
March 20 2023

The Financial Services Committee for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building and by videoconference and teleconference on Monday, March 20, 2023, at 7:15 p.m.

PRESENT

Dist. 1 Clr. Don Butler
2 Clr. Deborah Wadden
3 Clr. Darla MacKeil (Chair)
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
Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services
Sueann Musick, Communications Officer
Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development

CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Clr. Darla MacKeil, Chair of the Finance Committee called the meeting to order and acknowledged that we are on the ancestral territorial lands of the Mikmaq people.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Chair MacKeil asked if there were any errors, corrections, or omissions in the minutes for February 21, 2023. The members of the Committee entered no errors or

omissions, and the Chair proclaimed the minutes of the meeting on February 21, 2023, as the official record of that meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Clr. Thompson said it was disappointing that the province hasn't committed to a Vulnerable Sector Registry. He said it has proved successful in other areas of the province and Ann Camozzi in Antigonish County would be a good resource for Council to learn more about the registry and that council should consider inviting her to a future committee of the whole meeting.

Clr. Wadden asked the municipal staff if a post-Fiona report would be filed in the future for Council to review. CAO Cullen said an EMO debrief was held in November 2022 and attended by two REMO reps, but he has yet to see a report from the provincial debriefing.

MOTION - RECREATION REPORT

It was moved by Clr. Palmer, seconded by Clr Murray, that the Recreation report for January 2023 is received for information purposes. Motion Carried

MOTION - COMMUNICATION REPORT

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Butler that the Communications report be received for information purposes. Motion Carried

MOTION - EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the Emergency Services Report be received for information purposes.

Clr. D. Parker thanked the Municipality's Fire Inspector, Jason LeGreca, for his swift and professional action in helping a distressed resident in his district. Clr. Thompson said he heard good things about Mr. LeGreca from local volunteer groups. He suggested that the municipality's fire inspection department provide a list of vendors to community groups that need updates after their fire inspection. Motion Carried

MOTION - WARDEN'S REPORT

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the Warden's Report be received for information purposes. Motion Carried

MOTION- ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and second by Clr. Dewar that the accounts paid for February 2023 be received for information purposes.

Motion Carried

DEED TRANSFER TAX FUND

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

OUTSTANDING TAXES RECEIVABLE REPORT

The Taxed Receivable report for February 2023 was received for information purposes only.

Clr. D. Parker said the Municipal Audit Committee asked him to mention that it was concerned that the percentage of the Municipality's tax base is higher than others and the Municipality has tax accounts that are a decade or more in arrears.

MOTION – COMMUNITY GENERATOR FUND REQUEST

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Dewar that the following grants be recommended to Council for approval:

Abercrombie Fire Department	\$4500
Hillside Community Hall	\$2000
Little Harbour Fire Department	\$2410
River John Fire Department	\$3912
Scotsburn Fire Department	\$5000

Clr. Boyles said Council voted to provide funding for 10 percent of the community centre's project, not 10 percent of the province grant. On agreement of the mover and seconder the motion was amended to reflect the funding to this:

Abercrombie Fire Department	\$5000
Hillside Community Hall	\$2500
Little Harbour Fire Department	\$3012
River John Fire Department	\$4890
Scotsburn Fire Department	\$5000

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. Palmer that any future applications require a grant reporting form to be filled out by January 31 to determine if the entire grant was spent on the project.

Motion Carried

MOTION – STUDENT SALARY

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Elliott that Council accepts changes to the Student Employment Salaries that state the student's supervisor will make hiring decisions and salaries will be \$3 above the Provincial Minimum Wage.

Motion Carried

MOTION – OUTSIDE BOARD NOMINATIONS

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. Palmer that the following outside board nominations for non-elected persons be approved:

Municipal Audit Committee – Rick Feehan
Climate Change Committee – Kyle MacKenzie, Annulu Caldas MacEachern
Planning Advisory Committee – Earl Cameron
Riverview Home Corporation – Earl Cameron
Police Advisory – Gordon Gillis and Gwen Savage
Hector Arena Commission – Bayne Barkhouse

Staff confirmed that one vacant position on the Planning Advisory Committee would be readvertised for candidates. Motion Carried

MOTION – PACE PROGRAM FINANCING AND INTEREST RATE

It was moved by Warden Parker and seconded by Clr. Turner that the Municipality budget \$250,000 towards the PACE program for its fiscal year 2023/2024 and that this program be funded through a loan from the operating reserve. The Municipality will also charge 3.5 percent on the PACE Program loans. Motion Carried

Financial Services Chair MacKeil left the meeting and Vice-Chair Clr. Dewar chaired the remainder of the meeting.

MOTION – TOURISM MARKETING LEVY

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Deputy Warden Murray that the Municipality of the County of Pictou work with other municipal units that are members of DEANS to develop a bylaw for a tourism marketing levy and have that presented to Council.

Clr. Elliott said she wouldn't be supporting the motion because she felt businesses are good doing their advertising for tourism. She said businesses are recently coming out of low numbers after COVID and don't need another tax. CAO Cullen said this levy is being supported by the industry and membership of DEANS.

Clr. D. Parker asked if it would be possible for the municipality to implement it and another unit would not and that it should be an "all or nothing" with the other municipal units. He said some RVs are escaping these levies because they are not considered fixed roofs but they are as nice as some hotels.

Clr. Elliott said DEANS recommends implementing a bylaw as soon as possible, but she wanted to know if they surveyed all tourism businesses. CAO Cullen said DEANS consulted with its members, which were hotels, motels and other licenced businesses that fall under the act. Clr. Elliott said people not licenced would gain business if this levy is imposed.

Motion Carried
Nay – Cllr. Elliott

CERB CONCERNS

Cllr. Boyles said he was waiting on information on this topic from Central Nova MP Sean Fraser and asked for it be discussed at a future meeting.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

There were no emergency resolutions brought forward.

ADJOURN

There was no further business before the meeting, so the Chair declared the meeting to be adjourned.

CHAIRPERSON

MUNICIPAL CLERK
