

January 5, 2015

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Monday, January 5, 2015 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	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**

Julie MacPhee, Solicitor, MacIntosh, MacDonnell & MacDonald  
Brian Cullen, CAO/Municipal Clerk-Treasurer  
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer  
Carolyn MacIntosh, Deputy Municipal Clerk  
Jane Johnson, Recording Secretary

**PRAYER**

Warden Baillie opened the meeting with a prayer.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Warden Baillie acknowledged the presence of Karla MacFarlane, MLA for Pictou West in the Council Chambers.

**AGENDA**

It was moved by Clr. L. Fraser and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the agenda be approved with the deletion of the certificate of recognition to Emma Taylor who was unable to be in attendance.  
Motion carried.

**MINUTES**

It was moved by Clr. Turple and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the minutes of December 1, 2014 be approved with the following correction:

Pg.6 Dangerous & Unsightly Premises motion: "Motion carried" should read "Motion carried.  
Nay Vote: Warden Baillie)  
Motion carried.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- (a) CCRSB – Enclosing a copy of a letter forwarded to the Chair of the Dr. W.A. MacLeod School Advisory Committee outlining the steps taken to secure additional funding to complete additions and alterations to the school.
- (b) Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal – Outlining maintenance information from the Department's Tatamagouche base for zone 15 which includes the River John area.
- (c) Min. of TIR – Advising that the Department is aware of intersection challenges on Route 289 with the replacement of the MacLeod Bridge and is reviewing design options for scope impacts. Ultimately the work's inclusion will be dependent on the cost and departmental budget constraints, keeping in mind that the original focus of this work is the structure replacement.
- (d) Correspondence (uncirculated) expressing appreciation for financial support has been received from Pictou County 4-H & the River John 4-H Club.

## **MACLEOD BRIDGE INTERSECTION**

Clr. D. Parker referred to correspondence received from Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal regarding the MacLeod Bridge in Union Centre, recalling that it was just before Christmas that the capital plan was released and he noted that the bridge was not included in the plan for 2015. Instead, it has been moved back a year to 2016/17 so hopefully that is good news in regards to the intersections but Clr. D. Parker pointed out that he has concerns for the MacDonald's who own the business and are presently trying to sell it.

## **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. L. Fraser that Council send a letter to the Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal asking the reason for the 1 year delay in replacing the MacLeod Bridge and requesting that the intersection work be done at the same time as the bridge work.

Motion carried.

## **RECOGNITION OF INDIVIDUALS & GROUPS**

Clr. Wadden recognized and thanked Thom and Julie Bouman for their generosity in the community as follows:

"Thom and Julie Bouman live on Egypt Rd in District 2 and every year for the past 14 years, have decorated every room in their house for Christmas and baked tirelessly to welcome friends and family into their home each year for their annual tea and house tour. Baking and decorating begin in October and by late November, their home is ready for viewing. By baking, homemade bread for all the sandwiches and desserts to die for. Julie is a fantastic baker. Decorating, well they have a large beautiful home and one year there were over 50 Christmas trees alone in their home. The decorations leave you speechless. Instead of charging for the tour and tea, they request that if you like you may bring a non-perishable item for the Food Bank. Over the years they have made very substantial donations to our local Food Bank. I understand 2014 may be the last year for this event on such a grand scale so on behalf of the residents of District 2 and County Council. I would like to recognize them their community spirit and generosity. Like all true volunteers, the first thing Julie said to me when I invited her and Thom to tonight's presentation, 'we don't do this for the recognition'. I assure you it is to show our appreciation of a job well done!"

On behalf of Council Clr. Wadden, Warden Baillie and Deputy Warden Thompson presented Thom and Julie Bouman with a certificate of recognition on behalf of the Municipality for their community spirit and generosity.

