

May 5, 2014

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Monday, May 5, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Dist.	1	Clr. Sally Fraser
	2	Clr. Deborah Wadden
	3	Clr. Edward MacMaster
	4	Warden Ronald 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
	12	Clr. Chester Dewar
	13	Clr. Randy Palmer
	14	Clr. Scott Johnston

**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**

Warden Baillie opened the meeting with a prayer.

**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. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. S. Fraser that the minutes of April 7, 2014 be approved as presented.  
Motion carried.

**RESIGNATION - PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Clr. Johnston informed Council that he was resigning immediately from the Planning Advisory Committee due to a conflict of interest.

**NOMINATIONS**

Deputy Warden Thompson nominated Clr. Davidson to sit on the Planning Advisory Committee.  
Clr. Davidson accepted the nomination.

## **MOTION – CEASE NOMINATIONS**

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. S. Fraser that nominations cease.  
Motion carried.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- (a) Heart & Stroke Foundation – Asking that Council endorse a resolution proclaiming the first Saturday in June to be “National Health & Fitness Day” in the Municipality on an annual basis.
- (b) Chignecto-Central Regional School Bd. – Advising that the River John Consolidated School is scheduled for closure in June 2015 and therefore would not require a capital construction plan. The current configuration and the P-9 educational services provided at Thorburn Consolidated School are meeting the Public School Program and the Board has no plans at this time to replace the school with a new facility or consolidate with another School(s) that would require capital upgrades.
- (c) Transp. & Infrast. Renewal – Advising that the District Traffic Supervisor has been asked to assess the need for “Deer Crossing Signs in Plymouth, in consultation with the Dept. of Natural Resources.
- (d) Town of Westville – enclosing a copy of correspondence sent to the Honourable Peter MacKay and the Minister of Employment & Social Development urging government to continue directly funding federal-provincial agreements aimed at adult literacy & upgrading.
- (e) Hon. Peter MacKay – Outlining the support and initiatives of Government for a Lyme Disease Action Plan.
- (f) Correspondence (uncirculated) expressing appreciation for financial support has been received from the Genealogical Association of NS.

## **MOTION – HEALTH & FITNESS DAY**

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. L. Fraser that the Municipality proclaim the first Saturday in June be “National Health & Fitness Day” in the Municipality annually.  
Motion carried.

Clr. R. Parker referred to correspondence received from the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board regarding the River John Consolidated School closure scheduled for June 2015 and asked if there was anything Council could do on this issue.

Warden Baillie replied the school group is just waiting for a meeting with the Director of Operations where they will be asking for an extension so it may be best to wait until after that meeting takes place. The CAO has written a letter of support and Warden Baillie reported that he will also be writing a letter and any Councillor can write a letter as well.

Clr. R. Parker asked if it would help to have some representation from Council at that meeting and Warden Baillie responded that he will speak with the Chairman of the Committee to see if that will be helpful.

## **PROPERTY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Clr. Dewar 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 April:

1. Met with representatives from Heritage Gas for an overview on the proposed natural gas service expansion into Pictou County.
2. Reviewed the report of the Building Inspector for the month of March.
3. Received and discussed a summary of capital projects anticipated for 2014 to 2019 totaling \$14,075,000. The Committee has instructed staff to move forward on the Milne Street Combined Sewer Separation Project, the Greenhill Highway 4 Water & Wastewater Extension Project and the West Branch Road Wastewater Extension Project. Tenders will be called for all 3 projects and recommendations on award will be presented at future meetings.
4. Deferred discussion on possible support for a moratorium on oil and gas exploration in the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the May meeting.
5. Agreed that Clr. Wadden continue to represent Council on the committee developing and launching a Municipal Alcohol Policy.
6. Agreed to write Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal requesting that brush cutting be undertaken at the intersection of the Stewart Road and Highway 376 in Lyons Brook to improve visibility.
7. Agreed to write Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal asking that the Plymouth Park Road and Walkerville Road be placed on a priority list for paving.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014.

