subject: Re: Duane Stewart

Duane has a long history of being a problem. You're lucky he has been polite with you so far. It doesn't sound like our problem, more like an issue between him and NSP. Did we request that NSP put the pole in? Thanks for the heads up. Enjoy your Thanksgiving, Robert

Sent from my iPad

> On Oct 6, 2023, at 2:51 PM, Rhiannon McNair [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> Hi Robert,

>

> Just wanted to bring you up to speed on a resident, Duane Stewart on Loch Broom Loop, who had a power pole installed on Wednesday along his property. He has emailed a complaint to the Municipality regarding the pole being installed on his property without his permission along with some complaints regarding NSP employees blocking his roadway into his property etc. He is unhappy with how his property has been left from the pole installation.

> I spoke with him yesterday and today and explained the scenario, which is, NSP was completing upgrades to their infrastructure as it was not sufficient to support the required connectivity in the community.

> He has been quite calm with me thus far but has indicated he has contacted his lawyer and will be contacting you as well.

> We have forwarded his concerns to the appropriate department within NSP and have let him know as much.

>

> So this is your heads up!

> Feel free to call me or email to discuss further if necessary.

>

> Thanks,

>

> Rhiannon

>

> Sent from my iPhone

Brian Cullen

From: Robert Parker
Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2023 8:21 PM
To: Brian Cullen
Subject: Dwayne Stewart

Good news. Dwayne is happy that NSPC reached out and are going to fix everything to his satisfaction. I didn't expect a win on that one. Thanks for your help, Robert

Sent from my iPad

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou approve the following Municipal Service Grants:

District 1

Lismore Community Hall	\$2000.00	Hall Maintenance
Lismore Dist. Recreation Committee	\$2000.00	Summer Rec Program
Kenzieville District Comm. Centre	\$2000.00	Operating Expenses
Kenzieville Cemetery	\$2000.00	Monument Restoration]
Kenzieville Comm. Action Group	\$1500.00	Start-Up Funds for Kick-off
MARSA	\$2500.00	Install Basement Emerg Door
Merigomish Cemetery Company	\$2300.00	Maintenance
District One Development Society	\$1700.00	Newsletter Expenses
Barney's River Fire Department	\$750.00	Install AED at LBR Gas Bar
Barney's River Station School Mus.	\$1500.00	Replace Ramp at Museum
Sutherland's River Comm. Centre	\$960.00	Design of Centre's Addition
Sutherland's River Pioneer Cem.	\$975.00	Maintenance
Telford Cemetery Assoc.	\$300.00	Maintenance
St. Andrew's Cemetery, Egerton	\$1200.00	Maintenance
French River Cemetery Society	\$2500.00	Maintenance
Old School Cooperative Merchants	\$2000.00	Market Set Up & Maint.
Thorburn War Memorial	\$500.00	Maintenance Memorial
Merigomish School House St. Light	\$40.00	Yearly Cost

Total \$26725.00

Dated at Pictou, NS, this 3rd of June 2024

(Sgd)

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou approve the following Municipal Service Grants:

District 3:

Bayview Community Hall	\$40.00	Yearly Cost of Street Light at Hall
Caribou River Community Hall	\$2800.00	Maintenance and Hall Expenses
Caribou River Upper Cemetery	\$2500.00	Maintenance
Central Caribou Cemetery	\$5000.00	Maintenance
Caribou Island Cemetery	\$500.00	Maintenance
Waterside Cemetery	\$2000.00	Maintenance
Seaboard Cemetery	\$2000.00	Maintenance
St. James Mill Dam Cemetery	\$3600.00	Maintenance
Haliburton- Pictou Cem. Company	\$2000.00	Maintenance
<hr/>		
Total	\$20,440.00	

Dated at Pictou, NS, this 3rd of June 2024

(Sgd)

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou approve the following Municipal Service Grants:

District 7		
Union Centre Community Hall	\$3000.00	Fix Well or Dig New Well
Forest Hill Cemetery	\$3000.00	Maintenance
Friends of the Caledonia Cemetery	\$1000.00	Maintenance
Middle River – Birch Hill Cemetery	\$2000.00	Maintenance
Mill Brook Cemetery	\$2600.00	Maintenance
Mill Brook and Area Comm. Centre	\$4294.00	New Stairs, Exterior Drain, Sign
Carpool Lot Street Light	\$450.00	Yearly Cost
<hr/>		
Total	\$16,344.00	

Dated at Pictou, NS, this 3rd of June 2024

(Sgd)

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou approve the following Municipal Service Grants:

District 10

Thorburn & Dist. War Vet Assoc.	\$1500.00	Cenetaph Maintenance
MacPhersons Mills Community Hall	\$4000.00	Hall Maintenance
District 13 Rec. and Planning Comm.	\$4000.00	Facility Maintenance
Union Presbyterian Church	\$2500.00	New Siding and Paint Foundation
Thorburn & District Fire Dept.	\$3000.00	Construct Training Structure
Thorburn Cemetery Assoc.	\$2500.00	Cemetery Maintenance
The Mountain Cem. (McLellan's Mtn)	\$3000.00	Cemetery Maintenance
MacPhersons Mills Cemetery	\$2000.00	Cemetery Maintenance
<hr/>		
Total	\$22,500.00	

Dated at Pictou, NS, this 3rd of June 2024

(Sgd)

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipality of the County of Pictou approve the following Tax Write Offs:

NAME:	AMOUNT	AAN	DESCRIPTION
a. Arlene Robertson Et Al	\$154.40	10862965	Land Hwy 4
b. Mary J and Edward Rankin	\$515.33	02916339	Land Thorburn
c. Allen Peter Dunn	\$9.94	01339044	Land Little Hbr.Rd
d. Beverly MacMillan	\$457.17	02916029	Land West Branch
e. Helen Fraser	<u>\$4.88</u>	02807998	Sherbrooke Rd
Total	\$11,41.72		

Dated at Pictou, NS, this 3rd of June 2024

(Sgd)

Sueann Musick

From: Deborah Wadden
Sent: May 26, 2024 10:07 PM
To: Sueann Musick
Subject: Concern from Andrea Paul

Could I add this item to our next council agenda? Former chief of PLFN, Andrea Paul, posted this on her Facebook page:

Before I left my role as Chief, I had emailed all the Mayors and Warden regarding drugs in Pictou County. I hope that they are still actively working on this issue. I don't have access to my old work emails anymore so no idea if the conversation was continuing.

And with a new drug in the horizon (Tranqs/Blues) - our county needs to have strong supports in place to help those that are suffering with addictions.

I would like to know if this is actively being pursued and do we have any follow-up information to add to this item. In my follow-up conversations with Andrea, she would like to know the status of this item. I advised Andrea I would follow up on this issue to see where we are on this issue in our county. Have our our Warden and Mayors moved forward on this?

Thanks Sueann

Debi

Deborah (Debi) Wadden
deborah.wadden@munpict.ca
(902)752-1303