

October 6, 2014

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Monday, October 6, 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 Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer  
Carolyn MacIntosh, Deputy Municipal Clerk  
Jane Johnson, Recording Secretary

**BY INVITATION**

Pictou-North Colchester Exhibition:

Jack Ferguson	John Robinson
Thelma Casey	Marlene Langille
Lynn MacKay	Melvin MacKay
Betty Casey	Pat Christensen

**PRAYER**

Warden Baillie opened the meeting with a prayer.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Council observed a moment of silence in memory of the Late Harry Ferguson, a former Councillor and employee of the Municipality.

**AGENDA**

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

## **MINUTES**

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Turple that the minutes of August 18, 2014 be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- (a) Canadian Union of Postal Workers – Asking Council to consider passing a resolution calling on the Federal Government to reverse the changes to services announced by Canada Post and look for ways to increase service & revenues in areas such as postal banking; also that Council ask the FCM to request that the Federal Government properly consult with the public about what kind of postal service they need before allowing Canada Post to make such major changes to public postal services.
- (b) Min. Economic & Rural Dev. & Tourism – Commenting on the economic transition in Pictou County and the work being done to consult with local businesses to gather information that will assist in a long-term approach to economic growth & sustainability in Pictou County that will include greater collaboration with stakeholders and work toward future opportunities for the region.
- (c) Ministerial Enquiries Division – Citizenship & Immigration – Responding to Council's concerns regarding the Temporary Foreign Workers Program.
- (d) Correspondence (uncirculated) expressing appreciation for financial support has been received from the Pictou-North Colchester Exhibition, VON Pictou County, the Pictou County Athletics Society & Norma Nixon (ALS donation in memory of Milton Veniot)

## **MOTION – CANADA POST**

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Dewar that Council adopt the Canadian Union of Postal Workers resolution opposing Canada Post's plan to change public postal service.

Motion carried.

## **RECOGNITION OF – PICTOU-NORTH COLCHESTER EXHIBITION MEMBERS**

Clr. R. Parker informed Council that it gives him great privilege to honor the following individuals who put a tremendous amount of work and time into the Pictou-North Colchester Exhibition and to keep it going. The Exhibition used to be a real social event but over the years many of the farms have disappeared. These individuals did a lot to make sure the Exhibition kept running and last year there were renovations done to the arena so there was no Exhibition.

Clrs. R. Parker, D. Parker, Deputy Warden Thompson and Warden Baillie presented certificates of recognition on behalf of the Municipality to the following individuals:

Jack Ferguson  
Thelma Casey  
Lynn MacKay  
Betty Casey

John Robertson  
Marlene Langille  
Melvin MacKay  
Pat Christensen

Warden Baillie thanked all the volunteers of the Pictou North Colchester Exhibition and all volunteers in Pictou County, stating that Pictou County is very fortunate to have so many volunteers acting for the benefit of our residents.

Mr. Jack Ferguson thanked Council for all the support it has given the Pictou North Colchester Exhibition over the last few years.

Clr. R. Parker reported that one of the key roles the Pictou Exhibition plays in this county is educating our young people about the agricultural industry. It is important to educate the young people and this is a great opportunity at the Exhibition. Over the years many school children have been bussed to the Exhibition to see the animals and other events that take place. It came to Council's attention this year that one of the sponsors who helped bring the school children to the Exhibition was no longer going to continue that sponsorship. Council decided at that time to contribute some money to make sure those school busses still took those children to the Exhibition. Clr. R. Parker presented the poster to Council on behalf of Betty Lou Scott and the students who attended the Exhibition.