(Sgd.) Chester Dewar  
Randy Palmer

## MOTION

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

Clr. D. Parker referred to Item #3 and asked if the Greenhill Road is included in the Greenhill Highway Project.

The CAO replied the Director of Public Works may have broken the 2 projects down as separate line items so that may not have been included but he will find out.

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 April:

1. Reviewed the list of Accounts Paid for the month of March.

2. Approved the renewal of membership in the Atlantic Mayors Congress for the balance of the current Council term.
3. Considered a draft policy on grants to volunteer fire departments. (Resolution to follow)
4. Considered several requests to extend the deadline to expend Municipal Services Grants and Council Grants. (Resolution to follow)
5. Considered funding for municipal bursaries. (Resolution to follow)
6. Requested that a letter of appreciation be given to the Recreation Coordinator for her efforts on behalf of Council to honor volunteers, and also to the Plymouth Fire Department & Ladies Auxiliary for catering an excellent meal for our volunteers.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 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 – FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANTS POLICY**

Deputy Warden Thompson 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 adopt the following policy with respect to the payment of grants to volunteer fire departments:



**POLICY #2014-05-26**

**FIRE DEPARTMENTS GRANTS POLICY**

**1. PURPOSE**

To establish a consistent and fair policy for the distribution of a grant to the volunteer fire departments.

**2. OBJECTIVES**

- (a) To identify on an annual basis the amount of funding that the Municipality will provide in grants to the Volunteer Fire Department sector.
- (b) To identify a mechanism to distribute the grant to the Volunteer Fire Departments.

### **3. GENERAL POLICY STATEMENTS**

- (a) The Municipal Council shall determine annually as part of its budget deliberations the amount of funds to be provided to support the Volunteer Fire Departments.
- (b) In order to qualify for a grant under this policy a fire department shall:
  - i. Be registered with the Municipality pursuant to section of 294 the Municipal Government Act as a fire department, and
  - ii. Provides primary firefighting service response to properties located within the Municipality, and
  - iii. An agreement on payment for service has not been reached between the Municipality and the service provider.
- (c) A grant to a volunteer fire department shall be paid in accordance with the following calculations:
  - i. A grant of \$4,000 shall be paid to a fire department, if the fire department's annual levy is equal to 80 percent or more of the average levy.
  - ii. A grant of \$8,000 shall be paid to a fire department, if the fire department's annual levy is equal to 60 percent or more, but less than 80 percent of the average levy.
  - iii. A grant of \$12,000 shall be paid to a fire department, if the fire department's annual levy is equal to 40 percent or more, but less than 60 percent of the average levy.
  - iv. A grant of \$16,000 shall be paid to a fire department, if the fire department's annual levy is equal to 20 percent or more, but less than 40 percent of the average levy.
- (d) Section 3(c), shall not apply to the Pictou Island Fire Department or the Trenton Fire Department.
  - i. A grant of \$6,000 shall be paid to the Pictou Island Fire Department.
  - ii. A grant of \$2,910 shall be paid to the Trenton Fire Department for direct services to the residents of Hillside.

### **4. REPEAL**

All former policies and/or resolutions of Council with respect to fire department funding are hereby repealed.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014.

(Sgd.) Andy Thompson  
Scott Johnston

### **MOTION**

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

Clr. D. Parker pointed out the way the policy currently reads the East River St. Mary's Fire Department is less than 20% of the levy so they would not receive a grant of \$16,000.

**AMENDMENT**

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. L. Fraser that Item #3. (c) iv be amended to delete the words “equal to 20 percent or more, but”.

The motion to amend carried.

