

June 9, 2014

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Monday, June 9, 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

**BY APPOINTMENT**

Gene MacManus & Margo Hilchey, Highland Tennis Association

**PRAYER**

Warden Baillie opened the meeting with a prayer, following which Council observed a moment of silence for the deaths of 3 RCMP officers in New Brunswick.

**AGENDA**

It was moved by Clr. Turple and seconded by Clr. R. Parker that the agenda be approved with the addition of a discussion on capital project priorities.  
Motion carried.

**MINUTES**

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. S. Fraser that the minutes of May 5, 2014 be approved as presented.  
Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- (a) Premier Stephen McNeil – Advising that Council concerns regarding the removal of the provincial portion of the HST on funeral services will be considered during the on-going comprehensive review of taxes, regulations and fees in Nova Scotia which is expected to be completed by the fall of 2014.
- (b) National Defence Headquarters – Acknowledging receipt of Council correspondence concerning the continued funding of 144 Canadian Engineering Flight.
- (c) New Horizons for Seniors Pgm. – Advising that the Program is accepting applications for community-based projects funding from May 13<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>. Eligible applicants can receive up to \$25,000 per year in grant funding.
- (d) UNSM – Expressing appreciation to the 2014 Spring Workshop Host Communities for contributing to the success of this event.
- (e) Correspondence (uncirculated) expressing appreciation for financial support has been received from the River John Sunday Market

**PRESENTATION – HIGHLAND TENNIS ASSOCIATION (7:05 P.M.)**

Mr. Gene MacManus & Ms. Margo Hilchey met with Council and gave a brief presentation on the Highland Tennis Association.

Ms. Hilchey informed Council that both she and Gene are volunteers with the Association which has undertaken the mandate to build new tennis courts in the Town of Pictou and to grow the sport of tennis in all of Pictou County. Tennis is now on the rise and is one of the fastest growing sports and the Highland Tennis Association would like to build into that. Ms. Hilchey pointed out that in the years 1975 to 2000 there was a 3 court facility located beside the Hector Arena that ran a successful tennis program but over the years the asphalt deteriorated so there has been no tennis in this area for a number of years. In 2009 Tennis Canada (as part of their Building Tennis Program) approached the Chignecto Central Regional School Board and the community and asked if there was any interest in the Building Tennis Community. There were 3 schools selected that included West Pictou Consolidated, McCulloch Middle School and Pictou Academy. These schools were provided with some equipment to do some tennis provided in their Physical Education Programs. They also provided funding for 3 years of indoor tennis instruction where 30 students participated and an instructor was hired for the summer. At the same time Pictou Recreation hosted a brainstorming session and there was a number of ideas that came about that which included enhancements to Broidy Park. As a spin-off from that meeting the Highland Tennis Association was formed. Ms. Hilchey explained to Council that from 2010 to present there has been on-going fundraising and promotion. They were hoping to open the courts last summer but there was a shortfall of funding so the courts did not get built as planned. They applied for and were successful to receive both federal and provincial funding to provide summer indoor tennis sessions at Pictou Academy gym and Scotsburn courts. In October, 2013 they were able to build the courts, pour the asphalt and fencing for the 2 courts at Broidy Park. The next step is to put on the final layer of surface which is a plexi-play surface and that should be done this week. They also hired 2 summer instructors for this summer who have taken the Level 1 Tennis Program and just completed First Aid programs. Ms. Hilchey pointed out they were able to secure Molson Canada funding in the amount of \$50,000, \$10,000+ from the Town of Pictou and all other sources of funding giving a total of \$136,000. The total project costs are \$146,020 so there is a shortfall of approximately \$10,000. An application for those funds has been made to the County through its Municipal Grants program as there are participants from both the county and the Town that partake in the tennis program in Pictou.

Clr. R. Parker reported that outdoor recreation is a good thing and it is good to promote so hopefully a lot of residents will make good use of the tennis courts.

Ms. Hilchey informed Council that this should be a one-time ask because they have already applied for program funding and once the courts have been paid for everything should work for the Association.

Clr. D. Parker asked the number of participants that are expected to play on these new courts and Ms. Hilchey replied that they are not sure as yet. Efforts are being made to keep registration fees as low as possible so a fee of \$30 has been set for an adult and a \$50 fee for a family.

