

December 5, 2016

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Monday, December 5, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Dist.	1	Clr. Don Butler
	2	Clr. Deborah Wadden
	3	Clr. Darla MacKeil
	4	Clr. Ronald Baillie
	5	Deputy Warden Wayne Murray
	6	Warden Robert Parker
	7	Clr. David Parker
	8	Clr. Larry Turner
	9	Clr. Peter Boyles
	10	Clr. Randy Palmer
	11	Clr. Andy Thompson
	12	Clr. Chester Dewar

IN ATTENDANCE

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

BY APPOINTMENT

Friends of Caribou Island - Corey Matheson & Dane Grant
Glen Frye, N.S. Lighthouse Preservation Society

CALL TO ORDER

Warden R. Parker 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. He also asked that everyone remember that tomorrow is the 27th anniversary of losing 14 young ladies at École Polytechnique in Montreal.

AGENDA

It was moved by Clr. Turner and seconded by Clr. MacKeil that the agenda be approved with item #8 to be moved to a closed session.

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

(a) Letters of appreciation (uncirculated for financial assistance were received from the follow: Pictou Co. 4-H, Molly's Rainbows Society, Pictou Co. Walk for Autism, Pictou Co. Chamber of Commerce, Pictou Co. Roots for Youth Society, Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library, and the Abercrombie Cemetery Corporation.

RECOGNITION OF INDIVIDUALS & GROUPS

There were no recognition of individuals & groups.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clr. Butler referred to the District One Newsletter that was circulated to Council this evening and informed Council that it is printed and distributed monthly to 750 households in the district and reflect all of the activities in the communities throughout District 1.

Clr. Thompson informed Council that on December 8, 2016 the Pictou County Women's Resource & Sexual Assault Centre will be putting on a play at the North Nova Education Center as part of 40th anniversary celebrations. The Center has produced the social action play regarding sexual violence to increase awareness and move towards prevention.

Clr. Wadden reminded Council that District 2 will be holding its Christmas Tree Lighting tomorrow evening at 6:00 pm at the Little Harbour Fire Hall.

FRIENDS OF CARIBOU ISLAND – LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION (7:05 P.M.)

Mr. Corey Matheson and Mr. Dan Grant made a brief Power Point presentation to Council on behalf of the Friends of Caribou Island in regards to preserving the Caribou Island lighthouse. Mr. Matheson informed Council that part of the lighthouse was torn down so they decided to step up and save what remains of the lighthouse.

LIGHT HISTORY

- First Light 1868
- We are coming up on the 150th anniversary 2018

SECOND LIGHT

- 1917-2017 100th Anniversary

CURRENT LIGHT

- The current light was built in 1971

NORTHUMBERLAND FERRIES PASSENGER NUMBERS

- Approximate Annual Traffic (Variable);
 - 475,000 passengers
 - 160,000 passenger vehicles
 - 18,000 commercial trucks
 - Ferries run from early May to mid-December
 - 3rd largest entry point in to the province after the NB border and Robert Stanfield International

ACCESSIBLE BY LAND

- The Caribou Island light is one of a very few lighthouses left in the province that is easily accessible by land.
- On any given day and especially on the weekend there are a number of visitors to the light and the accompanying reef. We are unsure of the exact numbers but it is a popular destination.
- We have met and observed people from all over the world.

ALREADY THE LIGHT IS #8 OUT OF 17 TOP THINGS TO DO IN PICTOU COUNTY!

- <https://www.tripadvisor.ca/Attractions-g154977-Activities-Pictou Nova Scotia.html>

IDEAS PHASE 1

- Repair the current structure and paint.
- Add fill to level the ground around the light and plant grass.
- Add picnic tables.
- Reduce the size of the parking lot to add green space.
- Park like hours (from dawn to dusk).
- Storyboard with historical info and pictures.
- Signage posted for directions Example: Waterside Beach.

IDEAS PHASE 2

- Add a gazebo type building.
- Could be used for concerts, weddings etc.
- Great way to generate revenue for the upkeep of the property.
- Other ideas (possible ice cream stand, canteen.)
- The most exciting and costly idea is to obtain the old lighthouse that is located at 1692 Caribou Island Road.
- House could be used as a Bed and Breakfast.
- Artist in residence (similar to Port Bickerton).
- Songwriting Camps.
- Can be used as a community meeting space.
- All of these activities would generate income for the non-profit to be able to maintain the property.

