

May 1, 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, May 1, 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 Mikmaq people and would like to thank the Mikmaq 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.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Clr. Parker made a Point of Privilege regarding the Committee of the Whole meeting held on April 24, 2023. Clr. Parker received notice on April 17th with the meeting date and

replied that the date did not work for his schedule and felt that it was short notice. Clr. Parker requested the meeting be rescheduled and communicated with the Warden and Deputy Clerk. Clr. Parker then emailed the CAO and stated that he received no response from CAO. During that week on the 18th, Clr. Parker said he was asked to give acceptance to reschedule another meeting for another counsellor. At that time, he responded inappropriately and wished to apologize for that, and the meeting went forth on the 24th of April, and Clr. Parker was unable to attend and felt that the privilege to attend was infringed upon. Clr. Parker requested to review the timelines and approaches.

AGENDA

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

Warden Parker added a proclamation for World Lupus Day to the agenda. This was approved by Council as presented.

MINUTES

The minutes of the April 3, 2023, Council Meeting were reviewed by the Municipal Council. The Warden proclaimed the minutes of the meeting of April 3, 2023, as the official record of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE (ACTION REQUIRED)

Regarding the Northumberland Regional High School Graduation Donation Request, Warden Parker said there would be a resolution to cover this to be dealt with at that time.

Municipal Boundary Review Decision was presented for information purposes. The UARB agreed with what was sent to it by the Council. The number of councilors will remain at 12 for the next election in 2024, and they have also maintained the Warden system.

Deputy Warden Murray said that in that letter, there was a request to send in more information. CAO Cullen replied that digital copies will be sent in of each of the districts.

GAELIC AWARENESS MONTH

PROCLAMATION

GAELIC NOVA SCOTIA MONTH

WHEREAS 2023 marks the 27th anniversary of Gaelic Nova Scotia Month, which is a time to recognize, honour and celebrate the history, culture, language, contributions and achievements of Gaels across the province; and

WHEREAS Gaelic culture is an integral part of the identity of Nova Scotia and one of the earliest non-indigenous cultures to settle in Mi'kma'ki; and

WHEREAS the new generations of language learners and cultural champions carry on the legacy of Gaelic Nova Scotia tradition bearers; and

WHEREAS government remains committed to collaborating with Gaelic communities to support opportunities for enhanced learning to ensure Gaelic language and culture will thrive in the Municipality of the County of Pictou;

THEREFORE I, Robert Parker, Warden of the Municipality of the County of Pictou, hereby proclaim May 2023 as Gaelic Nova Scotia Month in the Municipality of the County of Pictou.

DATED at Pictou, Nova Scotia, this the 1st day of May 2023.

Sgd. Robert Parker, Warden

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA

PROCLAMATION

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA

WHEREAS the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms recognizes that no one can be discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, or expression;

WHEREAS Nova Scotia is a society open to everyone, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people (LGBTQ+) and to all other people who identify with sexual diversity and the multiplicity of gender identities and expressions;

WHEREAS despite recent efforts towards greater inclusion of LGBT people, homophobia and transphobia are still present in society;

WHEREAS May 17th is the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, is celebrated as such in many countries and is the result of a Quebec-based initiative promoted by Fondation Émergence starting in 2003;

WHEREAS there is reason to support the efforts of Fondation Émergence in holding this day;

BE IT RESOLVED That the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou proclaim May 17, 2023 as International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia.

DATED at Pictou, Nova Scotia this the 1ST Day of May 2023.

Sgd. Robert Parker, Warden

LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

PROCLAMATION

LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS Lyme disease is a serious illness caused by the bite of a black legged tick infected with the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*; and

WHEREAS black legged ticks carrying a variety of diseases or illnesses can now be found in all parts of Nova Scotia; and

WHEREAS awareness, education and practicing preventative measures, such as daily tick checks and proper tick removal, can help reduce your chances of contracting tick-borne diseases;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Warden Robert Parker, on behalf of the Municipality of the County of Pictou, proclaim May 2023 as “Lyme Disease Awareness Month”.