Mr. MacManus informed Council that they are trying to stage a management campaign and that it is open to everyone in Pictou County. They would like to produce some world-class tennis players and Mr. MacManus pointed out that Pictou County has produced some world class athletes. Tennis is not nearly as expensive as hockey because all you need is a tennis racket and a good pair of shoes.

Clr. D. Parker asked the number of courts in use in Pictou County and Ms. Hilchey responded that there are 4 courts in New Glasgow, 2 courts in Scotsburn, 2 courts in Trenton and 2 courts in Pictou.

Clr. D. Parker asked if the group would consider a donation over 2 years instead of 1 year and Ms. Hilchey replied that they would take the money over 2 years.

Clr. Dewar asked the amount of HST they will receive and Ms. Hilchey responded they applied for the HST rebate but were denied because the project does not meet the 40% threshold of government funding.

Warden Baillie thanked Mr. MacManus and Ms. Hilchey for the presentation and excused them from the balance of the meeting (7:20 p.m.)

### **MLA – PICTOU EAST**

Warden Baillie acknowledged the presence of MLA Tim Houston in the Council Chambers.

### **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 May:

1. Reviewed the report of the Building Inspector, By-Law/Dog Control Officer and Warden for the month of April.
2. Agreed to forward a letter to the Federal Minister of Environment asking that Government consider the environment as a priority in any type of development in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.
3. Received a report from the CAO that the responses from residents polled on Maple Estates and MacIntosh Drive with respect to an area rate for road up-grades have met the threshold of Council's Private Road Policy. As a result the Director of Public Works & Development will be working on road profiles in preparation for calling tenders to carry out these up-grades.
4. Approved the installation of a street light in District #2 in front of the property at 16 Station Road, Pictou Landing.
5. Agreed to write the Pictou County Health Authority conveying the details of recent incidents raised by Clr. Turple with regard to the level of care at the Aberdeen Hospital.
6. Agreed to write the Renovation Committee for the Dr. W. A. MacLeod School asking that the current name of the school be included in any re-naming of that facility as a means of continuing to honor the Late Dr. William MacLeod who served the community as a doctor and MLA for many years.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 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. Turple referred to Item #2 and informed Council there was a very interesting article in the newspaper today regarding the drilling of oil in the Old Harry site located in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Scientists are now saying it could be very dangerous to anything living in these waters and are hoping for a moratorium.

Clr. Turple referred to Item #5 and pointed recent incident should be incidents.

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 May:

1. Reviewed the list of Accounts Paid for the month of April.
2. Reviewed the report of the Recreation Coordinator for the months of March and April.
3. Met with the Chief Librarian for the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library and granted permission for the Library to use banner supports originally installed throughout the Municipality by the former Pictou Regional Development Agency for the Library's Books by-Mail Program.
4. Considered several applications for grants. (Resolution to follow)
5. Met with a representative of the Scotsburn Recreation Club to clarify a request to extend the deadline for the use of community coordinator funding. (Resolution to follow)
6. Discussed the release of the Financial Condition Indicators by the Province. The Municipality meets 14 of the 15 indicators.
7. Received up-dates from the Warden on his attendance at the recent Atlantic Mayors Congress, the status of staffing levels at Michelin, and on-going discussions and negotiations regarding our participation in a Regional Enterprise Network.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 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 – MUNICIPAL GRANTS**

Clr. Turple 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 County 4-H	\$ 250.00	Exhibition & Awards Night Sponsorship
The NS Highlanders Assoc.	100.00	AGM Sponsorship
Tourism Industry Assoc. of NS	<u>500.00</u>	AGM Sponsorship
	\$ 850.00	

Municipal Services:

