

July 27, 2020

The Committee of Council as a Whole for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met by teleconference/videoconference on Monday, July 20, 2020 at 7:10 p.m.

PRESENT

Wayne Murray, Deputy Warden	Robert Parker, Warden, Vice-Chair
Don Butler	Deborah Wadden
Darla MacKeil	Ronald Baillie
David Parker	Larry Turner
Peter Boyles	Randy Palmer
Andy Thompson	Chester Dewar

IN ATTENDANCE

Brian Cullen, CAO, Municipal Clerk-Treasurer
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer
Sueann Musick, Communications Officer
Carolyn MacIntosh, Deputy Municipal Clerk/Recording Secretary

AGENDA

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

Motion carried.

MINUTES

It was moved by Warden MacKeil and seconded by Clr. Dewar that the minutes of July 20, 2020 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

UP-DATE – RURAL INTERNET PROJECT

The CAO reported that a conference call is scheduled for Wednesday morning to wrap up issues on the contract side. Additionally, a meeting has been scheduled for tomorrow afternoon on the package offerings and sales side of things in preparation of a presentation to Council. We continue to look at ways of enhance the offerings that people can access on a temporary basis until such time as we are able to roll out fiber to the homes; this entails a number of wireless solutions beyond Ring 8 using different tower locations to enhance current service levels.

Clr. MacKeil asked about timelines for ordering materials so that actual construction could begin and the CAO advised that those details will be finalized on Wednesday. Initial discussions indicate a 6 – 8-week turnaround on fiber, with some equipment taking 8 – 12 weeks to arrive.

Clr. Thompson referred to recent media coverage on an announcement that Bell will be installing highspeed internet in Guysborough County with no expense to the Municipality and provided a link to that coverage.

The CAO advised that he was not aware of the Guysborough project, although he was aware that Bell had applied to the CRTC Broadband Fund for a project in this area.

Warden R. Parker commented that while we will be borrowing funds to advance our project, we have made a commitment to our residents that the project is a profit-making business that will generate the revenues necessary to pay down that debt and therefore there will be no impact on the tax rate.

After reviewing the material forwarded by Clr. Thompson, the CAO explained that Bell is offering a wireless service in Guysborough with a 50-megabit download speed.

MOTION – D7 MSG – SALTSPRINGS 4-H CLUB/CALEDONIA CEMETERY

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Warden R. Parker that a recommendation be forwarded to Council to approve a Municipal Services Grant in District 7 for the Saltsprings 4-H Club in the amount of \$500 to carry out improvements to the Caledonia Cemetery.

Motion carried.

MOTION – D11 MUNICIPAL SERVICES GRANTS

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. Turner that a recommendation be forwarded to Council to approve the following Municipal Services Grants in District 11:

Glencoe Community Hall	\$ 500	Operating Expenses
SBI 4-H Club	1,000	Program Expenses
Sunny Brae Cemetery Co.	400	Operating Expenses
Springville Cemetery	400	Operating Expenses

Motion carried.

2020/21 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The CAO reviewed the proposed Capital Improvement Plan for 2020/21 and explained that this document is required to be submitted to the Province on an annual basis and is essentially a blueprint for planning the Municipality's capital expenditures by coordinating and planning the fiscal capacity and physical development of projects. Projects are identified in accordance with Council's Capital Improvement Plan Policy. Any project that proposes to use federal gas tax funds must be included in the CIP. Annually Councillors and departments submit projects for consideration by Council. The projects are then screened against criteria set forth in the CIP Policy so that Council can make informed decisions about specific projects and the impact they will have on the Municipality in the short and long term. Two projects were identified in the 2019/20 CIP (the Rural Broadband Project (\$11,828,262) and the Westville Road Sidewalk (500,000). For 2020/21 the following submissions were received:

McLellan's Brook Water Extension	\$2,954,000
Sherbrooke Road Water Extension	2,433,000
Salem Water Extension	973,000
Salem Wastewater Extension	1,552,000
Churchville Water	934,000
Little Harbour Sidewalk	190,000

