

July 5, 2021

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers and by video-conference on Monday, July 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Dist.	1	Clr. Don Butler
	2	Clr. Deborah Wadden
	3	Clr. Darla MacKeil
	4	Clr. Mary Elliott
	5	Deputy Warden 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 (by Video Conference)  
Brian Cullen, CAO, Municipal Clerk-Treasurer  
Logan McDowell, P. Eng., PMP, Director of Public Works & Development (by Video Conference)  
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer (by Video Conference)  
Carolyn MacIntosh, Deputy Municipal Clerk/Recording Secretary  
Sueann Musick, Communications Officer (by 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, and to remember our indigenous communities.

**AGENDA**

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

Motion carried.

**MINUTES**

It was moved by Clr. Turner and seconded by Clr. Butler that the minutes of June 7, 2021 be approved as circulated.

Clr. Wadden advised that she would not be supporting the motion because of decisions that were made regarding fire departments at that meeting.

Motion carried. (Nay Vote: Clr. Wadden)

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- (a) Dept. of Justice – Advising that the Minister has recently appointed Frances Watling of Blue Mountain to represent the department on Council’s Policy Advisory Board.
- (b) Letters/Notes of appreciation for funding (uncirculated) have been received from Pictou Academy (bursary)

**RESOLUTION – D3 INTERSECTION ST. LIGHT**

Clr. MacKeil presented a resolution to Council as follows:

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou has adopted a policy with respect to the provision of street lighting at intersections in areas where residential street lighting does not exist;

WHEREAS this policy is intended to aid in the safe passage of motor vehicles on public streets or roads and pedestrian traffic at street intersections and other pedestrian infrastructure in a manner which is both affordable and adequate for vehicular and pedestrian traffic;

WHEREAS the Property Services Committee has considered a request for intersection streetlights in District #3;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the installation of intersection streetlights, in accordance with Policy #2016-03-34, at the following intersection:

District #03 at the intersection of Lillian’s Way and Island Road, Waterside.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 5<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.

(Sgd.) Darla MacKeil  
David Parker

**MOTION**

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

Motion carried.

**RURAL BROADBAND PROJECT UP-DATE**

The CAO reported reviewed with Council the July 5<sup>th</sup> report of Digital Ubiquity Capital on the status of the MOPC Internet Project to the end of May.

With regard to access across the Harvey A. Veniot Causeway, the CAO advised that the proposed fiber solution has not been deemed financially feasible and we are now looking at other solutions with redundancies and routing. On the issue of towers, he advised that those identified as “at risk” in May have all progressed to a point of being secure.

The CAO confirmed that a need has been identified for a technical resource person as a point of contact. He advised that massive amounts of equipment will be arriving and we need to start talking about resourcing those tasks with someone who can categorize those materials.

Responding to an inquiry from Clr. D. Parker, the CAO confirmed that the major ISPs have been cooperative, depending on the division you are talking with. Cooperation is most noticeable on the carrier service side of the business as opposed to the retail side.

Clr. Butler asked if we have any information on the number of households that will be served by the towers and the CAO advised that a minimum estimate is 2,000 homes, however that could increase to as high as 5,000 homes.

Clr. Palmer asked for detail on amendments to the Rock Network Contract and the CAO explained that there are issues around project management (i.e., electronic change orders and the need to increase the size of purchase orders). There has been some acceleration in these areas during June and changes have been made to the design build to make the architecture of the network better.

On the question of gross profit clarity, the CAO advised that now that we have some of the operational costs defined, we need to validate that the carrier costs gives us the return we need.

Several questions arose around the need to purchase an M-POD container to house network infrastructure and whether or not this was to be a temporary solution. The CAO advised that the container may possibly be more a permanent versus the cost of designing and constructing renovations to the vacant 2<sup>nd</sup> floor space in our Administration Building.

When asked when Rock Networks will begin construction, the CAO advised that the expectation is that work will begin in the next 4 weeks.

Regarding the Managed Service Provider (MSP), the CAO explained that we have been in discussions with NCS on that service and he agreed to provide a link to members of Council that will provide a “zoomable” map showing the type of service to individual homes. He did caution that this feature is a “work in progress” that will improve as construction begins.

Warden R. Parker asked if trenching is still being considered for fiber, as a solution to difficulties moving the make-ready process along.

The CAO replied that if there are opportunities to improve coverages in Phase 1, we might look at the trenching option. We have identified contractors that can mobilize with 2 weeks to trench if necessary.

Warden R. Parker advised that he is much more impressed with how things are progressing since Digital Ubiquity has taken on project management.

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Clr. Boyles thanked the Warden and CAO for meeting with the members of the Linacy Fire Department to review fire study and what it means to the department. Members were very happy to receive first-hand information on the changes being implemented in funding.

Warden R. Parker reported that Central West River/Saltspring resident Logan Crosby was selected 20<sup>th</sup> overall by the Halifax Mooseheads in the first round of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League's recent entry draft.

Clr. Elliott announced that she has been acclaimed as the official candidate to represent the Liberal Party in the riding of Pictou West.

### **EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS**

There were no emergency resolutions.

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

Clr. Boyles reported that he continues to have technology problems with his iPad which IT has been unsuccessful resolving. As a result, he is not reliably receiving his email.

The CAO agreed to assist in this matter as there may be settings on the device that need to be activated and/or changed.

Clr. Elliott recommended that members of Council take advantage of the training opportunities offered by the Pictou Antigonish Regional Library which have helped her become more user-friendly with her iPad and the applications that are available to her.

Clr. Wadden asked that a discussion on land acknowledgement policy be placed on a future agenda of Council.

Clr. Boyles questioned the difference in gasoline and diesel process in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and Warden R. Parker suggested that taxes are the basis for that variance.

Warden R. Parker reported having been contacted by Paper Excellence asking for an opportunity to meet with Council to discuss plans for treating and disposing of effluent at Northern Pulp. He asked if Council was interested in granting this audience. There being no objection raised by Councillors, he advised that he would discuss alternatives for a meeting date with the Deputy Warden and CAO.

**ADJOURN**

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the meeting adjourn.  
Motion carried. ( 8:26 p.m.)

Wayne Murray  
Deputy Warden

Brian Cullen  
Municipal Clerk