D 5 Bethel Presby. Church	\$ 4,000.00	Replacement of Manse Windows & Floors
D 5 Scotsburn Fire Dept.	2,000.00	Coveralls, Scott Packs, Aluminum Sprinklers
D 5 Durham Community Hall	3,000.00	Replacement of Porch & Accessible Ramp
D 5 West Riv. Presby. Ch. Hall	3,000.00	Sills, Gyproc, Paint & Trim
D 6 Scotsburn Fire Dept.	10,000.00	Turn-Out Gear, Fire Bags & Helmets
D6 Lyon's Bk. Community Hall	9,054.55	Studs, Insulation, Vapor Barrier, Wiring, Gyproc, Trim & Paint
D 6 Lyon's Bk. Women's Inst.	1,500.00	Completion of Kiosk Project
D 6 Bethel Presby. Church	8,000.00	Replacement of manse Windows & Floors
D 7 Alma Fire Dept.	1,500.00	Truck Equipment
D 7 Pump Road Homeowners	3,450.00	Gravel
D 7 Durham Community Hall	4,000.00	Replacement of Porch & Accessible Ramp
D 7 West River Presby Ch. Hall	5,000.00	Sills, Insulation, Gyproc, Trim & Paint
	<u>\$54,504.55</u>	

Community Development

Scotsburn Recreation Club	\$ 7,247.28	Approval to extend the completion of this project (originally approved on Aug. 6/13) to March 31, 2015
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DATED at Pictou, NS this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 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.

**RESOLUTION – SHEEP VALUER**

Clr. Dewar presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Section 9(1) of the Sheep Protection Act provides for the annual appointment of Sheep Valuers;

WHEREAS appointments to this office have been made throughout the various districts of the County of Pictou;

WHEREAS in accordance with the aforementioned Statutes of Nova Scotia, these appointments require the approval of Council;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the appointment of the following Sheep Valuers for 2014/15:

DIST. #02      Ross Cameron

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014.

Sgd.) Chester Dewar  
Jamie Davidson

**MOTION**

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

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION – VEHICLE TENDER**

Deputy Warden Thompson presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS tenders have been called for the purchase of a new 2014 full size ¾ ton 4 x 4 pickup truck for the Public Works & Development Department;

WHEREAS a total of 3 tenders were received as follows:

	TENDER AMOUNT (Including HST)
Atlantic Dodge	\$35,069.05
Highland Ford Sales Ltd.	37,775.92
Herron GM	42,900.10

WHEREAS the Director of Public Works & Development recommends the acceptance of the lowest tender;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council accept the tender submitted by Atlantic Dodge in the amount of \$35,069.05 for the purchase of a 2014 vehicle as detailed above.

DATED at Pictou, N. S. this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014.

Sgd.) Andy Thompson  
Sally Fraser

### MOTION

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

Motion carried.

### UPDATE – MUNICIPAL ALCOHOL PROJECT

Clr. Wadden reported that at the last Municipal Alcohol Policy meeting that was held on May 14<sup>th</sup> our Committee decided that each month the MAP should be an agenda item for our respective Councils just to keep the awareness of this Committee at the forefront. The original rollout was held in Truro in February and since then all local municipalities have agreed to continue their support of this policy with all the local representatives continuing to stay on the Committee. Members of the Committee include Fergie MacKay from Trenton, Ken Francis from Stellarton, Lynn MacDonald from Westville, Alta Munroe from Pictou, Clyde Fraser and Trudy Vince from New Glasgow and myself from the County. We do not want to see our project with a Pictou County perspective to just gather dust on the shelf but we want to continue towards our goals of engaging our youth in this alcohol problem and encouraging both young and old alike to take responsibility for their own health. We are continuing to work on an event we hope will take place sometime in November to coincide with National Addiction Week and if anyone has any suggestions as to what they would like to see included in the event please do not hesitate to let me know. Please discuss this problem with residents in your own respective areas. We have to make our culture of alcohol in this county a culture of moderation and not be known as binge drinkers of the country. My fact for this month is the human brain continues to develop well into their early twenties so children and youth should not drink before they reach Nova Scotia's legal age of 19. Alcohol can harm mental and physical development. It is safer to delay drinking as long as possible and because of this young people from the ages of 19 to 24 should never exceed the recommended daily and weekly amounts. For women this would be from 0 to 2 drinks a day and up to 10 drinks a week. For men this would be from 0 to 3 drinks a day and up to 15 drinks a week. So once in a while you might have an extra drink but it is important to stay within your limits. One suggestion is to pick a couple of non-drinking days each week so it will help you to avoid developing a drinking habit. I urge all Councillors to pass the monthly facts on to your respective residents so together we hope we can make a difference.