THE NEED TO ACT IS NOW

A LASTING LEGACY

PORT BICKERTON LIGHT

- <http://www.portbickertonlighthouse.ca/>

Mr. Glen Fry of the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society addressed Council and referred to his former years as a Senior Manager of Coast Guard for the Department of Fisheries & Oceans. He pointed out that he ran the program for divestiture of lighthouses at one time. Coast Guard and DFO put forward a program in the interest of maritime heritage and the respect of lighthouses in communities as the essence of the fabric of the heritage of a maritime community and the history of Canada. The program has best seen as a transfer of a property to a provincial or municipal government and the program allows a transfer to a non-profit society. The way the system would work is that the property and structures would be transferred for a \$1 and the responsibility becomes a partnership with the Federal Government that the Coast Guard will maintain all navigational aids on the property with their people and equipment. The property and buildings become the ownership of the non-profit group or the Municipality. This is a very big issue with the preservation of access to shore front and marine parks on behalf of the public. The government does require a business plan be put forward on how this building would be maintained. You are allowed to maintain the light and keep it on so you must get permission from the Coast Guard to maintain a private aid. The best model would be for the Municipality to form a partnership with the citizens (non-profit community) to take this property into a public trust and have it maintained by a local group.

Mr. Grant reported that they would like the Municipality to go into a partnership with their group and take over this property.

Mr. Matheson reported that the liability insurance is a huge cost for a non-profit group but if it is in the name of a Municipality it may be leased back to them so they will look after all the fund-raising as well as the up-keep of the property. If the property is in the Municipality's name it can be added to the municipal

insurance program without too much of an added expense, compared to the non-profit group having it in their name.

Clr. D. Parker asked if they had a business plan or specific amount they are looking for in this request.

Mr. Matheson replied that they do not have a lot of numbers yet but they have sent a business plan to the Coast Guard. He advised that in order to have more financial detail the group needs to know if the Municipality will become involved. According to the Coast Guard the property could be conveyed once it is determined that it is environmentally sound and after they speak consult with the First Nations because it is Crown property.

Clr. D. Parker asked if they were aware of Municipal Services Grants for repairs and Mr. Matheson responded that they have some fund-raising ideas where they want to get the whole community involved.

Clr. Turner asked if there were any other lighthouses in Pictou County that are in jeopardy that can partner with this project.

Mr. Fry replied that the Community Outreach Program has been going on since 1998 and the Lighthouse Act was passed in Federal Parliament so it provided an opportunity for community groups to use this avenue. Every lighthouse is in jeopardy and the Coast Guard is in an economic situation like every government department so they have to be resourceful by reducing the amount of maintenance on these buildings. Each and every one of these buildings represents the heritage of the community it sits in so the opportunity is there, if the community wants that heritage to be preserved.

Clr. Turner asked if there was any movement in the Pictou Landing area to resurrect the lighthouse in Pictou Harbour and Mr. Matheson responded that he was not aware of any interest at present.

Warden R. Parker thanked the gentlemen for the presentation and excused them from the balance of the meeting. (7:30 p.m.)

PROPERTY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

Clr. Thompson 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 November:

1. Selected Andy Thompson as Chair of the Committee and Chester Dewar as Vice-Chair.
2. Reviewed the reports of the Building Inspector, By-Law Enforcement/Dog Control Officer for the month of October.
3. Warden R. Parker gave a brief up-date on the duties of Warden since he was sworn into office on November 7, 2016.
4. Received a briefing from the Warden on a recent meeting he attended with the N.S. Department of Business and the lack of high speed internet service in the rural municipalities.
5. Received a verbal report from the Warden on an upcoming meeting on solar power that may be available to homes and businesses.
6. Directed staff to investigate the possibility of the Municipality taking over the MacLellan's Brook Road waterline, currently owned by the Town of New Glasgow Water Utility.
7. Agreed to write the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal concerning the poor visibility of signage on the Old River John Road and Poplar Hills Corner.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 5th day of December, 2016.

(Sgd.) Andy Thompson
Chester Dewar

MOTION

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

Motion carried.

