



## MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

**Monday, May 6, 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 April 2, 2024
  - b. In Camera Meeting April 2, 2024
  - c. Special Council Meeting April 22, 2024
7. **Correspondence** (Information enclosed)
  - a. Cost Shared Program for Paving Subdivision (J) Class Streets
8. **Dangerous and Unsightly Hearing** (Information enclosed)
  - a. 96 Hillside Road, Hillside – Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services
9. **Proclamations** (Information enclosed)
  - a. Gaelic Nova Scotia Month
  - b. Lyme Disease Awareness Month
  - c. International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia
  - d. Access Awareness Week Nova Scotia
10. **Business Not Requiring Action** (Information enclosed)
  - a. New Scotland Business Park Report
  - b. Riverview Home Corporation – Clr. Parker
11. **Business Items or Items Requiring Action**
  - a. Destruction of Documents – Clr. MacKeil
  - b. Recreation Grants – Clr. Wadden

- c. Municipal Election Advanced Polls- Clr. Butler
- d. Municipal Election Polling Dates – Deputy Warden Murray
- e. Internet Service and the Hillside Hall – Clr. Boyles
- f. CERB Collection Information – Clr. Boyles
- g. Letter from Nova Poirer regarding MacBeth Road - Deputy Warden Murray

12. **Consideration of Deferred Business**

13. Community Announcements

14. Motions of Reconsideration

15. Adjournment



**Public Works  
Office of the Minister**

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PO Box 186, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2N2

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Warden Robert Parker  
Municipality of the County of Pictou  
Box 910  
Pictou, NS B0K 1H0

Dear Warden Parker:

**Re: Cost Shared Program for Paving of Subdivision (J Class) Streets for fiscal year 2024-25.**

Thank you for your Municipality's submission under the Cost Shared Program for Paving of Subdivision (J Class) Streets for fiscal year 2024/25.

Due to program limits, the Department will not be able to proceed with Greenwood Street and Old Row. The Municipality may wish to re-submit these candidates for the 2025-26 program under the terms outlined in the Cost Share Agreement.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kim D. Masland'.

Kim D. Masland  
Minister of Public Works

c: Brian Cullen, Chief Administrative Officer, Municipality of Pictou  
Troy Webb, District Director, Northern  
Greg Chisholm, Construction Manager, Northern  
Laura Cunningham, Capital Program Administration Officer

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**IN THE MATTER OF:** Section 346(3) of Chapter 18 of the Acts of 1998, The  
Municipal Government Act, Part XV - Dangerous or Unsightly  
Premises

**-and-**

**IN THE MATTER OF:** 96 Hillside Road, Hillside, Nova Scotia; (the "Property"), with Tax  
Account Number 03713296 and PID # 00869859

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND COUNCIL**

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou, Nova Scotia ("The Council") may issue an Order against you under Section 346 of the Municipal Government Act which, along with other things, may require demolition of a structure or structures located on the property. The Order may be in the form attached ("the proposed Order"), or to the like effect, together with such amendments or changes as may be removed and adopted by Council.

**AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE**

**THAT** the proposed Order will be considered at the Council meeting to be held at the Administration building, 46 Municipal Drive, Pictou, Nova Scotia on **Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 7:15 pm**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be considered.

**THAT** before the proposed Order is made, you, as an owner of the property, are hereby notified that you have, and hereby are offered, an opportunity to attend at the Council meeting and to be heard before any Order is made; and

**THAT** the Council may proceed to consider the proposed Order, and may make the proposed Order, or may make any variation thereof at the Council meeting, whether you appear at the Council meeting to address Council.

This notice is served upon you as the owner(s) of the property as defined in Section 3 (ay) of the Municipal Government Act.

A copy of part XV of the Municipal Government Act, Dangerous or Unsightly Premises, is attached hereto.

**DATED AT** Pictou, Nova Scotia, to be effective the 24<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Evan Hale', written over a horizontal line.

Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services,  
Administrator of Dangerous and Unsightly  
Premises

TO: Vivian Penny  
96 Hillside Road  
Hillside, NS  
B0K 1X0

**TO: Vivian Penny**  
**96 Hillside Road,**  
**Hillside, NS**  
**B0K 1H0**

**IN THE MATTER OF:** PART XV of Chapter 18 of the Acts of 1998,  
*The Municipal Government Act*

-and-

**IN THE MATTER OF:** Premises located at 96 Hillside Road, Hillside, Pictou County, Nova  
Scotia

-and-

**IN THE MATTER OF:** The Order of the Administrator

## **ORDER**

**TAKE NOTICE** that pursuant to Section 346 of the *Municipal Government Act*, (the "MGA"), the Administrator, under Part XV of the MGA, as determined that **the property located at 96 Hillside Road, Hillside, in the County of Pictou and Province of Nova Scotia, PID 00869859 and AAN 0371396:** and more particularly described in Schedule "A" hereto attached, and forming a part hereof, ("the property"), is dangerous or unsightly.

**AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE** that the Administrator orders you to remedy these conditions by doing all of the following work, acts or things ("the work") on the property, that is to say,

- (a) **Demolish the house structure. Remove all debris; household items; and any other thing that is dangerous, unsightly, unhealthy, or offensive to a person. The entire site is to be cleared.**

**ALL ITEMS ARE TO BE TAKEN TO APPROPRIATE DISPOSAL SITES.**

**THIS WORK IS TO BE COMPLETED AND DONE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS ORDER.**

**AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE:**

- THAT IN THE EVENT OF FAILURE BY YOU TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ORDER WITH THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER ITS DATE OF SERVICE, THE ADMINISTRATOR MAY ENTER UPON THE PROPERTY WITHOUT WARRANT OR OTHER LEGAL PROCESS AND CARRY OUT THE WORK SPECIFIED IN THIS ORDER;
- THAT THE COST OF THE WORK, WITH INTEREST AT THE RATE DETERMINED BY THE COUNCIL, FROM THE DATE OF THE COMPLETION OF THE WORK UNTIL THE DATE OF PAYMENT

- (a) IS THE FIRST LIEN ON THE PROPERTY UPON WHICH THE WORK WAS DONE AND THAT THE PROPERTY BE LIABLE TO BE SOLD IN TAX SALE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MGA, AND
- (b) MAY AT ANY TIME BE SUED FOR AND RECOVERED IN AN ACTION IN THE NAME OF THE COUNTY;
- THAT AFTER THIS ORDER IS SERVED, ANY PERSON WHO PERMITS OR CAUSES A DANGEROUS OR UNSIGHTLY CONDITION, CONTINUES TO PERMIT OR CAUSE A DANGEROUS OR UNSIGHTLY CONDITION OR FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE TERMS OF THE ORDER IS LIABLE, ON SUMMARY CONVICTION, TO A PENALTY OF NOT LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED (\$100.00) DOLLARS, AND NOT MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00), AND IN DEFAULT OF PAYMENT TO IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN 3 MONTHS.
  - THAT EVERYDAY DURING WHICH THE CONDITION IS NOT REMEDIED IS A SEPARATE OFFENCE.