### **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 September:

1. Reviewed the report of the Building Inspector, By-Law/Dog Control Officer and Warden for the month of August.
2. Received for information purposes a petition from 5 residents on the Alma Road asking for an extension of the municipal water line. The unit cost to undertake this work is generally believed to be cost-prohibitive.
3. Approved the installation of a street light in District 1 at 2199 Patterson Road, Big Island.
4. Discussed concerns with regard to pedestrian traffic between the Pictou County Wellness Centre and the Central Amusements Building on MacGregor Avenue.
5. Referred concerns expressed by Clr. Johnston regarding a property on the MacLaren Road in Eden Lake to the building inspectors for investigation and appropriate action.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 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. S. Fraser informed Council that the installation of the street light in District #1 is being delayed indefinitely at this time.

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 September:

1. Reviewed the list of Accounts Paid for the month of August.
2. Reviewed tenders received for the River John Station Road Wastewater Extension and upgrades to MacIntosh Drive & Maple Estates. (Resolutions to follow)
3. Reviewed the report of the Recreation Coordinator for the months of July & August.
4. Considered several requests for funding. (Resolution to follow)
5. Received and reviewed a “progress report” from the group working to create a community hub in the River John Consolidated School. The group is looking for a commitment from the Municipality to assist with future work as it continues to develop a proposal for the Chignecto Central Regional School Board that would allow the school to remain open beyond June, 2015. (Resolution to follow)
6. Considered a recommendation from staff to write-off uncollectible water utility arrears. (Resolution to follow)
7. Received an invitation to attend a rally at the West River Fire Hall in support of Gordon Fraser and his turkey processing operation.
8. Received a report from Clr. D. Parker that there was no damage to the floor of the Hector Arena as a result of the horse pulls held in conjunction with the Pictou-North Colchester Exhibition, and agreed to recognize the contributions of several key members of the organizing group for the Exhibition.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 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 – LUB AMENDMENT (2<sup>ND</sup> READING)**

Clr. Palmer presented a resolution to Council as follows:

#### RESOLUTION (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Section 4.2 of the Land Use By-Law adopted by Council on September 10, 2007 and acknowledged by the Assistant Provincial Director of Planning on October 1, 2007 be amended to read as follows:

- 4.2 No requirements apply to any development except wind turbine development which is subject to the following:  
Utility Scale Wind Turbines

- Minimum setback from residences, except residences located on the same lot as the wind turbine, shall be 1,000 metres. There is no setback requirement from the residence located on the same lot.
- The Development Officer may grant a reduction of the 1,000 metre minimum setback from a residence to a minimum setback of 600 metres from a residence with permission from all owners of residences that are contained within the 1,000 metre setback. The permission shall be granted in a form approved by the Development Officer.
- No reduction in minimum setbacks shall be granted if it has the impact of reducing the minimum setback for any residence within the 1,000 metre setback who has not provided permission.
- Minimum setback from all property lines shall be one times the height of the turbine.
- Minimum setback from the boundary of a public road shall be 300 metres (984.3 feet); Domestic Wind Turbines
- Minimum setback from all adjacent lot boundaries shall be one times the height of the turbine.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014.

(Sgd.) Randy Palmer  
Jamie Davidson

### **MOTION**

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

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Clr. Johnston declared a conflict of interest and withdrew from further debate on the resolution.

Clr. R. Parker recalled that 2 points were made very clear at the public meeting by the residents who made presentations. The residents were appreciative of the 1,000 m. extension from 600 m. but felt more was needed. It was also made very clear that the 600 m. reduction clause should be removed from the amendment because it only causes problems between neighbors. The residents do not want to lose the move from 600 m. to 1,000 m if Council does not approve this amendment but if Council does approve it at least the 1,000 will be included. He informed Council that he received some advice that Council should pass the motion this evening and to give notice at the Property Services Committee meeting instructing the Planning Advisory Committee to look at removing the 600 m. from the clause.

Clr. L. Fraser asked why it would have to be sent back to the Planning Advisory Committee and Warden Baillie pointed out that the LUB is a planning document and the Planning Advisory Committee is responsible for advising Council on land-use planning matters.