## **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 December:

1. Reviewed the report of the Recreation Coordinator for the months of October & November.
2. Considered recommendations for committee & outside board appointments for 2014/15. (Resolution to follow)
3. Considered applications to attend the 2015 conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Warden Baillie, Deputy Warden Thompson and Councillors Sally Fraser, Deborah Wadden, Leonard Fraser and Chester Dewar will be attending on behalf of the Municipality.
4. Reviewed Council's policy on low income tax exemptions. (Resolution to follow)
5. Discussed a request for exemption from a sewer operating charge. (Resolution to follow)
6. Agreed to recommend adoption of the Age Friendly Community Plan developed in partnership with the Town of New Glasgow. (Resolution to follow)
7. Agreed to recommend funding to assist with hosting expenses for the 55+ Games in 2015. (Resolution to follow)
8. Confirmed the position of the Municipality on the Fiscal Review report which was established in October and agreed to forward our comments to the Province.
9. Agreed to submit comments to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities conveying concerns with a review of the Gas Tax Funding Formula by the Towns Caucus on the relationship of funding allocation to asset base, and the need to standardize how assets are depreciated. At this time the Municipality does not support change to the Gas Tax Funding Formula.
10. Reviewed the list of Accounts Paid for the month of November.
11. Requested that the Warden approach the neighbouring towns to determine interest in establishing a committee to address concerns surrounding the local economy.
12. Agreed to write to Transportation & Infrastructure renewal asking for a traffic study in the Lyons Brook area on a possible reduction of speed limits to 50km/hr to address concerns with engine breaks.
13. Discussed a possible amendment to the Council Remuneration & Expenses Policy to require receipts for meal expenses. (Resolution to follow)

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 5<sup>th</sup> day January, 2015.

(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.

Clr. Turple referred to Item #12 and pointed out that the speed limit in Lyons Brook is 60 and 70 km/hr and he is hoping for an exception from the Department's policy that will regulate engine brakes in those areas.

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 December:

1. Reviewed the report of the Building Inspector, By-Law/Dog Control Officer and Warden for the month of November.
2. Agreed to write the Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal suggesting that the twinning of Highways 101, 103 & 104 be advanced as soon as possible through the implementation of a toll system that would cover construction costs.
3. Received information from Warden Baillie that the funding agreement for renovations to the Aberdeen Hospital have been signed. Tenders are expected to be called by the second week of January with construction expected to begin in the spring.
4. Agreed to meet with Dennis Raniowski in the New Year to hear his concerns regarding fire hydrant fees.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015.

(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.

## **MUNICIPAL ALCOHOL PROJECT**

Clr. Wadden reported that on December 3 we held our workshop to roll out our youth Report, a copy of which I forwarded to Carolyn to post to our County website. Thank you to those who were able to attend some or all of the workshop. One of the most striking results for our committee was that we had concerns with how the youth may react in a room full of adults and had decided if there was a problem with their comfort zone, we would segregate the groups and let the youth have their own discussion privately. The youth didn't disappoint us - they came, worked with us through the whole workshop and offered some very valuable input to our discussions. They turned out to be a very positive influence in our workshop so needless to say this gave all committee members that little boost you need to continue our next phase of MAP. We met on December 15 and are now in the process of seeing where we go from here. There are

a couple of items we feel very positive about and do feel we can come up with ways of dealing with these issues in a timely fashion - one example is graduation - there may be a couple of items we can work on to help make this time of year a much healthier and safer time.

We meet again in January so I hope to have more info to present at next month's Council meeting.

### **RESOLUTION – LUB AMENDMENT**

Clr. R. 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 Section 4.2 of the Land Use By-Law adopted by Council on September 10, 2007, acknowledged by the Assistant Provincial Director of Planning on October 1, 2007, and amended by Municipal Council on October 6, 2014 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

- o 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.
- o Minimum setback from all property lines shall be one times the height of the turbine.
- o Minimum setback from the boundary of a public road shall be 300 metres (984.3 feet);

##### Domestic Wind Turbines

- o Minimum setback from all adjacent lot boundaries shall be one times the height of the turbine.

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**DATED** at Pictou, NS this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015.

(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.

