

August 4, 2015

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Tuesday, August 4, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Dist.	1	Clr. Sally Fraser
	2	Clr. Deborah Wadden
	3	Clr. Edward MacMaster
	5	Clr. Robert Parker
	6	Clr. Jim Turple
	7	Clr. David Parker
	9	Clr. Larry Turner
	10	Clr. Jamie Davidson
	11	Deputy Warden Andy Thompson
	12	Clr. Chester Dewar
	14	Clr. Scott Johnston

ABSENT

	4	Warden Ronald Baillie
	8	Clr. Leonard Fraser
	13	Clr. Randy Palmer

IN ATTENDANCE

Julie MacPhee, 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

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Warden Thompson called the meeting to order and requested that Councillors stand and take a moment in silence to pray or simply reflect, as may be their preference, to help Council focus and properly do the work of the County.

AGENDA

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

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- (a) NSUARB – Decision approving the Municipality's application to reduce the number of Councillors and polling districts from 14 to 12, and to alter the boundaries of polling districts.
- (b) NS Dept. of Municipal Affairs – Advising that the Plymouth/McLellan's Brook Wastewater Project has not been approved for the Building Canada Fund Small Communities Fund and

advising that the next intake of applications is anticipated to take place within two years. The Municipality will be notified when the Round Two application process is finalized.

- (c) Correspondence (uncirculated expressing appreciation for financial support has been received from the Pictou County Walk for Autism, the Northumberland Regional High School Educational Society, the North Nova Education Centre, Benjamin MacLean, Katie Sharpe, Sally Bates, Scott Young and the Little Harbour Walking & Bicycling Trails Society.

Clr. Johnston referred to correspondence received from the Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Affairs advising the Plymouth/McLellan's Brook Project has not been approved. Clr. Johnston pointed out that the people in McLellan's Brook have been waiting for sewer services since 1984 and they also need water. At some point Council will have to discuss the project and Clr. Johnston asked how long is an appropriate length of time to wait for these services because this project has been a priority for quite some time.

Deputy Warden Thompson commented that he was disappointed as well and pointed out this project is ready to go but we do not have the funding partners at the other levels of government.

Clr. Dewar reported that since the project is ready to go hopefully we do not need to spend more money on studies.

Deputy Warden Thompson reported the project is ready to go with an engineering study already done on sewer options for Phases 1 and 2 as well as engineer design work was done for McLellan's Brook and the rest of Plymouth.

RECOGNITION OF INDIVIDUALS & GROUPS – KENT CORBETT (7:10 P.M.)

Clr. R. Parker reported that Kent Corbett has already done a lot for his community and the County and he has not yet turned 40. He was recently honored by being named the Grand Marshall of the 2015 Pictou Lobster Carnival marking 25 years of helping make the Lobster Carnival a success and a major attraction to Pictou County. Kent has served almost every role with the Board of the Lobster Carnival including chairman and if you are around Pictou during the carnival you will see him everywhere and always busy. He is the go-to guy when they need an answer. Kent has also played a key role as a director and volunteer of another group the County supports financially that being the Pictou North Colchester Exhibition. His major contribution to the Exhibition is what they call everything that takes place on the other side of the road and that include truck pulls, demolition derby, motor cross and the newest lawn mower races both modified and regular. Kent keeps it all organized and running smoothly and safely for everybody. It is the addition of these activities that has allowed the Exhibition to balance its books and without them there would be no Exhibition. Kent brings an intensity to both of these major events in our County that is rarely seen. When financial hard times threaten both of these events he was there with his sleeves rolled up and ready to do whatever it took to save the day. He does not back down easy and is a big reason we have these 2 important events in Pictou County. Kent attended West Pictou District High School and then attended Cape Breton University from 1997 to 2001 studying Mechanical Engineering Technology. He now operates his own salvage yard in the Caribou area. Kent is a prime example of what the Ivany Report says we need more of, young people who return after education to their home communities as entrepreneurs creating jobs and playing a major role in the life of Pictou County. On behalf of this Council Clr. R. Parker thanked Kent for his fine work.

On behalf of the Municipality Deputy Warden Thompson and Clrs. MacMaster and R. Parker presented a certificate of recognition to Mr. Kent Corbett for his volunteer years of service to the Pictou Lobster Carnival and the Pictou North Colchester Exhibition.

Clr. D. Parker reported that he has known Kent since he was a student in grade 10 at West Pictou District High School. Kent has been around the Hector Arena a lot where he volunteers a lot of time and he is the main announcer for all their tournaments and games. This spring he stepped up and organized a ball hockey league at the Hector Arena. Clr. D. Parker personally thanked Kent for all the good work he has done for a lot of organizations.