DATED at Pictou, Nova Scotia this 1st day of May 2023

Sgd. Robert Parker, Warden

World Lupus Day

PROCLAMATION

World Lupus Day

WHEREAS lupus is a serious and incurable autoimmune disease that can cause life-threatening damage to any organ in the body.

WHEREAS lupus is a global health problem that affects millions of young women, men and children of all nationalities, races, ethnicities, genders, and ages worldwide.

WHEREAS, many physicians worldwide are unaware of the symptoms and health effects of lupus, causing people with lupus to suffer for many years before they obtain a correct diagnosis and medical treatment.

WHEREAS medical research efforts into lupus and the discovery and development of safer, more effective treatments for lupus patients are underfunded in comparison with diseases of similar magnitude and severity.

WHEREAS people with lupus need access to medical specialists and high-quality multidisciplinary care, including emotional, psychological, and social care.

WHEREAS people with lupus will face a lifetime of living with the unpredictable and life-changing health effects of this disease.

WHEREAS there is a deep, unmet need worldwide to educate and support individuals and families affected by lupus.

WHEREAS there is an urgent need to increase awareness in communities worldwide of the devastating impact of lupus.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MAY 10, 2023, is hereby designated as World Lupus Day on which lupus organizations around the globe call for increases in public and private sector funding for medical research on lupus, targeted education programs for health professionals, patients, and the public, and worldwide recognition of lupus as a significant public health issue.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 1st day of May 2023.

Sgd. Robert Parker, Warden

PRESENTATION: CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

GAVIN MacCallum – MOPC Recognition

The Municipality of Pictou congratulates Gavin MacCallum of Frasers Mountain, who was recently awarded provincial recognition for his track and field performance.

Gavin is a Grade 7 student at Frank H MacDonald Academy and received the Run, Jump, Throw Wheel Participant Award from Athletics Nova Scotia for his performance in the past season.

The 2022 Athletics NS Awards are given to athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers who made outstanding achievements in the sport of athletics in 2022.

Gavin has been involved with track and field since he was six or seven years old and currently competes in the 600m and 60m races, shot put and long jump.

He was the only recipient from Pictou County to receive a 2022 Athletics NS Award.

Once again, congratulations Gavin on a memorable season and we wish you great success in many more to come.

RESOLUTION GRANTS

Clr. Dewar 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 council and municipal grants:

Council Grants:

a. Northumberland Reg. High School - Graduation	\$1000.00
b. Northumberland Regional High School - Bursary	\$1000.00
c. North Nova Education Centre – Graduation	\$1000.00
c. North Nova Education Centre – Bursary	\$1000.00

WHEREAS the Council of the has adopted a capital budget for this fiscal year as required by Section 65 of the Municipal Government Act and are so authorized to expend funds for a capital purpose as identified in their capital budget;

WHEREAS pursuant to a resolution passed by the Municipal Council on the day of 5th of April 2022, the Council postponed the issue of debentures and with the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing dated the day of 19th Day of April 2022, did borrow from a chartered bank or trust company doing business in Nova Scotia a sum not exceeding Thirty-One Million, Five Hundred and Forty-Two Thousand, One Hundred and Ten Dollars (\$31,542,110) for the purposes set out above and for a period not exceeding twelve months; and

WHEREAS Council has deemed it expedient that the period of borrowing be further extended;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the authorized period of borrowing in the amount not exceeding Thirty-One Million, Five Hundred and Forty-Two Thousand, One Hundred and Ten Dollars (\$31,542,110) be extended for a further period not exceeding Twenty-Four (24) months from the date of the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

DATED at Pictou, Nova Scotia, this the 1st day of May, 2023.

**MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE
 TEMPORARY BORROWING RESOLUTION RENEWAL
 Amount \$31,542,110 Renewal Projects: Schedule "A" Attached
 SCHEDULE "A"**

		\$
Heading: Rural Internet Phase 1 Project (Expected Completion September 2023)		
Item	Phase 1 Fibre Build	6,442,437
Item		
Item		
Item		
Heading Sub Total		6,442,437
Heading: Rapid Deployment Network (Expected Completion June 2023)		
Item	Wireless Network Towers and Related infrastructure	5,880,198
Item		
Item		
Item		
Heading Sub Total		5,880,198
Heading: Rural Internet Phase 2 Project (Expected Completion December 2025)		
Item	Phase 2 Fibre Build	19,219,475
Item		
Item		
Item		
Heading Sub Total		19,219,475
Heading:		
Item		

Item		
Item		
Item		
Heading Sub Total		
TOTAL REQUEST CONATINED WITHIN THIS RESOLUTION		31,542,110

Sgd Deputy Warden Murray
 Clr. MacKeil
 Motion Carried

RESOLUTION AMENDMENT TO TAXEMPTION POLICY

Clr. Thompson presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the MacDonald Rebekah Lodge No. 108, located at 2411 East River East West Side Road, Sunny Brae Society, is now registered as a not-for-profit in the Nova Scotia Joint Registry of Stocks.

BE IT RESOLVED the Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou move the MacDonald Rebekah Lodge No. 108 from Schedule B of the Municipality of the County of Pictou’s Tax Exemption and Tax Reduction Policy (Policy Number 2023-04-21) to Schedule A.

DATED at Pictou, NS, this 1st day of May 2023.

Sgd. Clr. Thompson
 Clr. Dewar
 Motion Carried

RESOLUTION PURCHASE OF VEHICLE INTERNET PROJECT

Clr. Turner presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Municipality of the County of Pictou needs to purchase a 4x4 truck for employees of the Rural Broadband Project to visit job sites and carry equipment.

WHEREAS the Municipality of County of Pictou requires the vehicle to be in stock, be a half-ton or quarter-ton truck, and have a factory-installed Tonneau cover and trailer hitch.

WHEREAS the Municipality has a procurement policy that states that tenders for the purchase of municipal vehicles will include a preference for zero greenhouse gas emission vehicles unless operational requirements for the vehicle clearly exclude this specification.

WHEREAS the Municipality received the following vehicle tenders:

Ford F150 4x4 Super Crew Power Boost Full Hybrid	\$71,170.00
Dodge Ram 1500 Classic Hemi	\$61,180.00
Chevrolet Double Cab Work Truck	\$56,940.00
Honda Ridgeline	\$57,137.98
Nissan Frontier	\$49,728.00

WHEREAS the Rural Broadband Network Manager recommends the purchase of the F150 Hybrid based on environmental factors, model year, and operational savings in fuel.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council accept the tender submitted by Highland Ford in the amount of \$71,170.00 for the purchase of the Ford F150 4x4 Super Crew Power Boost Full Hybrid truck.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 1st day of May 2023.

Sgd.

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

(Nay Votes Clr. Dewar; MacKeil; Boyles, D. Parker)

RESOLUTION COMMUNITY GENERATOR FUND GRANTS

Clr. Thompson presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS The Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou has created a Community Generator Fund for \$60,000 in the 2022/23 fiscal year, funded from surplus general funds or a transfer from the general operating reserve.

WHEREAS Council has determined that municipal grants provided to community centres will be no more than 10 percent of the project costs to a maximum of \$5000.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou accepts the following grant requests:

Blue Mountain Volunteer Fire Department	\$3,563
MacD.Rebekah Lodge #108 Sunny Brae	\$3,153
Trustees of Spring Presbyterian Church	\$3,014

Pictou Landing Fire Department	\$2,729
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DATED at Pictou, N. S. this 1st day of May 2023.

Sgd. Clr. Thompson
 Clr. Dewar
 Motion Carried

RESOLUTION MUNICIPAL SERVICES GRANT TRANSFER

Clr. Palmer presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipality of the County of Pictou transfer \$300,000 from its operating reserve to allow for the payment of the municipal service grants prior to the approval of the 2023/24 operating budget.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 1st day of May 2023.

Sgd. Clr. Palmer
 Dep. Warden Murray
 Motion Carried

RESOLUTION AMENDMENT TO MUNICIPAL VEHICLES POLICY

Clr. Elliott presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED the Municipality of the County of Pictou adopt the following changes to its Municipal Vehicle Policy:

POLICY #2023-01-05



MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU
 MUNICIPAL VEHICLES POLICY

PURPOSE

To establish a uniform policy for the purchase and disposition of municipal vehicles and the use of those vehicles by municipal staff.