The motion, as amended, 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:

Council

North Nova Education Centre	\$ 1,000.00	To provide five \$200 bursaries for graduating students from the Municipality who will be attending Community College or University
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Northumberland Regional High School	1,000.00	To provide five \$200 bursaries for graduating students from the Municipality who will be attending Community College or University
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\$ 2,000.00

Pictou County Council of Seniors Outreach	\$ 1,500.00	Approval to extend the completion of this project (originally approved on July 2, 2013) to March 31, 2015
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Municipal Services:

Linacy Fire Department	\$ 10,000.00 D10	Approval to extend the completion of this project (originally approved on January 7, 2014) to March 31, 2015
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Greenhill-Alma Historical Kiosk Committee	2,500.00 D09 5,000.00 D07	Approval to extend the completion of this project (originally approved on Aug. 6 <sup>th</sup> & June 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2013 respectively) to March 31, 2015
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Saltsprings 4-H Club	2,000.00 D08	Approval to extend the completion of this project (originally approved on Jan. 7/1) to March 31, 2015
Millbrook & Area Comm. Club	1,090.00 D08	Approval to extend the completion of t his project (originally approved on Jan. 7/14) to March 31, 2015
SBI 4-H Club	46.65 D14	Approval to extend the completion of this project (originally approved on Aug. 6/13) to March 31, 2015
Plymouth Community & Rec. Association	1,650.00 D11	Approval to extend the completion of this project (originally approved on Dec. 2/13) to March 31, 2015

DATED at Pictou, NS this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 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.

### **TOWER ROAD CONCERNS**

On behalf of the residents who live on Tower Road in Millsville Clr. R. Parker asked that the members of the Planning Advisory Committee take the time to visit that area to experience firsthand what the residents are up against regarding the wind turbines.

Clr. L. Fraser commented that he has been up the Tower Road several times and pointed out the tower that is in the process of being installed has already been approved under the present by-law.

Clr. Wadden reported that she received a telephone call from a resident of the Tower Road asking her to visit the site but she was not home at the time. Clr. Wadden returned the call and informed the resident that if the wind conditions continued this week she would definitely go out to hear the noise coming from the turbines.

Clr. Turple reported that he has been up the Tower Road recently and noticed one of the turbines was making a large bang. He asked if someone could be contacted to find out if that noise is normal and Warden Baillie replied they could find out the name of the company.

Clr. Palmer reported that he has been there twice but would be available to accompany Councillor who was planning to check out the turbines on the Tower Road.

### **PICTOU COUNTY ECONOMY**

Clr. R. Parker reported there have been some negative feelings regarding the Michelin lay-offs and there are really no big projects for this summer in Pictou County. He further stated that he was hoping something positive was going to come from the RENS and asked if there was any positive news on moving forward with the committee.

Warden Baillie responded that the RENS topic will be on the agenda for the next meeting of the Property Services Committee. He reported that he was speaking with Sean Murray regarding the

committee that was form and has been advised that the group now has all the information needed to move forward.

Clr. R. Parker pointed out that he is just trying to push the ball along because the people in this county need to have the feeling that something is being done especially those people out of work.

### **UP-DATE-BILL C-442**

Clr. Turple informed Council that B C-442 the “National Lyme Strategy Act” passed second reading in the House of Commons yesterday and has been sent to the House Standing Committee on Health for further study. Elizabeth May the leader of the Green Party of Canada first introduced this bill calling for a National Lyme Disease Strategy in 2012. This bill has brought forward a spirit of non-partisanship in order to help people across Canada and right now it is not a question if this bill will pass but when and how quickly we can get help for the people who are suffering from Lyme disease. Lyme disease is an emerging infectious disease that is carried by deer ticks. Early symptoms may include fever, head-ache, fatigue, depression and characteristics similar to a skin rash. If it is left untreated symptoms may involve the joints, hearts and central nervous system. We are all aware of Brenda Goodwin who was bitten 18 years ago and has been in a wheelchair since that time. Clr. Turple pointed out that because of climate change the range for the black legged ticks that carries Lyme disease is expanding. New cases are being found across Canada by thousands that are by affected by what is rapidly becoming a national crisis. Elizabeth May’s Lyme Disease Strategy Act has been endorsed by the Canadian Medical Association, College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation. The bill also calls for a national conference for public health officials, researchers and patient advocates to be convened as a first step in developing a Canadian National Strategy for diagnosing and treating the disease. Scientific studies have been warning us that with climate change the number of vector borne bird and insect diseases are on the rise and Lyme disease spread by ticks is one of them. We have to make sure that all Canadian doctors are equipped with the tools and knowledge to effectively diagnose and treat patients suffering from Lyme disease.

