

April 7, 2015

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Tuesday, April 7, 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
	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

ABSENT

6 Clr. Jim Turple

IN ATTENDANCE

Donn Fraser, Solicitor, MacIntosh, MacDonnell & MacDonald
Brian Cullen, CAO/Municipal Clerk-Treasurer
Karen E. Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer
Carolyn MacIntosh, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Jane Johnson, Recording Secretary

BY APPOINTMENT

Kevin MacDonald, AC Kevin MacDonald & Associates Inc.

PRAYER

Warden Baillie opened the meeting with a prayer.

AGENDA

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

MINUTES

It was moved by Clr. R. Parker and seconded by Clr. Davidson that the minutes of March 2, 2015 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- (a) Min. Transp. & Infra. Renewal – Confirming that the Green Hill Road is not currently included in the Department’s 5-Year Highway Improvement Plan but will be considered for major highway construction and asphalt paving projects during the development of a future plan. In the interim departmental staff is considering various surface treatments for upgrading the road.
- (b) Pictou County Health Authority – Advising that there will be local leadership to deal with patient and family issues after April 1st, with an announcement on details to be made prior to that date.
- (c) FCM – Acknowledging receipt of Council’s resolution regarding Canada Post’s Five Point Action Plan and detailing the principles of the Federation which address meaningful consultations, partnerships and congruence with municipal planning.
- (d) Town of Antigonish – Enclosing a copy of correspondence sent to the Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal expressing concern with the amount of time the department is taking to complete the twinning of the Trans-Canada Highway from Sutherland’s River to Antigonish County an urging Government to consider other options that would see this twinning take place within a more reasonable time-line.
- (e) Letter of Appreciation (uncirculated) was received from Theresa Welsh & Family expressing gratitude for the donation made to the Hinton Cancer Centre in memory of her late sister, Isabel Cyr-Hagel.

Clr. R. Parker referred to correspondence received from the Pictou County Health Authority and asked if there will be a different procedure regarding issues at the Aberdeen Hospital.

Warden Baillie replied that he has not heard anything as yet and the only information he received was the make-up of the Board and Vice-Chairs.

2013/14 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (7:05 P.M.)

Mr. Kevin MacDonald, AC Kevin MacDonald & Associates Inc. reviewed the Consolidated Financial Statements for the Municipality for the period ending March 31, 2014. In respect to the report Mr. MacDonald advised that it is the opinion of the firm that the financial statements presently fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Municipality and the results of its operations and its cash flows. It is an unqualified audit opinion with no reservations to the opinion and no restrictions in respect to the scope of the audit. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Canadian Accounting Standards for local governments.

In reviewing the Consolidated Statements of Financial Activities, Mr. MacDonald reported that the total revenue for the reporting period was \$15,536,147; total expenditures for the period were \$16,962,348 and the change in the fund balances for the year was \$1,140,186.

Clr. D. Parker asked Mr. MacDonald if there was any evidence of misappropriation of funds and Mr. MacDonald responded there was nothing of a material nature that he would bring to this forum, adding that if there had been anything of that nature it would have been brought to the attention of Management and Council well before this stage.

Clr. R. Parker commented that it is clear from the Financial Statements that the Municipality is in good shape and despite the slow economy we continue to grow our tax base. It makes people nervous to see the Municipality is able to provide more services and is able to hold the tax rate so why change it with the MOU. It is the fact that the Municipality is quite stable that people are wondering if it will still be that way regionally.

Clr. L. Fraser asked if the Municipality sends this report of the Financial Statements to the Province and Warden Baillie replied once approved the Financial Statements are then forwarded to the Province.

Clr. Palmer thanked staff for helping with the budget and they should be congratulated on a job well done.

Clr. L. Fraser asked if the value that is put on the schools is a fair value and Mr. MacDonald replied there is no valuation allowance made because we do not know what those numbers will be. Mr. MacDonald

pointed out those were the numbers that were the costs of the assets when transferred to the School Board. Once those assets get reverted to the control of the Municipality they will be dealt with at that time.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. S. Fraser that Council approve the 2013/14 Financial Statements as presented.

Motion carried.

Warden Baillie thanked Mr. MacDonald and the Municipality's staff for all the hard work during the past year. (7:20 p.m.)

