

November 6, 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, November 6, 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
- Anne MacCarthy, Bylaw Enforcement Officer
- Rhiannon McNair, Director of Business Operations, Rural Broadband Project

ABSENT

- Shellie Pettipas, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Warden Parker called the meeting to order and invited Councillors 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.

AGENDA

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

Motion Carried

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

Clr. Dewar requested flying the 4-H Flag and having a proclamation read in honour of November being 4-H Month in Nova Scotia.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

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

PROCLAMATION

PROCLAMATION November is 4-H Month 2023

WHEREAS November is National 4-H month across Canada as we join 4-H members, volunteer leaders, alumni and supporters wearing green and showing our 4-H Colours.

WHEREAS 4-H in Canada contributes to the Youth Development Formula that builds responsible, caring and contributing young people who are empowered to be successful through a supportive structure.

WHEREAS 8,500 volunteers give close to 23,500 young people across Canada an opportunity to benefit from the skill development and personal growth that 4-H offers.

THEREFORE, I, Robert Parker, Warden for the Municipality of Pictou County, do hereby proclaim November as 4-H Month in Pictou County and urge all Pictou County residents to wear green and celebrate the many contributions of 4-H and the important role that the 4-H program plays in the leadership development of Canadian youth.

DATED at Pictou, NS, this 6th day of November 2023.

(Sgd.)

Warden Robert Parker

CORRESPONDENCE (UNCIRCULATED)

A thank you letter was received from the Pictou County Forest School for the Council Grant.

A thank you letter was received from Walter Duggan Consolidated School for the Breakfast and Backpack program grants.

A thank you letter was received from Frank H. MacDonald Academy for the Breakfast and Backpack program grants.

A thank you letter was received from the McCulloch Education Centre for the Breakfast and Backpack program grants.

CORRESPONDANCE (CIRCULATED)

A Letter was received from Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Public Safety regarding releasing high-risk offenders to local communities.

A letter was received from the Minister of Municipal Affairs, John Lohr, regarding Bill 340; Municipal Service Agreement.

A letter was received from the Minister of Public Works, Kim Masland regarding Route 289 in Union Centre.

A letter was received from Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia regarding the Province's Clean Energy Plan.

A letter was received from the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities regarding the urgent need for improved cell phone coverage for emergency preparedness.

A thank you letter was received from the 55+ Games for sponsorship and support.

Warden Parker showed Council members an award for recognition for their role in the 55+ Games.

Deputy Warden Murray requested the letter received from Dominic LeBlanc; Minister of Public Safety, be posted on the municipality's website.

Clr. David Parker requested the letter received in response from the Minister of Public Works regarding the dangerous intersection on Route 289 be posted on the municipality's website.

DANGEROUS AND UNSIGHTLY HEARING – 2403 EAST RIVER WEST SIDE ROAD

Anne MacCarthy, Bylaw Enforcement Officer, presented to Council a dangerous and unsightly order issued to the residence at 2403 East River West Side Road, Sunny Brae, account #05020123 and PID #00898684.

Councilor Thompson presented the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council finds that the property located at 2403 East River West Side Road, Sunny Brae, Pictou County, Nova Scotia: ("the Property"), with Tax Account Number 05020123 and PID # 00898684 and further described in the attached Order is dangerous and unsightly;

AND BE IT RESOLVED that Council, pursuant to Section 346 or Part 15 of Chapter 18 of the Acts of 1998, the Municipal Government Act, make an Order in the form attached hereto and forming part of this resolution, the said Order to be signed and issued forthwith on behalf of the Council by the Chief Administrative Officer of the Municipality or his designate.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 6th Day of November 2023.

