

March 18, 2024

The Property Services Committee for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building by videoconference and teleconference on Monday, March 18, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

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

- Brian Cullen, CAO, Municipal Clerk-Treasurer
- Sueann Musick, Director of Corporate Services/Deputy Clerk
- Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer
- Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development
- Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services
- Adam MacInnis, Communications Officer
- Shellie Pettipas, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Clr. Palmer, Chair of the Property Services Committee called the meeting to order and acknowledged that we are on the ancestral territorial lands of the Mikmaqi people.

AGENDA

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Deputy Warden Murray that the agenda be approved as presented. **Motion Carried**

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

There were no emergency resolutions brought forward.

MINUTES

Clr. Palmer asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for February 20, 2024. The members of the Committee entered no errors, omissions, or corrections. The Chair proclaimed the minutes of the meeting on February 20, 2024, as the official record of the meeting. **Motion Carried**

REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The Public Works and Development report for the month of February 2024 was received as presented.

Deputy Warden Murray asked if the results from the paving survey for Stanwood Drive could be sent to the residents in that area. Mr. McDowell said this would be done.

Warden Parker asked if the East Pictou Rural High School demolition was on budget and if there had been any environmental issues. Mr. McDowell responded that the project was on track and on budget. Any environmental issues have been addressed. Mr. McDowell inspected the site, and the demo work has been completed. The shaping and grading of the lot remains to be completed.

Warden Parker questioned the startup date of the Salem Water Project and Mr. McDowell said this is expected to start again the first week in April.

Clr. palmer asked about the Coalburn/MacLellan's Brook Water Project as it was not detailed in the report. Mr. McDowell said that the work has been awarded and there will be a kickoff meeting tomorrow and that will be the official start of the project. Mr. McDowell said that work has started, and the consultant has been out doing some of the topical graphical surveying.

Warden Parker asked about the flowmeters for ERECC. Half were to be installed this fiscal year and half to be installed next fiscal year. The Warden asked if they are still awaiting prices. Mr. McDowell said that it is the hope to award that work this month. There has been regular communication with the bidders and now are waiting to get the pricing finalized and vetted through the procurement policy, and then will be looking to award that work.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REPORT

The Development Officer Report for the month of February 2024 was received as presented.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Emergency Services Report for the month of February 2024 was received as presented.

Clr. Butler stated that forest fire season is officially underway, Pictou County was an area of the province that was hardest hit by hurricane Fiona. There are trees rotting and drying in the roadside and throughout woods. Clr. Butler asked what additional preparations are being made due to that risk. Mr. Hale said that there was a Wild Land Fire Fighting course where 32 county firefighters were trained to the level of relief wild land firefighters, and they can be called upon by the Department of Natural Resources. Work is being done with DNR and other regional municipalities to create a task force. It is expected that there will be about 60 people in the county that can be called upon should there be a forest fire.

Warden Parker said this is a huge danger for the county in terms of what is left in the woods. If this year is a hot dry summer the county could be in a bad place and this issue is one that should be looked at. The Warden asked if any planning or consideration has been done that people may have to be evacuated by water. Mr. Hale said they have been looking at different options and this will be further expanded on at the emergency preparedness meeting that will be held with Council. Mr. Hale said that no planning has been done concerning boats at this point, but it is on the radar.

Clr. Dewar said that the old fire roads are still there, and a path should be pushed through them again to make them accessible.

FIRE INSPECTOR REPORT

The Fire Inspector Report for the month of February 2024 was received as presented.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT

The Building Inspector Report for the month of February 2024 was received as presented.

BYLAW OFFICER'S REPORT

The Bylaw Officer's Report for the month of February 2024 was received as presented.

Clr. Boyles asked if anything had been done to resolve a property in Hillside. Mr. Hale had no knowledge of this file and will investigate this and follow up with Clr. Boyles.

Warden Parker asked Mr. Hale for follow-up information on the dog trap set and the dog taken to the SPCA from the Loch Broom loop. Mr. Hale said that the dog was

taken to the SPCA, and the owner has reclaimed the dog. The individual was issued an order to construct a fence on the property to house the dog and if this is not completed on follow up then a fine or seizure of the dog would take place.

BUSINESS ITEMS OR ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

CHANCE HARBOUR ROAD FLOODING ISSUES

Clr. Boyles said that the Chance Harbour Road is ready to wash out whenever there is high water. There are two pipes that are not handling the system and the water is getting high enough it is starting to pull away the pavement. This concern has been raised to the Department of Transportation.

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Warden Parker to send a letter to the Department of Transportation Engineer, Mr. MacDonald and MLA Tim Houston requesting that something be done before this road is washed out.

EXCESSIVE USE OF PUMPER TRUCKS IN HILLSIDE

Clr. Boyles said that the Municipality is paying thousands of dollars to pump the water out of the pumping station every time there is a storm. Clr. Boyles said that something must be done there and questioned if the Department of Transportation should put in a proper bridge put in.

Mr. McDowell said that improvements are being worked on in that area. There was a call put out to the WSP consultants on the report done in 2023 to improve the existing structures, including the manholes. There is nothing that can be done about the existing culvert structure at the boundary of Trenton and the provincial roads. This is not the municipalities infrastructure the attempt to make improvements on what can be controlled are being looked at. Clr. Boyles said it would be cheaper in the long run to look for a solution. Clr. Boyles has requested the costs for this and hopes to have that information in the near future.

STREETLIGHT APPROVAL

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. Boyles to approve the following streetlights at 1909 Frasers Mountain Road and 1923 Frasers Mountain Road.

Motion Carried

MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION

There were no motions of reconsideration.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clr. Boyles said that on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. at the Hillside Community Hall there are Martial Arts classes being put on by Stewart Barclay. These

will be free for the month of March and following that the cost will be \$50.00 per month for a student to enroll.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business before the meeting, so the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

MUNICIPAL CLERK