

January 11, 2021

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Dist.	1	Clr. Don Butler
	2	Clr. Deborah Wadden
	3	Clr. Darla MacKeil
	4	Clr. Mary Wooldridge-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

Donn Fraser, Solicitor, Mac Mac & Mac
Brian Cullen, CAO, Municipal Clerk-Treasurer
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer (via video-conference)
Carolyn MacIntosh, Deputy Municipal Clerk (via video-conference)
Sueann Musick, Communications Officer
Jane Johnson, Recording Secretary

BY APPOINTMENT

Dominic Boyd, (Co-Chair), Pictou West CHB (via video-conference)
Heather Beaton, (Chair), Central & Eastern Pictou CHB (via-video-conference)

CALL TO ORDER

Warden R. 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.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Council observed a moment of silence in memory of the Late Robert MacKenzie who had served on Council representing District #7.

PROCLAMATION – AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Warden R. Parker presented a resolution to Council as follows:

WHEREAS February is recognized internally as African Heritage Month – a time to recognize and salute the many contributions and ongoing achievements of people of African Descent all over the world and here in the Municipality of Pictou County in the Province of Nova Scotia, we pay tribute to a time of greater understanding.

WHEREAS we are in the 7th year of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

WHEREAS this year's theme: "Black History Matters: Listen, Learn, Share and Act", recognizes the important legacy of people of African Descent and the long-standing history in the development of Canada. This theme brings focus and increased awareness of racialized issues of a community that has overcome great adversity for inclusion in all aspects of Society.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Warden Robert Parker, for the Municipality of Pictou County, do hereby proclaim the month of February to be African Heritage Month. I encourage residents, businesses, and community groups to participate in the activities and celebrations and to take the opportunity to reflect on the story of Nova Scotia's vibrant African Nova Scotian Community.

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. Turner that the minutes of December 7, 2020 be approved with the following correction.

Pg. 2 Corr. "ow and operate" should read "own and operate."

Clr. Wadden asked about Phase 3 of the Fire Study and the CAO replied that the study has been received but staff is still going through it.

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- (a) Municipality of Barrington – Enclosing a copy of correspondence sent to the Premier supporting Council's request for financial relief for community rinks.
- (b) Thank you for grant funding (uncirculated) has been received from Real Canadian Recreation

Clr. Dewar referred to the property in his area that is being used for veterans and he informed Council they are working on it every day so hopefully in the future Council will be able to go and look at all the work that was done.

UP-DATE – COMMUNITY HEALTH BOARDS

Dominic Boyd and Heather Beaton made a Power Point Presentation to Council at 7:10 p.m. on behalf of the two local community health boards as follows:



PICTOU WEST
Community Health Board
nova scotia health



Central & East PICTOU
Community Health Board
nova scotia health

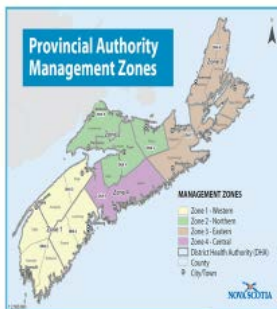
Increasing Connections Between the Municipality and Community Health Boards in Pictou County

- Dominic Boyd (Co-Chair), Pictou West CHB
- Heather Beaton (Chair), Central & East Pictou CHB

January 11, 2021



Nova Scotia Health Zones & Northern Zone CHBs



Legislated Role of Community Health Boards, Health Authorities Act, last amended 2019

- Consult with local communities with respect to health needs and priorities, social determinants of health, and health promotion
- Work with community partners to identify, promote and participate in community health promotion initiatives
- Provide guidance to Nova Scotia Health on strategies to engage the community on issues regarding health services and programs
- Provide recommendations to Nova Scotia Health in the selection of Wellness Fund grant recipients to advance health promotion initiatives in the community



CHB Members: Pictou West CHB

- **Dominic Boyd (Co-Chair)**
- **Kim MacLean (Co-Chair)**
- **Alison Arsenault**
- **Keith Collier**
- **Dian Day**
- **Gregor Hardy**
- **Jayne MacCarthy**
- **Mary MacLellan**
- **Debbie Murray**
- **Brendan Nichol**

CHB Members: Central & East Pictou CHB

- **Heather Beaton (Chair)**
- **Debbie McKee**
- **Goldie Miller**
- **Abygail Morrissey**



Population Health & Social Determinants of Health

•Population health approaches seek to improve the health of the entire population, and at the same time, to reduce health inequities among population groups.

•Health status is unequally (and inequitably) distributed across the population. Groups with more resources (money, power, influence) have better health than those with fewer resources.

•Population health approaches aim to address health inequities to create a level playing field so that everyone has the resources they need to be healthy.