**DATED** at Pictou, Nova Scotia this 24<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.

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Evan Hale

Emergency Service Director

Part XV Administrator, who signs this Order,

Under a delegation, to him from Council, of its

Authority pursuant to Section 34591) of the

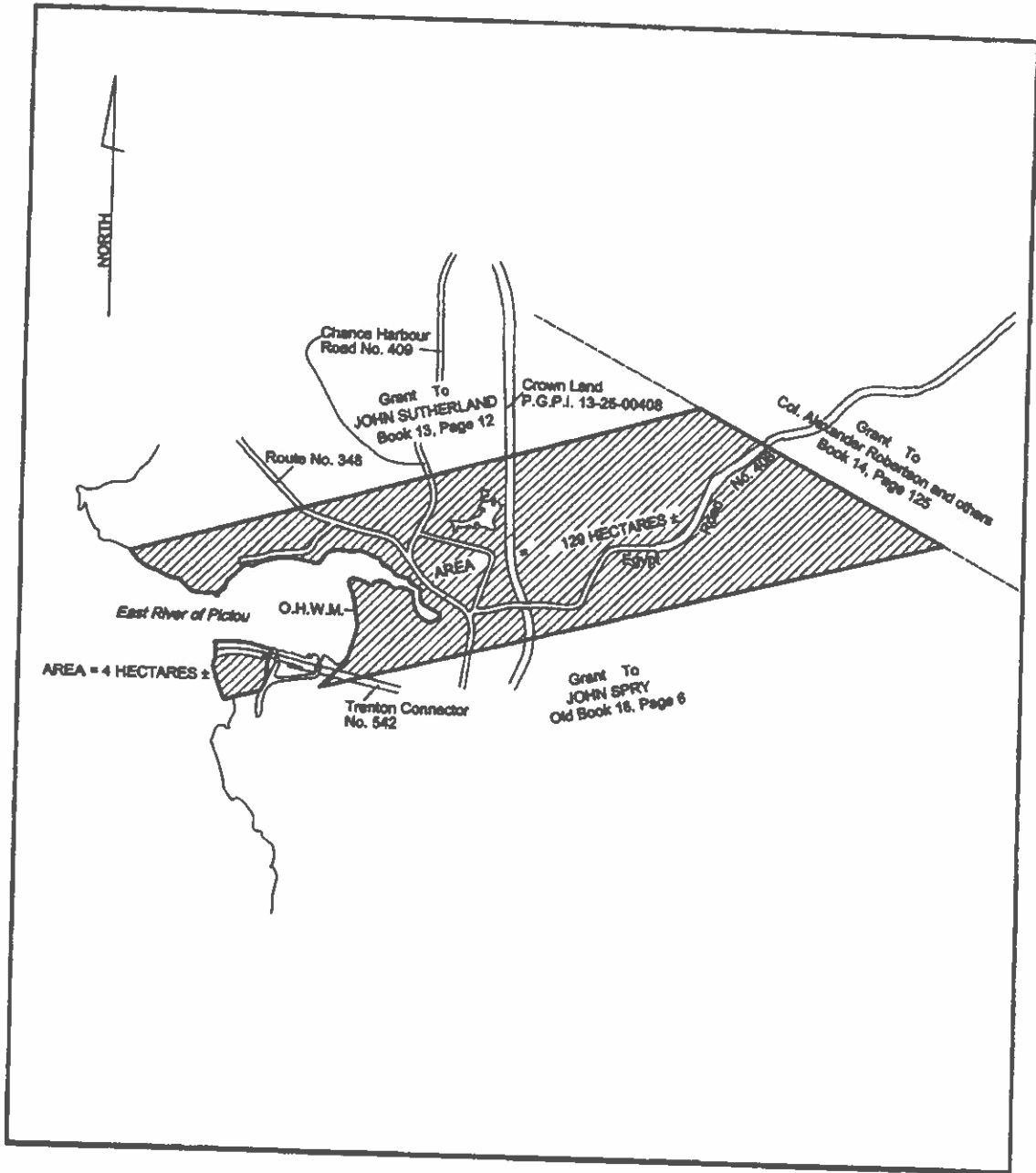
MGA

Schedule "A"

ALL THAT CERTAIN lot, piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being at Hillside, near Trenton, in the County of Pictou, in the Province of Nova Scotia, bounded and described as follow: BEGINNING at the point where the margin of lands of one Homer Smith intersects the margin of Birch Street; THENCE along the said margin of Birch Street a distance of one hundred feet (100) to lands conveyed by the said Grantor to one Alva Laurance Fraser is reached; THENCE along the boundary of said Alva Laurance Fraser lands a distance of one hundred and ten feet (110) to the boundary of lands retained by Bertha Carmichael is reached; THENCE along the boundary of lands retained by Bertha Carmichael in the direction of aforesaid lands of Homer Smith until the aforesaid Boundary of Homer Smiths lands is reached; BEING a distance of one hundred feet (100); THENCE along the boundary of lands retained by Bertha Carmichael in the direction of aforesaid lands of Homer Smith until the aforesaid Boundary of Homer Smiths lands is reached; BEING AND INTENDED TO BE a portion of lands conveyed to the Grantor Bertha Carmichael by Deed dated July 8th, A.D., 1942 from James R. Porter.



SCHEDULE "A"



LOCATION : TRENTON

COUNTY : PICTOU

SCALE 1 : 20,000

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

P.G.P.I. No. 13-25-40110  
Index Sheet: 92 & 93  
C.L.F.S. D-31, D-32 & E-31  
Resource Maps: 11E/10-W1 & 11E/10-W3

LEGEND:

Grant Boundaries .....  
Area Dealt With By This Plan .....   
Ordinary High Water Mark ..... O.H.W.M.

Area shown on this plan is approximate only and is subject to a boundary survey.

The boundaries shown on this plan are a graphic representation only and do not necessarily represent the true shape or position of lot boundaries. The true location of all boundaries shown are subject to a field survey.

This plan was prepared from information on file at the Department of Natural Resources Office, Halifax, N.S.