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clr. S. Fraser informed Council that the Old Schoolhouse in Merigomish will be holding a Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre on April 11, 2015. Anyone interested in attending could see her for tickets.

Clr. R. Parker reported that a Variety Concert will be held in the Durham Hall on Friday, April 10, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Clr. R. Parker reported that a Maple Syrup Festival will be held at the West Branch Community Hall on Saturday, April 25, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Clr. D. Parker reminded everyone the next MOU public meeting will be held at the Alma Fire Hall on April 29, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Clr. R. Parker asked if a MOU meeting was set up with the Federation of Agriculture and Warden Baillie replied they are waiting to hear from the Federation.

Clr. R. Parker commented there may have been some miscommunication so he will contact the Federation and get back to Warden Baillie.

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 March:

1. Reviewed the report of the Building Inspector, By-Law/Dog Control Officer and Warden for the month of February.
2. Discussed the status of the application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board with respect to the Municipality's electoral boundaries. The application to reduce the number of districts from 14 to 12 was submitted by the December filing deadline and we are currently awaiting a date for a hearing with the Board.
3. Agreed to revisit the issue of toll roads on a future agenda.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 7th day of April, 2015.

(Sgd.) David Parker
Robert Parker

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. R. Parker 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 March:

1. Considered tenders for construction of the Priestville Water Booster Station (Resolution to follow)
2. Reviewed the list of Accounts Paid for the month of February.
3. Reviewed applications for the 2015 Volunteer Recognition Awards and selected 4 recipients who will be honored at the Volunteer Banquet on April 18th.
4. Considered several requests for financial assistance. (Resolution to follow)
5. Reviewed requests for tax adjustments and exemptions (Resolution to follow)
6. Received a briefing on the recent regional meeting of the UNSM.
7. Agreed to discuss the fiscal management of the Pictou County Wellness Centre at a future meeting.
8. Discussed the upcoming meeting between the Mayors and Warden with Provincial representatives on the announced closure of the Pictou Visitor Information Centre.
9. Received notice of intent from Deputy Warden Thompson to introduce a resolution at a future meeting asking the Province to make a civics course a mandatory part of the school curriculum. Clr. Turple also served notice of intent to introduce a letter from the Pictou County Trails Association at a future meeting.
10. Observed a moment of silence for the Late Allan Rowe, MLA for Dartmouth South.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 7th day of April, 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. R. Parker referred to Item #8 and asked if there was a plan in place to operate the Visitor Information Centre and Warden Baillie replied that when the Mayors and Warden met with Patrick Sullivan from the Nova Scotia Tourism Agency he was going to take the information back to the Board but there has been nothing further from the Board or Mr. Sullivan as yet. Warden Baillie informed Council that DEANS was preparing a proposal for the facility so hopefully he will hear from DEANS shortly.

Clr. Dewar reported that last year the Municipality put out a tender for the River John Sewer Extension and he asked if there was an update.

Warden Baillie responded that hopefully the Director of Public Works & Development will have an update at the next Property Services Committee meeting.

Motion carried.

MUNICIPAL ALCOHOL PROJECT

Clr. Wadden presented the Municipal Alcohol Project Report dated April 7, 2015 as follows:

Plans have been finalized for Non-School sanctioned grad parties' conversations – Two (2) dates confirmed April 8 – North Nova Educational Center

Officer Ken MacDonald

Sophie Melanson

Ken Francis

Kathy Robertson

April 21 – Northumberland Regional High School

Const. Shane MacNeil

Sophie Melanson

Alta Munroe

Colleen Rauh

Our Committee is also sending out a letter of support for the Town of New Glasgow who is sending a letter to the Provincial Gaming and Licensing Dept. to consider reducing the hours of operation for the Cabaret's license in that town. It is a seasonal business and its opening usually coincides with university students returning home. Currently it operates until 4am and the Town of New Glasgow would like its hours more in line with the other licensed establishments in this area.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2015.

