

February 7, 2022

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building, and by video-conference and teleconference on Monday, February 7, 2022 at 8:00 p.m.

PRESENT

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| Dist. | 1 | Clr. Don Butler |
| | 2 | Clr. Deborah Wadden (video-conference) |
| | 3 | Clr. Darla MacKeil (tele-conference) |
| | 4 | Clr. Mary Elliott |
| | 5 | Deputy Warden Wayne Murray |
| | 6 | Warden Robert Parker |
| | 7 | Clr. David Parker (tele-conference) |
| | 8 | Clr. Larry Turner (video-conference) |
| | 9 | Clr. Peter Boyles |
| | 10 | Clr. Randy Palmer |
| | 11 | Clr. Andy Thompson (video-conference) |
| | 12 | Clr. Chester Dewar |

IN ATTENDANCE

Brian Cullen, CAO, Municipal Clerk-Treasurer (video-conference)
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer (video-conference)
Carolyn MacIntosh, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Sueann Musick, Communications Officer (video-conference)
Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development (video-conference)
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 acknowledge that we are on the ancestral territorial lands of the Mikmaq people and would like to thank the Mikmaq people today for their ancestors sharing these precious lands with all our ancestors whether they arrived here 400 years ago or 4 years ago. May we all live in peace and harmony together.

AGENDA

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

Motion carried.

MINUTES

It was moved by Clr. Butler and seconded by Clr. Dewar that the minutes of January 10, 2022 be approved as presented.

Clr. Wadden referred to the correspondence in the minutes of January 10, 2022 regarding a call she received from Susan Matheson. Clr. Wadden pointed out that Susan Matheson gave her gift card to the Food Bank because she was not in favor of Council's motion to provide gift certificates to outside Board members and Clr. Wadden also agreed.

Clr. Wadden referred to the Resolution for Sidewalk Design Award and pointed out Council gave direction to staff to issue an RFP. There were 3 proposals received and reviewed with a recommendation

to accept 1 of the proposals. Clr. Wadden pointed out we tied up the CAO, the Engineer and 3 companies who submitted designs for the proposal. She asked why the concern about who uses this route was not part of our original discussion before Council gave direction to staff and if it was, why it would take such a critical reason to table this resolution now. Council is supporting an Accessibility Committee to come up with a plan to make accessibility an important and necessary aspect of our future development of our Municipality for any kind of accessibility issue. Yet a member of our Accessibility Committee has voted to support halting the design plan. Tonight we are being asked to pass a resolution on climate change and 1 of the bullets states refocusing transport priorities to drive the shift to fossil-free transport. What better way than walking and biking through the County and sidewalks our residents will use. She received many complaints from our residents what this Council is thinking especially regarding accessibility. Council has wasted our staff time and the companies' time who applied for the RFP, and we have stalled once again any hope of fixing this area of our Municipality that affects our disabled residents of this County.

Warden R. Parker explained the motion is to approve the minutes and are they an accurate reflection of the meeting we had. He pointed out that Council is voting on whether the minutes are accurate or not.

Clr. Wadden reported she wanted Council to know why she was not accepting the minutes.

Motion carried. (Nay Vote: Clr. Wadden)

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- (a) NS Health & Wellness – Explaining that decisions to increase or change coverage for insulin pumps is based on evidence reviews by the Canadian Agency for Drugs & Technologies in Health. Reviews of insulin pumps by CADTH for adults did not determine that they are more effective than multiple daily injections in helping patients manage their diabetes. The Department will continue to monitor the guidelines as new scientific evidence and recommendations on insulin pumps become available, however, at this time there is no plan to expand the age eligibility for the Insulin Pump Program.
- (b) PARL – Enclosing a copy of correspondence to the Premier, MLA's & MP in support of funding proposals that would allow for enhanced hours of service at Viola's Place.
- (c) New Glasgow Music Festival (uncirculated) – Thanking Council for a donation to event expenses.

With regard to insulin pumps, Clr. Elliott noted that they are looking to have pumps compared but they are looking to have the age cap removed for those over 25 because of the high cost of the pumps used on a daily basis. This issue is presently being addressed and a meeting was held with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Karla MacFarlane, MLA for Pictou West has agreed to take the petition forward and will give it to the appropriate department. Clr. Elliott informed Council that in future she may ask for further support because they are still hoping for a positive outcome.

Warden R. Parker referred to correspondence from the PARL and informed Council that there are people being turned away from Viola's Place due to lack of space. This letter is in support because the New Glasgow Library has become overrun in the daytime when people have no place to go, and it is so cold outside. Viola's Place is trying to get government funding so they can increase capacity to 20 beds a night.