Acquisition of Vehicles

1. It shall be the policy of Municipal Council to consider the acquisition of vehicles required to carry out the day-to-day activities of the Municipality where, in the opinion of the Financial Services Committee and Management, the payment of mileage to municipal employees for the use of their private vehicle(s) has become cost-prohibitive to the Municipality.
2. Public tenders for the purchase of municipal vehicles will be called by the Municipal Treasurer in accordance with the **Municipality's Procurement Policy**. ~~Municipal Officers Policy~~. The Municipal Treasurer will provide all prospective bidders with a list of specifications for the vehicles required. The specifications will include preference for zero greenhouse gas emission vehicles unless operational requirements for the vehicle clearly exclude this specification.
3. All tenders will be reviewed by the Financial Services Committee to determine conformity with the specifications and a recommendation will be submitted by the Committee to Council for the acceptance of one or more tenders.

Staff Use of Vehicles

4. At the completion of the workday, all municipal vehicles will remain securely locked in the parking lot of the Municipal Administration Building. **The Chief Administrative Officer or Departmental Managers shall be granted the discretion to allow vehicles to be used outside of the normal workday, based upon the individual needs of their departmental staff.** ~~For the purposes of this policy, the Public Works & Development Department is considered to be an essential service and, therefore, one vehicle will remain available for emergency service at the discretion of the Public Works & Development Director.~~
5. Municipal vehicles shall be used for authorized day trips, subject to availability and shall be picked up at (and returned to) the Municipal Administration Building.
6. Where municipal vehicles are not available for this purpose, mileage shall be authorized for the use of personal vehicles at the rate set in the Collective Agreement for unionized employees, and at the rate set by Council for non-unionized employees. Mileage for the use of personal vehicles shall be paid for the total round-trip distance travelled from the Municipal Administration Building to the destination for which the vehicle is being used.

Disposition of Surplus Vehicles

7. Unless otherwise determined by Council, municipal vehicles will normally be replaced on the recommendation of the **Chief Administrative Officer or Department**

Manager with endorsement of the Chief Administrative Officer ~~Director of Public Works & Development.~~

8. A Department Manager(s) shall inform the Chief Administrative Officer of any vehicles that are surplus to the needs of the Municipality. ~~Upon the replacement of those vehicles,~~
9. The Municipal Treasurer will advertise surplus vehicle(s) "FOR SALE BY TENDER". All tenders will be reviewed by the Financial Services Committee and the Committee shall submit a recommendation to Council for the acceptance of one or more tenders.

Repeal

10. All former policies with respect to municipal vehicles are hereby repealed.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 1st day of May 2023.

Sgd.

Clr. Elliott
Clr. D. Parker
Motion Carried

RESOLUTION TREE PLANTING LICENCE AGREEMENT

Clr. Parker presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Climate Change Advisory Committee is actively promoting green initiatives that will inspire people to care about the environment and prepare for a greener future;

WHEREAS the Committee has hosted seedlings giveaways and tree plantings in the past in an effort to raise awareness, encourage rural residents to be part of a greener community and play a role in minimizing greenhouse gas emissions generated within the municipal boundaries, including emissions arising from our own assets and services;

WHEREAS the Climate Change Advisory Committee advertised for interest from property owners willing to enter into an agreement to allow the Municipality to plant seedlings on their lands;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Municipality of the County of Pictou to authorize the CAO to sign a licence agreement with the property owners approved by the Climate Change Advisory Committee to use their land for seedlings planting.

DATED at Pictou, N. S. on this 1st day of May 2023.

Sgd.

**Clr. Parker
Clr. Elliott
Motion Carried
(Nay Vote Clr. Boyles)**

INTERNET PROJECT UPDATE

CAO Cullen updated Council members on the Fibre project and that construction continues the main line from Central West River to New Glasgow; crews are at the railway crossing in Alma and are performing that work this week. From Alma, they will progress into New Glasgow. The route from Mount Thom to Central West River is now active, so people can begin being connected on that side of the project.