# Proclamation

## Gaelic Nova Scotia Month

**WHEREAS** 2024 marks the 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gaelic Nova Scotia Month which is a time to embrace, 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 Gaels represent one of the earliest non-indigenous cultural groups to settle in Mi'kma'ki; and

**WHEREAS** new generations of language learners and cultural champions are carrying on and building upon the legacy of Gaelic Nova Scotia's tradition bearers; and

**WHEREAS** our Municipality is committed to collaborating with Gaelic communities to support the growth of Gaelic as a part of the linguistic landscape of Nova Scotia through opportunities for language acquisition and capacity building within communities to ensure Gaelic language and culture will thrive in \_\_\_\_\_;

**THEREFORE I** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby proclaim May 2024 as "Gaelic Nova Scotia Month" in the Municipality of \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_

of \_\_\_\_\_

# Gairm

## Mhios nan Gàidheal

**SEACH GUN COMHARRAICH** 2024 an t-ochdamh ceann bliadhna air fhichead do Mhios nan Gàidheal, tha e 'na àm gus eachdraidh, cultur, cànan, is àrd-ghnìomharan nan Gàidheal thar na mór-roinneadh is na chuir iad rithe, a dhlùth-ghabhail, onorachadh is a ghléidheadh; agus

**SEACH GU BHEIL** cultur nan Gàidheal 'na phàirt bhunaiteach do dh'fhéin-aithne na h-Albann Nuaidhe is iad, na Gàidheil té dhe na buidhnean culturail neo-thùsanach na bu tràithe a thuinich ann an tìr nam Mìogmac; agus

**SEACH GUM BI** ginealaich ùra do luchd-ionnsachaidh a' chànain, agus suinn culturail, a' cumail orra is iad a' leantainn gu dlùth ri dìleab na feadhach a dh'ionnsaich a' Ghàidhlig o 'n ghlùin an Albainn Nuaidh; agus

**SEACH GU BHEIL** an Cathrachd againn an geall air a bhith a' co-obrachadh le coimhearsnachdan Gàidhealach gus taic a thoirt do leasachadh na Gàidhlig mar phàirt do léirsinn cànanach na h-Albann Nuaidhe thro chothroman gus cànan agus comas 's na coimhearsnachdan a thogail, a' dèanadh cinnteach gun soirbhich leis a' Ghàidhlig is le a cultur ann an Cathrachd \_\_\_\_\_;

**MAR SIN** Tha mise, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ na \_\_\_\_\_, a' gairm a' Chéitein 2024, 'na mhìos dha na Gàidheil ann an Cathrachd \_\_\_\_\_.

Ainm air a chur ris ann an \_\_\_\_\_, Alba Nuadh

Signed at \_\_\_\_\_, Nova Scotia

## ***PROCLAMATION***

### **LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH May 2024**

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

WHEREAS blacklegged 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, do hereby proclaim May 2024 as "Lyme Disease Awareness Month".

Dated at Pictou, Nova Scotia this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024.

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Robert Parker, Warden

**RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU  
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 Canada 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 LGBTQ+ people, homophobia and transphobia are still present in society.

WHEREAS May 17<sup>th</sup> 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;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou proclaims May 17, 2024 INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA

DATED at Pictou, Nova Scotia, this the 6<sup>th</sup> Day of May 2024

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Robert Parker, Warden

**PROCLAMATION**

**ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK May 26 - June 2, 2024**

WHEREAS May 26 - June 2, 2024, is recognized as Access Awareness Week in Nova Scotia. The week aims to celebrate the achievements made both by and for persons with disabilities in the areas of accessibility, transportation, housing, employment, recreation, education, and community; and

WHEREAS this is the 38<sup>th</sup> year this public awareness initiative has taken place in the province. The theme for the 2024 Access Awareness Week is Communities for All: Taking Action on Access Awareness; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of the County of Pictou has established its own Accessibility Committee, committed to moving accessibility work forward within Pictou County, reducing inequalities, and supporting all abilities to improve well-being. The Municipality will be flying the Access Awareness Flag in front of its Administration Building in recognition of the work done by this committee and others who bring awareness to the achievements made by persons with disabilities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Warden Robert Parker, on behalf of this Council, do hereby proclaim May 26 to June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, as Access Awareness Week in the Municipality of the County of Pictou.

Dated at Pictou, NS, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024.