Clr. Wadden reported they were in contact with Karla MacFarlane regarding Viola's Place, so they are going to have a meeting on the issue.

PROCLAMATION – WOMEN'S INSTITUTE WEEK

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

**RESOLUTION
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE WEEK**

WHEREAS the Women's Institute organization is celebrating 125 years in Canada;

WHEREAS the first Women's Institute in Nova Scotia was formed in 1913 in Salt Springs, Pictou County;

WHEREAS for 109 years, the Women's Institutes in Nova Scotia continue to provide women opportunities to improve the quality of live for families in their local and global communities through community service and involvement, education, and personal and leadership development;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council proclaim the week of February 14th – 20th as "Women's Institute Week" in the Municipality.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 7th day of February, 2022.

(Sgd.) Warden Robert Parker

BROADBAND PROJECT UPDATE

The CAO commented the update was circulated to Council with the fiber progress map included in the package but they are far beyond that point at present. They are now at Pleasant Heights in Lyons Brook and starting tomorrow they will be at the Gut Bridge stringing fiber back to the Administration Building.

Clr. D. Parker asked if his area still going to be in the second ring to be done and the CAO replied what you see on the maps are the make readies for supplying the towers. The CAO explained there is back bone fiber that will be built out into the communities.

Clr. D. Parker pointed out that there is a large gap between the East River Valley and the West River Valley.

Clr. Elliott asked where we are at in regard to the marketing process and the CAO responded that the wireless is a marketing campaign, the fibre internet service is a separate campaign that will be done by the ISP's and the third is the marketing of the network. The CAO advised that he is hopeful that there will be more information on the marketing in the next 2 weeks.

Clr. Elliott reported she was concerned because we need to get that information out to the residents.

Clr. Butler asked when the 2 employees will come on staff to be part of this project and the CAO replied that we are just finalizing the job descriptions so they should be advertised very shortly. He also stated the County made application to the Federal Government for additional funding and did not we have any response to date, nor has anything been announced in Atlantic Canada at this point.

Clr. Palmer asked what is "first home service" and the CAO replied that it is the wireless component of the project.

Clr. Palmer asked about upload speeds and the CAO replied that it will vary depending on the build out so the initial towers being fed by microwave link there is a maximum capacity. The service is to provide 50 megabits per second and the standard is 25 megabits. The first tower in Hardwood Hill should support the 50 megabits. Clr. Palmer asked is that comparable to Starlink and the CAO replied that they are offering up to 150 megabits. He reported that the earliest Starlink can offer its product is late 2022 up to a 150-megabit connection.

Clr. Palmer reported that the supply chain is 18 months and the CAO responded there should not be any delays on the fiber because it was pre-ordered and has been shipped so we should receive it next month.

Clr. Palmer referred to market conditions and he asked if we are still dealing with Rogers. The CAO replied that we are only working with Rogers on the link to Moncton.

Warden R. Parker asked about working with the Town of New Glasgow and the CAO replied that the 2 employees will be employed by the County.

Warden R. Parker asked about the concrete for the towers and the CAO replied it was his understanding it was still a traditional build as opposed to pre-cast.

Clr. Wadden asked about market conditions and what that means on page 4 and the CAO replied we are going to use microwave links and in some instances we will look towards potential satellite links to beam signals.

RESOLUTION – MUNICIPAL GRANTS

Clr. Palmer 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):

Caribou District Fire Department	\$ 150.00	Operating Expenses
Dist. 13 Recreation & Planning Comm.	<u>150.00</u>	Operating Expenses
	\$ 300.00	

Council Grants:

Dist. 13 Recreation & Planning Comm.	\$ 1,750.00	Extension of time to Jan 31/23 to Use unspent balance for Community Coordinator
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Municipal Services:

D01	Pictou Co. Celtic Assoc.	\$ 1,500.00	Extension of time to Jan 31/23 to Jan 31/23 to publish Keltic Coloring Book for Seniors
D04	River John Lions Club	5,000.00	Extension of time to Jan 31/23 to complete interior renovations
D06	Durham Community Hall	5,000.00	Operating Expenses
D11	Bridgeville Comm. Club	<u>2,000.00</u>	Extension of time to Jan 31/23 to complete property maintenance
	GRAND TOTAL	\$ 5,300.00	

DATED at Pictou, NS this 7th day of February, 2022.

