

August 21, 2023

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, August 21, 2023, at 7:15 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
- 7 Clr. David Parker
- 8 Clr. Larry Turner
- 9 Clr. Peter Boyles
- 10 Clr. Randy Palmer
- 11 Clr. Andy Thompson

**ABSENT**

- 12 Clr. Chester Dewar

**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 Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Parker that the agenda be approved as presented. **Motion Carried**

## **EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS**

Clr. Parker said there was a serious car accident in District 7. Clr. Parker made an emergency resolution to send a letter to the Department of Public Works and the two MLAs about that turn. The Committee agreed there was unanimous consent, and it was added to the agenda as item 8B.

## **MINUTES**

Clr. Palmer asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for July 17, 2023. Clr. Elliott noted a correction in the minutes of July 17, 2023. The approval of the agenda should say that Clr. Parker seconded the approval, not Clr. Palmer. With that correction, the Chair proclaimed the minutes of the meeting on July 17, 2023, as the official record of the meeting. **Motion Carried**

## **CORRESPONDENCE (FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES)**

A thank you letter was received from the Pictou Academy Bursary Recipient.

A thank you letter was received from Ryan's Case for Smiles for the Council Grant.

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

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

A thank you letter was received from the Joe Earl Races for Council's support.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **Communities Culture Tourism and Heritage – Tourist Bureaus**

A response letter was received from the Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage Minister, Pat Dunn, on the Tourist Information Centres Pictou West.

Clr. MacKeil said that the location of the current tourist bureaus in the county is inconvenient. Many residents have been giving visitors directions and recommendations, which shows the hospitality in the County, but it would be nice to have something better located for visitors.

Warden Parker expressed support for Clr. MacKeil and stated that when travelling, people expect tourist bureaus to be nearby. The Warden said the former Tourist Centre at the Pictou Rotary was a good location for visitors arriving by ferry and through the Sunrise Trail. Warden Parker said this should be pursued through local MLA's in trying to keep tourists here. Clr. Wadden, said that in that letter, the CCTH Minister stated the options to enhance access to visitor services in Pictou County will be discussed with DEANS.

It was moved by Warden Parker and seconded by Clr. MacKeil to write a letter to DEANS to request a meeting with Council for a discussion on tourist bureaus.

**Motion Carried**

### **NS Department of Fisheries regarding fishing derby**

A response letter was received from the Honorable Steve Craig, Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister, regarding the request for rehosting a fundraising fishing derby. The letter stated that staff would be happy to help coordinate and discuss options for future fishing derbies, including licensing requirements.

Clr. Palmer said that a letter was received from a resident concerning the noise in Pictou West. Warden Parker said that this noise complaint was in District 6. The Warden said there is some conflict because a cousin of the Warden owns the farm that the noise is coming from, however, it is the responsibility of the Warden to do the right job within the community.

This resident was the first one to contact Council with the concern about the noise. It was about six weeks before finding a resolution which came through the Agricultural representative from Antigonish. She had researched and found a provincial policy outlining how these sonic devices are to be used and registered. With this information, the farmer agreed to abide by that, and most of the complaints have stopped. There is currently no noise policy in place. This woman is looking beyond what is in the policy, and the Warden has spoken to her several times. Warden Parker recognized that this has two sides as a farmer feels the need to protect the crops. The policy states clearly what to do and what not to do when using this device. The Warden stated that her concerns are very real.

### **BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT**

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the Building Inspection Report be received as presented.

**Motion Carried**

### **BYLAW DOG CONTROL REPORT**

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Parker that the Bylaw Dog Control report be received as presented.

**Motion Carried**

Clr. Wadden asked if the report indicated 2 people were bitten in District 2. Mr. McDowell said the report was cut off and it indicates that two chickens were killed.

Clr. Turner is looking for more information regarding a complaint in District 8 that was dealt with by the Public Works. The information in the report said that there was a complaint on Munroe Avenue Ext, and in the days to comply column, it only says new info. Clr. Turner said more detail is needed. Clr. Turner said he is looking for any

information in that report that could be expanded and explained these things. Mr. McDowell said additional information and a description will be supplied for Clr. Turner.