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

Motion carried. (2 Nay Votes: Deputy Warden Thompson and Clr. Palmer)

### **RESOLUTION – 2014/15 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

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 following nominations for the 2014/15 term:

<b>STANDING COMMITTEES</b>	
Financial Services	Full Council
Property Services	Full Council
Committee of Council as a Whole	Full Council
Executive	Full Council
<b>OUTSIDE BOARDS</b>	
Ad Hoc Energy Committee	Robert Parker, David Parker, Leonard Fraser, Ronald Baillie, Richard Williams, Sandy Stewart & Chris Stewart
Ad Hoc Solid Waste Strategy Committee	Larry Turner
Ad Hoc Violence Against Women Comm.	Deborah Wadden, Ronald Baillie, Robert Parker, Andy Thompson
Airfield Engineering Flight	Andy Thompson, Allister MacDonald
Community Economic Development	Ronald Baillie, Robert Parker, David Parker, Leonard Fraser, Larry Turner
Community Grant Review Committee	Ronald Baillie, Andy Thompson, David Parker, Randy Palmer, Chester Dewar, Deborah Wadden
Eastern Mainland Housing Authority	Linda Priske (to Dec. 5/16)
Fences Arbitration Committee	Joyce Roode (to Nov/16)
Fire Fighters Liaison Committee	Ronald Baillie, David Parker, Jamie Davidson
Forbes Lake Watershed Committee	Andy Thompson, Scott Johnston
Friends of the River John Library Board	Robert Parker
Hector Arena Commission	David Parker, Leonard Fraser, Ronald Baillie
Heritage Advisory Committee	Sally Fraser, Deborah Wadden, Edward MacMaster, Jamie Davidson, Larry Turner
Ivor MacDonald Memorial Arena Board	Sally Fraser, Andy Thompson, Randy Palmer
LORDA Board of Directors	David Parker, Leonard Fraser
Noise Committee	Warden, Deputy Warden & Clr. for area with Complaint
Northumberland Fisheries Museum & Heritage Association Board	Jim Turple
Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Board	Sally Fraser
Pictou Co. Firefighter's Assoc. Liaison	David Parker, Leonard Fraser (Alternate)
Pictou Co. Genealogy & Heritage Society	Robert Parker
Pictou County Shared Services Authority	Ronald Baillie
Pictou Co. Sports Heritage Hall of Fame	Jamie Davidson
Pictou Co. Wellness Centre Bd. Authority	Ronald Baillie
Pictou Landing Harbour Authority	Deborah Wadden
Pictou-North Colchester Exhibition	Robert Parker, Chester Dewar
Planning Advisory Committee	Leonard Fraser, Deborah Wadden, Randy Palmer, Jamie Davidson, Earle Cameron (to Nov./16), Fielding Smith (to Nov./16)
Police Advisory Board	Ronald Baillie, Randy Palmer, Sally Fraser, Linda Priske (to Nov./16), George Crocker (to Nov./16), Len Thomas (to Nov./16)
REMO: Unified Command Group	Ronald Baillie, Andy Thompson (Alternate)
Riverton Guest Home Corporation	Chester Dewar, Andy Thompson, Deborah Wadden, Earle Cameron (to Dec. 31/16), Bonnie Allan (to Dec. 21/15)
Riverview Home Corporation	David Parker
Sinclair Island Fishermen's Association	Deborah Wadden
Trenton Source Water Protection Comm.	Jamie Davidson, Deborah Wadden
UNSM Delegates	Full Council

<b>OFFICERS</b>	
Returning Officer	Josephine MacDonald (to Nov./15)
Development Officer (Subdivision By-Law)	Jeffery Turnbull
Development Officer (Wind Energy LUB)	Jeffery Turnbull
Dog Control Officer	Anne MacCarthy
Relief Dog Control Officer	John Fillier
Poundkeepers (Dogs)	Pictou County SPCA & Dog Control Officer/Relief DCO
Poundkeepers (Animals @ Large)	Wally Ross

DATED at Pictou, NS this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015.

