

September 5, 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 September 5, 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
- Shellie Pettipas, Administrative Assistant

**CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Warden Parker called the meeting to order and invited Councilors 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 Mikmaqi people and would like to thank the Mikmaqi 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. Elliott that the agenda be approved as presented. **Motion Carried**

## **EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS**

There were no emergency resolutions brought forward.

## **ERRORS AND OMISSIONS/CORRECTION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the August 8, 2023, Council Meeting were reviewed by the Municipal Council. The Warden proclaimed the meeting minutes of August 8, 2023, as the official record of the meeting.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

A thank you letter was received from NNEC students Annika Murray and Duncan Bannerman for the bursaries received at graduation.

## **REGOGNITION**

Warden Parker read the following: Twenty-two-year-old Elizabeth Heighton of River John recently attended the Canadian Charolais Youth Association's National Show and Conference in Brandon, Manitoba. This event takes place annually in Canada, and the association's goal is to develop and strengthen youth involvement in the breeding, raising and promotion of Charolais cattle, as well as to unite youth from across the county.

This was Elizabeth's second time attending the National Show, and she says she enjoyed every minute. Along with Showmanship and Conformation, she also participated in judging (individual and team), keeping and cull, team grooming, art, photography, and individual marketing.

### **She placed in the following categories:**

- Champion team judging
- Reserve Champion team grooming
- Reserve Champion Art
- Reserve Champion individual judge for heifer calves
- 4<sup>th</sup> overall Ambassador
- 5<sup>th</sup> overall Aggregate

Elizabeth will age out of the CCYA this year, but she plans to continue to grow her purebred Charolais herd while working as a mobile hairstylist and fishing with her father with plans to take over the gear as well as fishing her own Gaspereau gear.

She will participate in the Pictou North Colchester Exhibition with her heifer, Valentina, a purebred Charolais that will compete in showmanship and conformation.

Congratulations Elizabeth, on all your success; we are sure more will come.

Warden Parker and Clr. Mary Elliott presented a plaque to Elizabeth Heighton.

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **PROCLAMATION RIGHT TO KNOW WEEK September 25 to October 1, 2023**

**WHEREAS** the Municipality of the County of Pictou has adopted the principles of openness, transparency and accountability; and

**WHEREAS** Part XX of the *Municipal Government Act* gives citizens a right of access to information in the custody or under the control of the Municipality of the County of Pictou; and

**WHEREAS** access to information ensures citizens of Nova Scotia have the opportunity for meaningful participation in the democratic process; and

**WHEREAS** a celebration of the right of citizens to access information will facilitate informed public participation in policy formulation, ensure fairness in government decision-making and permit the airing and reconciliation of divergent views; and

**WHEREAS** Municipality of the County of Pictou joins all other Canadian jurisdictions and democracies world-wide in acknowledging international Right to Know Week;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Robert Parker Warden, Municipality of the County of Pictou, do hereby proclaim September 25 to October 1, 2023 to be Right to Know Week in the Municipality of the County of Pictou.

**DATED at Pictou, Nova Scotia this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023.**

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**Robert Parker, Warden**

Warden Parker signed the proclamation on behalf of the Municipal Council.

## **PRESENTATION BY DEANS MARKETING LEVY & TOURISM CENTRES IN PICTOU WEST**

A presentation was given to the Council by Cindy MacKinnon and Kelyn Palmer from DEANS regarding adopting a marketing levy. Ms. MacKinnon said it is up to the six municipalities in Pictou County to pass the marketing levy.

The start date for some of the municipalities is January 1, 2024. If the bylaw is passed, things are ready to go forward. Currently, three municipalities are ready to move forward, and two are in the process of making that decision. There will be a Marketing Levy Advisory Council, and this will be very transparent. Beginning January 1, 2024, all Air B and Bs will have a 3% levy. The money collected within Pictou County will be spent in Pictou County on the municipalities collecting it. It will be paid once a month to the municipality. DEANS will look after the enforcement. The levy would be collected similarly as to how the deed transfer tax is currently collected and then sent off to DEANS.

Of the six municipalities within the county, Stellarton has the largest with 125 rooms, and the Holiday Inn Express is on board. It is anticipated there are about 15 properties in the county, which does not include Air B and Bs in the county are not licensed right now.

