

August 5, 2014

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on August 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
	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.	8	Clr. Leonard Fraser
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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. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Davidson that the agenda be approved with the addition of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Motion carried.

MINUTES

It was moved by Deputy Warden Thompson and seconded by Clr. Turple that the minutes of April 29 & July 7, 2014 be approved with the following correction:

July 7 Minutes, Pg. 31: "We do not hope Councillors" should read "We do hope Councillors".

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- (a) Pictou County Health Authority – Acknowledging receipt of correspondence outlining Council’s concerns with respect to the quality of care at the Aberdeen Hospital & advising that the comments will be used to review & improve services where possible.
- (b) NS UARB – Advising that correspondence regarding restoration times to repair electrical outages will form part of the record in the Board’s review of NSPI’s state of preparedness & response to post-tropical storm Arthur.
- (c) Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal;

Advising that brush cutting at the intersection of the Stewart Road & Route 376 in Lyon’s Brook has been scheduled to take place in the near future.

Advising that staff will examine the proposed locations for the removal of passing lanes to determine whether traffic conditions warrant such changes.
- (d) Correspondence (uncirculated) expressing appreciation for financial support has been received from the Pictou County Children with Autism Association; expressions of appreciation for Council Bursaries have been received from Caleb MacDonald, Stephanie Benoit, Shelby MacDonald, Jordan MacDonald, the North Nova Education Centre & the Northumberland Regional High School Education Society. Expressions of appreciation have also been received from the River John Consolidated School Home & School Association for donations to the school’s Spring Fling, and from the Nova Scotia Community College Foundation for sponsorship of the Marathon of Respect & Equality Award in honour of Henderson Paris.

Clr. D. Parker referred to the notice received from the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board in regards to reviewing NSPI’s actions and response to tropical storm Arthur and pointed out that in his opinion NSP has and continues to have the most ineffective system of public communication which is extremely frustrating. NSP’s plan is to not have enough staff and they have this pre-recorded message that is extremely frustrating for people relying on power.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. Turple that Council send a letter to the Nova Scotia Utility & Review Board expressing concern that Nova Scotia Power’s automated telephone system does not adequately address the public’s need for information during power outages.
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 July:

- 1. Reviewed the report of the Building Inspector, By-Law/Dog Control Officer and Warden for the month of June.
- 2. Selected “Gordon Buck MacLean Road” as the name for the access road to the Municipality’s wind turbines in Riverton.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 5th day of August, 2014.

Sgd.) David Parker
Jim Turple

MOTION

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

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 July:

1. Reviewed a list of Accounts Paid for the month of June.
2. Reviewed the report of the Recreation Coordinator for the month of June.
3. Considered several funding request. (Resolution to follow)
4. Received for information purposes correspondence from the Towns of Westville and Trenton on a comprehensive review of existing and potential service delivery options to better prepare for discussion and consideration of the MOU, when presented.
5. Discussed correspondence from the deCoste Centre, Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library and the Town of Pictou on a facility design and operating grant request. The Committee is asking to meet with representatives of this partnership for a review and discussion on the proposal.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 5th day of August, 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 – REPEAL OF TAX EXEMPT. & REDUCTION BY-LAW

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 the Tax Exemption & Tax Reduction By-Law of the Municipality, originally adopted by Council on May 4, 2009 and amended on January 15 & October 4, 2010, October 3rd and December 6th, 2011, and August 7, 2012 is hereby repealed.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 5th day of August, 2014.

(Sgd.) Andy Thompson
Robert Parker

MOTION

It was moved by Deputy Warden Thompson and seconded by Clr. R. Parker 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:

Municipal Services:

D 1 Hattie's Cemetery	<u>\$ 500.00</u>	Landscapping & maintenance expenses.
	\$ 500.00	

Council:

Highland District Soccer Association	<u>\$ 500.00</u>	3 year commitment totaling \$1,500 for sponsorship signage@ the Sobey Indoor Sports Complex
	\$ 500.00	

Recreation:

District 13 Recreation & Plan. Comm.	\$ 7,000.00	To assist with operating expenses.
Na Gaisgich Pipes & Drums	350.00	To assist with youth workshop expenses.
Susan Henderson	100.00	To assist with travel expenses to participate in 2014 Canada 55+ Games
Softball NS	100.00	To assist with travel expenses for McKayla Symonds to play in the U16 Nationals in Brampton, ON.
Pictou County Seniors' Festival	500.00	To assist with event expenses.
Pictou County Celtic Association	500.00	To assist with celtic workshop expenses.
Seeds of Hope Community Garden	500.00	Garden Expenses
Community Recreation Programs in River John, Scotsburn, Thorburn, Lismore & Plymouth	<u>3,750.00</u>	Expenses for 5 recreation pgms. @ \$750/program
	\$12,800.00	

GRAND TOTAL \$13,800.00

DATED at Pictou, NS this 5th day of August, 2014.