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

Clr. D. Parker 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 November:

1. Selected David Parker as Chair of the Committee and Darla MacKeil as Vice-Chair.
2. Reviewed the list of Accounts Paid for the month of October.
3. Reviewed the report of the Recreation Coordinator for the month of October.
4. Considered numerous applications for financial support. (Resolution to follow)
5. Approved \$150 Christmas Bonuses for municipal staff.
6. Discussed the closure of the Life Shelter in New Glasgow and looked at other options that may be available. Directed Warden R. Parker to work with the Mayors of the 5 towns, churches and business community on a resolution for the upcoming winter.
7. Agreed to amend the number of delegates attending the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference from 7 Councillors to 3 Councillors + Warden in the Conference/Seminar/Training Policy.
8. Reviewed information submitted by Clr. Thompson on Accessibility Legislation and discussed the benefit of having cameras in the Council Chambers to stream every session. The Committee agreed to move forward with a Request for Proposal on pricing from Nova Scotia companies on installing cameras in the Council Chambers.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 5th day of December, 2016.

(Sgd.) David Parker
Ronald Baillie

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. Baillie that the report of the Financial Services Committee be received for information purposes.

Motion carried. (Nay Vote: Clr. Wadden)

MUNICIPAL ALCOHOL PROJECT

Clr. Wadden advised that the Municipal Alcohol Project Committee is still unsure if all Councils will continue to participate with our MAP Committee. So far the County and Town of New Glasgow has continued their past appointments and Sophie has reached out to all Councils to encourage their continued participation and we are awaiting their responses.

We were successful in receiving the smaller (first grant we applied for) to do some advertising of alcohol free events in the Northern Zone of NS...so I forwarded Cindy Fraser's contact information to Sophie to provide a list we may have so Cindy may be contacting you for your input. New Glasgow has submitted their list. Again, we are waiting to hear from the other Councils.

Perhaps our Warden could reach out to the other Mayors when they meet and encourage continued participation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

Warden R. Parker reported that Clr. Turner and he both remain on the Economic Development Working Group but the group has not met since the new Councils were elected. A new date has been scheduled for December 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Clr. Wadden reported that as a point of order the report should be done by Clr. Turner since Warden R. Parker is the Chair of Council.

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:

Dalhousie Mountain Snowmobile Club	\$ 1,000.00	Capital Grant (Groomer Repairs)
Scotsburn Recreation Club	\$ 1,000.00	Capital Grant (Hall Repairs)
Ponds Conservatory	\$ 350.00	Start-Up Grant (Program Expenses)

Councilor Allotment

District 12		
Hopewell and Area Park & Footbridge Committee	\$ 75.00	Candy Cane Committee Expense
Hopewell 4-H	\$ 75.00	Program Expenses
	\$ 3,500.00	

Council:

Pictou County Firefighters Association	\$ 3,000.00	Training Simulator
North Nova Education Centre	\$ 200.00	Yearbook Expenses

Northumberland Regional High School	\$ 200.00	Yearbook Expenses
Pictou East Foodbank	\$ 1,000.00	Program Expenses
Pictou West Foodbank	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>	Program Expenses
	\$ 5,400.00	
Municipal Services Grant		
D01 Barney's River & District Volunteer Fire Department	<u>\$ 1,400.00</u> \$ 1,400.00	Purchase Gas Detector
GRAND TOTAL:	<u>\$10,300.00</u>	

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 5th day of December, 2016

(Sgd.) Chester Dewar
Larry Turner

MOTION

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

RESOLUTION – CONFERENCE/SEMINAR/TRAINING 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 conferences, seminars, training attendance and expenses:



POLICY # 2016-11-21

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU
CONFERENCE/SEMINAR/TRAINING ATTENDANCE & EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY**

In accordance with Section 65 (s) 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 Conference/Seminar/Training Attendance and Expense Reimbursement as follows:

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

1. The Warden shall be permitted to use his/her discretion with respect to the number of seminars and/or conferences attended on behalf of the Municipality.
2. Elected officials shall be permitted to attend a maximum of four (4) seminars and or conferences of his/her choice in the Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island (Maritime Region).

3. Requests to attend any conference and/or seminar outside of the Maritime Region, with the exception of the annual conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, shall be considered on an individual basis by the Financial Services Committee who shall make a recommendation to Council with respect to attendance.

UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUNICIPALITIES

4. All members of Council shall be permitted to attend the Annual Conference of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities.
 - (a) The Annual Conference of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities shall not apply towards the maximum number of conferences and/or seminars.

FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES

5. The Warden or their designate shall be entitled to attend the Annual Conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities each year.
6. Notwithstanding clause 5, the maximum number of elected delegates permitted to attend the conference in any year shall be set at four (4).
7. Applications for attendance shall be submitted to the Financial Services Committee in December for the purpose of determining the delegates.
 - (a) If required, a random draw shall be made to select the delegates, should the number of delegates wishing to attend the conference exceed four (4).
 - (b) Any Council Member not attending a conference previously during the Council term shall be given precedence over a member who has already attended a conference.
8. Where an elected official fails to attend a conference and/or seminar for which the Municipality has paid registration fees and/or hotel deposits/guarantees for reasons other than those listed in Section 5 of the Council Remuneration and Expense Policy and penalties are incurred for all or a portion of those costs, the elected official will be financially responsible for those penalties and/or costs.
9. The Council reserves the right to approve the mode of travel which is in the best interest of the Municipality.
 - (a) Where a Municipal Councillor decides to use their own automobile to travel to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference, rather than flying to the conference site, the Municipality shall reimburse the Councillor an amount equal to the average transportation costs of the other members of Council attending the conference, plus the equivalent of mileage reimbursement to the airport.
 - (b) Air travel will be reimbursed at the economy fare rate.
10. Each Councillor attending the conference shall file a summary report with the Municipal Council within two months of returning from the conference.
 - (a) The report shall provide a summary of the topic and may include brochures, handouts, or any other material that may be useful in informing the Council of the subject area.

11. When the Annual Conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities is held within the Maritime Region, all Councillors may attend.

SENIOR STAFF

12. The Chief Administrative Officer or their designate and one other senior staff member shall be permitted to attend the Annual Conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, provided that the expenditure for attendance at conference and training sessions remains within their annual budget allotment for conferences and training.
13. The Chief Administrative Officer will authorize all conference attendance by each Department Head and ensure that the expenses will remain within budget allotments.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

14. The Municipality will arrange to provide hotel accommodations for representatives of the Municipality attending authorized conferences, seminars, training and/or meetings on behalf of the Municipality under the following circumstances:
 - (a) Events held outside the Province of Nova Scotia;
 - (b) Multi-day events held in the Province of Nova Scotia at locations outside of Pictou County.
15. Where, in the opinion of the supervising authority, it is necessary for the representative to depart prior to 7:00 a.m. in order to be present for the start time of the event, or it is not possible or practical for the representative to return following the conclusion of the event by 9:00 p.m., hotel accommodations for the evening prior to the event (or the evening following the event) may be authorized at the discretion of the supervising authority.
 - (a) For municipal employees, departure and return points shall be the Municipal Administration Building.
16. Wherever possible, arrangements will be made for invoices for hotel accommodations, together with related expenses for parking and taxes, to be forwarded directly to the Municipality for payment.
17. Policy #2014-11-21 and all other policies with respect to conferences/seminars/training expenses for representatives of the Municipality are hereby repealed.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 5th day of December, 2016.

(Sgd.) David Parker
Ronald Baillie

MOTION

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

Clr. Wadden expressed her opinion that there is a lot of benefit in attending these workshops and seminars at the FCM but only being able to attend once every 4 years is not enough. She pointed out that Councillors who could attend every second year would be fairer because there is so much to learn.

Clr. Thompson commented that Councillors are not given enough opportunity to learn and going to the FCM is an eye-opening experience. If you only attend the conference once in 4 years it is an opportunity lost and not only to learn but to build as a team.

Clr. Baillie pointed out that the cost would not be much higher if the number of Councillors is increased by 1.

Clr. D. Parker stated that the cost to send a delegate to the FCM is approximately \$3,000 so if we reduce the number of Councillors from 7 to 3 we are saving \$12,000 a year. He pointed out that Councillors have the right to attend 4 other conferences per year at the taxpayer's expense.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Turner that the preceding motion be amended to increase the number of delegates permitted to attend the FCM from 3 Clrs. + Warden to 4 Clrs. + Warden.