RESOLUTION – BOOSTER STATION TENDERS

Deputy Warden Thompson presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS construction tenders were called for the replacement of the Priestville Water Booster station which will provide domestic and fire flows to the Priestville area, including the North East Nova Scotia Correctional Facility;

WHEREAS six tenders were received and considered as follows:

	<u>TENDER AMOUNT (Including HST)</u>
C. F. Construction	\$275,770.00
Tate Construction	277,495.00
S. W. Weeks	336,260.00
Higgins Construction	372,709.25
Edgeline Construction	375,245.00
Dexter Construction	400,775.00

WHEREAS all tenders have been reviewed by CBCL Limited to determine compliance with tender specifications;

WHEREAS CBCL recommends that Council accept the tender received from the lowest bidder;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council accept the recommendation of CBCL Limited and award the construction contract for the replacement of the Priestville Water Booster Station to C. F. Construction in the amount of \$275,770.00 (inclusive of HST).

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 7th day of April, 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.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – MUNICIPAL GRANTS

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 Council approve the payment of the following Municipal Grants:

Council:

North Nova Education Centre	\$ 1,000.00	Graduation Expenses
Bonnie & Mullen Boulter	200.00	Girl Guide Travel Expenses
Marathon of Respect & Equality	<u>\$ 500.00</u>	Marathon Donation
TOTAL:	<u>\$ 1,700.00</u>	
Pictou Co. Chamber of Commerce	\$1,000.00	Reallocation of funds originally approved on April 7, 2014 for the production of a Trade Export Video; funds are now to be used to sponsor an award at the Chamber's 2015 Business Achievement Awards.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 7th day of April, 2015.

(Sgd.) Robert Parker
Edward MacMaster

MOTION

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – ACCOUNT ADJUSTMENTS & EXEMPTIONS

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

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the following write-off on water charges, and exemption from sewer user 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>
020494.00	Jason & Tracy Melroy	\$ 127.10	Uncollectible water charges – account owners relocated outside of Canada
02746638	Dennis Raniowski		Exemption from Sewer User Charges – Vacant house at 6246 Stellarton Trafalgar Road with no plumbing services

DATED at Pictou, N. S. this 7th day of April, 2015.

(Sgd.) Leonard Fraser
Larry Turner

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. L. Fraser and seconded by Clr. Turner that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – OUTSIDE BOARD APPOINTMENTS

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 following nomination for the 2014/15 term:

<u>OUTSIDE BOARDS</u>	
Regional Economic Development Committee	Robert Parker, Larry Turner

DATED at Pictou, N. S. this 7th day of April, 2015.

(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.

Clr. R. Parker asked if the other municipal units in Pictou County have nominated someone to sit on the Regional Economic Development Committee and Warden Baillie replied that hopefully everyone will be on board as of tomorrow.

Motion carried.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

There were no emergency resolutions to present to Council at this time.

MOTION - AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY SUPPORT

It was moved by Clr. Davidson and seconded by Clr. Dewar that Council send a letter to the Minister of Fisheries & Aquaculture in support of aquaculture in Pictou County.

Clr. Wadden commented there are people in her area that are still opposed to aquaculture but she was going to support the motion to go forward.

Motion carried.

UP-DATE – ROADS TOLLS

Clr. R. Parker reported that the Municipality had sent a letter to the Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal asking that the Province consider road tolls as a means of financing the continued twinning of the 100 series highways. Copies of that correspondence were sent to all Nova Scotia municipalities encouraging them to have similar discussions and perhaps convey their opinions on road tolls to the Minister. Clr. Parker asked if there were any additional responses to Council's correspondence, other than those already filed with Council.

Warden Baillie advised Council that the issue of road tolls was discussed at the regional meeting of the UNSM and was well supported.

Clr. R. Parker asked the next step to move this issue forward as a resolution eventually from the UNSM because the Provincial Government is not going to support tolled roads unless they get a strong push from the municipalities. If the Government was convinced it was not a vote loser they may be willing to look at it but there has to be a strong message coming from the UNSM.

The CAO replied that the Municipality can send a resolution to the UNSM for debate at the annual conference.

Clr. R. Parker asked if Council would have to debate the resolution before moving forward and Warden Baillie responded that Council already passed a motion to send a resolution to the UNSM.

Warden Baillie reported that at the regional meeting of the UNSM that was held in Port Hawkesbury it was asked that the UNSM staff poll all municipal units on this subject but we have not heard anything on that as yet.