(Sgd.) _____

ORDER

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT, STATUTES OF NOVA SCOTIA, 1998 CHAPTER 18

ORDER REQUIRING DEMOLITION

TO: Randy Allan Ramsey and Janice Lynne Ramsey

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Section 346 of *The Municipal Government Act*, The Council of the Municipality of Pictou County ("the Council" and the County) has determined that the property located at 2403 East River West Side Road, Sunny Brae, Pictou County, Nova Scotia, associated with Tax Account Number 05020123, and PID #00898684, which lands are included in those 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 Council order you to remedy these conditions by doing all of the following work, acts or things ("the work") on the property, that is to say:

Complete all required work to the property as listed below:

- (1) Demolish the former store structure, locally known as Ramsey's Roost, which is in a ruinous or dilapidated condition, leaving the site in a safe condition.
- (2) Remove all debris from the property and dispose of all debris at an approved site for greater certainty, but not limiting the generality of this obligation, all debris on the entire property must be removed.

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

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE

THAT in the event of failure by you to comply with the requirements of this Order within Thirty (30) days after the 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, for 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 is liable to be sold in a tax sale in accordance with *The Municipal Government Act*, 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 Thousand (\$5000.00) Dollars, and, in default of payment, to imprisonment for not more than three (3) months;

THAT every day during which the condition is not remedied is a separate offence.

Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. Dewar that the preceding resolution be adopted by Council **Motion Carried**

RESOLUTIONS

CHARITABLE RECEIPTS FOR SARA

Clr. Elliott presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Municipality of the County of Pictou is registered with the Canada Revenue Agency as a qualified donee;

WHEREAS the Income Tax Act permits qualified donees to issue official donation receipts for income tax purposes;

WHEREAS the Salem and Area Recreation Association has requested that the Municipality receive donated funds for the operations and improvements to the Salem Park and issue charitable tax receipts to respective donors;

WHEREAS the Financial Services Committee supports this request and recommends that the Municipality's charitable tax number be used for that purpose;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Municipality of the County of Pictou authorize the collection of charitable donations to the Salem and Area Recreation Association and the issuance of charitable tax receipts.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 6th day of November, 2023.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Mary Elliott; seconded by Clr. David Parker that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented. **Motion Carried**

PACE BY-LAW AMENDMENT FIRST READING

Clr. Parker presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION
(First Reading)

TAKE NOTICE that the following by-law will be presented to Council for second reading on December 4, 2023.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council adopt the following Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (PACE) By-Law:

DATED at Pictou, NS this 6th day of November, 2023.



MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU
PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM (PACE)
BY-LAW

1. Title and Purpose

1.1. This By-law shall be known as the Property Assessed Clean

Energy Program By-law and may be referred to as the PACE By-law.

- 1.2. The purpose of this By-law is to allow the Municipality of the County of Pictou to create a financing program to support the installation of **Energy Efficiency Improvement** on private properties, with the consent of property owners. Property owners will make payments on the **Energy Efficiency Improvement** through a charge levied on the property.
- 1.3. This By-law does not exempt any person from complying with the requirements of other by-laws or regulations in force within the Municipality of the County of Pictou and from obtaining any licence, permission, permit, authority, or approval as otherwise required by the Municipality, the Province of Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Power, or the Government of Canada.
- 1.4 This By-law shall apply only to **Energy Efficiency Equipment** installed through the **PACE Program**.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. In this by-law, words used in the present tense include the future; words in the singular number include the plural; words in the plural include the singular; and the word shall be mandatory and not permissive. All other words carry their customary meaning except those defined in this section.
- 2.2. For the purposes of this Bylaw:
 - 2.2.1. *CAO* means the Chief Administrative Officer for the Municipality or his or her designate.
 - 2.2.2. "Certification of Completion" means a Municipally issued form completed and signed by **the Contractor**, and counter-signed by the property owner, stating that installation of **Energy Efficiency Equipment** has been satisfactorily completed on the property.
 - 2.2.3. *Deputy Municipal Treasurer* means the Manager of Finance for the Municipality, or his or her designate.