(Sgd.) Sally Fraser
Deborah Wadden

MOTION

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – 2014/15 FIRE RATES

Clr. D. 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 authorize the rating and collection of the following fire rate on properties assessed in the district for the fiscal period 2014/15:

DIST. #	RATE	PAYABLE TO
1	\$0.18/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Merigomish Fire Department
	\$0.18/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Barney's River Fire Department
2	\$0.10/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Little Harbour Fire Department
	\$0.19/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Pictou Landing Fire Department
3	\$0.09/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Caribou Fire Department
4	\$0.09/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Caribou Fire Department
	\$0.10/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	River John Fire Department
5	\$0.10/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	River John Fire Department
	\$0.10/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Scotsburn Fire Department
	\$0.10/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	West River Fire Department

6	\$0.09/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Caribou Fire Department
	\$0.10/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Scotsburn Fire Department
7	\$0.10/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Alma Fire Department
	\$0.10/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	West River Fire Department
	\$0.14/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Eureka Fire Department
8	\$0.10/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Alma Fire Department
	\$0.10/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	West River Fire Department
	\$0.14/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Eureka Fire Department
9	\$0.10/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Alma Fire Department
	\$0.085/\$100 Residential Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Abercrombie Fire Department
	\$0.095/\$100 Commercial Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Abercrombie Fire Department
10	\$0.10/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Little Harbour Fire Department
	\$58.41/Property \$0.01/Acre	Trenton Fire Department
	\$0.17/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Linacy Fire Department
11	\$0.17/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Linacy Fire Department
	\$0.14/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Eureka Fire Department
	\$0.20/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Plymouth Fire Department

12	\$0.14/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Eureka Fire Department
	\$0.14/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	East River Valley Fire Department
13	\$0.18/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Merigomish Fire Department
	\$0.18/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Barney's River Fire Department
	\$0.17/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Linacy Fire Department
	\$0.14/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Thorburn Fire Department
	\$0.16/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Blue Mountain Fire Department
14	\$0.18/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Barney's River Fire Department
	\$0.20/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Plymouth Fire Department
	\$0.14/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Thorburn Fire Department
	\$0.16/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	Blue Mountain Fire Department
	\$0.14/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	East River Valley Fire Department
	\$0.16/\$100 Assessment \$0.01/Acre	East River St. Mary's Fire Department

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that all rates and taxes as set out above shall be due and shall be paid to the Treasurer on or before the 15th day of October, 2014. If such rates and taxes are not paid by the 15th day of October, 2014 an additional charge will be payable in accordance with the Municipality's Interest Rate Policy.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 5th day of August, 2014.

(Sgd.) David Parker
Jim Turple

MOTION

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

RESOLUTION – STREET LIGHT RATES

Clr. Wadden presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou, in respect of the districts hereinafter set out, that Council authorize the rating and collection of additional rates on properties assessed in the respective districts as follows for the fiscal period 2014/2015.

AREA RATES

<u>Dist.</u>	<u>Type of Area Rate</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Per \$ 100 Assessment</u>	<u>Flat</u>
1	Street Lights	Merigomish & Area		\$98.93
1	Intersection Lights	District 1		13.75
2	Street Lights	Pictou Landing	\$0.0958	
2	Street Lights	Little Harbour	0.0249	
3	Street Light	Poplar Hill	0.1724	
4	Street Lights	River John East		145.17
4	Street Lights	River John West		145.17
4	Street Lights	Welsford		125.17
5	Street Lights	Lyons Brook & Area		111.26
5	Street Lights	Pleasant Heights		84.44
6	Street Lights	Lyons Brook & Area		111.26
6	Street Lights	Scotsburn	0.0992	
7	Street Lights	Greenhill		83.13
7	Street Lights	Springfield Estates		144.76
7	Street Lights	Union Centre		90.00
7	Street Lights	Green Acres		10.00
7	Rd Mtnce. Fee (occupied)	MacIntosh Dr., Sylvester		150.00
7	Rd Mtnce. Fee (unoccup.)	MacIntosh Dr., Sylvester		75.00
7	Rd Maintenance Fee	Green Acre Subdivision		150.00
9	Street Lights	District 9	0.0354	
9	Rd Maintenance Fee	Mable Estates Drive		150.00
10	Street Lights	Hillside		74.00
10	Street Lights	Little Harbour Road	0.0307	
10	Street Lights	Frasers Mountain	0.1087	
10	Street Lights	Linacy	0.0779	
10	Street Lights	Priestville/Walkerville		20.15
11	Street Lights	Plymouth & Area		76.96
11	Street Lights	Priestville/Wkville Area		68.00
11	Street Lights	Riverton	0.0952	