Ms. MacKinnon said if the municipalities are not part of the levy, the operators will have to pay their portion if they want to be a part of it. The levy will help support things like new events, such as the 55+ games, and DEANS wants to go after events like Nova Scotia Music Week. There is the hope that this will attract new visitors. There are a lot of projects being worked on.

Clr. MacKeil asked the reason this levy must be collected through the municipality. Ms. MacKinnon said that the legislation passed says it must come through the municipality.

Clr. Elliott is not interested in putting any more tax dollars on anybody. The small businesses should be the people making the decisions.

Warden Parker said preference would be to see the association do it themselves. In the end, this is a provincial responsibility, and they have put it down to the municipalities.

The council expressed concern about the lack of tourist centres in Pictou West to DEANS Manager Cindy MacKinnon. Ms. MacKinnon said Pictou now

has one centre at the Pictou waterfront; it is located by the tent, and someone is there staffing it. She said there is no funding to put tourist people on Northumberland Ferries.

Warden Parker said the province should play a role in the visitor centres. Ms MacKinnon replied there is funding received for staff but not for new locations. It was decided this topic would be returned to the committee to be discussed further with Council members.

**MUNICIPAL SERVICES GRANT**

Clr. Palmer presented the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou adopt the following resolution for municipal service grants:

**District 6**

a. Stillman Cemetery Company	\$5,000.00	New Lawn Tractor
	<b>Total: \$5,000.00</b>	

**District 8**

a. Alma Cemetery	\$3,488.82	Maintenance and Markers
b. Abercrombie Cemetery Co	\$9,000.00	Maintenance and Markers
c. Abercrombie Comm. Centre	\$7,456.00	Maintenance of Centre
d. Mount William Cemetery	\$5,056.85	Maintenance and Gate Repair
	<b>Total: \$25,001.67</b>	

**DATED** at Pictou, N. S. on this 5th day of September 2023.

(Sgd.) \_\_\_\_\_  
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**MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Parker to approve the Municipal Service Grants: **Motion Carried.**

**PROVINCIAL HOSTING GRANT**

Clr. Palmer presented the following resolution to Council:

**RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou adopt the following Provincial Hosting Grant:

Northern Nova United Provincials	\$250.00	Hosting U15A
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**DATED** at Pictou, N. S. on this 5th day of September 2023.

**MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. Palmer, seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the Municipal Council approve the recreation grant. **Motion Carried**

**IVOR MACDONALD MEMORIAL ARENA FUNDING**

Clr. David Parker presented the following resolution to Council:

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS** the Ivor MacDonald Memorial Arena must replace its ice plant, which has been operating for nearly 50 years.

**WHEREAS** District 13 Recreation and Planning Commission has applied for funding to replace the ice plant from various levels of government, including the Municipality of the County of Pictou.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipality of the County of Pictou agrees to grant District 13 Recreation and Planning Commission \$150,000.00 from its operating reserves for the Ivor MacDonald Memorial Arena for the purchase of a new ice plant.

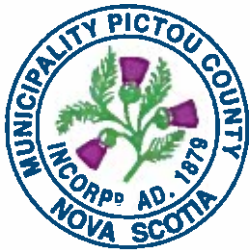
**DATED** at Pictou, N. S. on this 5th day of September 2023.

**MOTION**

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

## **MILESTONE RECOGNITION POLICY**

Clr. Wadden presented the following resolution to Council:



### **POLICY # 2023-08-08 MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU MILESTONE RECOGNITION POLICY**

#### **PURPOSE**

To establish a uniform policy to recognize significant milestone events celebrated by residents of the Municipality.

#### **POLICY**

1. It shall be the policy of the Municipal Council, upon request, to officially recognize the following significant milestone events:

- a. 80<sup>th</sup> Birthdays
- b. 90<sup>th</sup> Birthdays
- c. 100<sup>th</sup> Birthdays
- d. 100 Plus Birthdays
- e. 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversaries
- f. 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversaries

2. To recognize placement in a national event, including sports, culture or an academic institution.

3. To recognize heroic events in the Municipality of the County of Pictou by individuals or community groups.

4. To recognize community groups who have existed for:

- a. 75 Years
- b. 100 Years

5. To recognize an individual's long service in a community organization.

a. Minimum of 35 years of service and awarded in five-year milestones after 35 years.

