

April 7, 2014

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

PRESENT

Dist.	1	Clr. Sally Fraser
	3	Clr. Edward MacMaster
	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
	12	Clr. Chester Dewar
	13	Clr. Randy Palmer
	14	Clr. Scott Johnston

ABSENT

Dist.	2	Clr. Deborah Wadden
	4	Warden Ronald Baillie

IN ATTENDANCE

Donn 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

Deputy Warden Thompson opened the meeting with a prayer.

MEDIA RELEASE – GOVERNANCE ANNOUNCEMENT (MOU)

Deputy Warden Thompson read a statement to Council as follows:

“Since our last Council meeting, there has been a considerable amount of discussion on the topic of governance in Pictou County and around the Province of Nova Scotia. Recent announcements that Springhill and Bridgetown will file for dissolution are signs of a crisis that exists in Nova Scotia’s local government.

Council wants to assure our residents and taxpayers that the County of Pictou is not in crisis mode. The Municipality is the largest of the six municipal units in Pictou County both in terms of population and tax base. Our municipality continues to experience new growth in our tax base.

This Council has and will continue to develop policies and procedures that provide for strong fiscal management, cost effective delivery of services and growth opportunities within the municipality.

We are committed to looking beyond our municipal boundaries; we will continue to support regional initiatives and are committed to regional progress within Pictou County and beyond.

On March 25, 2014, the Honourable Mark Furey, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations met with all of the municipal units to inform us of the government’s response to the Terms of Reference for the long discussed Governance Study. That decision has been well publicized; however, it

is important to note that Minister's Furey's decision was based upon his conclusion that the municipalities of Pictou County do not have a common vision or shared commitment to the content of the study.

The Municipal Council understands the position of the Minister; however, we are disappointed that the study will not proceed, as we believe it would have provided valuable information to our citizens. The Municipality of the County of Pictou was one of the first municipalities to endorse having a governance and organizational study undertaken.

On March 28, 2014, Mayor Barrie MacMillan of the Town of New Glasgow provided the Town's opinion and vision for the future of Pictou County Governance. Mayor MacMillan stated "Our next step and the new way of doing things is this: we are going to enter into discussions with the Municipality of the County of Pictou and the Town of Pictou to develop a Memorandum of Understanding on the things we agree are critical to our respective municipalities – be they tax rates, service levels or otherwise."

The County of Pictou has not signed a Memorandum of Understanding and welcomes the discussions that we will have with the Towns of New Glasgow and Pictou. The Municipal Council believes however, that it is critical that all municipal units begin a dialogue to advance a regional vision. To that end, the Towns of Trenton, Stellarton and Westville should be prepared to enter these discussions.

These discussions will require frank and open dialogue and a commitment to change the way we do things. Municipal government has evolved and we will continue to adapt, and continue to change. We encourage and welcome open dialogue regarding a regional commitment. This is a time for leadership, a proactive approach and action.

Minister Furey when he met with this Council said that the expertise and knowledge for change is in this room. The discussions that will take place over the next several months will be driven by this Council. The Municipality of Pictou County has been good neighbours with the five towns. We believe in a cooperative approach to local government in Pictou County. Our Warden and Council have taken this cooperative approach on a number of initiatives.

Each Municipal Councillor has been elected to represent our constituents, and it is a responsibility that we take very seriously. This Council will lay out its plan and strategies that will lead to meaningful change in this county. This Council wants to make it perfectly clear to all of our taxpayers, citizens and municipal units of Pictou County that terms of any Memorandum of Understanding will be on negotiated on our terms. They will reflect our values; protect the interest of the municipal taxpayers, and assets that support the municipality and the region."

AGENDA

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. L. Fraser that the agenda be approved with the addition of a closed session of Council.

Motion carried.

MINUTES

It was moved by Clr. L. Fraser and seconded by Clr. S. Fraser that the minutes of March 3, 2014 be approved with the following corrections:

Pg.3: Warden Baillie presented should read "Deputy Warden Thompson" presented

Pg.3: Reporting period was \$151,189,102 should read "reporting period was \$15,189,102"

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- (a) West Pictou Golfer's Association – Requesting Council's support for the Association's efforts to purchase & operate the former Pictou Harbour Golf Club property.
- (b) Minister of Agriculture – Advising that he will be meeting with representatives of the agriculture industry and will continue to find ways attracting new entrants into the industry.