## **NAME CHANGE – DR. W.A. MACLEOD SCHOOL**

Clr. Dewar reported that at last month's Property Services Committee meeting he brought up the name change at the Dr. W.A. MacLeod School. There was a lot of good publicity to keep Dr. W.A. MacLeod's name on that school and a lot of former students and staff participated in letters and emails. The Committee they had at the school recommended the name of the school be Dr. W.A. MacLeod Consolidated but it still has to go to the School Board so hopefully they will support the Committee's decision.

## **PICTOU NORTH COLCHESTER EXHIBITION**

Clr. Fraser asked if the Pictou-North Colchester Exhibition received grants in the past from the Municipality and the amount that was received.

Warden Baillie replied that the Exhibition received funding the last number of years and has another request in this year. Warden Baillie reported that the Exhibition received \$7,500 last year and this year's request is approximately the same amount.

## **TRANSPORTATION LINKS**

Clr. D. Parker referred to the transportation links going east of the Province as a request from Joe MacDonald who is the Fire Chief for Barneys River. Mr. MacDonald has been in the news lately asking for action on the twinning of that highway. It also has to do with the short line railroad that goes from Truro to Sydney and as many of us aware there was an incident on that railroad earlier today. Clr. D. Parker pointed out that railroad is worn out and poorly maintained. Both that railroad and highway that extends east of New Glasgow to Aulds Cove and then to Sydney is essential for the Maher Melford Terminal Proposal. Before that project can proceed hundreds of millions of dollars have to be invested in roads and railroads.

## **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. L. Fraser that a letter be sent to the Federal Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal, with copies to Peter MacKay, MP, the Provincial Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal and the 3 local MLAs, asking that for both safety and economic development reasons that Highway 104 from New Glasgow East to Aulds Cove and the railroad from Truro to Aulds Cove be given priority so these projects can move forward and for the safety of our residents on that highway.

Deputy Warden Thompson noted that the railroad is provincially owned and not regulated by the Federal Government. Deputy Warden Thompson pointed out he was concerned about the short line railroad because there are a lot of chemicals going through Pictou County every day. Deputy Warden Thompson reported he was concerned with deterioration of the railroad but it needs to be there and it needs to be there safely.

Clr. D. Parker reported if this project is to move forward we have to have both federal and provincial cooperation because it is too big a project just for the province. There are businesses in Halifax that do not want that Melford Project to go ahead because they want to keep all the business in Halifax.

Motion carried.

## **ABERDEEN HOSPITAL**

Clr. Turple reported at the last Financial Services Committee meeting he brought concerns from one of his residents about the appalling care her father was receiving at the Aberdeen Hospital. A day after these concerns appeared in the newspaper a letter from Accreditation Canada appeared in the same paper praising the work being done at the same hospital. Clr. Turple reported this same letter was published on April 16, 2014 in the same newspaper and now reappearing once again when his criticisms appeared. Clr. Turple pointed out that he was probably correct in stating the Aberdeen Hospital was made aware of when



the Accreditation group was to visit and was well prepared. Clr. Turple reported that Warden Baillie informed Council that he received excellent care while he was a patient at the hospital as did Clr. Dewar. Clr. Turple reported that he too received excellent care at the Aberdeen Hospital but it does not appear that all are as lucky as we were. It was 2 years ago when the Pictou County Health Authority's Pat Lee and Eileen MacIsaac met with Council on concerns and questions regarding the Aberdeen Hospital. Clr. Turple informed Council that at that time he asked Pat Lee the ratio between administration and nursing staff and Mr. Lee could not answer that question but would get back to him but Clr. Turple reported that he is still waiting for that answer.

Mr. Murray Hill stated that after receiving that award, "I would like to thank the staff, physicians, volunteers and community partners whose dedication and commitment have greatly contributed to the achievement of this commendable award. Your day to day work in providing excellent care and service to the citizens of Pictou County and beyond is valued and appreciated".