The motion to amend was defeated. (Nay Votes: Clrs. Butler, MacKeil, D. Parker, Boyles, Dewar, Warden R. Parker & Deputy Warden Murray)

The original motion carried. (Nay Votes: Clrs. Wadden, Baillie, Turner, Palmer & Thompson)

ELECTRIC SERVICE IN PICTOU CO.

Clr. D. Parker spoke on concerns which arose during his recent election campaigning. On Thanksgiving Day there was a storm in the County that resulted in significant power outages. Many of the constituents he visited had lost their power for several days were not very happy with the situation. He took some time to investigate the matter and had spoken to representatives from NSP at the UNSM Conference, along with former and current employees of NS Power.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. Dewar that a letter be sent to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (with copies to NSP and local depots) thanking them for setting some service standards and request they set service standards on rural electrical lines, provide guidelines on vegetation management particularly in rural areas, mandating the number of line crews in each area and request they require NSP to both design and implement a program to help people install surge protectors in homes.

Clr. Butler reported that his area is frequently affected by power outages and one of the biggest concerns he heard from residents was the duration of outages.

Clr. Wadden commented that this would be a huge cost item when our residents are already heavily burdened with the cost of power, adding that she would prefer to have a study done by the Provincial Government instead of a municipal government going to the UARB. She also suggested that we should have better contact with NSP when there is a storm because some residents do lose power for 3 and 4 days.

Clr. MacKeil informed Council that she lost her deep freeze with the storm in October so she understands the costs involved because of power outages. She attended the UNSM Conference and had the opportunity to speak with NSP on their vegetation management. She informed them there are a lot of trees in her area that have limbs on the lines and need some attention. She gave them a list of roads that should be looked at and they informed her they will be in Pictou County in January.

Clr. Thompson reported that NSP pulls their trucks off the roads during storms because it is an occupational health and safety issue. He suggested we should write a letter to NSP's depots in Pictou County and the Town of New Glasgow because they loaned their fire rescue boat to make some major repairs near the Trenton Power Plant.

Clr. D. Parker acknowledged Clr. Wadden's concern on the costs but stated that he does not have the ability to peruse NSP's budget. There will definitely be a cost but there is also a cost when people lose their appliances. There is a process that people can use to make claims to NSP but it is very limited and excludes weather. He recognizes that NSP is a very large and complex monopoly that provides electricity in this province but this portion of their business affects the residents of his area. He advised that he has nothing but the greatest respect for those men and women who go out in the middle of a storm to try and find where the problem is so they can try and fix it, but it is time we pushed harder because NSP has several highly skilled negotiators to make you believe everything is fine but in many cases it is not.

Motion carried. (Nay Vote: Clr. Wadden)

MOTION – NEW GLASGOW FIRE SERVICE

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. Palmer that a letter be sent to the local NSP workers and managers thanking them for all the hard work they did over the past week, and to the Town of New Glasgow's Fire Department thanking their members for the use of the fire rescue boat to get NSP workers to isolated areas along the East River.

Motion carried.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

There were no emergency resolutions.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES & NOTICES OF MOTION

Clr. Turner reported that he would like to revisit the sewer projects priority list because 3 of the projects have been funded. He would like to discuss at the next Property Services Committee meeting on how to move forward with the list.

Clr. Thompson reported the Town of New Glasgow and the Municipality are in partnership with the Age Friendly Community and they are look for a representative from Council. Clr. Thompson pointed out that his work commitment will not let him attend afternoon meetings. He informed Council there is a meeting on December 8th at 3:00 p.m. at the New Glasgow Town Hall and they will be reviewing the Age Friendly Community Plan that was developed. They are looking at building an Age Friendly Building in New Glasgow that would service a lot of rural residents.

Clr. Boyles volunteered to be the representative of Council to attend the Age Friendly Community meeting.

AGREED

It was agreed that Clr. Boyles sit on the Age Friendly Community Committee in partnership with the Town of New Glasgow.

CLOSED SESSION

Council met in closed session at 8:25 p.m. to discuss matters relating to litigation or potential litigation and legal advice eligible for solicitor-client privilege.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Wadden that the meeting adjourn.
Motion carried. (9:00 p.m.)

Robert Parker
WARDEN

Brian Cullen
Municipal Clerk