- (c) Minister of Rural Dev. & Tourism – Advising that municipal partnerships are being solidified in many areas of the province with respect to Regional Enterprise Networks.
- (d) Minister of Health & Wellness – Outlining the progress made to date with respect to the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of Lyme Disease.
- (e) Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library – Forwarding a copy of correspondence sent to the MP for Central Nova and the Minister of Employment & Social Development urging government to continue directly funding federal-provincial agreements aimed at adult literacy and upgrading.
- (f) Correspondence (uncirculated) expressing appreciation for financial assistance was received from VON Pictou County; Correspondence expressing appreciation for a watch & plaque honoring 25 years of employment was received from Sheila Conway.

MOTION – GOLF COURSE PROPERTY

It was moved by Clr. R. Parker and seconded by Clr. Turple that Council support the efforts of the West Pictou Golfer's Association to purchase and operate the former Pictou Harbour Golf Club.

Clr. D. Parker pointed out that the biggest problem with the golf course in Pictou is the location because it has more value for building lots. The cost to purchase the 9 hole golf course is quite high and to bring it back to its former state would be quite significant.

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 March:

1. Met with a proponent of a wind development project and residents of the Tower Road in Millsville to hear information on the construction of a wind turbine in the area by the developer and the concerns of the residents with regard to the set-back requirements in the Municipality's Land-Use By-Law. The Planning Advisory Committee has been asked to undertake a review of the LUB to determine the adequacy of the 600m setback which residents believe should be increased to 1.5 km.
2. Reviewed the report of the Building Inspector, By-Law/Dog Control Officer and Warden for the month of February.
3. Discussed information from Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal estimating the cost of installing LED lights at the underpass of Highway 104 at Exit 23 and agreed to consider this information further during budget deliberations.
4. Considered an application for the installation of an intersection street light in District #5. (Resolution to follow)
5. Received correspondence from a non-profit organization expressing interest in acquiring a former school property owned by the Municipality. The title of the property in question is currently under legal review for an opinion on marketability.

6. Approved the installation of a street light in District 2 in front of civic address #18 on the Point 44 Road in Little Harbour.
7. Requested that the Director of Public Works & Development prepare a listing of sewer and/or water project anticipated for installation over the next 5 – 10 years, along with information on how the projects will be financed.
8. Agreed to send a letter of support the Minister of Defense, the MP for Central Nova, the Chief of Defense Staff and the local MLA's in support of 144 Construction Engineering Flight and asking that there be no further cutbacks to the Flight's operating budget.
9. Agreed to recommend to Council the approval of additional funds to complete the engineering design for the McLellan's Brook/Upper Plymouth Wastewater Collection Project. (Resolution to follow)
10. Authorized the purchase of new GPS equipment from Cansel Survey Equipment Inc. to replace aging technology which will be given a trade-in value towards the purchase costs.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 7th day of April, 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 with the following change:

Clr. Turple referred to Item #1 and reported that he met and talked briefly with some of the residents who attended the Property Services meeting. Their argument was that coal fired generators will continue to be in operation even when the wind turbines are at full capacity. Clr. Turple pointed out that we have to look into the future for our grandchildren and their children hoping to eliminate coal fired generators. He expressed his opinion that wind turbines should have a set-back distance of 1 km. from residences.

Clr. R. Parker reported that the residents would like to know when the Planning Advisory Committee will be having its second meeting on the set-back distances of wind turbines, adding that he has been advised by the CAO that the residents will have an opportunity to present to this Committee.

The CAO reported that work is currently underway to compile information requested by the Committee and once that is complete a meeting will be scheduled, possibly later this month.

Clr. Johnston reported that he was of the understanding that 2 public meeting will be held and the CAO responded that will occur once a decision is made by the Planning Advisory Committee.

Clr. Palmer pointed out there will only be a public consultation process if a change is made to the by-law.

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 March:

1. Reviewed the list of Accounts Paid for the month of February.
2. Reviewed the report of the Recreation Coordinator for the months of January and February.
3. Reviewed applications for the 2014 Volunteer Recognition Awards and selected 4 recipients who will be honoured at the Volunteer Banquet on April 12th.
4. Considered requests for financial assistance. (Resolution to follow)
5. Received a briefing from Deputy Warden Thompson on the work undertaken to date to host the 55+ Games in 2015.
6. Discussed the current status of Regional Enterprise Networks (REN's) and the various alternatives available to the Municipality which will be discussed in detail at a future meeting so that Council can make a decision which is in the best interests of its residents.
7. Agreed to change the date of the June Council meeting to June 9th to avoid conflict with the FCM Conference.