(Sgd)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT REPORT

March 2024

### East River Business Park

- Dunkeld – NSBDI Board of Directors toured complex. Expecting tenants to begin moving into apartments by the end of April 2024. Commercial tenants still not secured but having conversation with various groups interested in the 11,000+/- sq ft of leasable space.
- Continued conversations with the real estate development group who own the property of Lot 10A and the development is still on track for the Fall of 2025.
- Ongoing correspondence and meetings with local service business interested in relocating and expanding business into ERBP. Surveyor has been engaged and expected to perform survey work in the coming days. In order to expedite the purchase/building permit and approvals; different options were discussed with buyer and contractor. Expected to close on the land purchase within the next 3-4 weeks.
- Conversations with real estate development company about a proposed multi-unit mixed development for the vacant land adjacent to the Dunkeld, specifically lot A-1. Expecting letter of intent this week from the group outlining their interest and intentions for the site.
- Continued conversations with business owner adjacent to East River Business Park wishing to purchase land to accommodate a potential building expansion.
- Further conversations with local real estate office who represents client interested in purchasing up to two acres for 2-storey development. Group is expected to make some decisions on potential site selection in the coming weeks.

### Other Activities:

- Continued correspondence with ownership group as it relates to the land development potential at Exit 25. Ownership group has had property appraised and a traffic study has been initiated.
- Continued conversations with national solutions chain looking for approximately 8,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of warehouse and office space to operate business in region. Facilitated meeting with local business owner/landlord and viewing for temporary office space.
- Correspondence with Atlantic VP of national retailer about interest in expanding into the area. Identified potential land opportunities.



- Ongoing correspondence with Director of Real Estate for commercial/residential real estate/property management company about investment opportunities in ERBP and region in general. Currently have investments in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Keen interest in secondary markets in Nova Scotia such as New Glasgow and area.
- Communication with investment attraction executive from Invest Nova Scotia. Meeting scheduled for later this month.

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS** the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou has adopted a adopt a by-law which provides for the destruction of any documents or records after they are no longer required for municipal purposes;

**WHEREAS** the aforementioned by-law has been approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs;

**WHEREAS** administrative staff has undertaken a process of reviewing obsolete files with a view to seeking the necessary approval to destroy those which are no longer required, in accordance with the Destruction of Documents By-Law;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council authorize the destruction of the documents described in the attached affidavit of the Municipal Clerk which indicates that he has personally examined each document or record and confirms that there is nothing of value therein.

**DATED** at Pictou, N. S. this 6th day of May 2024

(Sgd.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## AFFIDAVIT OF CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF THE DESTRUCTION OF  
DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF  
THE COUNTY OF PICTOU.

I, Brian Cullen of New Glasgow, in the County of Pictou, Clerk of the Municipality of the County of Pictou, do make oath and say:

1. That I am Municipal Clerk of the Municipality of the County of Pictou.
2. That I have personally examined each of the documents or records listed immediately below pursuant to a by-law permitting the destruction of documents and records which are no longer required.

### SHELF #

### CONTENTS

|      |  |
|------|--|
| A2-2 | 2013 Ledgers   |
| A2-3 | 2013-2014 Ledgers<br>2013-2014 Payroll   |
| A7-2 | 2016-2017 Gen & Water Cancelled Cheques  |
| A7-3 | 2016-2017-2018 Gen & Water Cancelled Cheques   |
| A7-4 | 2004 Assessment Roll Changes<br>2008-2014 Bank Statements<br>1999-2000 Property Tax Exemptions<br>1999-2004 Tax Write-Offs<br>1996-2003 Community Organizations<br>2017-2018 Duplicate Meeting Files<br>1984 Change in Use<br>2012-2014 Consolidated Balance Report                                    |
| A7-6 | 2003-2004 Interim & Final Tax Billing Records<br>2012/13 – 2013/14 Tax Receivables Reports<br>2013 - 2014 GP G/L & Tax Postings  |
| A7-7 | Provincial Revenue Files<br>2008- 2015 Fuel Tax Rebate<br>2000- 2015 Fine Revenue<br>2001- 2008 Provincial Grants<br>2012- 2013 and 2013 - 2014 AP Audit Trails<br>2012- 2013 Gen Rev & Water<br>2013- 2014 Gen Rev & Water<br>2018- 2019 Duplicate Meeting Files<br>2018- 2019 General Correspondence |
| A7-8 | 2012- 2013 & 2013-2014 Water Utility, Posts Go Live Data<br>1999 -2003 Sewar Exemption<br>2001 -2009 Area Rates<br>2018- 2019 Fire Liaison<br>2018- 2019 Duplicate Meeting Files, Mun Audit, ECON Wking Dev.   |

3. That the aforesaid list does not contain any document or record exempt from destruction pursuant to Section 3 of the by-law governing the destruction of documents.
4. That to the best of my knowledge there is nothing of value contained therein.
5. That the said documents and records are no longer required by the said Municipal Council.