Clr. Dewar asked if the Municipality should speak with the MPs because the Federal Government should be paying 75% of the cost.

Warden Baillie responded that based on the toll road the Province has now the Federal Government contributed 25%, the Provincial Government contributed 25% and the Province borrowed the remaining 50% to toll that road.

Clr. L. Fraser pointed out that he has seen some improvements on Highway 101 where passing lanes were put in and they doubled the center line with rumble bars so there are 2 center lines about 3 feet apart. The only passing lanes in that area is where the passing lanes are and there is 3 feet between on-coming traffic and that helped that highway quite a bit. The most frustrating thing for people travelling on the highway is not being able to pass.

Clr. D. Parker commented that it was his understanding that our local Member of Parliament has indicated that he is supportive of speeding up the process of twinning, however it is the prerogative of the Province as to which projects they put forward.

Clr. R. Parker referred to correspondence received on January 5, 2015 from Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal regarding the twinning of Highway 104 and he pointed out that there was no mention of tolls but the Town of Trenton received correspondence on February 5, 2015 where tolls was mentioned. Clr. R. Parker reported that people are fed up with people dying on these highways unnecessarily and it is time this issue became a Provincial priority.

Warden Baillie reported that staff will write the resolution and it will be taken back to Committee to review, change and debate but it will be ready in time to go to the UNSM.

LETTER OF APPRECIATION – HST REBATE ON BOOKS

Clr. S. Fraser thanked the CAO for sending a letter of concern on Council's behalf to the Minister of Finance registering the Municipality's concern on the proposed removal of provincial rebate on books. It has been learned since the correspondence was sent that the rebate will remain on books.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. S. Fraser and seconded by Clr. Wadden that a letter be sent to the Minister of Finance thanking her for listening and responding in such a positive way.

Clr. D. Parker reported that he was pleased that the government is leaving the HST rebate on books but he feels a little uneasy and after Thursday we may feel a little differently.

Clr. Wadden commented that she appreciates the Minister's decision and pointed out that it does not hurt to say thank you.

Motion carried. (Nay Vote: Clr. D. Parker)

MOTION - APPOINTMENT TO DECOSTE/PICTOU LIBRARY FESABILITY STUDY OVERSIGHT COMM.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Thompson and seconded by Clr. R. Parker that Council nominate Clr. Turple to sit on the deCoste/Pictou Library Feasibility Study Oversight Committee.

Motion carried.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES & NOTICES OF MOTION

Clr. L. Fraser reported that he would like Council to have a discussion on the Wellness Centre because there are issues that Council could have some input in and perhaps give them direction.

Warden Baillie pointed out this issue will be put on the agenda of a future Committee of Council meeting for further discussion.

Clr. Dewar reported that he would like to have a discussion at a future meeting regarding the Municipality's new wind turbines in Riverton. Clr. Dewar pointed out there are new turbines in Antigonish as well as MacLellan's Brook so he would like to have some information on them as well.

The CAO reported there are 2 big wind turbines located in Piedmont and there are 6 megawatts going up on Irish Mountain but they are private developers. The CAO informed Council that at the next meeting he can show the wind speeds.

Clr. Dewar pointed out that he would like to know the projections and what the Municipality's tax revenue will be from these wind turbines.

Clr. R. Parker reported that he would like to have a discussion on the number of fallen down barns in Pictou County and how those properties are assessed. Clr. R. Parker asked if the property owner has to make PVSC aware of the situation.

The CAO reported once the Assessment Roll is closed PVSC is not going to modify it and the Municipality's current policy states that if the property is destroyed by fire then we will adjust the taxes mid-year. The CAO pointed out that PVSC should be notified as well if a barn has fallen down.

Clr. D. Parker asked if taxation on a building stops once someone gets a demolition permit.

The CAO responded the PVSC would receive a copy of the demolition permit and make an adjustment to remove or reduce the relevant assessment on the next Assessment Roll which is the next tax year that building will be removed.

CLOSED SESSION

Council met in closed session at 8:10 p.m. to discuss matters relating to contract negotiations.

OPEN SESSION

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

ADJOURN

It was moved by Clr. L. Fraser and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the meeting adjourn.
Motion carried. (8:25 p.m.)

Ronald Baillie
Warden

Brian Cullen
Municipal Clerk