

January 7, 2014

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Dist.	1	Clr. Sally Fraser
	2	Clr. Deborah Wadden
	4	Warden Ronnie Baillie
	5	Clr. Robert Parker
	6	Clr. Jim Turple
	7	Clr. David Parker
	8	Clr. Leonard Fraser
	9	Clr. Larry Turner
	10	Clr. Jamie Davidson
	11	Deputy Warden Andy Thompson
	13	Clr. Randy Palmer
	14	Clr. Scott Johnston

ABSENT

Dist.	3	Clr. Edward MacMaster
	12	Clr. Chester Dewar

IN ATTENDANCE

Bryna Fraser, Solicitor, MacIntosh, MacDonnell & MacDonald
Brian Cullen, CAO/Municipal Clerk-Treasurer
Karen E. Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer
Carolyn MacIntosh, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Jane Johnson, Recording Secretary

PRAYER

Warden Baillie opened the meeting with a prayer.

AGENDA

It was moved by Clr. S. Fraser and seconded by Clr. Palmer that the agenda be approved with the deletion of the presentation by the Save Our Seas & Shores Coalition.

Motion carried.

MINUTES

It was moved by Clr. R. Parker and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the minutes of November 4 and December 2, 2013 be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- (a) Town of Yarmouth – Thanking the Municipality for its support to see the return of the Yarmouth-New England ferry service.

- (b) Letters expressing appreciation for financial support (uncirculated) have been received from the Pictou County Municipalities Crime Prevention Association & Pictou County 4-H.

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

Clr. Palmer presented the report of the Financial Services Committee as follows:

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

For information purposes the Financial Services Committee submits the following report on the activities of the Committee for the month of December:

1. Met with the Coordinator for Active Pictou County to receive a program overview and address questions from individual Councillors.
2. Considered several applications for municipal funding. (Resolution to follow)
3. Considered applications to attend the 2014 conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Warden Baillie, Deputy Warden Thompson and Councillors David Parker, Jamie Davidson and Larry Turner will be attending on behalf of the Municipality.
4. Discussed the lack of applications to fill a non-elected vacancy on the Board of Directors for the Riverton Guest Home Corporation and agreed to revisit this matter at the next meeting, giving Councillors an opportunity to seek out qualified candidates for consideration.
5. Reviewed the list of Accounts Paid for the months of October and November.
6. Agreed that Deputy Warden Thompson represent Council on the planning committee for the 2014 UNSM Spring Workshop.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 7th day of January, 2014.

(Sgd.) Randy Palmer
Scott Johnston

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Johnston that the report of the Financial Services Committee be received for information purposes.

Deputy Warden Thompson referred to Item #4 and informed Council that Bonnie Allan has decided to remain on the Board for 1 more year.

Motion carried.

PROPERTY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

Clr. D. Parker presented the report of the Property Services Committee as follows:

PROPERTY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

For information purposes the Property Services Committee submits the following report on the activities of the Committee for the month of December:

1. Reviewed the report of the Building Inspector, By-Law/Dog Control Officer and Warden for the month of November.

2. Discussed possible alternatives to provide an additional garbage collection process for bulky items and requested that staff secure a costing on an outreach program at various locations throughout the Municipality.
3. Discussed the status of MacIntosh Drive. Residents have provided an engineering assessment for this private road; the Director of Public Works & Development has advised that he will require better detail from the engineering firm and once that information has been received calculations will be undertaken for the residents to determine the area rate required to complete upgrades to the road.
4. Considered an inquiry to purchase municipally-owned property in Hillside and agreed to defer discussion on this matter pending an inquiry by the Councillor for the area on possible community uses.
5. Discussed a slight over-run on engineering costs related to Phase 1 of the Plymouth/MacLellan's Brook Wastewater Project due to an extended construction period and authorized staff to continue to pay all necessary costs to complete this phase. The Director of Public Works & Development has advised that the last lift station would be commissioned on December 17th, bringing Phase 1 to completion.
6. Agreed to defer discussion on a request for Council to adopt a resolution asking the Provincial Government to issue an exemption for municipalities from the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic & Trade Agreement (CETA) for further information.
7. Agreed to prepare a response to the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development on the School Review Process.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 7th day of January, 2014.