The Accreditation report showed that all patients experienced compassionate care and friendliness during their journey through the Health Authority. You have all heard the concerns presented from Linda Gregory on the compassionate care her father had received and now I have another note from Linda Gregory on May 27, 2014.

"There seems to be a lot more activity on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor as I noticed some training of new recruits happening. I also saw a lady walking the floor all morning with a clip board taking notes but I am not sure what that was all about. However shortage of help is still a problem because yesterday I went to visit an elderly gentleman who I worked with while volunteering Summer Street. I found him sitting in the big chair crying because no one come and take him to the bathroom. I went to the desk but no one was there and found a nurse down the hall so I asked her but she was too busy at that moment. I then found an LPN and by the time I got back to the elderly gentlemen it was too late. Today the man sitting across from Dad's bed was left his breakfast and he did not eat anything because there was no one to help him so they took the breakfast away. This man cannot get to the bathroom on his own or call a nurse on his own and was only removed from the chair when he had to be changed. Today I washed and shaved Dad and helped him get dressed mainly because the staff was too busy. Some of the girls do not take breaks or even eat lunch and that is awful way to try and work."

## **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. Turple and seconded by Clr. L. Fraser that a letter be sent to the CEO for the Pictou Health Authority asking him his opinion on why this is happening at a hospital where recent praise was received from Accreditation Canada and also asking the administration nurse ratio at the Aberdeen Hospital.

Clr. D. Parker reported that he read today that the Health Authority Board has been formerly disbanded and soon we will have to address our letters to Halifax regarding concerns with the Aberdeen Hospital. Clr. D. Parker pointed out that there are situations in any hospital where patients' needs are overlooked and cautioned that Council has to be careful that it is not seen as labelling the entire Aberdeen Hospital as uncaring based on certain instances.

Deputy Warden Thompson pointed out there has to be a mechanism other than sending a letter regarding patient care at the Aberdeen Hospital.

Clr. Turple reported there are some patients who are not receiving the appropriate level of care and he is attributing that to the shortage of nurses. Clr. Turple informed Council there has to be some accountability to the people and some of these people want answers.

Clr. Palmer reported it should be up to the residents to take their complaints to the administration of the hospital.

Warden Baillie pointed out that Council is still waiting for a reply to the first letter that was sent regarding the Aberdeen Hospital.

Clr. Turple reported that any phone calls he received he directed them to Karla MacFarlane the MLA for Pictou West.

Clr. L. Fraser reported the problem is with elderly people who have no family nearby to help them while they are patients in the hospital.

Deputy Warden Thompson commented there are a lot of good things happening at the hospital and we should be a little more considerate of those health care workers who are providing excellent care.

Motion defeated. (Nay Votes: Clr. Wadden, R. Parker, D. Parker, Turner, Davidson, Dewar, Palmer, Deputy Warden Thompson & Warden Baillie)

### **WORKING GROUP**

Clr. R. Parker reported when the Michelin job losses announcement was made he made a motion to set up a working group with this Council and the other Councils in the county. It was then decided to put that working group on hold because the Province was setting up a Committee that is chaired by Mr. Sean Murray. Clr. R. Parker referred to a letter written by Mr. Tim Houston, MLA, Pictou East who is in attendance this evening regarding this matter. The municipalities need to play a more active role and if there is going to be a new RENS it has to be settled fairly quickly. Clr. R. Parker asked how Council can play an active role in determining where Pictou County is going in terms of employment. There has to be some things happen in the next few months that would provide direction for economic activity.

Warden Baillie reported that Mr. Murray has been away and has just returned to the county. Warden Baillie reported this issue has been dragging on and it is time to have a serious discussion on what that Committee has been doing. There was a meeting today with Mr. Sean Murray and 2 of the local MLAs.

Deputy Warden Thompson reported that things are moving forward and the RENS is in negotiations. The County has projects ready to go but we do not have the funding partners right now and hopefully this task force gets up and running very soon so Council can meet with them.

Clr. D. Parker asked what can Council do to push RENS along because this has been dragging on for at least 2 years. Clr. D. Parker reported that he spoke with a Clr. from Colchester County and they are all set to go as well.