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

(Sgd.) Randy Palmer
Chester Dewar

MOTION

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

RESOLUTION – INTERSECTION STREET LIGHT

Clr. R. Parker presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou has adopted a policy with respect to the provision of street lighting at intersections in areas where residential street lighting does not exist;

WHEREAS this policy is intended to aid in the safe passage of motor vehicles on public streets or roads and pedestrian traffic at street intersections and other pedestrian infrastructure in a manner which is both affordable and adequate for vehicular and pedestrian traffic;

WHEREAS the Property Services Committee has considered a request for the installation of an intersection street light in District #5;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the installation of one intersection street light, in accordance with Policy #2008-09-34, at the following intersection:

District #5: at the intersection of Highway 376 & Woodlawn Drive, Durham.

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

(Sgd.) Robert Parker
Jim Turple

MOTION

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

RESOLUTION – MCLELLAN’S BROOK/UPPER PLYMOUTH ENGINEERING

Clr. Dewar presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS CBCL Limited is currently working on the detailed design of Phase 2 of the McLellan’s Brook/Upper Plymouth Wastewater Collection Project;

WHEREAS the firm has reached the limit of its original design budget approved by Council and requires additional funds to continue this work;

WHEREAS the Property Services Committee recommends the approval of additional funds for this purpose so that the project is ready for construction at such time as infrastructure funding becomes available;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve an additional expenditure of \$49,830 for the completion of engineering services for Phase 2 of the McLellan’s Brook/Upper Plymouth Wastewater Collection Project.

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

(Sgd.) Chester Dewar
Scott Johnston

MOTION

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

RESOLUTION – MUNICIPAL GRANTS

Clr. S. 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:

Council

Pictou Co. Children with Autism Association	\$ 250.00	Sponsorship of Annual Fundraising Walk
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Pic. Co. Chamber of Commerce	1,000.00	Achievement Award Sponsorship
	1,000.00	Video Expenses Promoting Pictou Co. Trade Exports
Marathon of Respect & Equality	500.00	Marathon Donation
Marathon of Respect & Equality	166.66	Bursary at Pictou Campus of NSCC dedicated to Henderson Paris
Municipality of Pictou County	1,000.00	Contribution towards Expenses to host 2014 NS Heritage Conference
District One Action Society	100.00	To assist with expenses to host a forum on Lyme Disease

Municipal Services:

Kenzieville & District Community Club (D1)	<u>\$ 2,000.00</u>	Replacement of Storage Barn
	\$ 6,016.66	

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

(Sgd.) Sally Fraser
Jamie Davidson

MOTION

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

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Clr. R. Parker and seconded by Clr. Johnston that the motion be amended to remove the Pictou County Chamber of Commerce Municipal Grants from the resolution.

The motion to amend carried.
The motion, as amended, carried.

MOTION – PICTOU CO. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

It was moved by Clr. L. Fraser and seconded by Clr. Palmer that Council approve a \$1,000 Council Grant to the Pictou County Chamber of Commerce for sponsorship of the annual Business Achievement Awards, and a second Municipal Grant to the Chamber in the amount of \$1,000 to assist with the preparation of a video promoting Pictou County exports.

Clr. R. Parker advised that he had difficulty supporting sponsorship for the Business Achievement Awards as he felt that a \$1,000 cash award to a large company was a waste of resources. He

recommended that the \$1,000 be earmarked for the promotion of entrepreneurship in the name of the company being recognized for their business efforts.

Deputy Warden Thompson reported that it was his understanding that this was a sponsorship and a way for the Chamber of Commerce to generate operating revenue that would cover a variety of expenses, including the Business Achievement Awards event.

Clr. R. Parker pointed out the information from the Financial Services Committee stated the money was to be used to purchase a trophy and he would like some clarification on where the money was to be used.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Clr. R. Parker and seconded by Clr. L. Fraser that the motion be amended to add a provision that the funds approved for sponsorship of the Business Achievement Awards be designated for use in the name of the large business award recipient for entrepreneurship.

The motion to amend carried.

The motion, as amended, carried.

RESOLUTION – RELEASE OF COUNCIL GRANT INSTALLMENT

Clr. Turple presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS on July 2, 2013 Municipal Council approved the payment of a grant in the amount of \$5,000 to the Pictou County Firefighter's Association to assist with expenses to host the Maritime Fire Chiefs Convention;

WHEREAS this was the first of two installments to be paid to the Association, with the second installment to be paid in the 2014/15 fiscal period;

WHEREAS the event is scheduled to take place at the Pictou County Wellness Centre from July 6th – 9th;

WHEREAS event organizers are requesting an early release of the second installment which would typically not be done until after the 2014/15 Operating Budget has been approved;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the payment of a Council grant in the amount of \$5,000 to the Pictou County Firefighter's Association, representing the 2nd and final installment on funds to assist with the hosting of the aforementioned convention.

