

August 17, 2020

The Committee of Council as a Whole for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met by teleconference/videoconference on Monday, August 17, 2020 at 7:00 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

Carolyn MacIntosh, Deputy Municipal Clerk

Sueann Musick, Communications Officer

Jane Johnson, 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 Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Clr. Wadden that the minutes of July 20<sup>th</sup> (closed) and July 27, 2020 be approved as circulated.

Clr Wadden referred to the Capital Improvement Plan and indicated a sidewalk for Little Harbour Road was identified this year but she thought it was identified last year.

The CAO pointed out the sidewalk was identified but did not make the plan.

Clr. Wadden asked if the MacGregor Avenue sidewalk was still part of the plan and the CAO replied that it should remain a priority.

Clr. Wadden referred to the Fire Study and asked if a discussion with fire chiefs has been arranged and Warden R. Parker replied that the meeting has been arranged for August 25<sup>th</sup> at the Alma Fire Hall, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Motion carried.

**RURAL INTERNET UPDATE**

The CAO reported that contract negotiations have been concluded for Phase 1. Later in the week our Communications Officer will be liaising with NOVA's communications team to discuss project promotion. Equipment is expected to be ordered shortly and we are still on schedule to have Ring 8 completed by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Retail packages are being worked on now and it is hoped that something will be available

within a couple of weeks for presentation to Council. In due course we will need to negotiate a maintenance agreement with NOVA as warranty periods expire.

### **DOCUMENTARY FUNDING**

The CAO referred to information circulated in the meeting package regarding a documentary on the impact of the internet project in rural Pictou County, noting that the project and potential was referenced several months ago. Total project costs are projected to be \$100,000 and with contributions from NS Business Inc, NOVA, the CBC and the Federal Tax Credit, the Municipality is being asked to contribute \$30,000 towards the cost. This amount was included in the contingency budget presented in March. The documentary will show the building of the network and how it will change what people have today for internet services and in future.

Clr. D. Parker asked if funding from NOVA was approved and the CAO replied that Joe Hickey confirmed the funding was available.

Clr. D. Parker asked the time frame to make the documentary and the CAO replied 18 to 24 months.

Clr. Wadden asked if there were any cost overruns who would be responsible and the CAO responded it would not be the Municipality's responsibility for any cost overruns. The CAO reported it became an i-Valley project so any cost overruns shifted to a third party.

Warden R. Parker asked if we will be reviewing the documentary before it becomes a final product and the CAO replied we will see it before it becomes a final product.

Clr. MacKeil commented this was an opportunity for us to tell our story and it is also a great promotion piece for all involved.

### **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. MacKeil that a recommendation be forwarded to Council to approve project funding of \$30,000 for the documentary on our rural internet project.

Clr. Wadden asked who would be screening the documentary before the final product and the CAO replied it will come to the Committee before moving forward.

Motion carried.

### **CAPITAL BUDGET – 2020/21 – 2024/25**

The CAO reported in Year 1 a number of capital budget items were contained in the Operating Budget as capital-out-of-revenue. The Internet Project's Phase 1 remaining costs will be paid out of the gas tax but the remaining items could be designed and tender ready. We are too late to construct anything this year but we could have them designed and ready for next year. The sewer projects are included in the Sewer Reserve and the water projects will be funded out of Water Depreciation. He gave a brief overview of years 2 through 5 to the Committee of the 5 year Capital Plan.

Clr. Thompson referred to a COVID-19 Resiliency Program that could fund a percentage of projects which would allow sidewalks to be funded, however, because they are not even on this 5 year Capital Plan they would not be considered and he felt that all identified projects should be included in the plan, regardless

of the priority year they are assigned so that we can take advantage of these funding opportunities when they become available.

The CAO replied that it would depend on the rules of the application and if the projects are identified on your 5-year plan.

Clr. Thompson asked why some of these projects are not on the list and the CAO replied they are not consistent with Council's Capital Investment Policy. The CAO reported he will check into it to see what the rules and provisions will be for the Resiliency Fund.

Clr. Wadden suggested that we should be reviewing our CIP to see if there are some ways of advancing these smaller projects that cannot compete with the urgency of sewer and water infrastructure.

#### **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Thompson that Council undertake a review of its Capital Investment Plan Policy.

Numerous members of Council expressed their opinion on the effectiveness of the policy in identifying priority projects and potential funding sources.

The motion was tied, and therefore defeated. (Nay Votes: Clrs. Butler, MacKeil, D. Parker, Boyles, Dewar & Warden R. Parker)

#### **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. Turner that the 2020/21 – 2024/25 Capital Budget be recommended to Council for approval.

Motion carried.

