

February 3, 2014

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Monday, February 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Dist.	1	Clr. Sally Fraser
	2	Clr. Deborah Wadden
	3	Clr. Edward MacMaster
	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.	12	Clr. Chester Dewar
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**IN ATTENDANCE**

Donn Fraser, Solicitor, MacIntosh, MacDonnell & MacDonald  
Carolyn MacIntosh, Deputy Municipal Clerk  
Jane Johnson, Recording Secretary

**BY APPOINTMENT**

Rev. Greg Dickson, River John First

**PRAYER**

At the invitation of Warden Baillie Reverend Greg Dickson opened the meeting with a prayer.

**AGENDA**

It was moved by Clr. L. Fraser and seconded by Clr. Palmer that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

**MINUTES**

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. Palmer that the minutes of January 7, 2014 be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- (a) Minister of SNSMR – Commenting on the release of the Province’s Capital Plan for 2014/15 where \$535 million will be invested in 122 projects. Locally some of the capital projects include completing construction and opening the Northeast Nova Correctional Centre; asphalt paving of Trunk 6 from the Colchester/Pictou County Line to Louisville Road, as well as the conversion of all regional hospitals to natural gas, and the purchase of medical equipment.
- (b) Minister of Education – Advising that French Emersion is an optional program in Nova Scotia and is not mandated for all schools within the Province. The CCRSB is currently considering locations for delivery of the program within its jurisdiction.
- (c) Minister of Agriculture – Outlining the Province’s commitment to both small and large production and commenting specifically on the regulatory system governing egg production which has the flexibility to produce enough eggs to meet consumer demand, including free range producers, organic producers or producers using pastured hen systems as well as larger commercial egg farms.
- (d) Letters expressing appreciation for financial support (uncirculated) have been received from the Pictou County Children with Autism Association.

Clr. R. Parker referred to correspondence received from the Minister of Education regarding the French Immersion Program in the West Pictou area, noting that sometimes it pays to speak up because that French Immersion Program is going to stay in that school.

Clr. R. Parker referred to correspondence received from the Minister of Agriculture regarding small agriculture and expressed his opinion that the only reason the rules were changed was because of the small chicken farmer in the Annapolis Valley who had 800 free range chickens and the Egg Producers Association was applying pressure on the required egg quota. The quota has been increased from 100 to 200 but that does not provide enough income for the small farmer. There are strict regulations against small producers when it comes to restaurants and some of the stores. The eggs have to be carried through the Egg Marketing Board and they also have to be stamped. Clr. R. Parker reported that the rules are going to have to change a lot more before the consumer has any locally produced eggs.

**RIVER JOHN FIRST PRESENTATION – REV. GREG DICKSON (7:10 P.M.)**

Rev. Dickson met with Council and made a presentation in regards to the potential closure of the River John School. Rev. Dickson thanked Council for the invitation to come and speak on behalf of the village of River John and stated that “the documents I provided a week ago refer to its history and how River John has declined to become the community it is today. Although I have only lived there 3 years and therefore do not know as much about it as most of my neighbours, it is nonetheless clear that this small place has much to be proud of in its past.

Today, however I come to speak about the future.

The school (RHCS) has been selected for potential closure in June 2015. If this happens River John will immediately and permanently continue its transformation into a rural backwater populated only by those who cannot afford to move; an increasing group of retirees and the usual influx of summer visitors. Furthermore, with the loss of its doctor, grocery store, bank and (soon) Post Office the morale of its remaining population may never recover.

What can we do? What should we do?

**EITHER: Keep the CCRSBs interest by helping it solve immediate cost problem(s)**

- More students
  - New employers need more new employees – Caldera Distillery first
  - Encourage parents to bring 20 students back to River John
- Reduce operating costs
  - Requires significant capital infusion
    - New roof makes building useful by current and future users

- Internal construction to segregate school from other uses
- Upgrades to meet present fire code
- Remove ALL asbestos
- Replace and enlarge schoolyard pavement for children and parking
- Install perimeter fencing for safety and security
- Move temperature controls from New Glasgow
- Consider more insulation, solar, geothermal and wind power
- Share overall costs with “business” tenants in a Hub design

## **OR Abandon the building**

- RJCS is a community asset and marks River John as an important place
  - Gymnasium
  - Classrooms
  - Small library
  - Complete functional kitchen and small dining hall
  - Central location, close to fire hall
- Cost to remediate the site will cost much more than to repair and maintain

## **River John First**

As described, to actively ‘sell’ River John to everyone who does not know what they are missing by not living and working here. We want to approach the world by:

- Internet ([www.riverjohnfirst.com](http://www.riverjohnfirst.com) and [www.riverjohnfirst.ca](http://www.riverjohnfirst.ca))
  - Website presentation of local artifacts, history and demographics
    - Develop 2004 Strategic Plan Direction 5.0 re: tourism development
    - Trumpet proximity to PEI, Moncton, Halifax, Trans-Canada Hwy
    - Advertise local farm produce, wineries/brewpubs/distillery
    - Advertise real estate availability and low cost
    - Boast of our first-rate school for children P-9
  - Social media
    - Testimonials from happy visitors and early adopters
    - Support/sponsorship from local businesses
  - Print advertising to appropriate economic sectors
    - Consultancies of all kinds
    - Artists and craftspeople – including musicians and film makers
    - Officer of design/building on plentiful, picturesque land located on the Northumberland Strait
- Trade Shows and Conventions in Halifax, Moncton and Charlottetown
  - Technology, travel and accommodation expenses

Please give serious consideration to two things:

1. A grant of \$50,000 via the River John Community Action Society to create and communicate a community building message as outlined above. This will cover 18 months of activity to be reported to Council after 12 months for further, future consideration. A budget will accompany the grant application by the end of February.
2. Make the RJCS safe and tight for its users: CCRSB and others.”

Clr. MacMaster reported that his early ancestors were a big part of River John and his great-grandfather is buried near River John. Clr. MacMaster pointed out that he is not able to do the work that he used to do and the demographics are changing making it harder to find people to volunteer and work on these issues.

Clr. R. Parker reported that the closure of the River John School has been a discussion for a very long time and this Council is only going to be able to contribute so much to try and help the situation. He referred to the renovation of the school and pointed out that it would be very difficult to contribute education dollars towards maintenance repairs of one school without contributing toward other schools.

Rev. Dickson pointed that the group from River John met with the School Review Committee in Amherst and addressed the matter of capital costs. The Chairman of the School Review Committee pointed out that the amount of the capital costs was large enough that no single body could pay for the renovations.

Clr. R. Parker referred to the idea of the hub school and commented that he did not know if the residents of River John were still pursuing that idea. He reported that he does not like the idea of the Municipality putting money into a school and then have to tear it down, and suggested that we have to look at other options to try and keep the school open and who the funding partners are going to be.

Rev. Dickson reported if there is not a school in River John then there will be no incentive for people to move there. In the past there was work on a strategic plan but the majority of it fell on rocky ground due to the lack of leadership. This is a new opportunity to offer leadership so the residents would also like to have that opportunity. Rev. Dickson pointed out that the CCRSB is only looking for a plan at this point so River John needs a starting point.

Clr. Turple stressed that if we lose our schools then unfortunately we lose our communities. He suggested that if the school does receive some funding it may be a better idea to replace the building with something smaller.

Clr. D. Parker pointed out that the River John School is an older building and asked the estimated capital costs to bring that building up to a safe standard.

Rev. Dickson replied the cost to repair the roof would be \$250,000 and with the repairs to the playground and perimeter fencing the total cost may be \$500,000.

Warden Baillie reported the total capital costs included in the report was \$500,000 to \$600,000.

Clr. D. Parker asked if the group will be working with the Department of Tourism and Economic Development and Rev. Dickson responded that they will be working with that department.

Clr. D. Parker reported that he was not convinced that renovating that older building is the only pathway to be looked at and he suggested charter schools may be an option.

Deputy Warden Thompson commented that there seems to be a dilemma with the community hub proposal and if this is what the Provincial Government wants from small communities then they have to starting laying out some provincial policies for communities to follow.

Rev. Dickson informed Council that River John has to meet with CCRSB in regards to a hub design before moving forward.

Warden Baillie thanked Rev. Dickson for the presentation and excused him from the balance of the meeting. (7:50 p.m.)

## **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 January:

1. Reviewed the report of the Building Inspector, By-Law/Dog Control Officer and Warden for the month of December.
2. Agreed to request that the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal provide a detailed cost estimate to have lights installed at Exit 23.
3. Agreed to resubmit the 2013/14 priority list to TIR for consideration of cost-shared paving in 2014/15.

4. Tabled further consideration with regard to the disposal of the former Hillside School property for further information.
5. Discussed the engineering assessment of MacIntosh Drive. The Director of Public Works & Development has indicated his satisfaction with the numbers and volumes used by the engineer who completed the report. A topographical survey is required to provide detail on road dimensions so that accurate figures can be prepared on an area rate for the consideration of the residents. The owner of the road will be asked to provide this survey.
6. Agreed to provide a letter of support to the Hemlock Group with respect to development plans for the Trenton Park.
7. Agreed to amend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Energy Committee to include the promotion of the International Year of Family Farming, and to permit other members of Council to sit on the committee for that purpose. Councillors S. Fraser, R. Parker, D. Parker, L. Fraser, Turner, Davidson, and Warden Baillie have volunteered to sit on the Committee for the discussions on family farming.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 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.

