

May 2, 2016

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Monday, May 2, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Dist.	1	Clr. Sally Fraser
	2	Clr Deborah Wadden
	4	Warden Ronnie 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

ABSENT

Dist.	3	Seat Vacant
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IN ATTENDANCE

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

BY INVITATION

Reta Heron, 2016 Volunteer of the Year

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Baillie 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. Davidson and seconded by Clr. Turner that the agenda be approved as circulated.
Motion carried.

MINUTES

It was moved by Clr. Turple and seconded by Clr. Davidson that the minutes of January 4 and March 7, 2016 be approved as presented.

Clr. Wadden referred to the report of the Economic Development Working Group in the January 4, 2016 minutes and pointed out that it fits in nicely with the work that is being done with the 3 other Councils. She expressed surprise that the Chair of the Working Group was opposed to the amalgamation proposal. She also referred to the Economic Development Working Group's report in the March 7, 2016 minutes and asked if the sub-group for communications met with any of the other groups to date.

Clr. Turner replied that Clr. Paris from New Glasgow, Clr. Lawand from Stellarton and himself have met with Frank MacFarlane and have tasked Mr. MacFarlane with reaching out to these groups so he is in the process of doing that at present.

Clr. R. Parker pointed out that 3 committees have been set-up that include communications. Clr. MacKay from Trenton and himself met with Dave Freckleton of the NSCC regarding internship. They also met with the professor at the Dal Agricultural campus in Truro so hopefully they can get the 3 universities to work with the Economic Development Working Group to try and get some entrepreneurial incubators started in the County.

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- (a) Min. of Gaelic Affairs – Asking that Council proclaim May as “Gaelic Awareness Month.
- (b) Letters of appreciation (uncirculated) for financial assistance were received from the following: Pictou County Foodbank, Dr. W.A. MacLeod School (Breakfast Pgm), Northumberland Reg. High School (Grad. Pgm.) & Middle River 4-H, Pictou Highland Soccer Assoc., Riverton Home (recreation grants).

MOTION – GAELIC AWARENESS MONTH

It was moved by Clr. R. Parker and seconded by Clr. S. Fraser that Council declare the month of May as “Gaelic Awareness Month.”

Clr. D. Parker reported this is only lip service because we had asked to have some Gaelic signage installed but they found a way not to fund that project.

Motion carried. (1 Nay Vote: Clr. D. Parker)

Clr. Dewar reported that he requested at a previous meeting that Council send a letter to the Premier asking him to reconsider the closure of Access Nova Scotia facilities.

MOTION – ACCESS NS

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. R. Parker that Council send a letter to the Premier thanking him for his decision not to out-source Access Nova Scotia Services, and for keeping those jobs in Nova Scotia and Pictou County.

Motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF INDIVIDUALS & GROUPS – RETA HERON, VOLUNTEER OF THE YR. (7:10 P.M)

Warden Baillie informed Council that Reta Heron was chosen as Pictou County's Volunteer of the Year. She is a retired teacher, having taught for many years in one room school houses and finished her career at West Pictou Consolidated School in 1989, after 24½ years of dedicated service. Also, about 1989 she took training and started volunteering with the Pictou County Helpline. She still does about 3 shifts of 4 hours each, per month. She provides referrals for the Pictou County Fuel Fund and the Pictou West Food Bank. At the same time she took training to serve as a volunteer at Tearmann House. Again she answers the phone and whatever else needs to be done for women and their children to keep them safe. Reta is a

long-time door- to-door canvasser for the Heart and Stroke Foundation and has served the same role in the past with the Kidney Foundation. When she is not volunteering in her many roles Reta is an active member of the Rebekah Lodge helping to raise monies for the community and is always helping out at church, St. Luke's United in Salt Springs. After 25 years of active volunteering Reta Heron shows no signs of slowing down and will downplay her role as "just being a friend", but that role has certainly helped a lot of Pictonians to deal with life's many challenges.