### **DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REPORT**

It was moved by Clr. Butler and seconded by Warden Parker that the Development Officer report be received as presented. **Motion Carried**

### **MOUNT THOM TOURISM SIGNAGE**

CAO Cullen said the discussion for a new Pictou County tourism sign came through at the Mayors and Wardens Committee meetings. Updating the sign in Mt. Thom was discussed. DEANS said they could get a grant to pay for the design portion of the sign and had received provincial funding to hire a graphic artist. The CAO said that about a month ago, it was brought back to the Mayors and Wardens meeting as a final project, and the sense at that meeting was that everybody involved in it said they had their signs and did not want to pay for this sign.

Warden Parker said it was a surprise when everybody backed out. The Warden said that the Mt. Thom sign had lost its value. The Warden said that these discussions started a year ago and it appeared that the mayors agreed and now that input has evaporated. Currently, there is no total cost. CAO Cullen said it may be in the \$20 - \$25,000 range but may be cheaper as the existing hardware may be used.

Clr. Elliott asked what justifies funding a new sign when there is one down at another entry point on Number 6, and this is an opportunity to get some support. Clr. Elliott voiced that it should be included in a smaller version scale of the design coming into the county at the other end, as just as many people are entering from that end, and it also provides a beautiful drive.

Clr. MacKeil supported not doing the Mt. Thom sign this year and waiting until next year. Clr. MacKeil stated support for Clr. Elliott for having the District 4 sign replaced on a smaller scale and that it is important to the residents in that community.

Clr. Turner said that if a county is being branded, it should be the same at the other entry points. CAO Cullen said that the sign on the top of Mt. Thom is municipally owned, and at the Antigonish point of entry, it is owned by the Provincial Government.

Clr. Butler stated being in favour of the context of the sign created and agreed the other entry points in the county need to be looked at as well.

Clr. Elliott said that the Municipality has no ownership of the sign in Marshville, so no funding options are available. Clr. Elliott said that the residents of District 4 would be happy with just a welcome to Pictou County sign.

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Deputy Warden Murray to table this item and to put this on a future agenda until more is known about the price.

**Motion Carried**

### **LETTER TO PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION REGARDING DANGEROUS TURN**

Clr. Parker said was a serious car accident in District 7 involving six teenagers, aged 16 and 17 years old. The car went off the road, and four of the passengers were ejected from the vehicle.

Clr. Parker said every accident can't be prevented, but this location has about one per year. The people who live at this location are very frustrated, and Clr. Parker has received several calls from residents about a guard rail and better signage at this turn. The location is about a mile from the town line on Route 289. This is a twisty road with a 70km/h zone, and warning sign at the beginning of the turn, and a speed sign for 50 km.

It was moved by Clr. Parker and seconded by Clr. Elliott to write a letter to the Honourable Kim Masland, Minister Public Works, asking her to have staff review that turn with the task of improving it in terms of safety, with copies sent to Karla MacFarlane and Tim Houston.

**Motion Carried**

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Clr. Elliott said the Toney River Community Hall will be having their Seafood Chowder Supper on August 26<sup>th</sup> starting at 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$15.00 and is take-out only.

Warden Parker said the Pictou-North Colchester Exhibition will be held from September 6 – 10, 2023.

Warden Parker said that Viola's Place will be having several fundraisers in early October. They must raise a lot of their funds for the operational costs of the shelter. They currently have 20 beds, and they are packed every night, and it is not even winter. Some of the fundraisers will include tickets for a camp night on the premises and people can gather sponsors, 50/50 tickets. They also have three bands playing at The Spot in New Glasgow and they will be hosting a silent auction. The Warden asked Council members to support these events and to encourage constituents.

Clr. Palmer said the East Pictou Rural Fair in Thorburn was a huge success. There were big crowds, a lot of things sold out. Clr. Palmer said that it was great to see people get out and enjoy themselves and be a part of the community. It was a tremendous weekend and there were a lot of great volunteers that put a lot of time and effort into it.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business before the meeting, so the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:50.

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CHAIRPERSON

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MUNICIPAL CLERK