Clr. D. Parker pointed out that he attended the public meeting in Plymouth and there were 2 things that swayed him against the reduction clause. A presentation made by Michael Reid at the public meeting had pointed out that a developer could offer quite a substantial amount of money to entice people to accept that reduction. Mr. Brubacher had also made a presentation at the public meeting where he did not want the Tower Road turned over to a public road making him a very unpopular individual with his neighbours. Clr. D. Parker expressed his opinion that we should not create laws that deliberately sets neighbor against neighbor.

Warden Baillie pointed out that Clr. Johnston was not at the public hearing and declared a conflict of interest so he will not be voting on the proposed amendment. All other Councillors were present at the public hearing and are, therefore, eligible to vote on the proposed amendment this evening.

Motion carried. (Nay Vote: Clr. Wadden)

**RESOLUTION – HECTOR ARENA FUNDING**

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

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS the Hector Arena Commission is preparing to move forward with the third and final phase of a capital campaign to modernize the Hector Arena to extend the life expectancy of this facility for the future;

WHEREAS Phase III involves mechanical upgrades that would result in the replacement of a 43 year old Freon-based plant with a 10 year old ammonia-based plant from the former John Brother MacDonald Stadium;

WHEREAS it is estimated that the cost to purchase, refurbish, and install this new equipment will be \$214,000;

WHEREAS funding for this project is expected to come from the following sources:

Province of Nova Scotia	\$ 60,000
Town of Pictou	32,000
Municipality of the County of Pictou	48,000
Hector Arena Commission Fundraising & Other Sources	<u>74,000</u>
	\$214,000

WHEREAS the financing of this project was discussed at a recent meeting of the Committee of Council as a Whole where consensus was reached that the project should be supported by the Municipality;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve a grant to the Hector Arena Commission in the amount of \$48,000, payable over 2 years, beginning in the 2015/16 fiscal period for the replacement of the mechanical plant at the Hector Arena.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 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 – NEW GLASGOW FARMERS MARKET FUNDING**

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Town of New Glasgow is proposing to construct an all-weather farmers market facility adjacent to the existing dome market building, separated with a space to create a common court yard for vendor activity and use;

WHEREAS the cost of this new facility is estimated to be \$415,179.38;

WHEREAS the Municipality has been asked to provide financial assistance of \$63,000 for this new facility;

WHEREAS remaining funding is anticipated to be sourced as follows:

Town of New Glasgow	\$ 63,000.00
New Glasgow Farmers Market	15,000.00
ACOA	175,000.00
NS Economic Development	90,000.00
In-Kind Support – Town of New Glasgow	10,820.62

WHEREAS the financing of this project was discussed at a recent meeting of the Committee of Council as a Whole where consensus was reached that the project should be supported by the Municipality;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve a grant to the Town of New Glasgow in the amount of \$63,000.00 for the construction of a new building for the New Glasgow Farmers Market.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the aforementioned grant be funded from the surplus funds that are being returned to the Municipality by the Pictou County Shared Services Authority from the sale of Authority assets, and from the accumulated surplus of Pictou County Solid Waste Management (estimated to be \$53,000) which is also being returned to the Municipality, with the remaining \$10,000 to be funded from the 2014/15 allocation for Council Grants.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014.

(Sgd.) Robert Parker  
Jim Turple

**MOTION**

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

Clr. L. Fraser asked who owns the present farmers market facility and Warden Baillie replied it is owned by the Town of New Glasgow and leased to the Farmers Market.

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION – RIVER JOHN STN. RRD. WASTEWATER EXT.**

Deputy Warden Thompson presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS public tenders were called for the River John Station Road Wastewater Extension, including the supply and installation of 497 m of 50mm PVC DR26 pressure sewer main, 2 pressure sewer laterals, 1 two-way flushing connection, and 1 air release valve chamber;

WHEREAS two tenders were received and considered as follows:

	<u>TENDER AMOUNT (Excluding HST)</u>
S W Weeks Construction Limited	\$84,801.00
C F Construction Limited	87,600.00

WHEREAS tenders have been reviewed by the Director of Public Works & Development who confirms that they comply with tender specifications;

WHEREAS the Director of Public Works & Development and the Financial Services Committee recommend award to the lowest bidder;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council accept the aforementioned recommendations and award the construction contract for the River John Station Road Wastewater Extension to S W Weeks Construction Limited in the amount of \$84,801.00 (exclusive of HST).