Framed certificates commemorating these events shall be presented to the resident(s) by the Warden and/or Council member.

Whenever possible, requests for certificates should be made to the administrative staff at least three weeks before the event to allow printing and framing.

All former policies to congratulatory letters or messages commemorating milestone events are hereby repealed.

DATED at Pictou, N. S. on this 5th day of September 2023.

### **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. Wadden, seconded by Clr. Turner that the preceding resolution be adopted a presented. **Motion Carried**

### **EAST PICTOU SCHOOL DEMOLITION**

Public Works and Development Director Logan McDowell said that demolition work remains underway. The work has been successful in completing the removal of asbestos and other hazardous materials within the building. There was more hazardous material inside the building than initially anticipated, and there has been no indication that this will cost additional money. A hard deadline was not given, but it appears ahead of schedule. Notification of school starting back up was given, and special precautions were in place.

### **MUNICIPAL SERVICE EXCHANGE UPDATE**

CAO Cullen said there was information sent out from the province giving the background on the roads and where the recommendations came from. The letters were sent out as discussed at the last meeting. The next step following the last regional meeting will be the document from the province. They had a firm deadline with a mid-October time frame.

Warden Parker said at the last meeting it was made clear that this county is not interested in taking over the county roads and that it would bankrupt this municipality. It is a provincial responsibility to maintain roads and that is the way it should stay; it would be a tremendous burden for this and other rural municipalities.



## **CAPITAL BUDGET SURVEY EXPLANATION**

CAO Cullen said a survey was distributed to Council members with a summary of each project. These projects are to be rated by Councilors where they would like them prioritized on the list, rating from one to five if the project should proceed or be deferred to the future.

Warden Parker said that the decision must be made based on cost and the figures' reliability. He said there is more work that must be done and that perhaps staff could break down the list and separate the operational ones.

## **RURAL INTERNET UPDATE**

CAO Cullen said that the overall contribution agreement with the Federal Government agreement was completed in late August, and the first claim has been submitted to Industry Canada for review and is now eligible to start incurring costs back to September 2022.

Rhiannon McNair started the role in late August as the Director of Business Operations. Ms. McNair will be responsible for critical functions, customer engagement strategy, leads to customers, developing a marketing strategy to promote the service and developing internal business operations; once things begin to ramp up, there is additional staff that may be required on the technical and business side. In July, there were 96 customers on fibre, which is now at 136.

CAO Cullen said the main strand has been completed from Pictou to River John. He said the Loch Broom Loop is to be completed in September 2023, is behind schedule by about four weeks due to pole replacements that needed to happen. Alma to New Glasgow, the target is the end of September, it is almost to the George Street bridge.

On the wireless side, the current sites that are verified and serviceable are 640 as of today; there are 95 installs completed and 15 installs scheduled for this week

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Clr. Boyles said there will be a Kitchen Party at the Hillside Hall on Friday, September 8, 2023, from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. The cost is \$5.00, and players get in free.

Clr. Dewar said the exhibition starts in September and 4H day is a big day for the kids.

Clr. Dewar said they lost another member Melvin MacKay, who worked hard all his life for 4H and to have that petting zoo for young people to enjoy the exhibition, and he passed away this week. And it is those like him who make the exhibition.

Clr. Thompson said there will be a seniors fitness wellness program on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m., chair Zumba gold and on Fridays at 10:30 will be chair yoga. Monica Beltram will hold this at Plymouth Fire Hall. Admission for chair yoga is \$3.00, and Latin dance class is \$15.00 for couples and \$10.00 for singles.

Clr. Parker said there are chair exercises being held at the Union Centre Community Hall chair yoga starting September 5, 2023.

Clr. Parker said the Weavers Mountain wind power project has received approval from the environment minister; there are 16 wind tower sites on Weavers Mountain, and all 16 are in Pictou County. Each can produce six megawatts. The substation is in Antigonish County. This should put us up over \$ 1 million and hopefully replace coal.

Warden Parker said the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Terry Fox Run will be held on September 24, the Warden will be participating in memory of Meghan Bragg, Councilor from the Town of Westville who was lost this year to cancer.

## **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Warden declared the meeting adjourned at 9.20 p.m.

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**Warden**

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**Municipal Clerk**