

October 5, 2020

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met by teleconference/video-conference on Monday, October 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Dist.	1	Clr. Don Butler
	2	Clr. Deborah Wadden
	3	Clr. Darla MacKeil
	4	Clr. Ronald Baillie
	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
Carolyn MacIntosh, Deputy Municipal Clerk
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. D. Parker that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 8 & 21, 2020

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Butler that the minutes of September 8th and 21, 2020 be approved with the following correction:

September 8/20: Pg.2: “principals” should read “principles”.

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received as follows:

- a) Min. of Transp. & Pub. Wks. – Advising that the Department is aware that Baileys Brook-Ardness Rd. & the New Road in the Lismore area are aware of the deteriorating pavement conditions and will continue to routinely monitor and carry out maintenance activities as

required. Both roads are on a list for regular review and prioritization for re paving when funding permits.

- b) Thank you letters for municipal funding (uncirculated) have been received from the Riverview Volunteer Association, Etta Hirtle (90th Birthday).

NSFM CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION

On behalf of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, Warden R. Parker acknowledged the significant contributions to the institution of local government for the following:

Deputy Warden Wayne Murray	30 Years of Service
Councillor David Parker	20 Years of Service
Councillor Chester Dewar	20 Years of Service

RESOLUTION – MUNICIPAL GRANTS

Clr. Baillie 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:

D04	Campbell Cemetery	\$ 1,900.00	Operating Expenses
	MacDonald’s Cove Preserv. Ass.	1,400.00	Insurance, Parking Barrier, Gravel
	Melville Seafoam Comm. Hall	1,900.00	Bathroom Upgrades & Operat. Exp.
	Mountain Rd. Cemetery	900.00	Operating Expenses
	River John & Area Historical Soc.	2,400.00	Operating Expenses & Windows
	River John & Area Recreation	2,900.00	Student Expenses & Dugout
	River John Meals on Wheels	2,900.00	Operating Expenses
	St. John’s Ang. Ch. Cemeteries	1,100.00	Operating Expenses
	Toney River Community Hall	<u>2,900.00</u>	Partial Roof Replacement
		\$18,300.00	

Recreation:

	Hillside Community Society	\$ 150.00	Pool Ques
	Lorne Community Hall	1,000.00	Replacement of Windows
	Bridgeville Community Hall	<u>1,000.00</u>	Lawn prep for Playground Project
		\$ 2,150.00	
D13	Rec. & Plan. Comm.	\$ 6,385.00	Repurpose of unspent 2019 Balance to cover expenses to purchase Freon 22

GRAND TOTAL \$20,450.00

DATED at River John, NS this 5th day of October, 2020.

(Sgd.) Ronald Baillie
Chester Dewar

MOTION

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – WATER-WRITE-OFF

Clr. MacKeil 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 following write-off on water charges:

<u>ACCOUNT #</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>REASON</u>
130168.01	Brenda Fitzpatrick	\$ 268.01	Duplicate Account created in error

DATED at Caribou, N. S. this 5th day of October, 2020.

(Sgd.) Darla MacKeil
Wayne Murray

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Deputy Warden Murray that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – COMMUNITY RINKS

Clr. MacKeil presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Community Rinks are a vital part of the recreational infrastructure in small towns and rural areas; and

WHEREAS Community Rinks provide opportunities for walking tracks, recreational skating, figure skating and hockey at all levels; and

WHEREAS Community Rinks often run on a very tight budget with much volunteer donated labour; and

WHEREAS if Community Rinks close, they may never reopen; and

WHEREAS the restrictions placed by the Public Health Authorities to help control the spread of COVID -19 are significantly impacting the business operations of community rinks causing deficits.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou call upon the government of the Province of Nova Scotia to bring forward a program of support to help Community Rinks survive the 2020-2021season.

DATED at Caribou, NS this 5th day of October, 2020.

(Sgd.) Darla MacKeil
Randy Palmer

MOTION

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

Clr. Wadden asked if there was any help from government for community rinks and Clr. Palmer replied that there is nothing available to date that is specifically for rinks. He referred to the recently announced funding through the United Way, noting that it was primarily for smaller non-profits who are having difficulty with fundraising. With regard to the amount of money being sought by the Thorburn Rink, Clr. Palmer advised that it is difficult to quantify as it is impacted by both increased costs for COVID precautions/cleaning, and a loss of revenue from user groups. He advised that the rink was in the process of closing when the Pandemic was announced so there was no real financial impact to that season, however the upcoming season is full of unknowns as the user groups receive their Public Health guidelines on operations. He noted that minor hockey is currently undergoing registration and that will have a significant impact on rinks with potentially lower numbers.

