

January 10, 2022

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met by video-conference and teleconference on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Dist.	5	Deputy Warden Wayne Murray (Illness)
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IN ATTENDANCE

Brian Cullen, CAO, Municipal Clerk-Treasurer
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer
Carolyn MacIntosh, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Sueann Musick, Communications Officer
Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development
Jane Johnson, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Warden R. Parker called the meeting to order and invited Councillors 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. He acknowledged that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

BLACK LOYALISTS - 1792 PROJECT

Warden R. Parker informed Council it is the 230th anniversary when in 1792 nearly 1,200 Black loyalists left Nova Scotia in fifteen ships, for Sierra Leone. The British failed to keep their promises to the loyalists so they were given the opportunity to leave. The British had promised to give them freedom, land, and jobs in Nova Scotia in exchange for their support during the American Revolution. However, those promises weren't fulfilled. The Black Loyalists were free, but they were given small, infertile lands and menial jobs, while white settlers were given better opportunities. By the 1790s, the Black Loyalists had given up hope for fair treatment in Nova Scotia.

AGENDA

It was moved by Clr. Turner and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Clr. Wadden asked that an email from the former Solicitor be put on tonight's agenda for discussion.

Motion carried.

MINUTES

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Clr. Butler that the minutes of November 29th and December 6th, 2021 be approved as presented.

Clr. Wadden referred to Dec. 6th minutes where she commented that Develop NS did not see our plan as we did and perhaps that is why they did not support it. She clarified that she was not saying she did not understand why Develop NS was not supporting our plan.

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- (a) Minister of Long-Term Care – Advising that the Department has been mandated to increase staffing levels in all nursing homes to achieve 4.1 hours of direct care per resident per day. This will ensure that residents achieve the quality of care they need and will provide necessary relief to a workforce that has worked tirelessly over the last 18+ months to protect our most vulnerable.
- (b) A thank you note (uncirculated) has been received from Susan Matheson, a non-elected member of the Accessibility Advisory Committee. Susan has donated the card authorized by Council to the Pictou County Foodbank.

Clr. Wadden reported receiving a telephone call from Susan Matheson regarding the gift card she received. Susan was quite taken aback by the decision and felt that a donation to charity would have been more appropriate.

BROADBAND PROJECT UP-DATE

The CAO gave a brief update on the highlights of the broadband project. He reported that over the Christmas holidays there was a slowdown in physical work out in the field. The electrical work was completed on the 2nd floor of the Administration Building, as well as the fiber terminations. The network was cross connected at the Halifax Internet Exchange and the equipment is scheduled to arrive this week for the 2nd floor. Plexus is expected back next week to begin the running and splicing of fiber. They were stopped at the bridge going into Lyons Brook because they had not received approval for the crossing, but permits have now been received. On the wireless network the federal agreement has been received and signed off by the Federal Government and we are now able to file claims. The Hardwood Hill segment is waiting for the electrical panel to arrive and then the tower can be activated. They have been testing signal strength from the Administration Building to Hardwood Hill and strengths are good. As they start to install the fiber it will run from this building towards West River so hopefully by the end of January the first service will light up in that area with a few people testing the system. Over the last few weeks COVID has played a part in slowing the project down. The first tower should be built at our building and should start this week and that is the link to Hardwood Hill.

Clr. Butler asked how many foundations have been poured and the CAO replied the first foundation will be the Administration Building. They plan to work through the winter on the foundations depending on the weather conditions; there are 9 towers to be constructed.

Clr. Wadden reported she was speaking to a gentleman who was approached to be a test service and pointed out she did not realize people were going to be used for testing. In future she suggested Councillors be made aware of these arrangements. She reported getting a lot of calls regarding satellite service compared to the amount of money we are spending on this internet service. The residents are really concerned with the costs, and they are receiving good service from their present provider. She asked

if any towers were going to be erected in the Little Harbour area and the CAO replied that the towers are placed to service areas that would be least likely to receive fiber to the home.

Clr. Thompson reported he has received calls from residents in his area and he asked the timeline for service to Sunnybrae, Garden of Eden and East River St. Mary's.

The CAO responded that from a wireless standpoint the target is still for March, 2022 so that would cover most of the areas.