On behalf of the Municipality Warden Baillie and Deputy Warden Thompson presented a certificate of recognition to Reta Heron acknowledging her many years in volunteering.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clr. S. Fraser informed Council that a Lobster Take-Out Dinner will be held at the Merigomish Fire Hall on May 22, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Deputy Warden Thompson reported that he represented the Municipality today at the unveiling of the Proclamation of the North American Occupational Health & Safety Week to be held from May 1st to May 7th. It has been 24 years since the Westray Mine explosion and he asked everyone to keep those miners in their thoughts.

Clr. Palmer reported that there were approximately 50 participants in the "Go Green Get Clean" campaign this year that volunteered to pick up garbage in the Thorburn area. The residents in the Thorburn area did a great job in cleaning up their area.

Clr. Palmer conveyed to Council the appreciation of the Telford Cemetery for the Municipal Services Grant funds provided by Council, noting that without those funds the group would not be able to do any work to the cemetery.

Clr. L. Fraser informed Council that the Millbrook Community Club will be holding a Mother's Day Supper on Saturday, May 7 with 2 sittings at 4:00 p.m. and 5 p.m. as well as take-outs.

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

Clr. L. Fraser presented the Financial Services Committee Report 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 April:

1. Reviewed the report of the Recreation Coordinator for the months of February & March.
2. Considered numerous applications for financial support. (Resolution to follow)
3. Viewed a presentation by Steve Read on behalf Sobeyes outlining the many efforts of that company to offer local products from Atlantic Canada in their stores.
4. Reviewed the list of Accounts Paid for the month of March.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 2nd day of May, 2016.

(Sgd.) Leonard Fraser
Larry Turner

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. L. Fraser and seconded by Clr. Turner that the report of the Financial Services Committee be received for information purposes.

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 April:

1. Reviewed the report of the Building Inspector, By-Law/Dog Control Officer and Warden for the month of March.
2. Received correspondence from the Minister of Environment outlining the department's mechanism for regulating and auditing quarries through the province.
3. Received a verbal report from the CAO advising that the LED Street Light Conversion Project is 99% complete, with only minor issues remaining to be resolved.
4. Agreed to request that the Department of Transportation undertake a traffic study at Exit 23 to determine the warrant for traffic lights at the westbound exit ramp.
5. Received a briefing from the Chair on an upcoming meeting with the local MLA's to discuss the plans of the Provincial Government to discontinue future admissions to the Riverton Adult Residential Centre.
6. Agreed to invite a representative from the Province to meet with Council to discuss concerns with mental health services at the Aberdeen Hospital.
7. Met in closed session to discuss matters relating to contract negotiations.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 2nd day of May, 2016.

(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 the minutes of the last MAP meeting were sent out to Council today as well as the report of the Intergenerational Forum, and those constitute the bulk of her report.

Clr. D. Parker asked if the session tomorrow is a continuation of the Intergenerational Forum and Clr. Wadden replied a different Committee was putting that on.

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:

Municipal Services:

D01 Barney's Riv. Dist. Vol. Fire Dept.	\$ 1,000.00	Nozzles
D05 West River Fire Dept.	2,000.00	Ice Shields
D05 Bethel Presbyterian Church	3,500.00	Basement Drains, Basement Floor & Rear Door
D05 West Bch. & Area Comm. Assoc.	2,500.00	Cedar Shingle Siding, Signage & Roof Repairs
D05 West Branch United Church	3,000.00	Steeple Repairs
D05 Durham Cemetery Company	1,500.00	Stone Improvements & Maintenance of Lots
D05 Meadowville-Poplar Hill Comm. Hall	2,200.00	Painting, Entrance Steps, Bathroom & Kitchen Repairs & Hot Water Tank
D10 Sutherland's River Pioneer Cem.	<u>3,722.35</u>	Restoration of Pioneer Cemetery
TOTAL:	\$ 19,422.35	
D02 Little Hbr. Comm. Ctr	\$ 4,900.00	Extension of the Deadline to Utilize unspent funds originally approved by Council on Nov. 2/15 to construct an Outdoor Rink
D09 Abercrombie Fire Dept.	612.06	Extension of the deadline to utilize unspent balance of funds originally approved on Sept. 8/15 for Building Repairs
D12 Lorne Community Hall	2,000.00	Extension of the deadline to utilize unspent funds originally approved on July 6/15 for Hall Repairs
D12 Hopewell 4-H	259.90	Extension of the deadline to utilize unspent balance of funds originally approved on July 6/15