On the wireless side, all towers are in test mode, except for two towers, one in Blue Mountain and the other in Hardwood Hill that will eventually allow us to migrate away from Bell Tower. All towers have been inspected and CSA approved and starting now there were several deficiencies at each site that must be addressed.

Several people have signed up to be connected to the wireless and starting today additional resources have been earmarked for that. There is a list of 500-600 people that signed up, but not all of them are eligible for wireless because the wireless was designed for people who specifically could not get fibre services in their area. It is probably in the 200-300 range by the time staff go through the list. Additional resources have been identified to hook up to the wireless, which should be done by May.

On the overall project, MOPC staff are still working through the various agreements with the Federal Government on the grant. The Provincial Agreement has been reviewed, and the agreement has been sent off to legal counsel for review.

Warden Parker asked CAO Cullen, where are the next stages for fibre to be going over the summer. CAO Cullen said that once the New Glasgow locations and the areas that have permits are completed, then Loch Broom Loop is to be the next serviceable area. The project will then move toward Caribou, Braeshore and Highway 6 towards River John.

Warden Parker made mentioned that the towers have had vandalism, and Council is looking at various ways that we may be able to prevent that in the future.

Clr. D. Parker questioned, except for Blue Mountain, if all of the towers are in the test stage and will the towers all be finished to qualify for the federal grant money. CAO Cullen said yes, one of the last things done was the CSA audit. The team is currently fixing any deficiencies to have them CSA-approved.

Clr. Parker asked what the current backlog is for people who have asked for wireless service but have not heard yet. CAO Cullen responded that the number was closer to 200 that were believed to be serviceable wirelessly from the towers, but that number could go up to as high as 300.

Clr. Thompson asked how many paying customers the Municipality has on both the wireless and fibre side. CAO Cullen responded that on the fibre side, there are 40 customers, and on the wireless side, there are currently 35, all test customers. Those numbers do not include all the towers that have come online. There are 108 orders in the system to be installed on the fibre side, which have been released to Telecom to do the installation. There were some supply chain issues that have been fixed, and staff now have sufficient inventory to do those.

Clr. Thompson asked what the operating costs are to run the two operations every month. CAO Cullen responded that the amount is in the \$30,000 range,

Clr. Thompson asked if Council could get a monthly report on sales and subscriptions versus operating costs. CAO Cullen said that systems are currently being migrated, which is in the works that will allow that type of reporting.

Clr. Thompson commented that people are frustrated in the Blue Mountain, Garden of Eden and East River St. Mary's areas because neighbours, friends and relatives that live across the county line already have fibre. A good portion of the largest non-serviced area in District 11 is Springville, and a good portion of that area won't be covered by the wireless tower on River Road. People are rightfully frustrated as they see there is fibre all around them. He asked if there was talk about putting other towers up in areas, so these people can get the service they hoped for and were promised as they don't want to wait four years for the internet. He asked what the plans are to ensure that the non-serviced areas have some options through this project. CAO Cullen said there are towers in Springville, and a second tower is going into Sunnybrae.

Clr. Butler was looking for more clarification on how customers can transition from wireless to fibre services. CAO Cullen said if customers are already on wireless, they would be notified once the fibre becomes available. Then they call and request the fibre service and disconnect the wireless.

RURAL INTERNET PROJECT CBC TOWER

As part of the Rapid Deployment Network Project, lands owned by CBC in Blue Mountain were identified as an ideal location for tower placement to serve a number of communities without service and will also serve properties under the next phase of the project. This site was the location of a previously decommissioned CBC tower.

The CAO presented a recommended that the Municipal Council authorize the Warden and the Chief Administrative Officer to enter into an agreement of Purchase and Sale with the Canadian Broadcast Corporation to purchase the lands located at 6319 Sherbrooke Road, Blue Mountain, Nova Scotia.

RESOLUTION

Clr. MacKeil presented the following resolution to Council:

WHEREAS the Municipality of the County of Pictou is implementing a wireless broadband network;

WHEREAS the Municipality is interested in acquiring land to place towers and related infrastructure to facilitate the deployment of the wireless network;

WHEREAS the lands located at 6319 Sherbrooke Road in Blue Mountain, owned by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, have been identified as lands that will enable proper deployment of wireless infrastructure;

WHEREAS the Canadian Broadcast Corporation has agreed to sell the aforementioned lands to the Municipality and has provided the Municipality with a purchase and sale agreement depicting the conditions of sale;

WHEREAS the Project Management Team and Municipal Solicitor have reviewed the document and believe the document and lands will serve the municipality's interest.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou, that Council authorizes the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer to sign the Purchase and Sale agreement with the Canadian Broadcast Corporation.