Blue Acres Sidewalks

680,000

The CAO explained that each Council member will rank the prospective projects from 1 – 7 in terms of priority importance. The ranking determines in which year the project will be included in our 5-year Capital Budget. The identification of the project on the CIP allows staff to plan the project and present a financing plan to address the priorities which will identify constraints and recommendations on how Council should proceed (i.e. debt financing, other sources of government funding, etc.) The Federal Government has indicated that an infrastructure program will be forthcoming to help restart the economy post COVID-19. Indications are that “shovel ready” projects are preferred. Other than the Broadband project, the Municipality does not have any shovel ready projects. The Municipality has received \$1million+ in Gas Tax for the fiscal year 2020/21 and has approximately \$415,000 in Capital Reserves and \$1.6 million in Operating Reserves that can be used to finance capital projects. All of the projects identified are desirable projects, enhance the infrastructure of the Municipality, and provide the communities with long term benefits and enhanced sustainability; all are within the legal mandate of Council. The CAO noted that the water projects would require a further financial analysis on the impact to the Water Utility and the approval of the NSURB before moving to construction. 8 of 12 rankings from Councillors have been received. Once the remaining 4 have been received a determination will be made on which projects go into the Capital Improvement Plan and a relevant Capital Budget prepared for presentation to Council for approval.

STREETLIGHT UPDATE

The Deputy Municipal Clerk provided an update on outstanding streetlight installations. At the end of June 25 installations remained incomplete. Since then the 8 lights in District 10 on the Kyle Rd. and Bradley Rd. have been installed. Of the remaining 17 lights 2 in District 2 have been referred to the installer. The remaining lights are awaiting scoping or have been scoped and require NSP improvements before installation can occur. An update will be provided at the end of August when it is hoped that significant progress has been made to resolve these installations.

SALTY REEF RD. – TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP REQUEST

The CAO advised that an application had been received under the Private Roads Policy for the upgrade and transfer of ownership of the Salty Reef Road in District 3. The road met the minimum conditions set out in the policy, however polling of the residents to determine a willingness to have an area rate levied for the cost of road improvements failed to meet the 75% approval threshold. As a result, Administration is recommending that the Municipality not proceed with an ownership transfer. Administration is also recommending that the existing policy and by-law be reviewed to determine if any changes are required.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Palmer that the recommendations of Administration with respect to the Salty Reef Road and the review of policy and by-laws respecting private roads be accepted.

Motion carried.

D4 SEWER LINE EXTENSION – RIVER JOHN RD.

Clr. Baillie reported receiving a request from a developer to have the sewer line on the River John Road extended to service a campground and ask that staff look at the potential cost of that extension so that a proposal could be made to the developer.

LOGAN RD SIDEWALK & “IN -PERSON” COUNCIL MEETINGS

Clr. Boyles asked that a discussion on a proposed sidewalk on the Logan Road and “in-person” Council meetings be placed on a future agenda.

ENGINEERING SERVICES

Clr. Butler asked for an update on our engineering services at a future meeting.

FIRE STUDY – PHASE II

The Committee discussed the distribution of copies of Phase II of the Fire Study to the Fire Chiefs and the opportunities for a meeting so that feedback could be provided on the study.

The CAO advised that COVID restrictions around in-person meetings has affected the original intent of having the consultant review the study with Fire Chiefs. There has been some indication that a those restrictions could be lifted and if that does occur then he expected that a meeting with the Chiefs could be arranged, following which the Fire Liaison Committee could work through the logistics of the study and ultimately present the study and its recommendations to Council for consideration. He confirmed that there is still one more phase of the study to complete and advised that he will check on the completion date for that final portion.

Comments were made that the release of the second phase without explanation has sparked concern that the Municipality is moving towards an amalgamation of departments which was not the intended purpose of the report.

Warden R. Parker advised that he and the Deputy Warden will have a discussion later in the week on ways to advance a discussion with the chiefs.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. MacKeil that the meeting adjourn.

Motion carried. (9:06 p.m.)

Wayne Murray
CHAIR

Brian Cullen
Municipal Clerk