### **SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

Clr. D. Parker reported that Clr. L. Fraser and he attended a meeting on sustainable public transportation issues held at the New Glasgow Library. The meeting was well attended with a wide range of topics and of course there was the topic of the lack of safe pedestrian ways at Exits 23 & 25. There is a group called Nova Scotia Moves that provides funding to these projects.

### **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. L. Fraser that Council instruct staff to work with Rae Gunn of Active Pictou County to prepare and submit an application to Nova Scotia Moves for funding to study possible solutions and estimated costs of user friendly pedestrian/cycling crossings at or near the Westville Road Underpass at Exit 23 with copies to the Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal, Troy Webb, Area Manager, TIR, the 3 local MLA’s and the Town of New Glasgow.

Clr. L. Fraser reported this could be a project the Wellness Centre could help with so all the municipal units will be contributing to the project.

Deputy Warden Thompson pointed out that he has been advocating for sidewalks at Exit 25 to connect the loop so he is interested to know what Rae Gunn will propose.

Clr. R. Parker reported that without spending a lot of money there will not be safe access at these exits.

Clr. Turner reported the Westville Road is in his district and it is a dangerous area so to conduct this study is the logical first step in trying to make a decision for the best solution.

Motion carried.

## **RIVERTON WIND TURBINES**

Clr. Dewar informed Council that the Deputy Warden, Earl Cameron and himself went out to look at the wind turbines that are ready to be installed. He reported that the access road was well constructed and he was pleased that the contractor used the logging road instead of going through the fields.

## **EAST RIVER ST. MARY'S FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Clr. Johnston thanked Council and in particular Clr. D. Parker on behalf of the East River St. Mary's Fire Department for the changes to the Fire Department Funding policy which saw the annual grant to that department increase.

## **TOUR OF DIST.#14**

Clr. Johnston reported that he did a tour of part of District #14 last fall looking for illegal dumping sites and did another tour this spring. Clr. Johnston reported that he would like to take the opportunity to discuss what Council can do about these sites because it is going to cost quite a bit to clean them up. Clr. Johnston reported that we should try to keep the Municipality as clean as possible and he suggested something should be done whether it may be signage or illegal dumping fines.

Warden Baillie asked Clr. Johnston if he notified the Landfill Site about these illegal dump sites and Clr. Johnston replied that he was speaking with the General Manager.

## **LYME DISEASE SEMINAR**

Clr. Turple informed Council that on May 22th Brenda Goodwin will be hosting a seminar on Lyme disease at Summer Street Industries from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. All members of Council are welcome to attend.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Council met in closed session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss matters relating to contract negotiations, litigation or potential litigation and security of municipal property.

## **OPEN SESSION**

Council resumed in open session at 8:25 p.m.

## **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. Davidson and seconded by Deputy Warden Thompson that the Municipality enter into an easement agreement with Heritage Gas on the land the Municipality owns on the Munroe Avenue Extension.

Motion carried.

## **VETERANS TURKEY DINNER**

Clr. Turple asked if there was any information on the turkey dinner for the veterans and the Deputy Municipal Clerk replied that health and union issues prevent the hospital catering staff from cooking and serving that meal in the Unit. Everyone is positive to the use of the Plymouth Fire Hall and the Ladies Auxiliary to cook the meal. She reported that she wants to speak with the Recreation Director of the Veterans Unit about the time of the meal and then she will approach the Ladies Auxiliary to get a date.

## **ADJOURN**

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

Motion carried. (8:25 p.m.)

Ronald Baillie  
Warden

Brian Cullen  
Municipal Clerk