(Sgd.) Randy Palmer
Chester Dewar

MOTION

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Clr. Boyles presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the United Nations (UN) has declared a Global Climate Emergency, asking for a united effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions sufficiently to avoid runaway global warming;

WHEREAS the scientists of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the UN body for assessing the science related to climate change, warn that “Unless rapid and deep reductions in CO² and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades, achieving the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement will be beyond reach;

WHEREAS over 2000 Municipalities have declared Climate Emergencies, including several in Nova Scotia;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou declares a Climate Emergency in the Municipality and commits to reducing its carbon footprint to net zero by 2031; and inspire, engage, and assist its citizens, businesses, and community organizations in reducing fossil fuel consumption by at least 50% by 2031.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipal Council through its Climate Change Advisory Committee prepare an updated Municipal Climate Change Action Plan with particular examination of the following potential outcomes or recommendations:

- switching to 100% renewable energy;
- getting off fossil fuels;
- implementing energy efficiency in all facilities/buildings;
- identifying procurement practices to ensure suppliers to Council are using renewable energy and resource recovery;
- embedding climate emergency thinking into strategic planning and update planning schemes;
- refocusing transport priorities to drive the shift to fossil-free transport;
- creating a circular economy aimed at zero waste;
- increasing forestation and re-vegetation activities;
- developing community education and empowerment to take action;
- increasing community resilience to climate change impacts.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 7th day of February, 2022.

(Sgd.) Peter Boyles
Mary Elliott

MOTION

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

Clr. D. Parker commented that he is bothered by the word “emergency” in the resolution although he cannot come up with a good alternative. Warden R. Parker pointed out is an emergency for our children and grandchildren.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – TRUNK 4 RD. NAME CHGS @ BARNEY’S RIVER

Clr. Butler 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 road name changes which are necessitated by the twinning of Highway 104 and the opening of a new interchange at Barney's River:

Road #1	Community Name:	Kenzierville
	Centreline Length:	1.072 km
	Description:	From Jct Trunk 4 to end of Cul-de-Sac
	Road Name:	West Middle Brook Road
Road #2	Community Name:	Kenzierville
	Centreline Length:	1.047 km
	Description:	From End of cul-de-Sac to Jct Trunk 4 (formerly 104)
	Road Name:	Bannerman Way

DATED at Ardness, N. S. this 7th day of February, 2022.

(Sgd.) Don Butler
Chester Dewar

MOTION

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

Motion carried.

2021/22 5-YEAR CAPITAL BUDGET

The CAO reviewed the capital budget with Council as follows:



MUNICIPALITY OF PICTOU COUNTY Capital Budget

Approval Date: 20 21 to 20 25

CIP NO	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Expenditure Code	Estimated Project Cost	Estimated Sources of Financing									
				Municipal Sources		Provincial Grant	Federal Grant	Other Sources		Long-Term Borrowing			
				Operating Fund	Reserve Fund			Long-Term Borrowing (Utilities)	Long-Term Borrowing (General)				
				Code	Code	Code	Code	Code	Code	Code	Code		
	YEAR 1 21 / 22												
21A	NSBI Debt Payment	661	75,000	1	Capital from Revenue								
21B	Vehicle Purchases	290	150,000	1	Capital from Revenue								
21D	Municipal Building Video Equipment	325	12,000	1	Capital from Revenue								
21E	TIR ManHole Upgrades	321	1,000	1	Capital from Revenue								
21H	Sidewalk - Plymouth Consulting	419	70,000	1	Capital from Revenue								
21C	LED Street Lights	325	10,000		10,000	5	St. Light Reserve						
19I	MoPC Internet Project	126	16,301,662		123,189				4,457,972			11,720,501	
20H	Salem Wastewater Design	421	25,000		25,000	5	Capital Reserve						
20J	Salem Water Design	413	50,000		50,000	5	Capital Reserve						
	Sewer Utility Projects:												
21G	Lyons Brook Twn Pictou Upgrades	420	48,000		48,000	4	Sewer AR Reserve						
21F	Lyons Brook Pumping Stn Upgrade	420	18,000		18,000	4	Sewer AR Reserve						
19N	Thorburn STP Repairs	420	20,000		20,000	4	Sewer AR Reserve						
21P	E One Pump Cores Inventory	419	60,000		60,000	4	Sewer AR Reserve						
	Water Utility Project:												
19R	Water Metering & Radio Read	912	200,000		200,000	9	Water Depreciation						
	Year 1 Totals		17,040,662		308,000		0		4,457,972		0	11,720,501	
			17,040,662										