Warden Baillie informed Council there will be a meeting tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. in Truro and the CAOs at that meeting will be asked to develop an inter-municipal agreement to get the RENS up and running. The meeting will include East Hants, Truro, Cumberland County, Amherst, Pictou County and New Glasgow and all information will be taken back to the municipal units.

### **AGREED**

It was agreed that Mr. Tim Houston, MLA, Pictou East be permitted to speak to Council on the meeting he attended today.

Mr. Houston informed Council that both he and his colleague from Pictou West had met with Sean Murray this morning who is working on the economic development of the county. Mr. Houston reported that he wrote the letter because he is pretty worried about what he sees in the County and felt that it is incumbent upon this Council and the other Councils as well as the 3 MLAs to work together and to work with Sean Murray.

Clr. R. Parker reported that hearing that information from Mr. Houston it was his belief that Council should meet with Mr. Murray and the working group as soon as possible. The plan for the County has to include where it is going with employment and how to entice some employers here as well being able to sell ourselves.

### **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. R. Parker and seconded by Clr. Johnston that Council request a meeting with Mr. Sean Murray and the working group as soon as possible.

Clr. Palmer asked if the Municipality will be represented on the working group and Warden Baillie replied it was his understanding the group was to include business, chamber and elected representatives.

Clr. D. Parker reported that it has been 3 months since the Michelin announcement and a Working Committee was put in place but we still know nothing. He pointed out that he would like to think that Council would be part of the solution and there needs to be some urgency here.

Warden Baillie reported that he will have an up-date at the next Property Services Committee meeting.

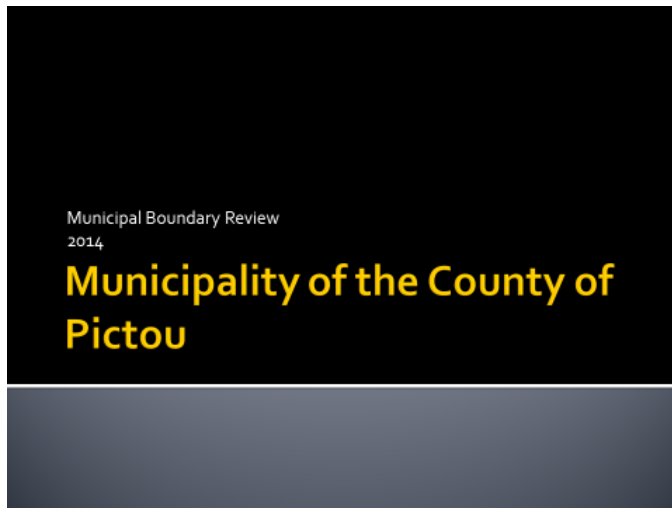
Motion carried.

## **MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY REVIEW**

Council discussed the details of the public participation component of the municipal boundary review.

Clr. Johnston expressed his opinion that there is not enough time to visit all the residents in the 2 week time period and felt that we should make every effort to contact these people so they have the information. Clr. Johnston pointed out that he would like to see the Councillors having an input in their own districts as to what is taking place.

The CAO reviewed the presentation he had prepared for the public participation program as follows:



## **Municipal Boundary Review**

- Section 369 of the Municipal Government Act requires councils of every town and municipality to apply to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board to
  - Confirm or alter the number and boundaries of polling districts and the number of councillors.
- All councils must conduct a study into the reasonableness and fairness of the number and boundaries of polling districts and the number of councillors before making application to the Board.

## Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board

- The Board has recommended a two step process
  - Step 1
    - Determine the desired number of councillors
  - Step 2
    - Distributing the polling districts to satisfy the objectives of section 368(4) of the Act

## Section 368

- The Board must consider several factors in determining the number and boundaries of polling districts, including:
  - The number of electors;
  - Relative voting parity;
  - Population density
  - Community of interest
  - Geographic Size

## NSUARB Municipal Boundary Reviews User Guide

- Governance
  - The style of government is a question which should not be answered by council until adequate public consultation has occurred respecting the expectations of its constituents. The size of council and its governance structure is a matter which can then be determined by Council in an informed debate.
  - Ideally, the public consultation process should mirror the two step process. The Board recognizes that for smaller municipalities or towns (or in instances where the first round of public consultations has indicated a preference to substantially maintain the status quo, a second round of consultation may not be necessary.

