

February 21, 2023

The Property Services Committee for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building and by videoconference and teleconference on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 7 p.m.

PRESENT

- Dist. 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 (Chair)
- 11 Clr. Andy Thompson
- 12 Clr. Chester Dewar

ABSENT

- 1. Clr. Don Butler

IN ATTENDANCE

Brian Cullen, CAO, Municipal Clerk-Treasurer
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer
Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services
Sueann Musick, Communications Officer
Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development

CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Clr. Randy 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. Peter Boyles and seconded by Clr. Mary Elliott that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

MINUTES

Clr. Palmer asked if there were any errors, corrections, or omissions in the minutes for January 16, 2023. The members of the Committee entered no errors or omissions.

The Chair proclaimed the meeting minutes on January 16, 2023, as the official record of that meeting.

MOTION – BUILDING INSPECTION REPORT

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Turner that the Building Inspection Report for January 2023 be received for information purposes.

Motion Carried.

MOTION – BY-LAW/DOG CONTROL REPORT

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Deputy Warden Murray that the By-Law/Dog Control Officer's report for January 2022 be received for information purposes.

Motion Carried

MOTION- DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REPORT

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the Development Officer's report for January 2023 be received for information purposes.

Motion Carried

MAP REQUEST

Clr. Wadden asked councillors to report to her any establishments in their districts that are selling unopened alcohol. The information is being gathered for a study by the Municipal Alcohol Project.

MOTION - SALEM MUNICIPAL WATER AND WASTEWATER PROJECT

Warden Parker met with the Minister of Municipal Affairs John Lohr, Pictou West MLA Karla MacFarlane and provincial staff to discuss the municipality's application for funding the Salem Municipal Water and Wastewater Project. He said the application was submitted to the province in April 2022 and was considered a priority by Council.

He said he was told the funding was unavailable for the Municipality because the province felt that 30 homes at the cost of \$200,000 per household was too high for the individual units. He told the Minister he was confident that if the water situation improved in the area, more people would consider moving there.

Warden Parker said was disappointed with the province's response because the County had put money into designing the project and was confident it would receive the funding needed to move ahead. He said this was a priority of Council in regard to its capital projects. He said the province first told him the funding application was incomplete, but the Municipality was never contacted to submit the missing information.

Warden Parker asked Council and staff to look for ways to save the project for the residents Salem and area. CAO Cullen said the province told him a few weeks ago that

there was no application, the province knew nothing about it, but now it is saying it needs to be completed by not filling out an indigenous form. However, this form was completed and there was no need for consultation as the project took place within the right-of-way. He said staff followed up with the Department of Municipal Affairs on many occasions, including when the Municipality was ready to go to tender on the project. Staff had updated the project's costs for the province at its request and the status of the project.

Warden Parker said the province asked about the MacLellan's Brook Project, but CAO Cullen said this project is in very early planning stages because the designs and final costs have not been completed.

Warden Parker asked what the option is for the Municipality to fund the water portion of the Salem project on its own. CAO Cullen this was something that could be considered.

Clr. Thompson made a motion seconded by Clr. Wadden to instruct staff to get design work and project cost for MacLellan's Brook and Thorburn. Clr. Boyles said he felt Council shouldn't be discussing MacLellan's Brook project because it was not on the agenda. He said the Salem Water and Wastewater Project was the topic and is the only project that should be discussed now. Clr. D. Parker said the motion for the MacLellan's Brook project is out of order and should not be entertained by Council. Chair Palmer asked if the mover and seconder would agree to remove the motion and put it on another agenda. Council agreed.

Moved by Warden Parker seconded by Deputy Warden Murray, that staff investigate the possibilities of Municipality funding the water portion of the project through its own resources.

Motion Carried

MOTION - ACCESSIBILITY REPORT PRESENTED

A motion as made by Clr. Turner and seconded by Clr. MacKeil to recommend the Municipality of Pictou County's 2023-2030 Accessibility Report to Council.

Clr. Turner commended the Accessibility Committee on its hard work on the project. It ensured goods and services, as well as communications, employment and language, is accessible to everyone.

Motion Carried

MOTION - LAND USE PLANNING TENDER RECOMMENDATION

Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works and Development recommended that the company, Upland be awarded the tender for Consulting Services for Land Use Planning in the Municipality. He said the province mandates all municipalities to have land use planning bylaws by 2025.

Clr. Dewar questioned why an outside company would do the land use planning bylaw rather than by municipal staff. The Director of Public Works and Development said land use planning is an extensive project that will be done over two years, involving

many public meetings and other forms of consultation and would be better handled by a firm rather than one municipal staff employee who has his work to complete as a development officer.

Clr. Boyles said he has heard from many upset people about the proposal of land use bylaws in rural areas who want to be made aware of the public consultations.

Clr. Thompson said this issue cuts both ways. It's unfair to people who look after their properties that a business can come in and devalue your property. He said the Municipality has to protect our residents, which can impact them negatively.

A motion was made by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. MacKeil that Upland be awarded the tender of \$139,180 for Land Use Planning in the Municipality of Pictou County.

Motion Carried

Nay votes: Clr. Boyles
Clr. Dewar

MOTION – DO2 STREETLIGHT REQUEST

A motion was made by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Thompson to have a streetlight placed at 708 Egypt Road.

Motion Carried

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clr. Thompson said the Plymouth Fire Department is hosting an open house from 3 to 5 pm. on Feb. 25th.

Clr. Boyles said a kitchen party would occur at the Hillside Community Hall from 630-9 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 24th. A light lunch is served.

Clr. Boyles noted that the Hillside Girls Club no longer exists after 77 years. He said he was sad to see the club go and appreciated all of the hard work the volunteers and participants put into it.

Clr. D. Parker commended the communication staff on the latest publication of Rural News and Views.

Clr. Wadden mentioned a Chili and Bowl fundraiser hosted by the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library. The recipients purchase a \$50 ticket and receive a pottery bowl, chilli, and a tax receipt. The event will take place on March 3.

ADJOURN

There was no further business before the meeting, so the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 830 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

MUNICIPAL CLERK