

April 15, 2024

The Property Services Committee for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building by videoconference and teleconference on Monday, April 15, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

- 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
- 8 Clr. Larry Turner
- 9 Clr. Peter Boyles
- 10 Clr. Randy Palmer
- 11 Clr. Andy Thompson
- 12 Clr. Chester Dewar

ABSENT

- 7 Clr. David Parker

IN ATTENDANCE

- Brian Cullen, CAO, Municipal Clerk-Treasurer
- Sueann Musick, Director of Corporate Services/Deputy Clerk
- Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer
- 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

Clr. Palmer, Chair of the Property Services Committee called the meeting to order and acknowledged that we are on the ancestral territorial lands of the Mikmaq people.

AGENDA

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

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

There were no emergency resolutions brought forward.

MINUTES

Clr. Palmer asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for March 18, 2024. The members of the Committee entered no errors, omissions, or corrections. The Chair proclaimed the minutes of the meeting on March 18, 2024, as the official record of the meeting. **Motion Carried**

CORRESPONDENCE NOT REQUIRING ACTION

A letter was received from the District One Development Society expressing concerns regarding the swim program and the possibility that it may not take place this summer. The letter stated the importance of the swimming program for the youth in the communities.

A letter regarding the new Service Exchange Agreement was received from Municipal Affairs and Housing. Warden Parker said most municipalities are happy with the Agreement. The municipality gained from not having to pay the provincial share on housing and the prison, but there is still lots of work to be done.

Clr. Thompson said that regarding the correspondence from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing introducing the Emergency Management Legislation, it was pleasing to see that the vulnerable persons registry was mentioned as part of this work. It is a priority of this Council and the NSFM Public Safety Committees to look around the issue of a VVPR, Clr. Thompson said there is a lot of work for volunteers in this department, and it will require a lot of local input from around the province. Clr. Thompson is looking forward to seeing the progress made over the summer.

PRESENTATION

Dr. Tim Webster gave a virtual presentation to Council proposing a potential partnership between NSCC and MOPC to secure funding from Research Nova Scotia. Dr. Webster is asking the municipality for a letter of support and a commitment of \$20,000.00 to the project. In return, Pictou County will be at the top of the list for Dr. Webster's attention and for the research efforts.

Dr. Webster said that the proposal focuses on Coastal erosion as a focus but is hopeful that Council will see a benefit in all aspects of the project. The title of the proposal is Earth, Water and Fire, Geospatial Analytical Solutions for Climate Vulnerability Effects.

Dr. Webster said that the proposal has been narrowed down to four main pillars:

1. Coastal Flooding

2. River Flooding
3. Coastal Erosion
4. Wildfires

Dr. Webster said the hope is to work with municipalities to take this data and help develop bylaws and improve land use planning.

Due to technical issues, Dr. Webster will send a recorded version of the presentation for Council. Dr. Webster said the Research NS Expression of Interest is due by April 29, 2024. Once the recorded presentation is received, the council will hold a Special meeting to discuss this further.

Mr. McDowell attended a Local Government Working Group meeting, to which Dr. Webster presented. Mr. McDowell said a big part of the takeaway from the presentation was how incredibly accurate their modelling was. Mr. McDowell said it is proof of concept, and as the Council looks for coastal protection and with these increasing storms, historical information can no longer be relied on, and now forward-thinking modelling needs to be looked at.

REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Clr. Boyles asked about the status of the Hillside pumping station. Mr. McDowell said that the project to improve the overall station is advanced. Those upstream improvements will inform staff if improvements or replacements need to be made.

Clr. Boyles asked if the municipality was paying more for the tanker trucks. Mr. McDowell said that yes, and that was accounted for in the new funding model. With improvements, there is an expected reduction, and it is expected to be in line with other areas in the county. Mr. McDowell said that it is a possibility it would be replaced and relocated, but if the improvements help, then a replacement would not be needed.

Clr. Boyles said a report was done for Phase I and asked if a report was completed that finalized everything happening. Mr. McDowell said a report by WSP Consultants was completed, and that report focused more on the upstream. The recommendation was to make these improvements first, and then they would make further recommendations. Clr. Boyles requested a copy of the report.

Warden Parker asked if there was anything that Council should know before a sidewalk is designed for Blue Acres. The Warden would like clarification from Nova Scotia Department of Public Works if there is a plan to put a roundabout in that area. The Warden Parker requested that CAO Cullen put in a call to get confirmation. Clr. Thompson said that talks about roundabouts in Blue Acres have been going on for 20 years. This has already been explored, and no land is available for it. Clr. Thompson would like to see the tender issued to get a response from contractors to get the sidewalk done.

Deputy Warden Murray asked if there is a time frame for having the Scotsburn pumping station back up and running. Mr. McDowell said the only thing being waited on now is Nova Scotia Power to do their inspections. Nova Scotia Power should be there today. No police report was received, multiple calls and visits were made, and Mr. McDowell was told the information would be sent along. Mr. McDowell will follow up. Deputy Warden Murray asked if this would be pursued through the lady's insurance and Mr. McDowell responded that it would.

Clr. Thompson said a community consultation meeting was held in Plymouth for the Valley View Villa long-term care home. This was a well-attended meeting, and there was a good discussion. There is concern, but residents are showing general support for the project. There is confidence in the design team. Clr. Thompson would like to see some attention from the Public Works Department about doing some high-level drawings to see what can be done to clean up that intersection. With the added traffic, some thought has to be put into this.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REPORT

The Development Officer Report for the month of March 2024 was received as presented.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Emergency Services Report for the month of March 2024 was received as presented.

Clr. Boyles asked Mr. Hale if the house in Hillside was being boarded up. Mr. Hale said the house was boarded up on Friday, and the order had been posted. Clr. Boyles thanked Mr. Hale.

FIRE INSPECTOR REPORT

The Fire Inspector Report for the month of March 2024 was received as presented.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT

The Building Inspector Report for the month of March 2024 was received as presented.

BYLAW OFFICER'S REPORT

The Bylaw Officer's Report for the month of March 2024 was received as presented.

BUSINESS ITEMS OR ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

There were no business items or items requiring action.

MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION

There were no motions of reconsideration.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clr. Boyles said a gentleman came into the Linacy Fire Hall and presented Bruce Young with a certificate for helping him through the snowstorm.

Clr. Thompson said there will be a breakfast at the Plymouth Fire Department on Saturday, April 20, 2024. The cost is \$10.00 per plate.

Clr. Butler said a Pancake Sausage Breakfast will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2024 in Kenzieville.

Clr. Butler said that on Sunday, May 5, 2024, there will be a salmon supper in Lismore from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

The Volunteer Banquet will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. Jud Gunning will provide entertainment.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business before the meeting, so the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

MUNICIPAL CLERK