12	Street Lights	Riverton	0.0871	
12	Street Lights	Hopewell	0.1308	
12	Street Lights	Eureka	0.1509	
12	Street Lights	Lorne	0.2236	
12	Street Lights	Marshdale	0.1312	
13	Street Lights	Thorburn & Area		122.54
14	Street Lights	Thorburn & Area		92.23
14	Intersection Lights	Merigomish, Dist. 1		13.75
14	Street Lights	Plymouth		76.96

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all rates and taxes as set out above shall be due and shall be paid to the Treasurer on or before the 15th day of October, 2014. If such rates and taxes are not paid by the 15th day of October, 2014 an additional charge will be payable in accordance with the Municipality's Interest Rate Policy.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 5th day of August, 2014.

(Sgd.) Deborah Wadden
Sally Fraser

MOTION

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION - SHEEP VALUERS

Clr. Johnston 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. #14 Ray Webb & Carolyn Thompson

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 5th day of August, 2014.

(Sgd.) Scott Johnston
Chester Dewar

MOTION

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

Clr. D. Parker informed Council that he had to call for a sheep valuer this month in his district. Clr. D. Parker reported the farmer was very satisfied with the work of the sheep valuer so the system does work.

Motion carried.

UPDATE – MUNICIPAL ALCOHOL PROJECT

Clr. Wadden distributed copies of an update on the Municipal Alcohol Project in Pictou County to Council and encouraged Councillors to contact her with any questions.

Clr. R. Parker reported that marketing is key and part of what causes some of the problems with binge drinking is the mindset with ads that are very glamorized. If you really want to prevent some of the over drinking then the government could play a role in the amount of advertising.

Clr. Wadden commented that the project is a work in progress and pointed out the marketing is targeting the youth as well as women so it is a serious concern.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Warden Baillie reported that the CAO will address Council's concerns from last week's meeting in regards to the Memorandum of Understanding.

The CAO addressed the highlighted changes of the MOU as follows:

Pg.2 The way the MOU is structured an application is made to the NSUARB on regional government. It was discussed last week that the Governor in Council is the legislative body that would implement that recommendation and not the UARB. The CAO reported that he followed up on correspondence from the Solicitor that the parties were to have the discussions with the NSUARB on the information they require.

The final "Be It Resolved" addresses Council's concern on the process and pre-conditions.

Clr. R. Parker pointed out that this is the section he had concerns with at last week's meeting and asked if there was a turnaround point if Council is not happy with what happens or other things that come up that Council does not agree with. He also asked if the 2016 election would serve as the time to vote members into a new Council.

The CAO referred to Section 372 of the MGA that provides plebiscite component and if that section is used it does have that component for a plebiscite for regional government.

Clr. R. Parker asked if there was a choice to use Section 372 and the CAO replied the way regional government is worded in the MGA a plebiscite would be required.

Clr. R. Parker commented that if that was the case then we would not have to worry about the 2016 election acting as a referendum because we would have a plebiscite beforehand. He referred to the dissolution in Hantsport and Springhill where a lot of the residents are upset because of the lack of public knowledge of what was happening and cautioned that we have to be careful through this whole process so that our people are well informed.

Section 1.2.2 any elected individual in Pictou County whose party to the agreement can attend the meetings in a non-voting capacity.

Clr. D. Parker referred to last week's discussions where he asked that Councillors have the right to attend as well as the location and items of the agenda so they will have some idea on what topics are being debated or discussed, and suggested that those meetings should be open to the general public as well. Clr. D. Parker pointed out that if we cannot convince our general publics that this is an open, fair and

transparent process then he is absolutely convinced that some community leaders will rise up against it as was done in Hantsport and Springhill. Furthermore, he noted that an elected Councillor should never be barred from a meeting because they never received their notice in time.

The CAO reported there are provisions in the Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee to develop a way to engage the public.