Deputy Warden Thompson acknowledged the presence of former Clr. Rose MacKenzie in the Council Chambers.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS – HOPEWELL CEILIDH

Clr. Dewar invited everyone to attend the Hopewell Ceilidh on August 9th. Events will begin with a parade at 12:45 p.m. The meal and music will start at 2 p.m. and end at 6 p.m., with lots of good food and music for everyone to enjoy.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS – PLANKED SALMON DINNER

Clr. Wadden informed Council the Little Harbour Fire Department is sponsoring a Planked Salmon Dinner on Sunday, August 9, 2015 from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Little Harbour Community Center.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS – HISTORICAL TOUR

Clr. R. Parker reported that on Saturday, August 15, 2015 from 1 to 4 p.m. the Durham Historical Society will be offering a historical tour in the Durham Area. The tour will include the Stone House built by Mr. Matheson on the Greenhill Road, the Thornbank Farm owned by the Millens which received heritage designation from both the Municipality and the Province, the Durham School House and the Auchencairn Museum owned by Gordon MacLeod.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS – MUSIC LORDA

Clr. D. Parker reminded everyone that on August 16, 2015 the annual music at LORDA will be held at the park from 1 to 6 p.m. with at least 7 or 8 local performers expected to entertain at the event.

PROPERTY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

Clr. D. Parker presented the report of the Property Services Committee as follows:

PROPERTY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

For information purposes the Property Services Committee submits the following report on the activities of the Committee for the month of July:

1. Reviewed the report of the Building Inspector, By-Law/Dog Control Officer and Warden for the month of June.
2. Discussed the status of on-going projects. The River John Wastewater Extension is almost complete. The geo-technical report has been received for the Highway 4 Water & Wastewater Project which will allow completion of the construction documents. The Coalburn Wastewater Extension is awaiting consultation of the residents, and repairs to Stanwood Drive are expected to take place shortly. In the interim the Committee has provided direction that arrangements be made as soon as possible to have a private contractor grade Stanwood Drive.
3. Agreed to forward the concerns of Council with regard to proposed amendments to the Onsite Sewage Disposal System Regulations to the Department of Environment prior to the August 1st filing deadline.
4. Received correspondence from the Director of Operational Services for the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board advising that the River John Consolidated School property is surplus to the needs of the Board. Transfer of operating responsibilities to the County is expected to occur on July 31, 2015. Instructions have been given to administrative staff to secure the building.
5. Agreed to write to the Federal Minister of Fisheries and the Nova Scotia Ministers of Fisheries and Environment asking for an emergency meeting to address issues around stream and riverbank erosion.

6. Agreed to request a meeting between the Mayors and Warden and the Nova Scotia Health Authority to discuss the recently announced temporary closure of the Mental Health Unit at the Aberdeen Hospital.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 4th day of August, 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.

On behalf of the residents who reside on Stanwood Drive, Clr. R. Parker thanked staff for the timely action that was taken after the Property Services Committee meeting to bring in a private contractor and a grader because the road is more suitable now.

Motion carried.

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

Clr. Dewar presented the report of the Financial Services Committee as follows:

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

For information purposes the Financial Services Committee submits the following report on the activities of the Committee for the month of July:

1. Reviewed the report of the Recreation Coordinator for the month of June.
2. Considered requests for municipal grants. (Resolution to follow)
3. Received for information purposes correspondence from the Minister of Health & Wellness on the elimination of the Recreation Facility Development Grant in the Provincial Budget.
4. Requested that staff research the operating costs and usage of the EV Charging Station in New Glasgow for discussion at a future meeting.
5. Approved the text of a resolution for the UNSM Fall Conference asking the Department of Education to create a Civics Engage Committee on developing and implementing a mandatory Civics Course for high school students.
6. Agreed to recommend the award of a tender for the supply and installation of LED Street Lights to the low bidder, Black & MacDonald. This is a joint tender in partnership with the Towns of Trenton & Pictou. The Municipality's portion of the tender is \$1,372,415.00.
7. Agreed to implement a digital voting system for the Council Chambers at a cost of \$1,829.00.
8. Agreed that for future budget meetings all senior staff who present departmental budgets as part of the Municipality's General Operating Budget be required to attend meetings when the General Operating Budget is being reviewed by Council.
9. Met in closed session to discuss legal advice eligible for solicitor-client privilege.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 4th day of August, 2015.

(Sgd.) Chester Dewar
Scott Johnston

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. Johnston that the report of the Financial Services Committee be received for information purposes.
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:

Nighthawk Volleyball Club	\$ 400.00	4 Members attending 14U Atlantic Championships
Pictou County Lightning	100.00	1 Member attending U17 Girls National Basketball Champ.
Softball NS	100.00	1 Member attending U18 National Championships
Peter Corbin	100.00	National Triathlon Championships
LORDA	5,000.00	Operating Expenses
Pictou Co. Seniors Festival	500.00	Event Expenses
Pictou Co. Celtic Assoc.	500.00	Workshop Expenses
Lismore & Area Dist. Garden Club	500.00	Fall Rally Expenses
Lismore, Scotsburn, Plymouth, River John & Thorburn Summer Recreation	<u>3,750.00</u>	Program Expenses
TOTAL:	\$10,950.00	