(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 – LOW INCOME TAX EXEMPTION POLICY**

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 adopt the following policy with respect to Low Income Tax Exemption:

**POLICY #2015-01-11**

<p><b>MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU LOW INCOME TAX EXEMPTION POLICY</b></p>
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In accordance with the provisions of Section 69 of the Municipal Government Act, being Chapter 18 of the Statutes of Nova Scotia, 1998, the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou hereby enacts the following policy with respect to low income tax exemption:

1. In this policy “income” shall be as defined in Section 69 (1) of the Municipal Government Act and means a person’s total income from all sources for the calendar year preceding the fiscal year of the Municipality, and includes the income of all other members of the same family residing in the same household, but does not include an allowance paid pursuant to the *War Veterans Allowance Act (Canada)* or pension paid pursuant to the *Pension Act (Canada)*.
2. An exemption from taxation in an amount not exceeding \$200.00 shall be granted for a person assessed with respect to taxable property in the Municipality of the County of Pictou who is a resident of the Municipality, and whose income from all sources for the year preceding the year for which the exemption is sought is less than \$22,000.00.
3. The exemption extends only to the property occupied by the applicant as his/her principal residence.

4. A person applying for an exemption shall make an affidavit confirming the person's income.
5. The deadline for filing an application for a low income tax exemption shall be March 31<sup>st</sup> annually.

**REPEAL**

All former policies with respect to low income tax exemptions are hereby repealed.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015.

(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 – SEWER OPERATING CHG. DEFERMENT**

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 deferment of sewer operating charges, beginning with the 2015/16 fiscal period and continuing until such time as the residence on the property becomes occupied, the same having been reviewed and approved by the Financial Services Committee:

<u>ACCOUNT #</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NAME</u>	<u>REASON</u>
03865096	Gayle Ann Fraser	House is unoccupied with no operating bathroom facilities and has not been connected to the municipal sewer system.

DATED at Pictou, N. S. this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015.

(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.

Clr. Johnston asked if the home was to become occupied who would do a follow up to see that it follows regulations in regards to hooking into the sewer.

Warden Baillie replied that the homeowner would need a sewer permit from the Public Works Department in order to hook into the sewer.

Clr. R. Parker reported if someone moves in and does not hook into the sewer then we cannot force them to hook in but they would have to start paying the annual sewer maintenance fee.

Clr. D. Parker pointed out that we increasingly have in our more rural areas properties that are no longer occupied and we do not require in our building inspection of that vacant building that it be up to standard. We may need to look at the processes of our Building Inspection Officer because it would be

possible to move into a building and not notify anyone. Some of those buildings are no longer close to code and because it is becoming increasingly common with older homes and mobile homes that are in disrepair. We need to look at a Building Occupancy Permit where a building has been vacant for more than 2 years and unmaintained then we should require a building permit.

Warden Baillie reported that he will put vacant buildings on a future Committee meeting for further discussion.

Motion carried.

## **RESOLUTION – AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY PLAN**

Deputy Warden Thompson presented a resolution to Council as follows:

### **RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS the Municipality of the County of Pictou has partnered with the Town of New Glasgow and the Nova Scotia Department of Seniors in the development of an Age Friendly Community Plan to assist the municipalities in responding to emerging issues and provide better services to meet the needs of an aging population;

WHEREAS socio-demographic circumstances are creating specific needs in areas such as housing, healthcare, transportation, the need to reduce social isolation, and others;

WHEREAS seniors and representatives from various community sectors were actively engaged in identifying effective responses to the needs of any aging population, accessibility and inclusion, and in the development of age-friendly policies, programs and services;

WHEREAS an Age Friendly Community Plan was developed that identifies actions that will be undertaken in the next 24 months, and initiatives that will be discussed and pursued in the future;

WHEREAS an overview of the Age Friendly Community Plan was presented to both the Municipality and the Town of New Glasgow in November;

WHEREAS the Financial Services Committee of Municipal Council recommends the adoption of the AFCP by Council;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council adopt the Age Friendly Community Plan dated October, 2014.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015.

(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.

Clr. D. Parker asked if there was a cost estimate attached to this plan and Deputy Warden Thompson replied there is no dollar figure associated with the plan.