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014.

(Sgd.) Andy Thompson  
Deborah Wadden

### **MOTION**

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

### **RESOLUTION – PRIVATE ROAD UPGRADES**

Clr. Davidson presented a resolution to Council as follows:

#### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS public tenders were called for upgrades to private roads to permit take-over by the Municipality as follows:

MacIntosh Drive:	Supply, place & compact 150mm Type 1 gravel on existing road surface. Clear ditch growth & re-ditch sections of the road ROW. Replace one culvert. Hydro-seed disturbed areas.
Maple Estates Dr.	Supply, place & compact 150mm Type 1 gravel and 75mm Type C asphalt on existing road surface. Re-align section of road to the center of the ROW. Clear ditch growth & re-ditch sections of the road ROW. Replace all culverts and install one new cross-culvert. Hydro-seed disturbed areas.

WHEREAS three tenders were received and considered as follows:



TENDER AMOUNT (Excluding HST)

S W Weeks Construction Limited	\$185,911.50
C F Construction Limited	198,873.75
Basin Contracting	419,698.50

WHEREAS tenders have been reviewed by the Director of Public Works & Development who confirms that they comply with tender specifications;

WHEREAS the Director of Public Works & Development and the Financial Services Committee recommend award to the lowest bidder;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council accept the aforementioned recommendations and award the construction contract for the private road upgrades to S W Weeks Construction Limited in the amount of \$185,911.50 (exclusive of HST), pending receipt of the necessary permit approvals from the NS Department of Environment.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014.

(Sgd.) Jamie Davidson  
Chester Dewar

**MOTION**

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

Clr. D. Parker reported that he has been working on this issue for 14 years since he was elected Councillor. This brings some redress to a situation where some sub-divisions had road service and others had none.

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION – MUNICIPAL GRANTS**

Clr. Dewar presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the payment of the following Municipal Grants:

Recreation:

Northern Nova United Soccer Club	\$ 1,005.00	Program Expenses
New Glasgow Kinsmen Baseball	<u>277.50</u>	Program Expenses
	\$ 1,282.50	

Municipal Services:

D 7 LORDA	\$ 2,800.00	Clean & Re-line Pond
D 7 Green Acres Road Committee	3,000.00	Road Maintenance

D 7	Middle River Presbyterian Church	4,000.00	Partial Roof Replacement
D 9	Alma Cemetery Trust	5,000.00	Headstone Restoration & Landscaping
D14	Garden of Eden Community Hall	1,500.00	Tables, Chairs & Deck Repairs
D14	Springville Church Hall	600.00	Bathroom Upgrades
D14	East River Valley Recreation	1,000.00	Lawn Mowing, Insurance, Upkeep & ballfield repairs
D14	Sunny Brae Cemetery	750.00	Maintenance & Headstone Cleaning
D14	Bridgeville Community Hall	1,000.00	Completion of Window Replacement Project
D14	SBI 4-H	500.00	Operating Expenses, Flower Beds, Xmas Trips, & Trophies
D14	MacDonald Rebekah Lodge #108	1,500.00	Roof Replacement
D14	ERVCD	1,500.00	Newsletter, Community Gdn. & Banners, Operating Expenses
D14	Bridgeville Cemetery Assoc.	700.00	Operating Expenses
D14	Sunny Brae War Memorial Society	1,000.00	Lawn Care
D14	Blue Mtn. & Dist. Vol. Fire Dept.	4,100.00	Heat Pumps
D14	Knox Presbyterian Church	<u>1,000.00</u>	Roof Replacement & Bell Tower Repairs
		\$29,950.00	

Council:

Town of Pictou	\$ 1,150.00	CEF Community Advisory Board Expenses
District One Development Society	<u>1,500.00</u>	Foot Clinic Expenses
	\$ 2,650.00	

**GRAND TOTAL                    \$33,882.50**

DATED at Pictou, NS this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014.