- **Income and Social Status**
- **Social Support Networks**
- **Employment & Working Conditions**
- **Social Environments**
- **Physical Environments**
- **Healthy Child Development**
- **Education and Literacy**
- **Biology and Genetics**
- **Personal Health Practices & Coping Skills**
- **Gender**
- **Culture**
- **Health Services**



Health Equity means *all people* (individuals, groups and communities) have a *fair chance* to reach their *full health potential* and are not disadvantaged by social, economic and environmental conditions.

Health inequities in our population are:



- **Systematic** – as wealth increases so does health
- **Avoidable** – they are caused by conditions and policies we create as a society
- **Unfair** – they are largely outside of a person's control

Achieving health equity involves:

- Fair distribution of resources needed for health
- Fair access to opportunities to be healthy
- Fairness in care provided when injured or ill

Equity is not the same as equality. When people are treated equally, they are treated the same. When people are treated equitably, they may be treated differently, with the goal of achieving more equal outcomes.





Northern Zone Community Health Plan Priorities 1 & 2

1. Mental Wellness & Sense of Belonging

- Pictou County Mental Wellness Roundtable established Feb. 2020. Next Roundtable meeting is Feb 25/21.
- Proposal-in-progress to Aberdeen Health Foundation to develop a Mental Wellness & Resilience Toolkit for Pictou Co.

2. Healthy Active Living & Supportive Environments

- Supporting physical activity projects through the Wellness Fund
- Working with recreation staff to promote outdoor winter activities




Northern Zone Community Health Plan Priorities 3 & 4

3. Thriving Communities, Prosperity & Affordability

- Emerging Pictou County Housing Coalition
- Staff from NS Housing Authority presenting at March meeting of Pictou West CHB

4. Community Engagement, Connection & Inclusion

- Webinar (Dec 15th) on mental health crises in Pictou County
- Wellness Fund Grants for community health promotion initiatives, many focused on keeping people connected



Examples of municipalities and CHBs working together:

- Trails and active transportation
- Physical activity projects & strategies
- Food security
- Affordable housing
- Municipal Alcohol Projects
- PRIDE events
- Mental health and resilience
- Accessibility Plans
- Municipal representation on CHBs
- And others!





Thank you.
Questions / Discussion

Contacts:

Dominic Boyd: dominicboyd1@gmail.com
Heather Beaton: heatherbeaton1@gmail.com
Lynn Langille (CHB Coordinator)
lynn.langille2@nshealth.ca



Clr. Butler asked how the boards work with the County's Recreation Department and Ms. Beaton replied that they will look at where equipment is located and whether it is accessible.

Clr. MacKeil referred to the Community Health Plan Priorities and asked who the roundtable brings together and the mandate of the table.

Mr. Boyd replied that the roundtable grew out of different agencies who wanted greater resilience. Initially they had a webinar that involved the police and municipality and out of that came a toolkit that included programs available to improve and help Mental Illness.

Ms. Beaton reported that the roundtable and webinar were advertised so anyone could get involved.

Clr. D. Parker asked if the Community Health Boards have any role in doctor recruitment and Mr. Boyd replied that is a separate committee.

Warden R. Parker thanked Mr. Boyd and Ms. Beaton for the presentation and excused them from the balance of the meeting. (7:39 p.m.)

UP-DATE – INTERNET PROJECT

The CAO reported the application was submitted to the Universal Broadband Fund for emergency funding and we have been told to expect a 2 to 3-week turnaround time for response. Today we received the first of the make-ready approvals and continue to work on the implementation on the wireless side. The make-readies include a water crossing and railway crossing, both of which are within the amount of funds budget for these locations.

Deputy Warden asked about the make readies fees and the CAO replied the bill will come from Bell Aliant, but we do the physical connections.

CLOSED SESSION

Council met in closed session at 7:48 p.m. to discuss matters relating to contract negotiations.

OPEN SESSION

Council resumed in open session at 9:25 p.m.

RESOLUTION – BROADBAND PROJECT

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 Rural Broadband Project in the amount of \$72,000,000, and direct staff to submit an application to the Universal Broadband Fund, or any other fund that becomes available, to complete this project.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 11th day of January 2021.

(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.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Thompson that the preceding motion be amended to insert the word “development” in the resolution immediately after the words “Rural Broadband Project” on line 2.

The motion to amend carried.

Clr. D. Parker expressed concern that if the amended motion implies that we are going to discontinue the project if we do not get funding from the Universal Broadband Fund, then he cannot support the motion because we have said from the outset that we are moving forward with or without government funding.

Clr. MacKeil reported we support this project but we are not approving funding tonight, so she does not understand the hold up with the \$72 million.

Warden R. Parker asked does the word “development” change the project and the CAO advised that our plan is to continue to move this project forward and this amended motion, if successful, gives us the authority to go after funding from the Universal Broadband Fund and if we are not successful in our emergency application then when we are preparing our budget there will be a recommendation from staff. The CAO reported there is a great deal of work to be done to get to those next phases.