Clr. R. Parker asked who is in charge of the plan and Deputy Warden Thompson responded the Steering Committee involves people from the Department of Housing, VON and senior advocates.

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION – MUNICIPAL GRANT**

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 55+ Provincials Society	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>	Expenses to Host 2016 Games
	\$5,000.00	

**DATED** at Pictou, N.S. this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015.

(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 – COUNCIL REMUNERATION & EXPENSE POLICY**

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 adopt the following policy with respect to Council remuneration and expenses:



**POLICY # 2015-01-01**

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU  
COUNCIL REMUNERATION & EXPENSES POLICY**

In accordance with Section 23(1) (d), (2), and (3) of the *Municipal Government Act*, being Chapter 18 of the Revised Statutes of Nova Scotia, 1998, the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou hereby enacts a policy with respect to Council Remuneration and Expenses as follows:

**REMUNERATION**

- Commencing on April 1, 2014 elected officials shall be compensated for their services to the Municipality at the following annual rates:

Warden	\$47,136.00
Deputy Warden	22,893.00
Councillors (excluding Warden & Deputy Warden)	17,510.00

2. One-third of the annual remuneration shall be considered an allowance for expenses incidental to the discharge of the duties of such persons as elected officers of the Municipality.
3. Each subsequent year on April 1<sup>st</sup> the compensation for elected municipal officials shall be increased annually by the Consumer Price Index as applied to the Canada Pension Plan.
4. Elected officials missing more than three Council or committee meetings in a year shall be subject to a deduction of \$60 for each meeting missed.
5. An elected official shall not be considered to be absent from a meeting under any of the following circumstances:
  - (a) he/she is attending another Committee/Commission/Board meeting, or conference/seminar which is being held simultaneously;
  - (b) illness and/or medical appointments of the Councillor;
  - (c) bereavement as a result of the death of a relative, including a parent, spouse, sibling, child, father-in-law, mother-in-law, or any other relative living in the same household;
  - (d) attendance at Court;
  - (e) when leave from the meeting has been granted by the Municipal Council;
  - (f) the elected official has not been given at least 72 hours prior notice of the intention to hold a meeting;
  - (g) inclement weather conditions;
  - (h) job related responsibilities.
6. The Councillor shall notify the Municipal Clerk or recording Secretary of the Council, Committee, Board and/or Commission prior to the meeting that he/she will be absent, in order that the minutes will reflect the reason for the absence.
7. Where a Council member is nominated or appointed by Council to a board, commission or other position, or is otherwise appointed as a representative of the Municipality, any remuneration from that position, including reimbursement of expenses, shall be paid to the Council member.

**CITIZEN APPOINTMENTS**

8. A Committee member who is not a Council member shall be paid an annual honorarium for serving on the Committee as follows:

Riverton Guest Home Corporation	\$1,000
Eastern Mainland Housing Authority	250
Fences Arbitration Committee	100 (1 <sup>st</sup> 3 hrs) + Mileage 30/hr (hours in excess of 3 hrs)

9. A Committee member who is not a Council member shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred as a committee member.

**EXPENSES**

10. Claims for expenses shall be submitted to the Finance Department for payment on a monthly basis.

11. An allowance for meal expenses shall be paid at a rate of \$80.00 per day. Receipts are required to be submitted.
12. In addition to annual remuneration as provided for in this policy, all members of Council shall be paid an allowance for travel at the rate of \$0.40 per kilometer, for actual distance traveled once each day to go to, and return from, every daily session of a meeting of the Council or of a Committee.
13. Policy #2014-11-01 and all other policies relating to Council remuneration and expenses are hereby repealed.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015.

(Sgd.) Chester Dewar  
Scott Johnston

### **MOTION**

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

### **AMENDMENT**

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Davidson that the preceding motion be amended to alter clause 11 to permit a minimum meal allowance of \$50 per day without receipts, and a maximum meal reimbursement of up to \$80/day if receipts are provided.

Clr. Dewar pointed out that the amendment should have been discussed at the last Finance Committee meeting before this evening.