2.2.4. *Energy Efficiency Improvement* means an improvement to real property, as a renovation or retrofitting of an existing building to reduce energy or water consumption, such as window and door replacement, lighting, grey water recovery, low flow fixtures, caulking, weatherstripping, air sealing, insulation, high efficiency heat pumps, solar photovoltaics, battery energy storage, heat and cooling system upgrades, electric charging stations and similar improvements, determined to be cost-effective pursuant to criteria established by the Municipality

2.2.5. *Municipality* means the Municipality of the County of Pictou.

2.2.6. *Participation Agreement* means the agreement between the owner of a Qualifying Property and the Municipality for purchasing, installing, and potentially financing of the Energy Efficiency Improvement.

2.2.7. *PACE Charge* means the Property Assessed Clean Energy improvement tax levied on the property pursuant to s.81A of the Nova Scotia Municipal Government Act.

2.2.8. *PACE Program* means a program established by the Municipality under which owners of qualifying properties may obtain financing for **Energy Efficiency Improvements**.

2.2.9. *Program Administrator* means the person or third party designated by the Municipality to operate and administrate the PACE Program on behalf of the Municipality.

2.2.10. *Qualifying Property* means a property located within the Municipality of Pictou defined as eligible in the **Participant Agreement**.

3. Administration

3.1. The owner of a Qualifying Property may apply to have their property evaluated for suitability by the **Energy Efficiency Improvement Contractor** and receive a cost estimate for the project.

- 3.2. The owner of a Qualifying Property wishing to proceed with the **Energy Efficiency Improvement must sign a Participant Agreement**. Before signing the Agreement, the property owner must:
- 3.2.1. sign a contract with the **Energy Efficiency Improvement Contractor** agreeing to the cost estimate provided; and
 - 3.2.2. **meet all obligations as defined in the Participation Agreement.**
- 3.3. The property owner may opt for Municipal financing for the installation of **Energy Efficiency Improvement** on the property. Financing shall be subject to the written approval of the CAO, or designate, on behalf of the Municipality, and the execution **of a Participant Agreement** by the owner of the Qualifying Property. The conditions that must be met for approval include:
- 3.3.1. the owner of the Qualifying Property is not in default of any municipal taxes, rates, or charges;
 - 3.3.2. the owner has paid the application fee and/or required deposit;
 - 3.3.3. any additional conditions specified in the **Participant Agreement** are met.

4. Energy Efficiency Improvement Charge

- 4.1. **The Energy Efficiency Improvement Contractor shall submit to the Program Administrator, who in turn will submit to the Director of Corporate Services, a copy of the signed Participant Agreement and Certification of the Completion of the Energy Efficiency Improvement installation.**
- 4.2. **The Energy Efficiency Improvement Charge shall become payable upon submission of the Certificate of Completion by the Energy Efficiency Improvement Contractor. The Energy Efficiency Improvement Charge shall be calculated on the basis of the total cost of the project less any federal, provincial, or other funding, such as the Solar Homes rebate from Efficiency Nova Scotia, received directly to the Municipality or Program Administrator on behalf of the Qualifying Property owner.**
- 4.3. **The Energy Efficiency Improvement Charge may consist of:**
- 4.3.1. **the cost of the Energy Efficiency Improvement, including all**

- equipment, labour costs for installation, permitting fees, and applicable taxes;
- 4.3.2. applicable PACE Program service fees; and
- 4.3.3. interest accrued on the charge including any additional interest arising due to any default of payment.

4.4. The Energy Improvement Charge shall be paid in equal instalments over on which interest shall be payable as set out in Section 6 and in the Participant Agreement. Property owners may elect to make larger contributions and pay off the Charge at an earlier date.

4.5. In the event of a default of any payment under the **Participant Agreement**, the outstanding balance shall be immediately due and payable and interest shall be accrued on the amount then due and payable at the same rate applied by the Municipality for unpaid taxes and charges in default.