## Public Consultation

- The form and extent of public consultation is with council's discretion.
- The consultation should be of a type and degree which allows members of the public an opportunity to express their views on the size of council and location of boundaries.
- Allowing the public the opportunity to provide its valuable input is a key component of the decision making process leading to an application by a municipality.

## Voter Parity

- The Board has determined that in municipal boundary review applications the target variance for relative parity of voting power must be +/- 10 percent from the average number of electors per polling district.
  - Any variance in excess of the +/- 10 percent must be justified in writing.
- While the Board will permit variances up to +/- 25 percent, the outer limits of this range should only apply in exceptional cases.

## Governance In Pictou County

- This is a topic for another time and will be decided in conjunction with the other towns.
  - There will be opportunity for public input and debate on this issue.
- The Municipal Council is always receptive to hear the opinions on this issue and encourage anyone to submit their comments to Council or their individual councilor.

## Where to Start (SNSMR)

- Each Council should discuss what options it wishes to consider during its review
  - Status Quo can always be an option, but the board will require at least two options to evaluate
- After council determines the options it wishes to explore, staff should begin the data collection process

## Municipal Council

- Currently the Municipality has 14 elected municipal officials
- The Municipal Council elects the Warden from amongst themselves at the first meeting of Council after the general municipal election.
- The Warden serves as the head of the municipal Council.

## Warden System

- The warden system avoids the problem of candidates campaigning in large geographic areas.
- The warden system can help to establish good working relationships on council.
  - It demonstrates the council's confidence in their leader
- The Municipal Government Act does contain provisions to the remove the Warden from office.

## Warden System Constraints

- The selection process and competition for the position can create permanent rifts and power cliques on council
- The Warden is often viewed as the political leader of Council; however, there is no direct means for the entire municipality (voters) to express their approval.
- Warden has a district to represent, and this representation of their constituents may lead to the appearance of parochialism.

## Mayor System

- Section 12(8) of the Municipal Government Act provides the opportunity for the Council of the rural municipality to change its governing structure.
  - The Municipal Council at present does not endorse changing to a mayor system.
- The mayor system can be viewed as the ultimate in the democratic process
  - The mayor is directly accountable to the electorate

## Mayor System

- The mayor system can lead to conflicts between the mayor and council, as the mayor may have been elected on a wide range of policy issues, opposed by the majority of council members
  - Mayor can be rendered ineffectual by a Council that may have different priorities
- If the Council chooses the mayor system, it cannot revert back to the warden system.

## Mayor System

- Campaigning in a large rural municipality could be challenging for a mayoral candidate.
  - Media coverage may not be wide spread
  - Name recognition of the candidate could be a problem
  - Election campaigning would be more costly.
- Mayor's office is generally viewed as a high profile position..

## Efficient and Effective Number of Councillors

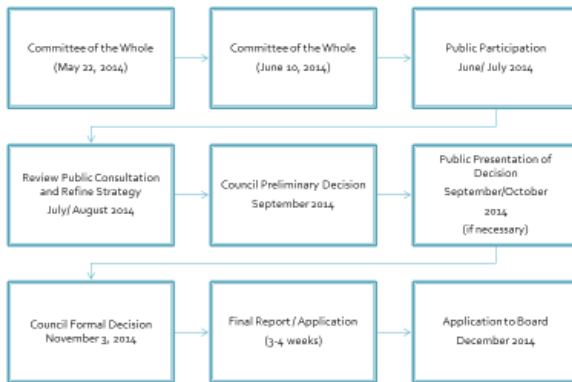
- Council has four Standing Committees in addition to the formal council meeting
  - Financial Services Committee (Monthly)
  - Property Services Committee (Monthly)
  - Committee of the Whole (As Required)
  - Executive Committee
- All members of council serve on these committees.
- All meetings of council and its committee's are open to the public.
  - The only exceptions as are contained in Section 22 of the Municipal Government Act.