Clr. R. Parker expressed his opinion that it should be the responsibility of each Councillor to keep their receipts.

Clr. L. Fraser reported when you are in business for yourself you learn very quickly to keep your receipts and when it comes to an audit then everything is documented.

The motion to amend was tied, and therefore defeated. (7 Nay Votes: Clrs. MacMaster, R. Parker, D. Parker, L. Fraser, Turner, Dewar & Johnston)

The original motion carried. (Nay Votes: Clrs. S. Fraser, Wadden, Turple, Davidson, Palmer & Deputy Warden Thompson)

### **HIGHWAY ROAD TOLLS**

Clr. R. Parker reported that Council sent a letter to the Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal in regards to tolling Highways 101, 103 and 104 some time ago and he was confident he could predict the response that would be received. Over the holidays he read Graham Steele's book, "What I learned about politics". Clr. R. Parker read an excerpt as follows:

"We looked at our options and there were not many. User fees are easy to justify. It seems fair that the people who use the service are the ones who pay for it. The total revenue from fees is relatively low though so it will always be a small part of the revenue picture. Tolls are an excellent way to get things built. The Cobequid Pass linking Truro and Amherst is a toll highway. The highway was built quickly and built well because of the guaranteed revenue of the toll. The people of Cumberland County though didn't forgive the Liberals for a long time. After the toll was imposed it took almost 20 years for another Liberal to be elected in Cumberland County. The lesson every Nova Scotia politician learned was simple. If you want to be elected never talk about tolls."

Clr. R. Parker reported that it was his feeling that as Councils it is our responsibility to pursue the possibility of tolls as a means of seeing the twinning of 100 series highways move forward, even though it is not a municipal mandate, and even though no Provincial Government will agree on tolls. He emphasized that the safety of motorists, passengers and pedestrians who are losing their lives on those highways dictates that we have to find a better solution. The Fire Chief in Barney's River and his firemen are going out to those accidents and dealing with some difficult circumstances that that cannot continue. It is a user pay tax where the more you use it the more you pay. As a County we are moving towards user pay and that is exactly what a toll road system is. It is will be at least 25 years before that portion of highway in Barney's River will be twinned and any capital construction will only add to the province's debt. We could have user pay and paying for the twinned highway as it gets done as well having all those people still alive. The positive side for tolling these highways is to save lives and most of them could be built within 5 years if done by private industry and paid for by tolls. The money that would have went to the small sections to be twinned over the next 25 years could be used to fix other roads and would create more jobs.

### **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. R. Parker and seconded by Clr. Johnston that a letter be sent to the UNSM asking a resolution be debated at the UNSM Fall Conference in support of road tolls to finance the twinning of 100 series highways.

Deputy Warden Thompson reported that he disagrees with tolls because highways should be built with public money.

Clr. R. Parker pointed out that the main beneficiaries of the Cobequid Pass are the people who are still alive today if that road had not been built.

Clr. Wadden reported that Council already sent a letter to the Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal and pointed out that she would like to wait for a response before moving forward.

Clr. L. Fraser reported that if you are on the road all the time then the tolls save a lot of time and he does not mind paying the toll.

Clr. Turple reported that he would like to know the statistics in the number of accidents from the last 10 years on Highway 104 to Antigonish.

Motion carried. (Nay Votes: Clr. Wadden, D. Parker, Davidson, Palmer, Deputy Warden Thompson and Warden Baillie)

### **GREEN HILL ROAD**

Clr. D. Parker reported the Provincial Government released its capital budget for 2015 and there is very little road work scheduled for rural Pictou County this year.

### **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. L. Fraser that a letter be sent to the Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal urging that the Green Hill Road that extends from Alma to Durham be considered for upgrading/repaving in the next capital budget.

Motion carried.

### **SNOW REMOVAL ON SIDEWALKS**

Clr. Turner reported that he received a telephone call today from a resident in Abercrombie looking to find out about the status on the snow removal on the sidewalks. In recent days there has been a significant snowfall, rainfall, and temperature drop which has caused ice to accumulate. Clr. Turner reported having spoken with the Director of Public Works & Development about finding a resolution to the situation and asked if there was an update as yet.