Council:

Marathon of Respect & Equality	\$ 500.00	Donation
	\$ 500.00	
GRAND TOTAL:	<u>\$ 19,922.35</u>	

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 2nd day of May, 2016

(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.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – RELIEF BUILDING INSPECTION

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 appointment for the remainder of the Council term:

Relief Building Inspector: Mike Thompson

DATED at Pictou, NS this 2nd day of May, 2016.

(Sgd.) Leonard Fraser
Larry Turner

MOTION

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

Clr. D. Parker asked why we needed a relief building inspector and the CAO explained that it is intended to provide coverage during times when both out our building inspectors are off at the same time.
Motion carried.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

Clr. Dewar reported that Council was not able to attend the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal event because it conflicted with our budget review and asked that Council consider making a financial donation to that organization.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. S. Fraser that Council donate the same amount of funds that would be required for the purchase of a table at the Salvation Army Dinner.

Motion carried.

CARIBOU ISLAND & WATERSIDE ROADS

Clr. Turple reported that the residents who live in Caribou Island are concerned with the poor condition of the Caribou Island and Waterside roads and would like them addressed before tourism season starts.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Turple and seconded by Clr. R. Parker that Council send a letter to Mr. Troy Webb, Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal requesting that the Department look at the condition of the Caribou Island and Waterside roads before tourist season begins.

Motion carried.

HWY 106 – PICTOU ROTARY TO FERRY TERMINAL

Clr. Turple reported trees are growing up along the highway from the Pictou Rotary to the Ferry Terminal and residents are concerned with the safety of tourists as well as the residents driving on that section of highway.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Turple and seconded by Clr. R. Parker that a letter be sent to Mr. Troy Webb, Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal requesting that the Department look at the safety concerns regarding the trees going up along the highway from the Pictou Rotary to the Ferry Terminal.

Motion carried.

CLOSURE OF PICTOU HOSPITAL OUTPATIENTS

Clr. Turple reported the residents of Pictou and the surrounding areas are concerned because of the distance they will now have to travel to see a doctor. Clr. Turple was of the understanding that Pictou is under an umbrella with New Glasgow for health care and asked if was possible that doctors from the Aberdeen Hospital could come to the Pictou Hospital several days a week for out-patient purposes.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Turple and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that a letter be sent to Pictou West MLA Karla MacFarlane and the Minister of Health asking what can be done to address residents' concerns over the loss of out-patient services at the Pictou Hospital.

Clr. R. Parker pointed out that this will only add to wait times at the Outpatients Department at the Aberdeen Hospital and we have no contact anymore because we do not have a Health Board in the County.

Clr. Wadden reported we are having trouble keeping doctors here and it is part of the status quo condition in the County so we will continue to see doctors leaving the area.

Motion carried.

MOU UPDATES & QUESTIONS

Warden Baillie informed Council that the presentations are still on-going and will continue until May 28th. The UARB ruled on the merits of the application, stating that it was in the best interest of the residents to amalgamate.

Clr. Turple reported that when he attended a meeting in River John it was disclosed why Trenton and Westville were not included. Clr. Turple asked if he could provide that information to residents and Warden Baillie replied that would not be a problem because it is public information.

Clr. Turple reported that a resident asked him if New Glasgow purchased the former Dodge dealership in New Glasgow.

Warden Baillie responded that New Glasgow did not purchase that building.

Clr. L. Fraser asked what the next step would be if the people of the County vote no and Council votes no on the question of amalgamation.