Clr. D. Parker suggested the meetings be open as much as possible and to keep a very up-to-date website report on what is happening that would be available through the Municipality's website or one of the other towns websites.

Section 1.25 This is a clarification on the issue in regards to population and what number is used. The population figure is based on whoever participates so it is not the entire county population.

Section 1.2.1.2.6.6 There would be presentation and tabling of a final report including background studies and supporting evidence to all of the municipal Councils to each of the parties.

Clr. D. Parker asked when the background studies will be made available to the public and the CAO responded that the Steering Committee as part of its Terms of Reference will have to develop a Communication Plan.

Section 2.2.2.2 A new category that deals with recommendations on governance and administrative structures so this study will deal with boundaries, size and composition of the electoral districts.

Clr. R. Parker asked if that would be coming back to this Council to decide whether we were on side with that report when it comes in in terms of the number of Councillors and boundaries.

Warden Baillie replied that this Council have to be comfortable with the report before making any final decisions.

Clr. Turple asked if fire departments will move from one boundary to another and Warden Baillie responded that fire departments boundaries will not change.

Section 6.2 Representation by Population – each citizen should have roughly equal voice in the electoral process and therefore subject to the NSUARB's oversight responsibilities. That representation on a regional Council should be based roughly on equal electoral districts.

Usage Based Costs – the parties agree that citizens should pay an amount generally commensurate with the services provided or utilized in the geographic area in which the citizens live along with those services that benefit all citizens regardless of geographic location. The parties hereto are therefore committed to developing a user pay model of cost recovery.

Fairness and Democracy – the parties hereto have committed to the principles of fairness and democracy. The parties hereto therefore commit to ensure for majority rule, but subject to the recognition that there are times and decisions that require parties to set aside certain rights and interests for the benefit of others.

Clr. R. Parker referred to the representation by population and pointed out that he had a concern with the number of Councillors that will represent rural Pictou County.

The CAO pointed out the UARB has to follow what is defined in legislation and that includes the number of electors, voting parity, population density, community of interest and geographic size of the districts.

Evidence Based Decisions – the parties hereto agree that the best practice is to base decisions on cogent and clear, tested evidence and the parties hereto commit to use these best practices in consideration of the decisions to be made in relation to this Memorandum of Understanding.

The CAO reported that Section 7.3 is clarifying the additional parties to the agreement so the units will have 30 days to become party to it and the 30 days start the day they receive the MOU.

Clr. R. Parker asked if this Council and the other 2 Councils approves the agreement this evening, would a letter go to the remaining 3 Councils giving them 30 days to agree with the MOU as well as paying \$25,000 towards a study?

Warden Baillie replied that a letter would be sent to the remaining 3 municipal units and they would pay the \$25,000 at the same time as all the municipal units.

Clr. R. Parker asked if one of the units decided to partake in the study at the end, would they still be required to pay \$25,000?

The CAO replied that they would be, subject to negotiation at that point.

The CAO reported that Section 8 was brought up to address the concern of whether or not you have adequate time to withdraw. Notice can be served to the other parties to get out of the agreement by providing 60 days' notice to the other parties outlining the reasons you wish to withdraw from the agreement.

“By motion of two or more parties hereto comprising municipalities with more than seventy-five (75) percent of the aggregate population or eighty (80) percent of the Uniform Assessment of the parties hereto, one or more parties hereto may, on sixty (60) days' notice, be expelled from membership in the Steering Committee or from the participation in this Memorandum of Understanding (the “Expelled Party”) provided clear reasons are given in such notice of expulsion in accordance with the notice provisions herein.”

Clr. Dewar asked if there was cost to withdraw from the agreement and the CAO replied that the withdrawing municipal unit would forfeit its \$25,000.

Clr. D. Parker asked what would happen if the \$25,000 from each municipal unit is inadequate and the CAO responded that the Steering Committee would need approval for more money and it would be equal amounts from each municipal unit.

The CAO reported that Schedule A is the mechanism for adding additional partners to the agreement as it is constituted.

Clr. D. Parker referred to Schedule A and asked if the wording should also include 1 out of 3 to join the MOU or 2 out of 3 instead of all 3 to join.

Warden Baillie replied that he wording should be included in the document and the CAO responded that will not be a problem to change.

Clr. R. Parker reported that he cannot see the Provincial Government allowing this county to have a regional government with 1 town sitting on the sideline. He asked if this would limit the value of the study by some degree by not having those figures of that other unit included.

