

August 4, 2020

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met by teleconference/video-conference on Tuesday August 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Dist.	1	Clr. Don Butler
	2	Clr. Deborah Wadden
	3	Clr. Darla MacKeil
	4	Clr. Ronald Baillie (joined the meeting at 7:25 p.m.)
	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**

Donn Fraser, Solicitor, Mac Mac & Mac  
Brian Cullen, CAO/Municipal Clerk Treasurer  
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer  
Sueann Musick, Communications Officer  
Jane Johnson, Recording Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER**

Warden R. Parker called the meeting to order to pray or reflect, as may be their preference, to help Council focus and properly do the work of the Municipality.

**AGENDA**

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. MacKeil that the agenda be approved with the addition of the Fire Study.  
Motion carried.

**MINUTES – JULY 6, 2020**

It was moved by Clr. Baillie and seconded by Clr. Butler that the minutes of July 6, 2020 be approved as presented.  
Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received as follows:

- a) Thank you letters for municipal funding (uncirculated) have been received from Pictou Co. Mental Illness Family Support Assoc., Remembering Canada's Heroes, Viola's Place, DEANS, D13 Rec. & Planning Commission, Tatamagouche Regional Academy, Pictou County Council of Seniors, RJ Community Action Society, VON, Abby Lohead (bursary), CARMA, PC Volunteer Ground Search & Rescue, Bowl for Kids (sponsorship), David Lin (bursary), NNEC (bursaries), Ashley Livingstone (bursary), PC Chamber of Commerce,

Ethan MacDonald (bursary), Bailey Chase O(bursary), French River Cemetery Society & NRHS Educational Society.

**UP-DATE – COVID-19**

The CAO reported the most significant change is the Minister issued the order to allow in-person meetings. You can have meetings in person as long as you are adhering to all the Chief Medical Officer's orders. A maximum of 50 people can meet as long as you can maintain social distancing. Our chambers is problematic because we cannot get everyone in the room in order to maintain social distancing. Council meetings are to be open to the public so how we deal with that adds to the complexity. If one member from the public is present all people must wear masks. You can have a group meet in person as well as virtual or you can have a combination of the two. Some smaller committees may be able to meet in the Council Chambers; however, the maximum number of people is 8 around the Council table. The mandatory masking has come into effect so anyone entering the administration building has to be wearing a mask in the common areas.

Warden R. Parker pointed out that it will be difficult to have in house committee meetings so we will have to continue meeting by video/teleconference.

**UP-DATE – HIGH SPEED INTERNET PROJECT**

The CAO reported they are working through some of the issues of the contract language and equipment. He did receive an email today on the equipment and verification on some of the equipment requirements for the project that will tie us in at the Halifax Internet Exchange and to make sure it is the right equipment. A meeting last week on the sales side was held and they are developing the various packages with another meeting next week to develop what the offerings will look like on the system. They are continuing to explore the potential of a wireless solution in the interim.

Warden R. Parker asked if they will have a signed document this week and the CAO replied the document is going to NOVA so hopefully there will not be many changes.

The Solicitor reported one of the most important issues is no extra charges from NOVA and to make sure the scope is properly defined.

Clr. Wadden asked why the right equipment was not ordered for this job in the first place and the CAO replied we want to ensure our network is expandable and able to grow. The CAO pointed out the equipment does not allow any expansion of the network. She asked what we are looking at for wireless and the CAO replied there has been no wireless specs discussed at this point. Clr. Wadden was of the understanding that NOVA is the only contract left and the CAO replied there were just a few amendments.

**RESOLUTION – MUNICIPAL GRANTS**

Clr. Thompson presented a resolution to Council as follows:

**RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the payment of the following Municipal Grants:

**Municipal Services:**

D07	Salt Springs 4-H Club	\$ 500.00	Improv'ts. To Caledonia Cemetery
		\$ 500.00	
D11	Glencoe Comm. Hall Assoc.	\$1,000.00	Operating Expenses
	SBI 4-H Club	500.00	Program Expenses
	Sunny Brae Cemetery Co.	400.00	Operating Expenses
	Springville Cemetery	400.00	
		<u>\$2,300.00</u>	

**GRAND TOTAL            \$2,800.00**

DATED at Plymouth, N.S. this 4<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020.

(Sgd.) Andy Thompson  
Randy Palmer

**MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. Palmer that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented.  
Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION – SHEEP VALUER**

Clr. Baillie presented a resolution to Council as follows:

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS Section 9(1) of the Sheep Protection Act provides for the annual appointment of Sheep Valuers;

WHEREAS appointments to this office have been made throughout the various districts of the County of Pictou;

WHEREAS in accordance with the aforementioned Statutes of Nova Scotia, these appointments require the approval of Council;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the appointment of the following Sheep Valuers for 2020/21:

DIST. #02	Allan Keefe
DIST. #03	William Ferguson
DIST. #04	Doug White

DATED at River John, N.S. this 4<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020.

(Sgd.) Ronald Baillie  
Darla MacKeil

**MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. Baillie and seconded by Clr. MacKeil that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented.  
Motion carried.