—The Deputy Municipal Treasurer shall maintain a separate account of all monies due for the **Energy Efficiency Improvement Charge** pursuant to this By-law and identifying for the subject property:

- 4.5.1. the names of the property owners, property assessment and AAN, PID, and civic address.
- 4.5.2. the amount of the **Energy Efficiency** Improvement Charge levied; and
- 4.5.3. the amount paid on the **Energy Efficiency** Improvement Charge.

4.6. Wherein any property assessment list prepared pursuant to this Section, a property has been omitted by error or has been assessed in error or has been assessed for an **Energy Efficiency Improvement** Charge for a greater amount or a lesser amount than the property should have been assessed, the Deputy Municipal Treasurer may at any time amend the property assessment list to correct the error and adjust the assessment.

5. Lien

5.1. An **Energy Efficiency** Improvement Charge may be levied against the property upon completion of the project to secure all costs incurred by the Municipality to reimburse the **Energy Efficiency**

Improvement Contractor.

- 5.2. The lien provided for in this By-law shall become effective on the date on which a Certificate of Completion is filed with the Deputy Municipal Treasurer stating that the installation has been completed.
- 5.3. An **Energy Efficiency Improvement Charge** imposed pursuant to this By-law constitutes a first lien on the property and has the same effect as rates and taxes under the Assessment Act and the Municipal Government Act.
- 5.4. An **Energy Efficiency Improvement Charge** pursuant to this By-law is collectible in the same manner as rates and taxes under the Municipal Government Act. The Charge will be collected pursuant to the Participation Agreement through monthly payments.
- 5.5. The lien provided for in this By-law shall remain in effect until the total charge, including any accrued interest, has been paid in full.

6. Interest

- 6.1. Interest will be payable on any balance owing on the Energy Efficiency Improvement Charge at a rate set out in the Participation Agreement.
- 6.2. Interest shall accrue on any Energy Efficiency Improvement Charge or portion thereof which remains outstanding from the date of payment to the Energy Efficiency Improvement Contractor.

7. No Municipal Liability

- 7.1. The Municipality is not responsible for the quality of the Energy Efficiency Improvement, or the quality of the work carried out by the Energy Efficiency Improvement Contractor and as a result, the Municipality nor the **Program Administrator**, shall not be liable for any damage, direct or consequential, loss or liability or injury caused by the supply of Energy Efficiency equipment, its installation, or use by the owner.

Repeal

The Property Assessed Clean Energy Program By-Law adopted by the Municipal Council on December, 2021 is hereby repealed.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. David Parker, seconded by Clr. Mary Elliott that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented. **Motion Carried**

TOURISM MARKETING BY-LAW SECOND READING

Clr. Thompson 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 Tourism Marketing Levy By-law:

DATED at Pictou, NS, this 6th day of November 2023.

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU TOURISM MARKETING LEVY BY-LAW

BE IT ENACTED by the Council of the Municipality of the County of Pictou, under the authority of *Municipal Government Act*. 1998, c. 18, s. 75, as follows:

1. Short Title

This By-law shall be known as the Tourism Marketing Levy By-law.

2. Definitions In this by-law:

- a) "accommodation" means supplying lodging in hotels and motels and in any other facilities required to be licensed under the Tourist Accommodations Registration Act and in a building owned or operated by a post-secondary educational institution where the hotel, motel, facility or building consists of one or more rental units that are offered as lodging;
- b) "council" means the Council of Municipality of the County of Pictou;
- c) "operator" means a person whose business sells, offers to sell, provides, and offers to provide accommodation in the municipality.
- d) "Purchase price" means the price for which the accommodation is purchased, including the value of the services rendered and other consideration accepted by the operator in return for the accommodation provided, but does not include the goods and services tax.

3. Application of Levy

A marketing and promotions levy is hereby imposed in the Municipality, the rate of which shall be three percent (3%) of the purchase price of the accommodation.

- 1) The levy imposed under this By-law, must be collected at the time of the sale on the total amount of the purchase price and must be remitted to the Municipality at the prescribed times and in the prescribed manner.
- 2) If a person collects an amount as if it were a levy imposed under this By-law, the person must remit the amount collected to the Municipality at the same time and in the same manner as the levy collected under this By-law.