Clr. L. Fraser referred to Item #7 and informed Council that he was speaking with Clr. Dewar who would also like to be on the Family Farming Committee.

Council members were in agreement to include Clr Dewar as a member of the Ad Hoc Energy Committee.

Clr. R. Parker reported that he contacted the Department of Agriculture who expressed a willingness to meet with the Committee regarding small farm initiatives. Clr. R. Parker informed Council that he will speak with the administration on a meeting date.

Motion carried.

### **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 January:

1. Reviewed the list of Accounts Paid for the month of December.
2. Reviewed the report of the Recreation Coordinator for the month of December.
3. Considered several applications for funding. (Resolution to follow)
4. Agreed on a recommendation to fill the non-elected vacancy on the Board of Directors for the Riverton Guest Home Corporation. (Resolution to follow)

5. Agreed to advertise Council's January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting with School Review Committee to allow other groups the opportunity to present input on the Discussion Paper.
6. Received a verbal update from Warden Baillie that an official response from the Minister of Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relation is anticipated shortly and is expected to indicate that Government will only support a study that focuses on the benefits of a single amalgamated government in comparison to the status quo.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 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.  
Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION – MUNICIPAL GRANTS**

Clr. R. Parker 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:

Phoenix 596 Squadron	\$ 150.00	Clr. Allotment – Operating/Training
Scotsburn Recreation Club	150.00	Clr. Allotment – CATCH After School Pgm.
Valley View Villa	1,000.00	Recreation Programs
Riverview Home Corp.	1,000.00	Recreation Programs
Middle River 4-H	<u>150.00</u>	Clr. Allotment – Community Garden Proj.

Council

U.N.S.M.	<u>2,500.00</u>	Spring Workshop Exp - Opening Reception & Transportation
	\$ 4,950.00	

Municipal Services:

Royal Canadian Legion	\$ 3,000.00	Reallocation of unspent funds from Roof Repairs & Oil Tank
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Replacement to legal costs re  
Lot Consolidations.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2014.

(Sgd.) Robert Parker  
Edward MacMaster

**MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. R. Parker and seconded by Clr. MacMaster that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented.  
Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION – RIVERTON GUEST HOME APPOINTMENT**

Clr. D. Wadden 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 nomination for the 2013/14 term:

<b>OUTSIDE BOARDS</b>	
Riverton Guest Home Corporation	Bonnie Allan (to Dec. 31/15)

DATED at Pictou, N. S. this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2014.

(Sgd.) Deborah Wadden  
Sally Fraser

**MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. S. Fraser that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented.  
Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION – REQUEST FOR RE-DESIGNATION**

Deputy Warden Thompson presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION  
REQUEST FOR RE-DESIGNATION  
Under the *Fences and Detention of Stray Livestock Act*,  
R.S.N.S. 1989, c166

WHEREAS the Governor in Council issued a designation to the Municipality of Pictou County as a municipality for the purposes of the predecessor to the *Fences and Detention of Stray Livestock Act*, a true copy of which is attached hereto as Schedule "A", as is contemplated under the current *Fences and detention of Stray Livestock Act*, R.S.N.S. 1989, c.166, as amended;

AND WHEREAS the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture has asked the Municipality of Pictou County to apply again for such designation, which application would appear to serve to reconcile certain record keeping related to the aforesaid prior designation by the Governor in Council, and the Municipality of Pictou County is willing to accommodate that request;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that, in the above circumstances, Council approve and authorize a request for re-designation of the Municipality of Pictou County in accordance with Section 3 of the *Fences and Detention of Stray Livestock Act*, R.S.N.S. 1989, c.166, as amended.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2014.

(Sgd.) Andy Thompson  
Jim Turple

### **MOTION**

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

Motion carried.

### **RESOLUTION – DESTRUCTION OF DOCUMENTS**

Clr. Palmer presented a resolution to Council as follows:

#### **RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou did, on July 7, 1986, adopt a by-law which provides for the destruction of any documents or records after they are no longer required for municipal purposes;

WHEREAS the aforementioned by-law received the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs on October 24, 1986;

WHEREAS administrative staff has undertaken a process of reviewing obsolete files with a view to seeking the necessary approval to destroy those which are no longer required, in accordance with the Destruction of Documents By-Law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council authorize the destruction of the documents described in the attached affidavit of the Municipal Clerk which indicates that he has personally examined each document or record and confirms that there is nothing of value therein.

DATED at Pictou, N. S. this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2014.

(Sgd.) Randy Palmer  
Scott Johnston

#### **AFFIDAVIT OF CLERK**

IN THE MATTER OF THE DESTRUCTION OF DOCUMENTS AND  
RECORDS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU.