(Sgd.) David Parker
Jim Turple

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. Turple that the report of the Property Services Committee be received for information purposes.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – MUNICIPAL GRANTS

Clr. L. Fraser 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 & Cultural:

Hector Arena	\$ 7,000.00	Operating Grant
Pictou Co. Female Hockey Assoc.	900.00	Program Expenses
Plymouth Community & Rec. Assoc.	150.00	Clr. Allotment – Exp. to Host Le Leche League

Hopewell & Area Park & Footbridge Committee	75.00	Clr. Allotment - Candy Cane Committee. Exp.
Hopewell 4-H Club	75.00	Operating Expenses

Municipal Services:

Central Caribou Cemetery	1,000.00	Cemetery Upkeeps
Caribou River Community Hall	2,000.00	Hall Upgrades
West River Fire Dept.	3,000.00	Window Installation
West River Fire Dept. Lad. Aux.	1,847.65	Kitchen Upgrades
Saltsprings 4-H Club	2,000.00	Signage & Gardening Expenses
Gairloch Church Hall	4,661.38	Hall Renovations
Millbrook & Area Comm. Assoc.	1,090.00	Repairs & Signage
LORDA	3,500.00	Capital & Operating Exp.
Watervale & Area Rec. Centre	2,459.97	Insulation Expenses
Linacy Fire Department	10,000.00	Addition to Fire Hall

Council

Pic. Co. Chapter Silent Witness NS	<u>300.00</u> \$40,059.00	Education Expenses related to domestic violence & domestic homicide
Pictou Co. Trails Assoc.	2,500.00	Reallocation of funds app'd. for a culvert repair to washout repairs in River John

DATED at Pictou, NS this 7th day of January, 2014.

(Sgd.) Leonard Fraser
Larry Turner

MOTION

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

Motion carried.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FAMILY FARMING

Clr. R. Parker advised that the World Rural Forum is promoting 2014 as the "International Year of Family Farming" and initiative that is supported by over 360 civic society and farmers' organizations. This worldwide celebration declared by the United Nations General Assembly aims to become a tool to stimulate active policies for sustainable development of agricultural systems based farmer families,

communal units, indigenous groups, cooperatives and fishing families. All this work is being made from the perspective of effectively combating poverty and hunger and the search for a rural development based on the respect for environment and biodiversity, Family farming includes all family-based agricultural activities and it is linked to several areas of the rural development. It is a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominately reliant on family labour including both women's and men's. Both in developing and developed countries family farming is the predominant form of agriculture in the food production sector. Family farming has an important socio-economic, environmental and cultural role. Clr. R. Parker reported that a lot of young people want to farm but they do not have the financial ability that goes with it and the policies of government are not set up to help the small farmers but works against them.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. R. Parker and seconded by Clr. L. Fraser that Council support the United Nation's "International Year of Family Farming", do everything within its power to affect policies that make it more viable to operate family farms in rural Nova Scotia, and convey its support in that regard to the Minister of Agriculture and the MLA's for Pictou County.

Clr. D. Parker stated that there is still significant discrimination against small farmers and the policies have to support rural Nova Scotia.

Clr. Johnston reported that it is very disheartening for a young farmer when all they are doing is providing a cheap product for market at their expense.

Clr. Turple referred to the farmer who is raising free range chickens in Nova Scotia who is currently fighting the Egg Producers of Nova Scotia.

Motion carried.

TICKS – LYME DISEASE

Clr. Turple reported that there has been an influx of ticks coming into Nova Scotia and unfortunately many of them are carrying Lyme disease. Clr. Turple read a letter published in a local newspaper from Brenda Sterling-Goodwin as follows:

"Be vigilant for ticks year-round

The New Year is here and the Lyme battles continue – not only in Canada but worldwide.

In May there was a Lyme information night held in New Glasgow with guest Dr. Ernie Murakami from Hope, BC at the Pictou County Wellness Center with over 150 people in attendance to hear his approach and concerns for this growing problem of Lyme.

I feel that the general public is getting information, yet many of our medical professionals still appear to be in the dark. There is a problem when you are told by a doctor that a mosquito and a tick are the same thing. Wrong! I think even a child would know they are different. The only thing they have in common is that they both can be vectors for disease.

There is hardly a week that goes by that I am not contacted by someone local, in Atlantic Canada or another province looking for information and help. There is little or no help in Canada and people are forced to seek help in the USA or suffer. There will be a change!

On August 19, 2013 information was released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); an agency of the US Federal Government from the International Conference on Lyme Borelliosis and Other Tick Borne Diseases. The CDC admits they published significantly underestimated numbers of diagnosed cases of Lyme disease stating originally about 30,000 and now preliminarily estimates to be at least 300,000 last year alone in the USA.

This new estimate supports studies published in the 1990s indicating that the true number of cases is between three and 12 fold higher than the number of reported cases. What else has the CDC been wrong about and not disclosed their errors?

I feel certain the numbers in Canada are far higher than we are being told. People who are sick as a result of Lyme have been asking for proper research....to better understand this disease, how to prevent it, to have more accurate testing and improved protocols for better treatment.

Elizabeth May's Private Members Bill C-442 concerning better testing and treatment for Lyme in Canada was introduced in June 2012 and is now fourth in line for second reading which will likely happen in the New Year.