4. Exemption from Levy

The Tourism Marketing Levy shall not apply to:

- 1) a person who pays for accommodation for which the daily purchase price is not more than twenty dollars.
- 2) a student who is housed in a building owned or operated by a post-secondary educational institution while the student is registered at and attending a post-secondary institution.
- 3) a person who is staying in a room for more than twenty-eight (28) consecutive days; or
- 4) a person, and the person's family, while receiving medical treatment at a hospital or provincial health-care centre or seeking specialist medical advice, provided the person provides a statement from said hospital or provincial health-care centre.

5. Registration of Operator

- 1) Every operator of a facility providing accommodations to which this By-law applies shall apply for and be issued a registration certificate by the municipality.
 - a). Where an operator carries on business at more than one place, the operator shall obtain a registration certificate in each individual place of business.
- 2) The registration certificate shall be displayed in a prominent place on the premises.
- 3) Where an operator changes their address, they will return their registration certificate to the municipality for amendment.
- 4) Where an operator changes the name or nature of their business, the operator will return their registration certificate to the municipality for a new one.

- 5) Where an operator ceases to carry on business that a registration certificate has been issued, the certificate shall be void, and the operator shall return the certificate to the municipality within 15 days of the date of closure.
- 6) Where a registration certificate is lost or destroyed, a request shall be made to the municipality for a copy of the original.
- 7) A registration certificate granted under subsection (1) is not transferable.

6. Return and Remittance of Levy

- 1) The municipality may at any time require a return of sales and levy collected by any person selling accommodation; such return to cover any period or periods.
- 2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (1), unless otherwise provided, all operators shall make separate monthly returns to the municipality.
- 3) A separate return shall be made for each place of business unless a consolidated return has been approved by the municipality.
- 4) The returns by operators shall be made and the levy shall be remitted to the municipality the 15th day of the month following the collection of the levy by the operator.
- 5) If an operator during the preceding period has collected no levy, the operator shall make a report to that effect on the prescribed return form.
- 6) Where an operator ceases to carry on or disposes of his business, the operator shall make the return and remit the levy collected within 15 days of the date of closure or disposal.

7. Records

- 1) Every operator shall keep books of accounts, records, and documents sufficient to furnish the municipality with the necessary particulars of
 - a. sales of accommodation,
 - b. amount of levy collected, and
 - c. disposal of levy.
- 2) All entries concerning the levy in such books of account, records and documents shall be separate and distinguishable from other entries made therein.
- 3) Where a receipt, bill, invoice, or other document is issued by a person selling accommodation, the levy shall be shown as a separate item thereon.

8. Calculation of Levy

Where an operator sells an accommodation in combination with meals and other specialized services for an all-inclusive package price, the purchase price of the accommodation shall be deemed to be the price that will be collected for the levy.

9. Refund of Levy Collected in Error

- 1) If the municipality is satisfied that a levy or a portion of a levy has been paid in error, the municipality shall refund the amount of the overpayment to the person entitled.
- 2) If the municipality is satisfied that an operator has remitted to the municipality an amount as collected levy that the operator neither collected nor was required to collect under this By-law, the municipality must refund the amount to the operator.

10. Claim for Refund

- 1) To claim a refund under this By-law, a person must
 - a. submit to the municipality an application in writing signed by the person who paid the amount claimed, and
 - b. provide sufficient evidence to satisfy the municipality that the person who paid the amount is entitled to the refund.
- 2) For the purposes of subsection (1) (a), if the person who paid the amount claimed is a corporation, the application must be signed by a director or authorized employee of the corporation.

11. Offence

A person who contravenes a provision of the By-law is guilty of an offence punishable by summary conviction and on conviction is liable.

- a. on a first conviction, to a fine of not less than \$500 and not more than \$1,000, and
- b. for a subsequent conviction for the same or another provision of this regulation, to a fine of not less than \$1,500 and not more than \$5,000.