I, Brian Cullen of New Glasgow, in the County of Pictou, Clerk of the Municipality of the County of Pictou, do make oath and say:

1. That I am Municipal Clerk of the Municipality of the County of Pictou.

2. That I have personally examined each of the documents or records listed immediately below pursuant to a by-law permitting the destruction of documents and records which are no longer required.

**SHELF #**

**CONTENTS**

A1- 9	2008/09 Correspondence & Duplicate Minute Files
A2-10	2001 – 2004 Water Receivables & Billing & Miscel.
A4-15	2003/04 Employee Payroll
A4-16	1997/98 – 2003/04 Council Payroll
A6-14	2004 Building Permits 2003 Building Permits (A – H)
A6-15	2003 Building Permits (H – Z)
A7-5	1993 – 1994 Tax Certificates & 1998 – 1993/94 Dist. Files
A7-6	2006/07 General Cancelled Cheques & Invoices
A7-7	2006/07 General & Water Cancelled Cheques & Invoices
A7-8	2006/07 General & Water Cancelled Cheques & Invoices
A7-16	Tax Billing Reports & Taxes Outstanding Oct. 1994
A7-18	2003/04 Taxes Receivable Report
A7-23	2003/04 Ledgers
A7-37	1993/94 Receipts
A7-38	1993/94 Receipts
A7-39	1993/94 Receipts 2007/08 & 2008/09 District Files
A7-43	2007/08 Mortgage Companies 2008/09 Mortgage Companies
A7-51	2008/09 Telepayments 2009/10 Telepayments

3. That the aforesaid list does not contain any document or record exempt from destruction pursuant to Section 3 of the by-law governing the destruction of documents.
4. That to the best of my knowledge there is nothing of value contained therein.
5. That the said documents and records are no longer required by the said Municipal Council.

BRIAN CULLEN, MUNICIPAL CLERK

SWORN before me at Pictou, in the  
County of Pictou and Province of Nova  
Scotia this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, A.D.,  
2014.

CAROLYN MACINTOSH  
COMMISSIONER OF THE SUPREME  
COURT OF NOVA SCOTIA

**MOTION**

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

Clr. Turple asked the time period the records are kept and the Deputy Municipal Clerk replied it depends on the type of record. Clr. Turple asked if it was possible to retain these records electronically

and the Deputy Municipal Clerk responded it was possible if you wanted to devote the time and financial resources to do the work.

Motion carried.

### **2014 MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES REVIEW**

Clr. Johnston reported that he had a concern with the 2014 Municipal Boundary Review and he informed Council that he would like to see a Committee of Council review the boundaries before any decisions are made. If the districts are reduced Clr. Johnston pointed out that he would like to see significant savings to the taxpayers.

Warden Baillie commented that Council will make a decision on whether the districts in the Municipality will be reduced. A letter will be sent to the UARB with Council's decision and the UARB will decide on whether they accept Council's decision.

Clr. R. Parker reported that Councillors are very passionate about their districts and he believed that the total cost to drop Councillors would be minimal. He commented that you get better decisions with more people make those decisions.

Clr. D. Parker asked that a package be put together with as much information as possible regarding the municipal boundary review process so Councillors can share this information with their constituents. It seems to be in certain aspects of the press that fewer representatives in bigger service districts are always better.

### **GOVERNANCE STUDY**

Clr. L. Fraser asked if there was any new information regarding the Governance Study and Warden Baillie replied there has been no reply to date from the Minister.

### **INDUSTRY IN PICTOU COUNTY**

Clr. R. Parker reported that the milk business in Scotsburn will very shortly be owned by a large firm in Quebec. Scotsburn Co-operative was a large employer in Pictou County for years and those jobs are shrinking very fast and the only thing left is the Head Office. In order to survive in the food business you have to be really large but in order for Scotsburn to survive they had to get big in the ice cream business. Scotsburn can still be a large employer in Pictou County and if everything goes according to plan (as they are buying out other ice cream business) they will be one of the largest players in Canada in the ice cream business. If Scotsburn does well in the ice cream business they may need to expand and perhaps build a factory in Pictou County because the people of Pictou County supported Scotsburn very many years.

### **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. R. Parker and seconded by Deputy Warden Thompson that Council send a letter to the Chairman of the Board of Scotsburn Co-operative requesting they keep the head office jobs in Pictou County and if there is expansion in the future for the ice cream business they consider building in Pictou County.

Motion carried.

### **ADJOURN**

It was moved by Clr. L. Fraser and seconded by Clr. Davidson that the meeting adjourn.

Motion carried. (8:30 p.m.)

Andy Thompson  
Deputy Warden

Carolyn MacIntosh  
Deputy Municipal Clerk