Clr. Boyles asked the Solicitor for his opinion and the Solicitor recommended that Council be clear on what its intention is so that there is no misunderstandings at a later date.

Clr. Thompson reported that he has trouble with this resolution and we should treat it like our other infrastructure projects and ensure the funding is in place before moving forward.

Clr. Palmer reported that he cannot support the motion as it was read, and he does not believe we should be getting into the internet business because it is not a municipal responsibility. He asked if this \$72 million is in addition to the \$11.2 million that was previously approved for Ring 8 or is the \$11.2 included in the \$72 million. He also asked if our contract with Nova Communications includes any protection for our Municipality’s investment such as a security deposit or payment and performance bonds? Clr. Palmer stated that after thinking long and hard over the last two weeks he cannot support the motion as it was read, adding that \$72 million is a lot of money plus the cost goes up if they are any change orders. If there is not enough uptake from the consumer our taxpayer will be responsible for any short falls. As he stated many times at the Committee level, he does not believe that we should be getting into the internet business and should leave it to the telco companies who are experts in the field. Clr. Palmer stated that there are just too many unknowns for his comfort level, such as unknown cost, uptake from the consumer, competition from Telco’s, new technology (i.e. Tesla’s Elon Musk with Starlink, Amazon’s Jeff Bezos with Kuiper and an Ottawa Company with Telesat) and start up and the operation costs of this service. He reminded Council that broadband is not a municipal responsibility, but it is the responsibility of the federal and provincial governments. The Federal Government has just announced that 98% of Canadians will have access to highspeed internet by 2026. If this motion is passed, he truly hoped this investment works out for our municipality and we receive government funding toward the project. Clr. Palmer stated that he might

have been able to support this project if it was done in phases with the next phase moving forward only if the previous phase had enough uptake.

Clr. D. Parker reported the Telco's are one of the richest sectors because they have the monopoly and they are putting their money where there is the best investment. We can either choose to lead, which does involve some risks, or we can choose to wait.

Clr. Boyles questioning the message are we sending residents when this project is not moving forward.

The CAO advised that the amended motion approves the work of future phases but not to the full \$72 million at this time.

Clr. MacKeil asked if the resolution must include a dollar amount and the CAO replied in the application process you need to identify a dollar amount.

The motion, as amended, carried. (Nay Vote: Clr. Palmer)

RESOLUTION – MUNICIPAL GRANTS

Clr. D. Parker 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	MacDonald's Cove Preservation Assoc.	\$ 466.15	Insurance, Membership & Fees
D05	Meadowville-Poplar Hill Community Hall	872.00	Washroom Upgrades
D10	D13 Rec & Plan Commission	2,000.00	Topsoil & Hydroseeding Ballfield
D11	Churchville Hall	<u>1,000.00</u>	Operating Expenses
		\$ 4,338.15	

Recreation:

	Kanokai Judo Club	<u>\$ 200.00</u>	Coaching Certification Expenses
		\$ 200.00	

Council

	McCulloch Education Centre	\$ 175.00	Breakfast Program Expenses
	New Glasgow Academy	70.00	Breakfast Program Expenses
	Pictou Academy	301.00	Breakfast Program Expenses
	Tatamagouche Regional Academy	140.00	Breakfast Program Expenses
	Trenton Elementary	245.00	Breakfast Program Expenses
	Trenton Middle School	140.00	Breakfast Program Expenses
	Walter Duggan Consolidated	<u>581.00</u>	Breakfast Program Expenses
		\$ 1,652.00	

GRAND TOTAL **\$ 6,190.15**

DATED at Pictou, NS this 11th day of January, 2021.

(Sgd.) David Parker
Mary Elliott

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented.

Clr. Wadden informed Council she will be speaking with Pictou Landing First Nations because she felt that the breakfast program in their school was also deserving of support.

Motion carried.

COVID POLICY UPDATE - TABLED

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. Palmer that the COVID Policy Update Resolution be tabled to a future date.

Motion carried.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS (UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUIRED)

Clr. Elliott congratulated Jane Johnson on receiving her Long Service Award for 20 years of service to the Municipality, and also Jennifer Boyce and CAO Brian Cullen on receiving Long Service Awards for 15 years of service. She also recognized the efforts of Rhiannon MacNair who (on behalf of the Municipality) coordinated our efforts to sponsor 3 Pictou County families this holiday season.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES & COUNCIL

Clr. Boyles asked that Council have a discussion regarding the Valley View Villa Board at a future meeting.

Clr. D. Parker asked that the COVID vaccination program in the Province of Nova Scotia be put on the future agenda of Council.

Clr. MacKeil asked that Council meet with officials from the Aberdeen Hospital at a future meeting to discuss local concerns on behalf of our residents.

ADJOURN

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

Motion carried. (10:07 p.m.)

Wayne Murray
Deputy Warden

Brian Cullen
Municipal Clerk