(Sgd.) Chester Dewar  
Randy Palmer

## **MOTION**

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

Motion carried.

## **RESOLUTION – RIVER JOHN HUB FUNDING**

Clr. S. Fraser presented a resolution to Council as follows:

### **RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS the Chignecto Central Regional School Board has identified the River John Consolidated School for closure in 2015;

WHEREAS the community has come together to form the “Support Our School” Committee with a mandate to create a HUB model that would identify alternate uses for surplus space in the school building that would generate revenue to cover the operating expenses to the School Board for the surplus space that is not required by the Board for school purposes;

WHEREAS the goal of a suitable HUB would be to have the school remain open for dual purposes that are acceptable to both the community and the Board;

WHEREAS Municipal Council wishes to support the efforts and expenses of the SOS Committee as it works towards designing the HUB model;

WHEREAS the SOS Committee has an immediate need for human resources to assist in its work and is currently utilizing the services of the River John Community Coordinator for this purpose;

WHEREAS an extension of this term position which typically ends in December of each year would enable the SOS Committee to continue its work;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council provide an additional allocation of funding in the amount of \$12,500 to the River John Action Society in the 2014/15 fiscal period to extend the term of the Community Coordinator for the purposes of assisting the Support Our School Committee with its efforts to create a HUB model for the River John Consolidated School.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Council allocate funding of \$25,000 in 2015/16 to the River John Action Society for the River John Community Coordinator to allow this position to continue to assist the efforts of the SOS Committee.

AND BE IT RESOLVED that Council commit funding of \$35,000 to the River John Consolidated School HUB Project when it becomes operational to help offset and defray operating costs, on the condition that the school remains open.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 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 with copies of the resolution to be sent to every School Board member of the CCRSB and a copy be sent to the Minister of Education.

Clr. R. Parker asked the date the School Board will make a decision on whether to extend the school closing for another year and Warden Baillie replied that it will be made at the March meeting.

Clr. R. Parker reported if the decision is to close the school then what will happen to the HUB funding and Warden Baillie responded that it will depend on the School Board's decision.

Warden Baillie explained the \$35,000 is contingent on accepting the HUB model and to keep the school open after 2016.

Clr. R. Parker asked if the \$35,000 is contingent as we go forward and Warden Baillie replied it is for 1 year at this time.

Clr. Wadden asked if the \$25,000 is for Community Coordinator position over a 2 year period and Warden Baillie replied it also includes the summer program.

Clr. Turple reported that it is very important to keep our rural schools open so the children do not have to spend more than an hour travelling to school. He reported receiving a phone call from a very disgruntled resident expressing their concern about all the money that is going to River John. Clr. Turple pointed out that it was very important to keep the students in their communities.

Clr. D. Parker reported that he has a concern that Council is setting a precedent because there may be other schools that will approach the Municipality sometime in the future.

Motion carried.

#### **RESOLUTION – WATER UTILITY WRITE-OFF**

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 that Council approve the following write-off on water charges, the same having been reviewed and approved by the Financial Services Committee:

<u>ACCOUNT #</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>REASON</u>
131423.00	Maryann Rector	\$ 159.28	Uncollectible charges on mobile home removed from property

DATED at Pictou, N. S. this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014.

(Sgd.) Deborah Wadden  
Sally Fraser

#### **MOTION**

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

Motion carried.

#### **MOTION – COST SHARED PAVING AGREEMENT**

It was moved by Deputy Warden Thompson and seconded by Clr. S. Fraser that the Warden and CAO be authorized to sign a 3 year cost-sharing agreement with Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal for subdivision streets.

Motion carried.