Warden Baillie advised that if it was a decision of this Council not to participate then Council would send a letter to the UARB withdrawing its application.

Clr. L. Fraser pointed out that has to be made very clear to the people because they believe their votes do not count.

Clr. L. Fraser reported that the Chamber of Commerce keeps using the One Pictou County logo and he pointed out that we are still 6 units and we have not amalgamated as yet. The Chamber of Commerce is supposed to represent all Pictou County and not a new municipality with just 4 units.

Warden Baillie replied that he was not aware of the logo they were using but will look into it.

Clr. Davidson asked if the residents will be able to look at comparative tax bills and Warden Baillie replied it should be finalized tomorrow morning.

Clr. D. Parker asked how the role of a Councillor will change in the new Municipality and the CAO replied that the role is not changing. Council itself will continue to be focused on the internal committees of Council and core municipal issues.

Clr. D. Parker asked what would happen to external committees and the CAO replied that Council members would not be appointed to some external committees because there would be no direct link to the Municipality.

Clr. D. Parker asked the process and consultation that was done to arrive at this change and the CAO responded it was part of the Governance Report.

Clr. Dewar reported that there was a lot of discussion at these community presentations that the municipalities were responsible for holding up funding for the Aberdeen Hospital Project. Clr. Dewar pointed out that the Councils were being painted with the wrong brush but instead it was the Province who was responsible for holding up the project.

Warden Baillie explained that in the presentation it was relayed that the hold-up was not the municipalities but the Province was the biggest hold-up from 2010 through to August 2013 when the government approved it. In the presentation it was referred to the time the Councils approved the borrowing resolution and no municipality was being isolated, but if it was only one municipality it would have passed a lot quicker than the present 6 municipalities.

Clr. Dewar reported that the Dr. W.A. MacLeod School was used as an example of the school population declining but he pointed out that the new school in Westville took over 30% of Dr. W.A. MacLeod's school population. He also referred to the Granton and Abercrombie school children who were moved to the A.G. Baillie School because it had built an expansion so that took those children away from the MacLeod School as well.

Clr. Dewar reported that he received a flyer in the mail today from One Pictou County and asked who is paying for this advertising.

Warden Baillie replied that advertising expenses are part of the budget and part of the Letter of Intent funding.

In the event that amalgamation does not proceed, Clr. Dewar asked the amount the Municipality will have to pay towards this bill.

Warden Baillie replied the Municipality will have to pay 25% of the bill.

Clr. S. Fraser commented that in every discussion, issue, and argument there are 2 things to consider:

1. The problem you are dealing with and;
2. The people you are dealing with.

Currently the problem is the substance of the MOU and we do have some difference of opinion on Council and that is fine. But secondly there is the people part, the working relationship that we have enjoyed with trust, support respect and friendliness. We can disagree on the first but let us hold ourselves to the highest possible standard as we deal with our Council colleagues and the general public.

Clr. R. Parker reported that he received the flyer in the mail and he asked if there was any report on the costs spent to date on the MOU.

Warden Baillie explained that the Steering Committee has not met recently but it has to get together to go over the budget. The Steering Committee approved the spending but they do not know the total amount as yet.

Clr. R. Parker reported the 4 municipalities each contributed \$50,000 and the rest of the money is provincial funding. If the amalgamation does not go through is that money still our debt and Warden Baillie replied that the Municipality has its share of that debt.

Clr. R. Parker asked is there a limit on the provincial money and Warden Baillie responded the LOI covers the Solicitors and Transition Coordinator.

Clr. R. Parker asked the cost to put out a flyer such as the one he just received in the mail and is there more flyers going out in the mail.

Warden Baillie replied there may be 1 smaller flyer going out to the residents.