Estimated Sources of Financing

Municipality of Pictou County PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Expenditure Code	Estimated Project Cost	Municipal Sources			Provincial Grant Code	Federal Grant Code	Other Sources Code	Long-Term Borrowing	
			Operating Fund Code	Reserve Fund Code	Long-Term Borrowing (Utilities) Code				Long-Term Borrowing (General) Code	
YEAR 2 22 / 23										
21A NSBI Debt Payment	661	75,000	75,000 1							
21B Vehicle Purchase	290	50,000	50,000 1							
21C LED Street Lights	325	10,000		10,000 5 St. Light Reserve						
19I MoPC Internet Project	126	15,943,384						15,943,384		
20H Salem Wastewater	421	1,294,260			427,105	427,105			440,050 ???	
20J Salem Water	413	958,430			316,281	316,281			325,868 ???	
20K McLellans Brook Water Desigr	413	50,000		50,000 5 Capital Reserve					???	
20L Sherbrook Water Design	413	50,000		50,000 5 Capital Reserve					???	
20M Westville Rd Sidewalk Engineering	315	15,000		15,000 4 Capital Reserve					???	
19O Flow Meters	419	180,000		180,000 4 Sewer AR Reserve						
19L Video Camera	419	20,000		20,000 4 Sewer AR Reserve					0	
Year 2 Totals		18,646,074	125,000	325,000	743,386	743,386	0	0	16,709,302	
		18,646,074								

Estimated Sources of Financing

Municipality of Pictou County PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Expenditure Code	Estimated Project Cost	Municipal Sources			Provincial Grant Code	Federal Grant Code	Other Sources Code	Long-Term Borrowing	
			Operating Fund Code	Reserve Fund Code	Long-Term Borrowing (Utilities) Code				Long-Term Borrowing (General) Code	
YEAR 3 23 / 24										
22A NSBI Debt Payment	661	75,000	75,000 1							
22B Vehicle Purchase	490	50,000	50,000 1							
22C LED Street Lights	325	15,000		15,000 5 St. Light Reserve						
19I MoPC Internet Project	126	9,000,000						9,000,000		
20H Salem Wastewater	421	1,294,260			427,105	427,105			???	
20J Salem Water	413	958,430			316,281	316,281			???	
20M Westville Rd Sidewalk Engineering	315	455,000		455,000 4					???	
Year 3 Totals		11,847,690	125,000	1,235,018	743,386	743,386	0	0	9,000,000	
		11,847,690								

Municipality of Pictou County PROJECT DESCRIPTION													Estimated Sources of Financing												
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Expenditure Code	Estimated Project Cost	Municipal Sources			Lease / Other	Provincial Grant	Federal Grant	Other Sources	Long-Term Borrowing		Code													
			Operating Fund	Reserve Fund	Code					Long-Term Borrowing (Utilities)	Long-Term Borrowing (General)														
YEAR 4 24 / 25																									
23A NSBI Debt Payment	661	75,000	75,000	1																					
23B Vehicle Purchase	490	50,000	50,000	1																					
23C LED Street Lights	325	15,000			15,000	5	St. Light Reserve																		
191 MoPC Internet Project	176	6,000,000										6,000,000													
20K McLellans Brook Water	413	3,232,200			1,077,400			1,077,400				???													
												???													
Year 4 Totals		9,372,200	125,000		1,092,400		0	1,077,400	0	0	0	6,000,000													
		9,372,200																							

Municipality of Pictou County PROJECT DESCRIPTION													Estimated Sources of Financing												
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Expenditure Code	Estimated Project Cost	Municipal Sources			Lease / Other	Provincial Grant	Federal Grant	Other Sources	Long-Term Borrowing		Code													
			Operating Fund	Reserve Fund	Code					Long-Term Borrowing (Utilities)	Long-Term Borrowing (General)														
YEAR 5 25 / 26																									
24A NSBI Debt Payment	661	75,000	75,000	1								0													
24B Vehicle Purchase	490	50,000	50,000	1								0													
24C LED Street Lights	325	15,000			15,000	5	St. Light Reserve																		
191 MoPC Internet Project	616											???													
20K McLellans Brook Water	413	3,232,200			1,077,400			1,077,400				???													
Year 5 Totals		3,372,200	125,000		1,092,400		0	1,077,400	0	0	0	0													
		3,372,200																							

Municipality of Pictou County FIVE YEAR TOTALS													Estimated Sources of Financing												
FIVE YEAR TOTALS	Expenditure Code	Estimated Project Cost	Municipal Sources			Lease / Other	Provincial Grant	Federal Grant	Other Sources	Long-Term Borrowing		Code													
			Operating Fund	Reserve Fund	Code					Long-Term Borrowing (Utilities)	Long-Term Borrowing (General)														
		60,278,826	808,000		4,299,907		0	3,641,572	0	0	0	43,429,803													

Clr. Turner asked when there will be discussion on future projects and the CAO replied at present, we are only discussing 2021/22 that involves projects that are ongoing.