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BRIAN CULLEN, MUNICIPAL CLERK

SWORN before me at Pictou, in the  
County of Pictou and Province of Nova  
Scotia this     day of             , 2024.

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COMMISSIONER OF THE SUPREME  
COURT OF NOVA SCOTIA

## RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that it approve the following Recreation Grants with funding from the 2023-2024 Operating Budget based on the reallocation of funds.

|                                      |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Fundy Highland Female Hockey      | \$1,525.00        |
| 2. Northern Nova United Soccer       | \$ 2,400.00       |
| 3. Pictou County Athletics           | \$ 220.00         |
| 4. Pictou County Invasion Volleyball | \$ 320.00         |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>\$4,465.00</b> |

Dated at Pictou, NS, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024

(Sgd)

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**RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that it approve the Advance Poll Date of October 12, 2024, from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. for 2024 Municipal Elections.

Dated at Pictou, NS, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024

(Sgd)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that it approves the electronic voting period for the October 2024 Municipal Elections from 12 A.M. on October 6, 2024, through to 7 P.M. on October 19th.

Dated at Pictou, NS, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024

(Sgd)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**May 6, 2024**

**During the April 22 Special Council, Clr. Boyles said that the MOPC Rural Broadband Meeting that the Hillside Community Hall is not eligible for wireless or fibre connections through the MOPC project. He has asked this be on the agenda for this meeting to discuss this further with Council.**





**May 6, 2024**

**Clr. Boyles said he has heard from residents in his district who must pay back CERB funding they received during the pandemic that they do not know to whom they are supposed to pay the money back. He said he went to Central Nova MP Sean Fraser's office as well, and the staff there was unable to help him. He asked to bring this before Council for further discussion.**



May 6, 2024

**Background:** Deputy Warden Murray received a letter from Nova Poirer expressing her concerns about the Department of Public Works' Rural Impact Mitigation (RIM) Program, particularly the work done along MacBeth Road. The letter is enclosed.

**MOTION:** The Municipality of the County of Pictou will write a letter to Minister Kim Masland, Nova Scotia's Minister of Public Works, asking the province to review Ms. Poirier's points and consider making changes to the RIM program so scenic areas such as MacBeth Road are impacted as negatively as this area.

## Sueann Musick

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**From:** Wayne Murray  
**Sent:** April 25, 2024 11:59 AM  
**To:** Sueann Musick  
**Subject:** Fwd:

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Nova Poirier <re.earthlodge@gmail.com>  
**Date:** April 24, 2024 at 12:42:25 PM ADT  
**To:** Wayne Murray <wayne.murray@munpict.ca>, wwmurray53@gmail.com

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

---

Wayne Murray  
District 5 Counsellor  
Pictou County Municipal Council

Dear Wayne ,

Thank you so much for following up on the issues I brought to you regarding roadside clearing here on MacBeth Road.

As per your request, I have listed the changes I would like to see to the Department of Public Works' Rural Impact Mitigation (RIM) program. For your information, I am including here the objectives of the RIM program as communicated to me by district manager, Keith McDonald. I am also including the link to a video I made documenting some of the damage done to the area and challenging the assertions that these were necessary and reasonable ways to meet the objectives.

**RIM Objectives:**

- To improve line of sight,
- To create areas for better storage of snow,
- To create better drainage on the road,
- To remove obstacles or potential hazards.

**Call for Change:**

1. The contracting of forestry companies using a large forest harvesters to clear the roadsides should be limited or prohibited. Roadside clearing is not industrial processes and should not be treated as such. These are people's neighborhoods, people's

communities. The use of forest harvesters is a brutal process. It causes extensive damage to the terrain and leaves an unsightly mess behind.