Clr. R. Parker asked for the costs to send out these flyers and to also include the costs for Canada Post. There was previous discussion on this process and it was supposed to stick to the facts without selling amalgamation. This is selling amalgamation with all the good points but there are no downsides on how rural issues will not get the same attention as they have received in the past. It is supposed to be fact-based but there does not appear to be any connection between the ending promised to people that includes more jobs and everyone is going to get along so well together. There is a lot of fear in peoples' hearts that we may lose control over the rural Municipality and the direction we want to move forward. Status quo is not the answer either but we need to have a second look at this and do a better job.

Warden Baillie reported this Council voted in support of the MOU process and if the data came back stating this was not the right thing to do that would be the message that would be out there. The data came back stating this was the right thing to do and they have facts and figures telling them that the taxes are going down. Warden Baillie reminded Clr. R. Parker that he had stood up at a public meeting in Lyon's Brook and stated that the amalgamation proposal was a good thing even if our taxes go up, and now it appears that Clr. R. Parker has changed his mind.

Clr. R. Parker commented that he does not remember the meeting in Lyon's Brook but did not dispute the Warden's recollection. He referred to the accusation at a previous meeting by the Deputy Warden that he was "flip flopping" and his lack of opportunity to respond. Clr. R. Parker stated that when he first came to Council there was not 1 supporter around this table for any degree of amalgamation. He was in support of some type of amalgamation and he still is but not this deal. It was only when the thought was there that if we do not take them in through the front door then we are going to have to take them in through the back door. Here we are now going to have to take 2 towns through the back door anyway so what has improved? We went by the facts and figures on the Wellness Centre and he went by his gut and voted against it. It was not that the Wellness Centre was not a good idea but where did the facts and figures get us that time? Is it not the same people that did the facts and figures this time as the Wellness Centre and that did not work out so well so he would rather go by his gut.

Warden Baillie pointed out that the cost of electricity is killing the Wellness Centre and when the model was done there were no plans for summer ice at that time. He agreed that he was not in favor of amalgamation when Clr. R. Parker joined Council but he has changed his opinion because having worked with the other towns he sees how difficult they have it.

Clr. R. Parker suggested that we can work with the Town of Pictou and we can go back to the drawing board and get everyone included because it was his belief that if everything was so good then we would not have to sell it so hard.

Clr. Wadden pointed out that the UARB made the ruling on Friday and supported the information that was submitted. She saw what the status quo was doing to us or could do to us and she saw the possibilities we could have by coming together.

Deputy Warden Thompson pointed out that to put things in context there were some students who attended Dr. W.A. MacLeod School who went to other schools but then we jumped down to 215 students. For the student on the east side of the East River we lack development over the last 40 to 50 years because we have been spurned infrastructure money. Over time it has been a gradual decline but it is a decline that happens and that is why our numbers are so low. As far as this sales job with the mail-outs are concerned, we encouraged the citizens of Pictou County to go to the website or come to the County to get the full documents. These are weighty documents so you have to put them in readers digest form but they are facts backed up by accountants, auditors and the UARB. The NO side is saying that our facts are not facts

at all but are fluff and opinion. He says to the people on the NO side there is a lot of demagoguery going on and it is on the NO side. We have voted to support this process and the facts are on the table and the NO side has brought absolutely nothing to the table except demagoguery and fear-mongering and it has to stop.

Warden Baillie reported the meetings are continuing and the Steering Committee is willing to go back and redo a meeting in an area if necessary.

Clr. Johnston reported there will be a meeting on May 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. with the Steering Committee at the Plymouth Fire Hall.

Deputy Warden Thompson reported he organized the meeting to be held at the Plymouth Community Centre, following his annual district meeting.

Clr. Wadden pointed out that she had her ratepayers meeting the same night of the MOU presentation in Little Harbour and she had no problems so she will be doing to the same thing in Pictou Landing.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES & NOTICES OF MOTION

Clr. Davidson asked that the policy for signing dangerous & unsightly premises complaints be added to the next Property Services agenda.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Clr. Turple and seconded by Deputy Warden Thompson that the meeting adjourn.
Motion carried. (8:08 p.m.)

Ronald Baillie
Warden

Brian Cullen
Municipal Clerk