Winter has arrived but the ticks have not left. Tick season is year round. It starts in January and goes until December and the risk of getting a tick-borne disease is year round.

It is important to remember that ticks are less active in cold weather, but a warmer winter day could set an adult back on the hunt for blood and those ticks have an increased risk for carrying the bacteria.

A war dry house may not be an ideal tick habitat but they can hitch a ride indoors on pets. A tick that is not yet attached to your pet can crawl off and attach to you.

I urge people to be vigilant year round. Whether there's snow on the ground or sun in the sky, check yourself. There is always a risk – even a small risk is a risk.

Brenda Sterling-Goodwin, New Glasgow”

Clr. Turple informed Council that Brenda Sterling-Goodwin was infected by a tick approximately 17 years and she is now in a wheelchair. He read the following email he received from Sarah Jane Elizabeth Chappell.

“My six year old got Bell's Palsy on August 5, 2013 and she saw a doctor at the IWK who did blood work and a spinal tap that found the Lyme was working its way to her brain. Lucky that the doctor was so on the ball. She took medication and I was that the Lyme would be all gone after the treatment was done. She suffers from headaches that start at the top of her head and work down to the back of her neck. She also has really bad leg pains and her Bell's has not fully gone away. She still does not have a full smile and she cannot move her eyebrow. She is six and all she wants is to inform everyone she meets about Lyme disease. We live in an area where no one really knows about Lyme and she plans to spread the word.”

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Turple and seconded by Clr. R. Parker that Council send a letter to the Federal Minister of Health, the Provincial Minister of Health, the Provincial Chief Public Health Officer and the 3 MLA's asking if they are going to recognize Lyme disease in Canada and what they intend to do to address the disease.

Clr. R. Parker reported that ticks that carry Lyme disease are in the area and people must be more aware and the health departments should take it more seriously.

Clr. S. Fraser informed Council that if a person does have a tick attached to them, it can be removed and taken to be tested at the East Side Medical Clinic on the East River Road at no cost.

Motion carried.

PROPERTY VALUATION SERVICES CORP.

Clr. D. Parker asked if Council was going to meet with officials from the Property Services Valuation Corporation and the CAO replied that a meeting was scheduled for mid-February.

UPDATE – HECTOR ARENA

Clr. D. Parker thanked Council approving an operating grant for the Hector Arena. Currently members of the Arena Commission are in the process of investigating the feasibility of the mechanical plant in the former John Brother MacDonald Stadium for use in the Hector Arena.

GENERATOR – MUNICIPAL BLDG.

Clr. L. Fraser asked if there was a service contract on the generator located at the Municipal Building, noting that most companies with a large generator have them serviced at least once a year. He asked that Administration look into what was spent on the generator in the last few years as well as more information on the maintenance contract.

FORBES LAKE WATERSHED COMMITTEE

Clr. Johnston referred to his appointment to the Forbes Lakes Watershed Committee and stated that the Committee has not met in at least 6 years and from his perspective representatives from the Town of New Glasgow who also sit on that Committee do not seem to be interested in participating. Clr. Johnston asked if the Municipality should continue to be represented on that Committee.

The CAO reported that there is a legal requirement for the Town of New Glasgow to have that Committee which has a mandate to review the Protection Plan for the Watershed every 5 years. He recalled that the Committee did meet during the term of the previous Council.

Deputy Warden Thompson explained that the Watershed Committee met on several occasions to discuss possible wind development in the area and it was his opinion that there are benefits to having representatives on that Committee to protect the interest of the residents of the Municipality who live within the Watershed. He suggested checking in with the Town of New Glasgow to see if the plan needs to be updated.

SHALE GAS EXPLORATION

Clr. Turple asked if Council was going to meet with the companies regarding shale gas exploration.

Warden Baillie replied a request has been made to the Canadian Petroleum Board and they are trying to get a group assembled for a presentation.

UNSM – RENS

Clr R. Parker commented that since the demise of the Pictou Regional Development Agency no one is promoting the county and asked if there was any update on the development and implementation of Regional Enterprise Networks.

Warden Baillie replied that there is not much information coming from the Province on the RENS except what was said by the Minister of Economic Development at the UNSM Conference.

Clr. R. Parker reported there is a lack of leadership at the Provincial level and pointed out that we need development agencies to promote industries in Nova Scotia.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. R. Parker and seconded by Clr. S. Fraser that a letter be sent to the Minister of Economic Development (with copies to the 3 MLA's) expressing concern on the lack of action on getting the Regional Enterprise Networks operating.

Motion carried.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. S. Fraser that the meeting adjourn.
Motion carried. (8:00 p.m.)

Ronald Baillie
Warden

Brian Cullen
Municipal Clerk