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLANS – NEXT STEPS**

The CAO reported 4 projects were identified that would meet the threshold for consideration in the Capital Improvement Plan that include 2 projects in Salem for water and wastewater, McLellan's Brook water and Sherbrooke water. The next step is to take the 4 projects and develop the financing plan for the capital budget and bring it back to the next Committee meeting for consideration.

Clr. D. Parker asked if the 4 projects are treated equally and the CAO replied the number of points would identify where the projects would fall by year. The CAO informed Council 2 projects are in year 2/3 and the other 2 are in year 4/5.

Clr. Wadden asked about the Little Harbour sidewalk project and if she should keep applying every year. The CAO replied these projects are considered and referred to the policy.

Clr. Dewar asked why the Salem water project was separate from the wastewater project because they could be done at the same time. The CAO responded there could be some benefit doing them at the same time but there has to be some separation between the 2 pipes.

### **PUBLIC INQUIRY RE NS MASS MURDERS**

Clr. D. Parker reported that he is happy the inquiry was moved to a public inquiry and he believes most police officers are good people. There can be mistakes made and there can be bad apples but he was happy to see the decision has been reversed.

### **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. Butler that Council send a letter to the Federal Minister of Justice with copies to the Premier and Nova Scotia Minister of Justice thanking them for a public inquiry and that at least 5 commissioners be appointed for a public inquiry with 1 member being a person of color and 1 member not from the police community.

Clr. Baillie reported that he cannot support the motion because the most competent people should be appointed to the inquiry.

Clr. Boyles commented that he could not support the motion.

Clr. Wadden reported they changed it to a public inquiry so she could not support the letter.

Clr. Thompson indicated that he could not support the motion.

Clr. Palmer commented that it should be the best people appointed as commissioners.

Motion defeated. (6 Nay Votes: Clrs. Wadden, Baillie, Deputy Warden Murray, Clrs. Boyles, Palmer and Thompson)

### **FIRE STUDY**

Clr. Wadden reported that she sent out an email to Councillors regarding the study and the firemen in Little Harbour spent many hours going through the document. The fire chiefs met and found the study was unprofessional and she could not understand why the document was released. The consultants do not recognize the value of volunteer firefighters to our fire departments. As a Council we left the fire departments down and she was extremely disappointed with this study.

Clr. Butler asked the steps on how this was to unfold and Warden replied after each phase they would meet with the fire chiefs. Warden R. Parker indicated the first phase did not have a lot of information to comment on but it was important that we wanted it to be a joint effort between Council and fire chiefs. We wanted to get their feedback after each phase and there was a lot of reading in this phase. He spoke to other fire chiefs who agreed to move forward and some informed him there were good things in this report. They know there are more problems coming with the fire departments and we are looking for ways to help fund the smaller departments. We need feedback from the fire departments and it is a lot of work but we need to see this study through. We need to work with our fire chiefs so once we get their feedback we want to meet with them.

Clr. Wadden reported there are ways to meet with the fire chiefs but there are definite flaws with the study.

Clr. MacKeil was worried about lack of communication with the fire chiefs and there are ways to meet with them. There are a lot of issues in the study that are not relative to Pictou County and they are overlooking the volunteers. We have to go through the process and it will be up to Council to make the final decision.

Clr. Thompson pointed out the fire departments are community run and having them amalgamated would not make the fire chiefs very happy. He does not understand how that got into the Terms of Reference.

Warden R. Parker reported it does not mean they can't work with them but he does not support amalgamating them.

Clr. Thompson asked where are the costs going to come from for a paid fire chief and Warden R. Parker replied that will come in Phase 3.

The CAO pointed out that will come from Phase 3 of the study and it will also look at the way the fire departments are structured today. It is a very technical document and written from the industry's standpoint as well as where they are coming from with their recommendations.

Clr. Wadden asked if it was the Liaison Committee that wanted the age issue in the study and the CAO replied it was brought up at their meetings regarding the age of firefighters.

Clr. Boyles asked when the Fire Liaison Committee will meet on this issue and Warden R. Parker replied it was to go to the fire chiefs first. Warden R. Parker pointed out that we should meet in person with the fire chiefs on this study.

Clr. Wadden pointed out the Liaison Committee should have reviewed this study before giving it to the fire chiefs. Warden R. Parker reported there would have been too many to meet in the Council Chambers because of COVID. She pointed out the Committee could meet virtually/teleconference like Council has been doing.

Clr. D. Parker reported that we should wait until the fire chiefs all comment on the fire study before moving to phase 3.

### **EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS**

There were no emergency resolutions.

### **REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES & COUNCIL**

Clr. Boyles referred to the accident on the Little Egypt Road where a person was killed and informed Council a guard rail should be placed at that location so more accidents do not happen. He would like to send a letter to TIR at the next meeting.

Clr. Wadden recommended that Clr. Boyles contact the local TIR foreman on this issue as she has had good success in the past with that approach

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Council met in closed session to discuss personnel matters. (8:29 p.m.)

### **OPEN SESSION**

Council resumed in open session at 9:10 p.m.

### **ADJOURN**

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. MacKeil that the meeting adjourn.  
Motion carried. (9:10 p.m.)

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WARDEN  
  
MUNICIPAL CLERK

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