Warden Baillie replied one of the contractors is waiting for an official contract document to be provided by the Municipality so that is holding up the process but hopefully the contract will be signed and in place fairly quickly.

### **EAST RIVER ROAD INDUSTRIAL PARK**

Clr. Dewar referred to the former Campbell property that was demolished on the East River Road and he asked if the demolition was publically tendered or if the property was advertised for sale as surplus. He reported that he did not recall seeing anything in the local papers and asked the value of the building before it was demolished.

The CAO confirmed that quotations were received for demolition of the house. The Director of Public Works & Development received 4 bids and the contract was awarded to the low bidder. He also reminded Clr. Dewar that the plan on acquiring that property was always to demolish the building.

Warden Baillie pointed out the best decision was to tear the building down because it was not in good structural shape.

### **MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES – GROUP SAVOIE**

Clr. L. Fraser expressed disappointment that the meeting with the Minister of Natural Resources to discuss issues on behalf of Group Savoie will take place in Halifax as this may prevent many Councillors from attending, and asked if arrangements could be made to meet in Pictou County.

Warden Baillie reported that if Council wishes to have the meeting in the Council Chambers it may take a few months to set up that meeting, depending on the Minister's schedule.

### **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. L. Fraser and seconded by Clr. Turple that the Minister of Natural Resources be asked to meet with Council in the Council Chambers.

Clr. Palmer asked if that delay will hurt Group Savoie if the Minister cannot meet with Council until a later date.

Clr. D. Parker informed Council that it is not a pressing issue because it has been about 10 years since Group Savoie has not had an adequate supply of saw logs in order to build and grow its business. The company is very successful in New Brunswick where they have a larger source of saw logs than they do in Nova Scotia. The problem is that a significant portion of the hardwood supply in Nova Scotia is going to Port Hawkesbury Pulp and the problem even existed when the mill belonged to Stora. There is a lack of leadership that is costing these jobs at Savoie and it does seem odd that we have to travel to Halifax to meet with the Minister. Clr. D. Parker reported that he was frustrated writing and receiving letters from the Minister and then nothing happens so that will continue until Council meets with the Minister.

Clr. R. Parker reported that he was under the assumption that the Minister was coming to Pictou County to meet with Council, adding his opinion that it should be part of the Minister's job to meet outside HRM.

Clr. Palmer stated that Council should stay with the original schedule and pointed out that Council never heard from Group Savoie if there was a problem with the hardwood.

Clr. L. Fraser reported that he called Group Savoie and their biggest problem is to have access to hardwood to develop their business to its full potential.

Clr. D. Parker informed Council that it would be very useful for several Councillors to take a tour at Group Savoie and they would explain their business operations and business plan, and offered to arrange that tour fairly quickly if any Councillors were be interested.

Deputy Warden Thompson reported that he would go to Halifax and meet with the Minister of Natural Resources.

Warden Baillie reported that Council made the request in September to meet with the Minister of Natural Resources but there was no request to have the Minister come to Pictou County.

## **WITHDRAWN**

On the agreement of the mover and seconder the motion was withdrawn.

Clr. L. Fraser suggested the next time Council sends a letter to a Minister the request should be made to have the meeting in the Council Chambers.

Clr. D. Parker reported that he will make arrangements for any Councillors who would like to visit the local Group Savoie mill.

## **OFF-SITE MEETING**

Warden Baillie informed Council that he will be sending out an email to Councillors regarding the off-site meeting that is to be held on January 24, 2015 in Plymouth seeking agenda items.

## **CHRISTMAS SOCIAL**

Clr. D. Parker commented that the Christmas social that was held on December 18, 2014 with the staff and Council was very relaxed and it was a better opportunity to meet employees so hopefully it will continue.

## **ADJOURN**

It was moved by Deputy Warden Thompson and seconded by Clr. S. Fraser that the meeting adjourn.

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

Ronald Baillie  
Warden

Brian Cullen  
Municipal Clerk