RESOLUTION – MUNICIPAL GRANTS

Clr. Boyles 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:

Recreation (Councillor Allotments):

District One Development Society	\$ 150.00	Fitness Challenge Expenses
Melville-Seafoam Community Hall	150.00	Event Expenses
Hillside Community Society	150.00	Dart Boards
Hopewell & Area Pk & Footbridge Com.	75.00	Candy Cane Committee Exp.
Hopewell 4-H	<u>75.00</u>	Program Expenses
	\$ 600.00	

Council Grants:

BC Red Cross	\$10,000.00	Floods & Extreme Weather Appeal Donation
GRAND TOTAL	\$10,600.00	

DATED at Hillside, NS this 10th day of January, 2022.

(Sgd.) Peter Boyles
David Parker

MOTION

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – SIDEWALK DESIGN AWARD

Clr. Thompson presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Municipal Council has directed Administration to issue a Request for Proposals for sidewalk development in the area commonly referred to as "Blue Acres" in the General Service Area of Plymouth;

WHEREAS Administration has issued an RFP in accordance with the Municipality's Procurement Policy;

WHEREAS responses were received from three firms with the following cost:

Harbourside Engineering Consultants	\$ 96,080 plus HST
CBCL Limited	66,860 plus HST
EXP	108,818 plus HST

WHEREAS the Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Public Works & Development reviewed the three submissions to ensure compliance with the terms of reference of the Request for Proposals;

WHEREAS the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Public Works concur that CBCL Limited has met all terms of the Request for Proposal and provided the lowest cost proposal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council accept the proposal from CBCL for design services of sidewalk infrastructure in Blue Acres at a cost of \$66,860 plus HST.

DATED at Plymouth, NS this 10th day of January, 2022.

(Sgd.) Andy Thompson
Larry Turner

MOTION

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

Clr. Wadden asked why there is such a difference in the proposals and the CAO replied that nothing stood out except the number of hours dedicated to the project.

Clr. D. Parker commented that we have been debating this project for 15 years and asked if there had ever been a survey done on usage.

The CAO responded that to his knowledge no studies have been done in this area.

Clr. D. Parker asked if there was a cost estimate for this project and the CAO responded that is one of the deliverables under this contract.

Clr. D. Parker asked if the County had a response from TIR about the use of their bridge and the CAO replied in response from TIR regarding the use of the bridge was that it was not usable to support sidewalk infrastructure. It is expected that the consultant would design a stand-alone structure to cross the MacLellan's Brook.

The Engineer informed Council that NS Public Works the bridge that currently has sidewalks but it does not meet current accessibility standards. The area between Dean Sharp's and the Esso is an active travel route so there is the option to ask the successful proponents to give phase estimates. You could approach the construction of the project in 2 phases by putting in sidewalks first and then request funding for the bridge portion.

Clr. D. Parker asked if we have a policy on the development of sidewalks in the County and the CAO confirmed that Council has approved policy on sidewalks.

Clr. D. Parker commented that there is a great deal we do not know about this project.

MOTION TO TABLE

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. Boyles that the motion be tabled until a survey is completed on the usage in this area.

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no community announcements.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

There were no emergency resolutions.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES & COUNCIL

Clr. Boyles reported he has received complaints about the lack of tree clearing on the side of the highway in his area so he would like to add the topic to the next Property Services agenda.

Clr. Dewar asked that the topic of poor cell service in the County from Lorne to Sheet Harbour be added to Property Services agenda.

Clr. D. Parker reported we need to address the issue of fireworks at a future meeting.

Clr. Wadden reported she has not received any calls in regard to tree cutting in her area.

Clr. Thompson suggested speaking to businesses in the area in regard to sidewalks on the East River Road.

ANNUAL PLANNING SESSION

Warden R. Parker informed Council they may have to delay the session because of COVID but at present it is still scheduled for Jan. 29, 2022.

CLOSED SESSION

Council met in closed session to discuss matters relating to legal advice eligible for solicitor-client privilege.

OPEN SESSION

Council resumed in open session at 8:11 p.m.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the meeting adjourns.

Motion carried. (8:11 p.m.)

WARDEN



MUNICIPAL CLERK