## **UPDATE- MUNICIPAL ALCOHOL PROJECT**

Clr. Wadden informed Council we had an excellent meeting for MAP on Sept 23 and this time we invited the VP's from all three high schools - Pictou Academy, North Nova and Northumberland. They were very enthusiastic to have the high school students involved in this second phase for MAP. From our first phase we knew we needed the youth's own discussions and their input to how they see the harms of alcohol impacting them and their lives and following that discussion how we can all work better together to lessen the impacts from these identified harms. Briefly, we will be holding a class forum at each school for approximately 2 hours. We are hoping that it will be a leadership class or a psychology class and a group discussion will be facilitated around this topic. Fortunately, we have been able to hire Jamie Smith, as facilitator. Some of you may remember Jamie from our first round of meetings with all the municipalities in the county with our two taking place in Little Harbour and Scotsburn. Our committee meet again tomorrow (Oct 7) to finalize the details of these forums which will take place over the next couple of weeks so Jamie will have time to prepare her report for our planned event in late fall.

The discussions from our last meeting were very encouraging - especially when you realize you have the right people in the room who can encourage ways to work with the Department of Education and the curriculum for students. So on that note we are already looking forward to where Phase 3 may take us and we haven't completed Phase 2 so this is very exciting.

A child used to take his or her first drink at approximately 15; we are now seeing this age drop to 12. Do we want this age to continue dropping even lower because it is trending down or do we want to act on this concern now? I think the answer is pretty obvious and we certainly need the input from our youth to be part of the solution.

Clr. R. Parker thanked Clr. Wadden for all the work she has done as part of the Committee working on the Municipal Alcohol Project.

## **SUPPORT BUY LOCAL**

Clr. Dewar thanked all Councillors who attended the meeting at the West River Fire Hall in support of Gordon Fraser. The Pictou West MLA presented a petition of 2,300 names in support of Gordon Fraser's business to the Government. Clr. Dewar asked that staff send a duplicate of the same letters again to the Government because a response has not been received as yet. Clr. Dewar reported that it is hard to listen to shop and buy local when the Government is shutting all the businesses down.

## **LATE HARRY FERGUSON**

Clr. Dewar reported that Harry Ferguson was one of the finest men he had the pleasure of serving with and knew how to handle a meeting as well as the people. Clr. Dewar commented that Pictou County will certainly be at a loss without Harry Ferguson because he was a wonderful person and a great volunteer for many years.

Clr. Wadden reported that the community is going to miss Harry Ferguson and indicated there was not a more honest person.

## **MUNICIPAL SERVICES GRANT – DISTRICT 9**

Clr. Turner informed Council that he was speaking with Bev Morse concerning the Abercrombie Community Centre that was granted some money through a Municipal Services Grant for some general upkeep at the hall. Since that time the roofing system has failed and Ms. Morse would like to redirect the money to repair the roof.

## **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. Turner and seconded by Deputy Warden Thompson that the Municipal Services Grant funds for the Abercrombie Community Center be redirected to repair the roof pending receipt of a written request.

Motion carried.

## **BELL ALIANT**

Clr. L. Fraser referred to an earlier request he made regarding Bell Aliant's poor service and informed Council that he is starting to get a response from the company so hopefully the situation will be rectified. Clr. L. Fraser reported that there may be a problem with underground wires that need to be brought up to a standard so there will be a lot of costs involved and hopefully the phone land lines will be repaired before this winter.

## **OPEN LETTER – DIANE TIBERT**

Clr. D. Parker read an open letter to Council as follows:

"No Turkey This Year

This is an open letter I'm delivering to the three local grocery stores where I normally shop for supplies.

Dear (Sobeys, Superstore, Co-op),

I will not be buying a turkey from you this year to roast for Thanksgiving. In fact, I also refuse to buy one to feast upon on Christmas Day. It's not that I'll be buying one from your competition; this year, I'll do without the traditional bird on the table and eat something else. The reason I will not purchase a turkey from your store or any other grocery store this year is because of the actions by the Nova Scotia turkey Producers Marketing Board and the comments made by Keith Colwell, our Agricultural Minister, who threatened to make small farming illegal in the province.