Council:

Pictou County 4-H Leasers Council	\$ 250.00	Agricultural Awareness School Tour Day Bussing Expenses
Pictou County Snowriders Snowmobile Club	<u>5,000.00</u>	One-Time Grant for the purchase of a used Snow Groomer
TOTAL:	\$ 5,250.00	
Pictou Co. Trails. Assoc.	\$11,026.52	Approval to extend the completion of

Phase III of this project (originally approved at \$20,000 on July 2, 2013) to March 31, 2016

Municipal Services:

East River Valley Rec. Assoc.	\$ 500.00	Summer Youth Recreation Pgms.
TOTAL:	\$ 500.00	

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 4th day of August, 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.
Motion carried.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

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

ENGINE BRAKES – LYON’S BROOK

Clr. Turple brought up the issue regarding engine brakes in Lyon’s Brook and pointed out that Highway 376 goes by the West Pictou School, by-passes the “Y” in the road going towards Scotsburn and then into the village of Lyon’s Brook. The speed limit coming from West Pictou School in Lyon’s Brook is 80 km. but just before it reaches the “Y” the speed limit is reduced to 60 km. until it passes Birchwood Trailer Park. The problem arises when the trucks coming from the mill in Scotsburn stop at the “Y” in Lyon’s Brook and use their engine brakes. There are a lot of homes in that area and many residents are awakened by these engine brakes in the middle of the night. Clr. Turple reported that he was speaking with Karla MacFarlane, the Pictou West MLA who is willing to intervene with the Department of Transportation to pursue the possibility of having an exception to the 50 km speed zone granted in the Lyon’s Brook area.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Turple and seconded by Clr. R. Parker that Council send a letter of support to the MLA for Pictou West endorsing her efforts to speak with the Department of Transportation on the possibility of having an exception for non-engine brakes usage from 50 km to 60 km granted in the Lyon’s Brook area.
Motion carried.

UNSM HIGHWAY TWINNING RESOLUTION

Clr. R. Parker reported that he tried to re-word the resolution to see if he could address some of the concerns that were brought up at the Property Services Committee meeting. He heard the complaint about the unfairness in paying for road tolls at the meeting so with that in mind he tried to re-word the resolution to allow enough opening that someone could make a decision to look at tolling more than just the pieces that need the improvements right now and to spread it across the base of the province. Clr. R. Parker introduced the resolution as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Province of Nova Scotia is responsible to maintain the 100 series highway network that provides economic, environmental, health and transportation benefits to our communities;

WHEREAS the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal's Five Year Highway Improvement Plan does not sufficiently address improvements in a timely manner to the series of single lane highways;

WHEREAS the number of accidents and fatalities continue to occur at an alarming rate; placing stress on Emergency First Responders and resources;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request that the Province of Nova Scotia adopt a highway strategy that includes fast tracking construction of twinned 100 series highways across the province, wherever the need exists, to be financed by a toll highway system that is fair and equitable to all users and taxpayers in the province. The ultimate goal is to save lives and ensure a safer and more efficient highway transportation system for all Nova Scotians and tourists.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 4th day of August, 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.

Clr. D. Parker reported that he gives most of the credit to Chief Joe MacDonald of the Barneys River Fire Department because he started the push for tolling Highway 104 approximately a year ago. It is important this resolution goes to UNSM so that it gets publicity within the entire province and it causes UNSM members to think about and debate the issue. The proposal in this resolution is user pay and it is not just on those strips of highways that need to be finished but it is proposing tolls on our highways. We need to continue to push because these types of highways are death traps.

Motion carried.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES & NOTICES OF MOTION

Clr. Turner reported there was an issue at the last few ratepayers meetings in District 9 with regard to the incompletion of the sewer system on Smith's Lane in Abercrombie. The project was started in 1996 where the sewer ran half way into Smith's Lane and then it stopped. Clr. Turner pointed out that the residents were told the sewer was to be completed but that has not happened to date. Clr. Turner asked if staff could check the minutes to see if there was any information on the completion of the sewer system on Smith's Lane and bring it back to the next Property Services Committee meeting.

Clr. Dewar asked that the Eureka Sewer Extension be put on the agenda of the next Property Services Committee meeting.

MINUTES

It was moved by Clr. Turple and seconded by Clr. S. Fraser that the minutes of July 6, 2015 be approved with the following corrections:

Pg. 13: \$0.85/\$100 should read "\$0.085/\$100" & \$0.95/\$100 should read "\$0.095/\$100"

Pg. 28: Troy Area should read "Troy Webb"

Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Council met in closed session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss matters relating to contract negotiations.

OPEN SESSION

Council resumed in open session at 8:40 p.m.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Clr. Turple and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the meeting adjourn.
Motion carried. (8:40 p.m.)

Ronald Baillie
Warden

Brian Cullen
Municipal Clerk