2. The ecology of the area and the use and history of each road should be fully assessed before operations take place. Sensitive ecological areas should be spared or treated with care. The existence of mature trees should qualify the area as ecologically sensitive. At a time when forests worldwide and Canadian forests are diminishing in size, a priority should be placed on the preservation of trees and especially older trees, they being so important to carbon storage. The blanket policy of simply clearing the roadside 12 ft from the shoulder of the road is far too damaging to the ecology of such areas and, in many cases, unnecessary to meeting the RIM objectives. See my video for examples.

The history and use of MacBeth Road was not considered prior to the operation. MacBeth road is well known as a scenic area, one of the few remaining wooded mountain roads in the county. It has a long history of nature education and nature preservation through the former Redtail Nature Awareness, through Friends of Redtail Society and my own work at Re-Earth Lodge where I teach nature spirituality. And it is generally a place where people in the community go for sanctuary, to take a dip in the picturesque swimming hole and to experience nature in some degree of tact. All of this has been greatly compromised by the roadside clearing as it was conducted under the RIM program.

3. Residents of an area should be notified prior to extensive roadside clearing operations. Residents should be able to petition the Department for considerations regarding potential unsightly damage to the roadside adjacent to their homes and places of business. Although some residents of Macbeth Road were able to enter into a dialogue with the road supervisor for DPW, we did so under the gun as the forest harvester was already at work and we were, quite frankly, in shock. Debris from the operation litters the sides of the road next to our houses and across from the building where I teach and hold gatherings. This disturbs the people who attend and undoubtedly turns others away.

4. Roadside clearing operations should be considerate of the plants and animals that inhabit the area. First of all, trees should not be brutalized and mangled in horrific fashion as done by the mulching head of the harvester. Trees are literally chewed and splintered to death from top to bottom and there remains spewed all over the ground. This is an indignity to the trees.

The boroughs and homes of animals were also destroyed. A tree housing a northern flying squirrel was taken down as well as one frequently inhabited in nesting season by a barred owl. As well, the nesting sites of numerous species of migratory birds were destroyed. A massive amount of splintered wood was left on the roadside and this could well cause problems for animals traversing the area. On the roadside next to our land, dozens of wild apple trees were shredded. These apple trees were a pollen source for bees in the spring and a food source for animals such as deer, bear and other smaller animals. The trees presented no line of sight issues so their demise appeared to be quite unnecessary.

5. Consideration should be given to the well-being and safety of residence and the community at large. In these precarious times, people are beset by one bad news story after another and it is hard to hold on to a sense of hope. This kind of senseless destruction of roadside beauty is hard on people's mental health. It amplifies feelings of

despair and hopelessness. Speaking for myself, I find the destruction on my road to be completely demoralizing and it is something I must face every day. I also see it reflected on the faces of people who come to see me at my workspace. In addition, it creates quite an eyesore for visitors to the area such as tourists and does not speak well for local environmental values.

As well as leaving the road in an unsightly manner, the mulching head literally tore the smaller trees from their trunk, leaving jagged tree trunks sticking out from the ground all along the road. This is surely a safety hazard. If someone were to fall on one of these wooden daggers or if someone was thrown from their recreational vehicle they could easily be impaled.

On January 9th I wrote an extensive letter outlining my concerns to MLA, Karla McFarland and CC'd it to the Department of Public Works in the Department of Tourism. I was responded to by DPW district supervisor Keith McDonald who stated it that the work on MacBeth Road had been completed and that any deficiencies would be addressed by the contractor (i.e., the forestry company). For that reason I have been reluctant to call for remediation on MacBeth Road for fear that it will create further damage. Remediation would call for:

- a cleaning up of the areas where unsightly and excessive amounts of debris have been left behind - on the roadside and also on our private property. In one case a number of large trees were taken down and pushed onto our property in the jumbled mess. I have documented this in my video.
- a trimming back of the multitude of sharp stumps that were left sticking out all the way along the roadside.

I believe that County Council should be concerned about the degradation of rural communities. I understand that transportation is a provincial matter but provincial departments should be accountable to other levels of government and to the people they serve. I invite all Council members to come and see for yourself the damage that has been done to this beautiful old road. I will eagerly give you an in-person tour. There is nothing I can do to bring the trees back on this road but it pains me to think that this process will continue in other people's communities. Imagine if this kind of damage were to be done in town or city neighborhoods. No one would stand for it. Of course roadside clearing must be done but we must not accept this as a standard of practice. I asked the Council to create an appropriate pushback to the RIM policy.

I look forward to hearing back from you,

Nova Poirier

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