Clr. D. Parker concurred that the losses at the Hector Arena in the spring were small but looking forward there are restrictions in place and unfortunately it does not take many extra expenses to put the rink in an operating loss. It is hoped that this resolution will draw government's attention because it is very vital to these rinks.

Clr. MacKeil reported this is very vital in helping rinks and we are in unknown area right now. We are looking at more expenses and less income so it is important we have that financial support.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION SPEEDING & DIGITAL SPEED SIGN REGS.

Clr. MacKeil presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS excessive speeding on rural roads throughout our municipality and province is becoming more prevalent and residents are worried about their safety of themselves and their families who are walking and biking along the side of rural roads and the safety of those driving?

WHEREAS the provincial government has policy in place that only allows permanent or temporary Speed Detection Devices (SDD) to be placed in speed limit transitions or areas that have completed a traffic study due to excessive speeding;

WHEREAS the Municipality of the County of Pictou purchased SDDs to be placed throughout our municipality to remind drivers of their speed and collect data of driver's speed but are unable to use them on many rural roads in our municipality due to unmarked speed limits and no speed limit transitions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council ask the provincial government (TIR) to change their Use of Speed Signs on Provincial Highways Policy (P01060) to allow SDDs to be placed in our rural communities where speed limit transitions do not occur to remind drivers of their speed, collect driver's speed and keep our communities safe.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Council request that NS Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal be asked to post speed limit signs on roads which are currently unmarked.

DATED at Caribou, N.S. this 5th day of October, 2020.

(Sgd.) Darla MacKeil
Larry Turner

MOTION

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

Clr. MacKeil informed Council that the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal's policy states that speed detection signs can only be placed in areas where there are transition of speed. She talked to other municipal units who also have an interest in this issue. She receives a lot of calls from concerned residents about speeding in the District 3. The RCMP cannot be on every road monitoring the speeding so she would like the province to look at this issue. She would like this resolution to be passed onto other municipal units in the province and to send a copy to the 3 MLAs.

Clr. Boyles commented that he was speaking to the RCMP on this issue and they informed him the speed detection signs are helpful in having motorists reduce speeds.

Clr. Wadden reported that all Councillors probably have speeding issues and she has a great response from her RCMP Liaison member. She asked if we receive data from those speed signs and the CAO replied that there are reports that can be made available to the RCMP.

Clr. Wadden asked if Councillors could see that data from the speed signs and the CAO replied he will make that request.

Clr. Boyles would like to send condolences to his RCMP Liaison Officer on the death of her son who was killed in a motor vehicle accident.

Clr. Palmer pointed out that after the speed signs are removed the speeding generally resumes and commented that the data is not always accurate, depending on the location of the signs and the local landscape. He reported that what we really need is enforcement from the RCMP.

Clr. MacKeil reported that she wants the residents of District 3 to feel safe because they are scared of the speeding on the rural roads.

Motion carried.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

There were no emergency resolutions.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES & COUNCIL

Clr. Turner reported that he would like to put Provincial Capital Funding for the Abercrombie Intersection on the agenda as well as active living in Abercrombie.

Clr. Boyles reported there was communication from the Mayor of Trenton regarding the Hemlock Park funding and he would like to put that on the agenda.

Clr. Wadden referred to the Zone 3 map for the internet and the CAO reported a more detailed map will be provided to Councillors.

Clr. Wadden wants to look at the Capital Plan Policy for Council at a future agenda.

Deputy Warden Murray recognized all the fire departments in the parade on Saturday to kick-off Fire Prevention Week.

MOTION – FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Dewar that Council send out congratulations to our fire departments for the wonderful display they put on Saturday for Fire Prevention Week.

Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Council met in closed session at 8:02 p.m. to discuss matters relating to contract negotiations

OPEN SESSION

Council resumed in open session at 8:07 p.m.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. MacKeil that the meeting adjourn. (8:09 p.m.)
Motion carried.

Robert Parker
Warden

Brian Cullen
Municipal Clerk