Warden Baillie replied the province may force that unit into the study so it would be the province's responsibility to pay the \$25,000 towards the study.

Clr. R. Parker pointed out that one of the Municipality's major expenditures in the budget is police protection and he asked why that was left out of the study.

The CAO replied municipal and RCMP services will be provided but it will not be a county-wide municipal police force or county-wide RCMP.

ALLERGIC REACTIONS

Clr. R. Parker informed Council that he was recently stung and took a very bad allergic reaction and was rushed to the hospital. Clr. R. Parker pointed out the EHS and fire department performed above and beyond his expectations in this situation which was very serious. Clr. R. Parker reported that all this happened so quickly and he never had any reaction to bee stings before, having been stung hundreds of times in the past without allergic reaction so he just wanted everyone to be aware that an allergic reaction can happen at any time.

SIGNAGE ON HIGHWAYS

Clr. Turple reported there is a billboard on the Trans-Canada highway coming from Truro that is still advertising the Heather Motel and he asked who is paying for the advertising costs.

Deputy Warden Thompson reported that he also noticed the same signage so he called DEANS who informed him it is a private sign that is available for rent.

LORDA – FUND RAISER

Clr. D. Parker informed Council that LORDA will be holding its annual fund raiser on Sunday, August 17. There will be food and soft drinks available and they will also be raffling off a Dan Munroe painting.

NORTHERN PULP

Clr. D. Parker reported that there has been a lot of protest and concern around the emissions from Northern Pulp because it is not acceptable to have that much pollution dumped into a residential area. There is no doubt that that situation changed approximately 4 years ago due to the failure of the precipitator. Clr. D. Parker pointed out that the environmental situation is not acceptable and closing the mill is economically unacceptable to this county.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. R. Parker that a letter be sent to Northern Pulp (with copies to the Minister of Environment, the MP for Central Nova, the 3 local MLAs and Mr. Don MacKenzie, Northern Pulp Union Representative) encouraging the mill owners to do everything they can to operate the pulp mill within the environmental standards and to accelerate the installation of the new precipitator.

Clr. R. Parker reported that the pulp mill is key to the future of Pictou County and something has to happen and it has to happen quickly. There are other businesses that are also being affected and they are also important to this county.

Clr. Turple reported there are different regulations for Northern Pulp and other regulations for small businesses but it is time they gave us a clean environment to raise our families.

Motion carried.

HOPEWELL CEILIDH

Clr. Dewar invited everyone to attend the annual Hopewell Ceilidh that will be held on Sunday, August 10th with the parade starting at 12:30 p.m. and food and entertainment from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

BOUNDARY REVIEW PROCESS

Clr. Johnston asked for an update on the boundary review process and Warden Baillie replied that the on-line survey is to be completed by August 8th. There will be a meeting in September where Council will look at the process to date.

The CAO informed Council 25 electronic responses have been submitted to date.

CLOSED SESSION

Council met in closed session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss matters relating to legal advice eligible for solicitor-client privilege.

OPEN SESSION

Council resumed in open session at 9:10 p.m.

MOTION - MOU

It was moved by Deputy Warden Thompson and seconded by Clr. Davidson that Council sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Towns of New Glasgow and Pictou (with the amendments discussed earlier this evening) and forward the signed document to the Towns of Stellarton, Trenton and Westville to review and respond within 30 days of delivery.

Clr. R. Parker reported that his biggest concern is that the Municipality has an opportunity to decide if the MOU is in the best interests of rural Pictou County and a process Council can remove itself from. It is very important that it is an open process and the people in Pictou County have to decide. There is enough long term benefits for Pictou County to keep moving the process forward and Clr. R. Parker encouraged staff to work closely with all the towns.

Deputy Warden Thompson reported this MOU is just a framework for discussion and Council will have the final decision but this is a good step for Pictou County.

Clr. D. Parker reported there are a lot of issues in the MOU that causes him concern but there are conditions that will allow us to negotiate and protect our residents but we cannot allow fear of the unknown to paralyze us from doing anything. We should have the ability to shape a future that is acceptable but there is enough goodwill to find a better way forward.

Clr. Dewar asked the Councillors how many people told them this was a good thing to do and he guaranteed there were not very many so he is going to be voting against the MOU.

Motion carried. (Nay Votes: Clrs. MacMaster, Dewar & Johnston)

ADJOURN

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

Motion carried. (9:20 p.m.)

Ronald Baillie
Warden

Brian Culen
Municipal Clerk