12. Administration of By-law

This By-law shall be administered on behalf of the Municipality by the Chief Administrative Officer and any persons designated by the Chief Administrative Officer.

13. Effective Date

This By-law shall take effect from the 1st day of January, 2024.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Andy Thompson, seconded by Clr. Don Butler that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented. **Motion Carried**

Nay Votes: Clr. Elliott, Clr. David Parker, Warden Parker, Clr. MacKeil

APPOINTMENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Clr. Boyles presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that Richard Williams and Ian MacKay be appointed to the Municipality of the County of Pictou's Climate Change Advisory Committee for two years, ending in March 2025.

DATED at Pictou, NS. this 6th day of November 2023.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Peter Boyles, seconded by Clr. Chester Dewar that the preceding motion be adopted as presented. **Motion Carried**

SALE OF MUNICIPAL VEHICLES

Clr. Palmer presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Municipality of the County of Pictou issued a tender for the sale of three-municipality-owned vehicles in June 2023.

WHEREAS in accordance with the Municipal Council's approval, the 2014 Dodge Ram 2500 was sold to the highest bidder. However, attempts to finalize the sales of the remaining two vehicles were unsuccessful.

WHEREAS the awarded bidder 2009 Chevrolet 1500 no longer wished to purchase the vehicle and the MOPC staff received no response from the awarded bidder for the 2014 Ford F150.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Municipality of the County of Pictou authorize the sale of the remaining two municipally-owned vehicles to the next highest bidders respectively until the vehicles are sold.

DATED at Pictou, NS, this 6th day of November 2023.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Randy Palmer, seconded by Clr. David Parker that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented. **Motion Carried**

INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT FOR PICTOU COUNTY PARTNERSHIP

As part of the Municipal Budgeting processes earlier this year, the Pictou County partnership requested increased funding from the municipalities and provincial governments. The municipalities approved an increase in core funding to the REN at 50 percent over the previous years. The original inter-municipal agreement established that municipal funding would match provincial funding on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

The provincial funding decisions do not always align with the municipal budget timeframes. This does create the possibility that municipalities could end up funding more of the core programming than the province; however, the partnership does attract other funding for programs and supports from the province that are not cost shared.

The change to the agreement clause 5(a) is that the municipalities will determine their annual level of funding and will negotiate the provincial funding the level of provincial funding that is to be provided through an agreement with the Partnership and the Province.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil, seconded by Clr. Elliott that the Municipality to sign the amendment with the other municipal partners to modify the funding requirements of the Regional Enterprise Networks. **Motion Carried**

DIGITAL UBIQUITY INTERNET BUSINESS PLAN PRESENTATION

Mike Richard and Marc André-Nadeau presented a business plan update to Councillors on the MOPC Rural Broadband Internet Project.

Mr. Richard said the statistics are 18% adoption rate, presently there are 138 fibre-to-home customers and 131 wireless customers. The current revenue from fibre subscriptions is \$7,320.00 per month, and \$6,128.78 per month from wireless subscriptions. There are a total of 17 towers on the wireless side equipped throughout the county.

Mr. Richard said successful peering has been achieved between MOPC and Halifax and the network has been successful in attracting four RSP's and

interest has been expressed from others. The project is currently in the phase of establishing two geo-diverse 100Gig waves from Rogers and a fully diverse carrier-grade core network has been successfully deployed, which ensures high availability and exceptional performance.

MOPC has raised over \$43 million from external funding and the project has attracted and retained full-time dedicated staff in the positions of Network Architect, Network Manager, Inventory & Logistics and Director of Business Operations. The current project goals are to get more than 9,000 homes connected by 2026, aiming to achieve 90% coverage in Pictou County with a combination of fibre and wireless, and the hopes to broaden the wireless coverage. It is hopeful that the network will attract sonar providers to enhance the sonar coverage. The province has set aside 43 million dollars for enhancing rural sonar coverage and Pictou County is in a good position to partner with a sonar company and take advantage of that.