You may be aware of a story making headlines across Nova Scotia in recent weeks. It involves small local farmers, self-sufficient families who care enough about their health to raise their own animals for consumption, small local meat processing operations and the turkey board.

Through poor judgment, the NS Turkey Producers Marketing Board have forced several small, well-established processing operations to close their doors leaving many who raised turkey, chickens and ducks with nowhere to turn for processing. The individuals who operated these small businesses are at risk of losing their investments after years of providing a much desired community service.

Also at risk is a way of life that Nova Scotians have cherished for centuries: the ability to raise quality, drug-free, chemical-free, organic meat for their families. This puts our health at risk.

Colwell was recently interviewed by Sun News (<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca>; No Turkey Freedom). In that taped interview, Colwell expressed his desire to make it illegal for anyone in the general population who raises their own birds for their own consumption to slaughter those birds on their property. In essence, he is attempting to make farming illegal.

Colwell claims his only concern is for the safety of the individual consuming that meat. Frankly I'm offended he thinks I'm that stupid that I can't learn how to properly kill and clean a bird when my family has hunted and fished for decades and know how to gut a deer and various other animals. Personally I've skinned and gutted many rabbits. In the more than seventy years my mother has been slaughtering and cleaning animals not once did any of my family get sick? Now Colwell tells me she is too stupid to do it right.

History has shown that no one makes the news by becoming ill or dying from animals they've slaughtered and eaten, yet, each year there are several reports of individuals becoming sick or dying from large, government inspected plants. And don't get me started on recalls because of one bacteria or another. In other words, small operations are safer than larger, regulated facilities.

I hope you enjoy the extra turkeys left in the bunker after the holidays. One of them would have been on my table if not for the turkey board and Colwell's insane methods of controlling the food I consume."

Clr. Parker pointed out the issue is not just about Gordon Fraser but it is about the nanny state and whether or not we have the ability to control what we do on our own land or what we put in our own mouths. Democracy will win in 2 ways when consumers stop using their dollars to buy their products and there will be another election coming.

Clr. Turple informed Council that he called the Marketing Board and spoke to Sonya Lorette who informed him she was doing what she was told to do. Clr. Turple pointed out that we do need regulations but in Nova Scotia we are over-regulated.

Clr. R. Parker reported this is a much larger issue than just closing down a local butcher shop. The directive probably came from the Minister's office to close these shops down. The reason for closing these shops is not healthy and safety issues and it is very unfair to Gordon Fraser's business. The majority of health scares did not come from uncertified shops but it came from the larger processors. The marketing boards want full control of all the product in this province by going through the large processors and large stores. Public pressure is the only thing that will turn this around and what is under attack here is a way of life.

### **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. R. Parker and seconded by Clr. Turple that Council send a letter to the Premier with copies to all MLAs in Nova Scotia requesting an immediate review of the National Products Marketing Act to make it a more equal distribution between small farmers and large processors as well as an immediate separation of the enforcement and promotion role of the Marketing Boards.

Motion carried.

### **MOU PANEL – DISTRICT 1**

Clr. S. Fraser commented that the MOU has created some interest and uncertainty in District #1 because she has received a number of phone calls on the topic. Clr. S. Fraser reported that she expressed her concerns to the Warden and CAO and thanked them for offering to host a panel for information purposes for the residents of District #1.

### **PICTOU CO. SPORTS HERITAGE HALL OF FAME**

Warden Baillie congratulated Steve Goodwin on his appointment to the Pictou County Sports Heritage Hall of Fame.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Council met in closed session at 8:45 p.m. to discuss matters relating to contract negotiations

### **OPEN SESSION**

Council resumed in open session at 9:25 p.m.

### **ADJOURN**

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

Motion carried. (9:25 p.m.)

Ronald Baillie  
Warden

Carolyn MacIntosh  
Deputy Municipal Clerk