#### **MOTION – BUILDING INSPECTION REPORT**

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Boyles that the Building Inspection Report for July be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

#### **MOTION – BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

It was moved by Clr. Butler and seconded by Clr. Boyles that the By-Law Enforcement Report for July be approved as circulated.

Clr. Wadden asked about the 30 day extension in Pictou Landing and the CAO replied many of the contractors are very busy so that is why they need extensions to complete the jobs.

Clr. D. Parker reported he has a concern with property on Gairloch Road where nothing has changed since last month. He asked the time line on having the eyesore removed. Also, the property on Maxwell Road changed hands and there was no indication on any improvements since that occurrence.

The CAO replied the owner of the Gairloch Road property has been in contact with a contractor who will make it a priority. He agreed to clarify the status of the Maxwell Road property.

Warden R. Parker asked about a property in his district that he was not aware was in his district.

Clr. Baillie referred to the property in River John and the CAO replied there will be a hearing in September.

Motion carried.

**ACCOUNTS PAID – JULY**

It was moved by MacKeil and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the Accounts Paid for July, 2020 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

**MOTION – WARDEN’S REPORT – JULY**

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the Warden’s Report for July, 2020 be approved as circulated.

Clr. Wadden referred to Items 5 & 6 and indicated they were anniversaries for the same organization. Warden R. Parker replied it should be the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Way.

Clr. Wadden asked for clarification on comments made by the Warden on the re-opening of the Wellness Center.

Warden R. Parker replied that at that time they were considering re-opening the Wellness Center but they wanted to make sure it was safe to do so. Re-opening is taking place on a very slow and phased in approach.

Clr. Wadden asked Warden R. Parker if he was a member of the Greenhill Kiosk Project and Warden R. Parker replied he was asked to attend the meetings as Councillor for the area but he is not a member.

Clr. Wadden commented on the importance of transparency, particularly when allocating taxpayer dollars.

Warden R. Parker assured Council that he would not show favoritism over any committee he may sit on because he is there representing Council and the entire Municipality.

Clr. Palmer asked if the Wellness Center was open to full capacity and Warden R. Parker replied that information changes weekly but the plan was to re-open it in stages.

Motion carried.

**TIR 2021/22 COST SHARED PAVING PROJECTS**

The CAO asked if there were additional roads for consideration in the next fiscal year and the Committee agreed that New Row in Thorburn was the only road identified for consideration.

**MOTION - MUNICIPAL CAPITAL GRANT APPLICATION**

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that a recommendation be forwarded to Council to approve a Recreation Capital Grant in the amount of \$1,000 for the District 13 Recreation and Planning Commission to replace topsoil and re-seed the local ball field,

Motion carried.

**MOTION – CLR. ALLOTMENT, DIST. 1**

It was moved by Clr. Butler and seconded by Clr. MacKeil that a recommendation be forwarded to Council to approve the Councillor Allotment for District 1 in the amount of \$150 for Lismore Recreation to assist with summer recreation projects.

Motion carried.

**MOTION – CLR. ALLOTMENT, DIST. 5**

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Warden R. Parker that a recommendation be forwarded to Council to approve the Councillor Allotment for District 5 in the amount of \$150 for Scotsburn Recreation to assist with general expenses.

Motion carried.

**MOTION – D4 ST. LIGHT APPLICATION & MSG**

It was moved by Clr. Baillie and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that a recommendation be forwarded to Council to approve the installation of a street light at Salem United Church, 19 West Branch Road and to approve a Municipal Services Grant in the amount of \$80.00 to fund the annual costs of street lights at the West Branch Hall and Salem United Church.

Motion carried.

**REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES & COUNCIL**

Clr. Wadden asked a date when Cindy Fraser and Clare Steele will be meeting with Council and the CAO replied next Monday night.

Clr. Boyles asked if chairs could be available in the entry of the Administration Building for people who waiting to go into the office.

Clr. Butler asked who has been invited from Council to attend the meeting with the Fire Chiefs and Deputy Warden Murray replied the Warden, CAO, himself, and the members of the Fire Liaison Committee.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Committee met in closed session at 8:34 p.m. to discuss matters relating to the acquisition, sale, lease, and security of municipal property.

**OPEN SESSION**

The Committee resumed in open session at 8:50 p.m.

**MOTION – FORMER EAST PICTOU MIDDLE SCHOOL**

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the Municipality issue a Request for Proposals for the former East Pictou Middle School property.

Various members of Council expressed their opinion on alternatives for the disposition of this property including demolition/site restoration, Request for Development Proposals, and sale of the property.

Motion carried. (Nay Votes: Clrs. Wadden, Palmer &Thompson)

**ADJOURN**

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Wadden that the meeting adjourn. (8:59 p.m.)  
Motion carried.

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CHAIR



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MUNICIPAL CLERK

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