Mr. André-Nadeau discussed the main objectives of the MOPC Broadband project with Councillors. The key objectives of the project are to bridge the digital divide and connect all residents who want to connect, to increase competition and reduce connectivity costs for citizens and to develop an infrastructure that will create value for the community.

TEMPORARY BORROWING RESOLUTION

As the internet project progresses and phases are complete, it is necessary to move short-term financing to long-term debentures. This will save the Municipality money over the course of the project as our long-term cost of borrowing is lower than short-term financing costs. The next borrowing cycle for Municipal Finance Corporation will be the spring of 2024. At this time, the Municipality will shift **\$28,047,000** to long term debt. This represents the cost of Phase 1, the RDN Wireless Project and the soon to be completed River John portion.

Deputy Warden Murray presented the following resolution to Council:

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE

TEMPORARY BORROWING RESOLUTION

Amount: \$ 28,047,000 Purpose: Rural Broadband Project

WHEREAS Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act provides that the Council of the Municipality of the County of Pictou, subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, may borrow to expend funds for a capital purpose as authorized by statute;

WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of the County of Pictou 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; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of the County of Pictou has determined to borrow for the purposes of Rural Broadband Project;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED

THAT under the authority of Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the Municipality of the County of Pictou borrow a sum or sums not exceeding Twenty Eight Million and Forty Seven Thousand Dollars (\$ 28,047,000) for the purpose set out above, subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;

THAT the sum be borrowed by the issue and sale of debentures of the Council of the Municipality of the County of Pictou to such an amount as the Council deems necessary;

THAT the issue of debentures be postponed pursuant to Section 92 of the Municipal Government Act and that the Council borrow from time to time a sum or sums not exceeding Twenty Eight Million and Forty Seven Thousand Dollars (\$ 28,047,000) in total from any chartered bank or trust company doing business in Nova Scotia;

THAT the sum be borrowed for a period not exceeding Twelve (12) Months from the date of the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of this resolution;

THAT the interest payable on the borrowing be paid at a rate to be agreed upon; and

THAT the amount borrowed be repaid from the proceeds of the debentures when sold.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution read and duly passed at a meeting of the Council of the Municipality of the County of Pictou held on the 6th day of November, 2023. GIVEN under the hands of the Clerk and under the seal of the Municipality of the County of Pictou this 7th day of November, 2023. Clerk

MOTION

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray, seconded by Clr. Darla MacKeil that Council approve the preceding resolution.

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. Wadden to table the Temporary Borrowing Resolution until the December meeting.

Motion Defeated

Nay Votes: Clr. Turner, Clr. Elliott, Clr. Parker, Clr. Palmer, Deputy Warden Murray, Warden Parker, Clr. MacKeil, Clr. Butler, Clr. Boyles, Clr. Dewar

Motion Carried

DIALYSIS UNITS IN PICTOU COUNTY

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Turner to write a letter to the Premier and the Minister of Health requesting that the eight new dialysis chairs be put in the Aberdeen Hospital instead of the Sutherland Harris Hospital.

Motion Carried

CONCERNS ABOUT BANK CLOSURES

Clr. Chester Dewar said residents in the community have approached him to discuss the concerns of bank closures.

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. MacKeil to send a letter to The Honourable Sean Fraser with a copy sent to Hon. Karla MacFarlane, Premier Tim Houston, and Prime Minister Trudeau concerning the bank closures and the impact it has on rural communities.

Motion Carried

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clr. Thompson said Springville Church and Community Hall hosted their first Hunter's Breakfast in four years. There were over 100 patrons who came out to support the breakfast. There will be three or four more events for the season.

Warden Parker said the Durham Men's Club is selling homemade apple pies on Saturday, November 18, 2023. The proceeds will be used to help local families.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Warden declared the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

WARDEN

MUNICIPAL CLERK