Clr. Thompson reported he has a water and sewer project in Churchville that he would like to add to future projects. He would also like to add the sidewalks in Blue Acres to the capital budget.

The CAO replied that the Capital Budget has a commitment to do some consulting work and hopefully there will be potential options in the next few weeks

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Deputy Warden Murray that the Capital Budget be approved as presented

Motion carried.

NS POWER RATE INCREASE

Clr. D. Parker reported that NSP has gone to the UARB for a rate increase and now there has been a proposal to shift maintenance costs to residents. He asked if we are able to intervene at the UARB and the CAO replied that you can be granted intervenor status to cross examine witnesses and can also make written submissions to the Board.

Warden R. Parker reported the CAO will investigate the process and will report back at the next meeting.

The CAO reported that as long as you submit by February 23rd can present at the hearing that is not scheduled until September. For written submissions the notification date is August 17th.

DISPLAY OF RACIAL FLAGS

Clr. Boyles reported there has been displays of racial flags on Parliament Hill and it is very disrespectful. A lot of our relatives went to war and fought so we can have our freedom.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Butler that a strong letter be sent to the Prime Minister, MP, Sean Fraser and the 3 MLAS asking for police intervention to enforce Section 319 of the Criminal Code of Canada with strong consequences when circumstances occur.

Motion carried.

NSFM RESTRUCTURING

Clr. Wadden asked that any questions be forwarded to her regarding the organizational changes for NSFM. She pointed out they are trying to make the organization stronger so Councillors that have comments or questions can forward them to her.

NS PUBLIC WORKS RD. SALTING

Clr. MacKeil reported she received concerns about the lack of salt on the roads this winter and people are not feeling safe.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Clr. Boyles that a letter be sent to the Minister of Public Works, with copies to the Area Managers for Pictou and Colchester, and the MLAs and the Minister seeking clarification on whether there has been changes to salting and sanding policies and the reasoning behind any changes that were made.

Clr. Palmer reported salt does not work beyond a certain temperature and the department did have issues with sanding. He commented these are provincial roads and concerns regarding maintenance should be referred to our MLAs for their attention.

Clr. Wadden reported there is a lot of concern with the condition of the roads especially since it has been so cold. It is very important that we advocate for our residents.

Motion carried.

POLICE ADVISORY BD. VACANCY

Deputy Warden Murray reported that Clr. Thompson has resigned from the Police Advisory Board and suggested either they get a volunteer or appoint a Councillor to sit on the Board.

MOTION

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Dewar that Clr. Boyles be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Police Advisory Board.

Motion carried.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Warden R. Parker reminded Council that the "Coldest Night of the Year" fundraiser in support of Roots for Youth will be held on February 26, virtually and in person and encouraged members of Council to participate.

Clr. Palmer reported the Ivor MacDonald Arena has had very few rentals over the past few months and the facility was shut down for a period of time. The past 2 months have been really hard on community arenas and the Thorburn Arena lost \$32,000 since the closure. They applied for COVID funding and received \$5,000 which is a small help.

Warden R. Parker informed Council that a Wanda Robson who is the sister of the late Viola Desmond passed away recently. He advised Council that he had met Ms. Robson at various functions and whenever there was a function for her sister Viola Desmond she was there.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS (UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUIRED)

There were no emergency resolutions.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES & COUNCIL

Clr. MacKeil asked that the Area Manager for Public Works be invited to a future meeting to discuss any issues.

Clr Boyles asked to have garbage collection on a future agenda.

MOTION - CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Elliott that Council convene in closed session to discuss matters relating to contract negotiations

Motion carried. (9:50 p.m.)

OPEN SESSION

Council resumed in open session at 10:24 p.m.

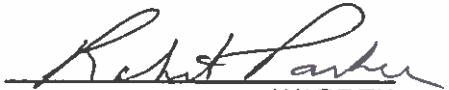
MOTION – APPOINTMENT OF SOLICITOR

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Elliott that Stewart McKelvey be appointed as the solicitor for the Municipality.


Motion carried.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the meeting adjourn.
Motion carried. (10:25 p.m.)



WARDEN



MUNICIPAL CLERK