## 2014 Municipal Boundary Review





## Time Lines



### Voter Parity 2014

Total Registered Voters  
16152

District 14

Average Voters  
1154

Variance  
+ 10 percent  
1269  
-10 percent  
1039

District	Voters	District	Voters
1	1023	8	1028
2	1360	9	959
3	1127	10	1243
4	1190	11	899
5	1091	12	1471
6	1047	13	1347
7	1313	14	1154

## Boundary Review Process

- The Municipal Council is considering three options
  - Status Quo
  - Reduce Council size by 2
  - Reduce Council size by 4

## Status Quo

- Districts Below 10 percent
  - 1,8,9,11
- Districts Above 10 percent
  - 2,7,12,13
- Districts Meeting Criteria
  - 3,4,5,6,10,14
- All Districts with the exception of District 12 meet the outer limit of +/- 25 percent.

## Council Reduction

### 12 MEMBER COUNCIL

- Cost Saving up to \$40,000 on a \$17 million annual budget
- Larger geographic districts to meet NSUARB rule of +/- 10 percent

### 10 MEMBER COUNCIL

- Cost Saving up to \$80,000 on a \$17 million dollar budget
- Larger geographic districts to meet NSUARB rule of +/- 10 percent

## Public Input

- The Municipality needs to hear from you our residents on what you define as your community of interest
  - Fire Department
  - Community halls
  - Physical characters that help define the community

The CAO circulated maps depicting the status quo, a reduction by 2 seats and a reduction by 4 seats and emphasized that the maps are intended to generate discussion from Council and residents as well as an attempt to establish community of interests within the various scenarios.

Clr. R. Parker pointed out the public perception that has been fed by the media for many years is that there are too many elected officials and asked the best way to educate the public on the boundary review process.

The CAO reported that there was some discussion at the Committee of the Whole on doing some on-line support to reach a larger audience and there was even the suggestion of doing a flyer drop to get the information out to the public.

Warden Baillie informed Council that the Boundary Review was on the agenda of his ratepayers meeting and it will be in the River John newsletter as well.

The CAO reported that the Boundary Review is a legislated process that Council has to go through.

Clr. Johnston reported that he is concerned that the people know what is taking place and asked how that information is going to reach everyone.

The CAO replied the on-line and outreach campaign is to target those people that do not attend the meetings

Warden Baillie informed Council the public meetings will be held at the following locations:

Toney River	June 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Eureka Fire Hall	June 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Little Harbor Community Hall	June 25, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
West River Fire Hall	June 26, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers	July 7, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

### **CAPITAL PROJECTS – PRIORITIES**

The CAO reported that he received a letter from Eileen Waller-Hebb on behalf of the Build Canada Fund Secretariat asking that the Municipality provide to the Province by June 27<sup>th</sup> details on a maximum of 3 projects that the Municipality plans to undertake in the next 2 to 4 years. The province also requires a formal resolution of Council that would have to be presented this evening. The CAO informed Council the 2 projects that the Municipality has planned are the Upper Plymouth/MacLellan's Brook Sewer Project and Springfield Estates Sewer & Water Project.

Clr. Turner asked that the Abercrombie Sewer Extension be included as 1 of the 3 projects.

Clr. Palmer pointed out if we are looking at projects then we should be looking at good sized projects because the Municipality would receive 2/3 funding.

Clr. D. Parker pointed out many small projects never get done because they are not big enough so now we should be picking up some of the smaller ones.

Clr. Palmer pointed out the smaller projects can be funded using the gas tax and the larger ones will receive 2/3 funding from the Federal and Provincial Governments.

Warden Baillie informed Council that the Municipality cannot use the gas tax for any Build Canada Funding it receives.

### **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. Palmer that the Municipality provide the Province the details on the 3 projects of Upper Plymouth/MacLellan's Brook Phase II, Springfield Estates Water and Sewer Project and the Abercrombie Sewer Extension.

Motion carried.

### **WIND TURBINE – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

Clr. R. Parker asked when the public meetings will be held in regards to the wind turbines set back distance and the CAO replied the Planning Advisory Committee will probably meet once more to finalize the public participation process.

**ADJOURN**

It was moved by Clr. Davidson and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the meeting adjourn.  
Motion carried. (9:05 P.M.)

Ronald Baillie  
Warden

Brian Cullen  
Municipal Clerk