DATED at Pictou, Nova Scotia this the 1st Day of May 2023.

**Sgd. Clr. MacKeil
Clr. Elliott
Motion Carried**

EAST PICTOU RURAL HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE

CAO Cullen said the tender closing date was extended after the Municipality received several enquiries from prospective bidders looking for additional information about environmental concerns. An initial environmental study was done by a company that was interested in developing it. The contractors that were looking to get it were looking for additional information at locations within the school, so the deadline has been extended and the Director of Public Works and Development has a request for bids from some environmental consultants to do some further testing on the school property.

Director of Public Works and Development McDowell stated that it really is about mitigating the financial risk to the Municipality.

MOTION - LETTERS TO SENIOR LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker, seconded by Clr. Turner that Council write a letter to Provincial and Federal Governments to ask for the completion of the twinning of the highway from Pomquet to Auld's Cove and to upgrade the short-line railroad from Truro to Port Hawkesbury.

Clr. D. Parker said after attendance of the Smart Energy conference on the 17th and 18th of April in Halifax. There were a lot of companies and a lot of talk about offshore wind energy. South of Canso, there is an area that is “the best wind area in the world.” There are big plans and they have already had two environmental approvals. The scale of development is difficult to predict.

Motion Carried

SMART ENERGY CONFERENCE REPORT (Clr. D. Parker)

Clr. Parker expressed thanks to the taxpayers, the Municipality of Pictou County and Nova Scotia Power for the opportunity to attend the Smart Energy Conference on April 17th and 18th in Halifax. Clr. Parker was very impressed at this conference and stated that this would be the number one conference attended throughout his teaching career and as a politician. Clr. Parker was hopeful for the possibility of sending two high school students to his conference through sponsorship.

Clr. Parker spoke of some examples of revolutionary technologies at this conference: the Zen Bike, an electric bike that travels 600 km on one battery charge and an LED roadway company. Clr. Boyles was impressed by the drone technologies displayed and, looking into the future, saw these as beneficial to the internet project. Clr. Boyles also expressed his thought that this was a great conference.

MOTION - PICTOU COUNTY AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY PLAN ADOPTION

CAO Cullen stated that this plan has been worked on for the last year, and it is made up of all municipal units and to be inclusive to all of Pictou County.

Clr. Boyles stated that he is on the Age-Friendly Committee and did not hear anything about a meeting. Warden Parker told Clr. Boyles, it would be investigated why an invitation was not extended to Clr. Boyles.

It was moved by Clr. Thompson, seconded by Clr. MacKeil that the adoption of the plan be tabled until a presentation is made on the contents of the plan.

Motion Carried

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clr. Elliott announced that there would be a ratepayer meeting in District 4 on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 6:30 at the Toney River Community Hall.

Clr. Parker announced that on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 7 pm at the Union Center Community Hall, there would be an information session hosted by the Municipality of Pictou County in relation to the internet project.

Clr. Parker wished to express sincere condolences to the families who suffered tragedies in the community. Mr. Elwood Fraser passed away tragically. Mr. Fraser was well known in his community and worked hard for the exhibition committee, holding events, dances and benefits in the barn in Pleasant Valley. The other tragedy in the community was the sudden passing of Master Corporal Reg Chabassol, son of Francis and Jan Chabassol. Reg grew up on Pump Road (now known as Nancy's Way).

Clr. Boyles announced that there would be a ratepayer meeting in District 9 on Wednesday, May 3rd, at the Linacy Fire Hall at 7 pm.

Clr. MacKeil wished all fishers that were setting traps and fishing lobster this season a safe and prosperous season and that everyone enjoys a lobster.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

No emergency resolutions were brought forward.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Warden declared the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

WARDEN

MUNICIPAL CLERK