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

(Sgd.) Jim Turple
David Parker

MOTION

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

Motion carried.

SALVATION ARMY RED SHIELD CAMPAIGN

Deputy Warden Thompson informed Council the Salvation Army's Red Shield Campaign will soon be underway again this year and they will be hosting a dinner on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at the Pictou Lodge. A table for 6 has been reserved for the Municipality at a cost of \$20 per person.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. R. Parker and seconded by Clr. L. Fraser that Council purchase a table for 6 for the Salvation Army's Red Shield Campaign at a total cost of \$120.

Motion carried.

TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW ANNOUNCEMENT

Clr. R. Parker referred to the recent announcement by the Town of New Glasgow on the development of an MOU between the Town, the Municipality, and the Town of Pictou, stating that he has never been as disappointed as a County Councillor hearing about the announcement from the Town of New Glasgow. He emphasized that this Council has to look out for the taxpayers of the Municipality by leading the way and determine what changes are to be made. He cautioned that Council has to be mindful of our tax rate, the debt in infrastructure that the towns have, and the services for the residents of the Municipality. These are very difficult issues that will require serious discussions. The residents of rural Pictou County should not be expected to shoulder the debt to help out the other units. The decisions have to be made by the elected people and if other people want to make the decisions then they should run for office. The worst thing we can do in the county is have a group of people making decisions for the future of the county that are un-elected. Clr. R. Parker read an article in the newspaper from the Minister of Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations as follows:

"My message to our Municipal leaders has been clear and consistent. We will not impose amalgamation on our towns and counties. The people of Nova Scotia expect leadership from the Councillors and Mayors they have democratically elected. I firmly believe that Municipal leaders possess the wisdom to make the right choices and the strength to make the tough call. They need no force or coercion from the Provincial Government."

Clr. R. Parker reported that the Municipality needs to be perfectly clear that amalgamation does not fix everything.

Clr. L. Fraser pointed out since Cape Breton amalgamated it has taken a tremendous amount of money to keep it afloat and that scares the residents of Pictou County. If Pictou County was to amalgamate it should be done fairly based on services and if not the residents who do not have any services will end up paying for the people who have services.

Deputy Warden Thompson reported that there were a lot of questions that needed answers which could have come from the study that will not take place and now the units will have to do the work themselves.

Clr. D. Parker commented that the Municipality has almost half the population in the County and speaks strongly with a clear voice and there is strong leadership on Council. The time-lines advanced on March 28th by the Mayor of New Glasgow were not realistic and there are some significant issues that will take some real time. He pointed out that we are permitted to have 3 tax rates for residents, rural, sub-urban and urban but we are only permitted to have 1 commercial tax rate. Unless there are real savings to be had then why would we amalgamate and most of those savings would come from job losses with the administration and elected officials.

Clr. R. Parker stated that the public needs to know that the Municipality is going to lead this process with elected people. If we manage to save money by amalgamation then we would be the first to do so as prior amalgamations have been proven to cost money.

ROAD CLOSURE – MACPHERSON TRAILER SALES

Clr. L. Fraser reported that he received a telephone call from MacPherson Trailer Sales regarding the road closure. This problem started about 3 years ago when the trucks could get in and out but they need to have sand to do their sand blasting. He informed Council that he was speaking with Mr. Troy Webb who indicated that the road may be up-graded and reported that he will continue working with Mr. Webb on this process but he may need Council's assistance in the future.

UP-DATE – RIVERTON WIND TURBINES

Clr. Dewar asked if there was an up-date on the Riverton Wind Turbines because the project does not seem to be moving forward.

The CAO reported that the contractor is waiting for NSP to do the inter-connection and that would complete Phase 1. The turbines have arrived for Phase 2 so at this point they are targeting mid-May to have the first 3 spinning and the second group of turbines should be spinning 2 weeks later.

Clr. Dewar asked how far behind are the projects and the CAO replied it is about a year behind schedule for Phase 1 but ahead of schedule for Phase 2.

CLOSED SESSION

Council met in closed session at 8:05 p.m. to discuss matters relating to contract negotiations.

OPEN SESSION

Council resumed in open session at 8:20 p.m.

MOTION – FIREMEN'S ACCIDENT INSURANCE

It was moved by Clr. L. Fraser and seconded by Clr. Davidson that Council approve the proposal submitted by JH Fraser for the Firemen's Life & Accident Insurance Program at a cost of \$27,500.00.

Motion carried.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Clr. Turple and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the meeting adjourn.

Motion carried. (8:23 p.m.)

Ronald Baillie
Warden

Brian Cullen
Municipal Clerk