

April 3, 2018

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

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

**ABSENT**

Dist.	5	Deputy Warden Murray (Out of Country)
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**IN ATTENDANCE**

Joel Sellers, 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**

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.

**AGENDA**

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Turner that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

**MINUTES**

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. MacKeil that the minutes of March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- (a) Min. TIR – Advising that departmental staff will need a proposal from the Municipality which identifies the concept(s) design to be pursued on Route 289 (Westville Road) at the TCH Exit 23 before any further review can be completed. Department staff are

available for a scope development meeting to provide guidance on what needs to be included in the proposal for future upgrades in this area.

- (b) Min. Communities, Culture & Htg. – Advising that the Department is currently working with libraries to develop a feasible, long-term plan that will best meet the needs of citizens while ensuring the sustainability and continued relevance of Nova Scotia’s public libraries. The plan is expected to be completed in the spring and will be shared at that time. In the interim the Department has made a one-time investment in public libraries of \$474,000.
- (c) NS Fracking Resource & Action Coalition – Asking that if Council is asked to support a call for the Province of NS to remove the ban on hydraulic fracking, that Council continue to support the continuation of a province-wide moratorium on fracking.
- (d) Thank you letters (uncirculated) for financial support were received from the Thorburn Consolidated School, NRHS & Saltsprings Elementary (breakfast pgm.donations)

Clr. Turner referred to correspondence received from TIR regarding future upgrades on the Westville Road at Exit 23 and asked how this is going to move forward.

The CAO replied that they are willing to discuss what needs to happen there so they can start to plan so the County will get back to TIR on setting up a meeting.

Clr. D. Parker reported that it is important to move forward and get a scope because we have to find out what is doable as well as an estimate on the costs.

Clr. Thompson reported that he would like to add the sidewalks in Blue Acre because it is just as busy as the Westville Road.

Warden R. Parker informed Council this is an opportunity to meet with TIR to address some of these issues.

Clr. Wadden reported that she would also like to see bike lanes added to the TIR agenda.

Clr. Wadden reported that the libraries were appreciative of the \$474,000 funding made available but they are in constant need of funding from the province.

## **RECOGNITION OF INDIVIDUALS & GROUPS**

There were no recognitions of individuals or groups.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

District 1: Annual pancake breakfast will be held in Kenzieville on April 28, 2018.

District 6: Variety concert in the Durham Church Hall on Friday, April 13, 2018.

## **REPORT – PROPERTY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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 March:

1. Reviewed and discussed the reports of the Building Inspector, By-Law Enforcement/Dog Control Officer and Warden for the month of February.
2. Received an up-date on the status of capital projects. There has been no response to date from the Infrastructure Secretariat to our request for a scope amendment to facilitate the replacement of the McLellan’s Brook water line. Shop drawings are being prepared for both the Springfield

Estates and Abercrombie Wastewater Extension projects, with construction of both to begin as weather permits. Work is continuing on the hydrant modelling in Hillside where a final report is expected shortly.

3. Heard a briefing from Warden Parker on the work of the Aberdeen Health Foundation to address Population Health, specifically as it relates to a needle collection and re-supply program.
4. Discussed the collaborative efforts of the Department of Municipal Affairs, the Union of NS Municipalities, and the Association of Municipal Administrators to facilitate a symposium on "Municipal Modernization".
5. Listened to the concerns of residents in the Kenzieville area with regard to changes in rural mail delivery as conveyed Clr. Butler. This issue may be discussed at some future point after Clr. Butler concludes discussions with an official from Canada Post.
6. Discussed a recent Letter to the Editor which appeared in the NG News seeking an accounting to the taxpayers of New Glasgow and the County relating to the costs associated with the New Scotland Business Park. It has been suggested that a one page summary showing the purchase price of the land, borrowing/interest costs, improvement costs to date, proposed future improvement costs and the salary/expenses related to the marketing of the park should be posted on our website for the convenience of our taxpayers. Reference was made to monthly reports being supplied from the Business Development Officer and the need for that individual to meet with Council on a 6 month basis to provide more detailed information on the work that is being done at this location.
7. Discussed safety concerns with regard to the intersection of the Granton-Abercrombie Road and the Trenton Connector. The Committee expects to resume discussion on this issue once Clr. Turner has accumulated statistical information from the local fire department on first responder calls to that location. The possibility of placing our digital road signs in this area is being pursued with TIR.
8. Acknowledged receipt of concerns from residents living on Stanwood Drive and Barclay Ridge in Lyon's Brook regarding the condition of these roads. Those conditions are being monitored and will be addressed once weather conditions improve.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2018.

(Sgd.) Andy Thompson  
Chester Dewar

### **MOTION**

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

Clr. Turner referred to item #7 and informed Council that he process has been started and he has received some statistics from the fire department. He is currently looking into the number of fatalities and injuries at that intersection. Once he receives all the appropriate information he will give that information to Council.

Clr. Turner referred to item #2 regarding Springfield Estates and asked when work will resume as well as questions from the residents about hooking into the system.

Clr. D. Parker reported that he saw equipment being used today in that area so he believes work has resumed.

Clr. Butler asked if the new website has been up and running and if so are we going to make people aware of the new site?

Warden R. Parker replied the website has been launched and both he and the Deputy Warden have discussed with the CAO hiring a communication person responsible for the website.

The CAO informed Council the website went live in March and we will be able to provide statistics regarding usage of the website.

Clr. Palmer referred to construction at Springfield Estates and pointed out there will be very little construction until the roads open. He referred to the Rural News & Views so there will probably be an update on the new website.

Motion carried.

## **REPORT – FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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 March:

1. Reviewed the list of Accounts Paid for the month of February.
2. Reviewed the report of the Recreation Coordinator for the months of February.
3. Selected award recipients for the upcoming Volunteer Banquet.
4. Considered requests for financial assistance. (Resolution to follow)
5. Shared the results of consultation with the fire departments on a proposal to amend the Fire Department Grant Policy to change the distribution of grants to assist less affluent departments. Since there was not a consensus within the departments for the proposed changes the matter has been referred back to the Fire Liaison Committee for another solution address funding concerns.
6. Discussed the concerns of Clr. Boyles with regard to his recent experience in receiving IT support. Clr. Boyles has asked that this item be added to the April agenda of the Financial Services Committee.
7. Agreed to recommend execution of a 3 year agreement with SPCA Pictou for the provision of shelter and kenneling services. (Resolution to follow)
8. Discussed the annual taxation of the Municipality's Wind Farm in Riverton. (Resolution to follow)

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2018.

(Sgd.) David Parker  
Ronald Baillie

## **MOTION**

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

Motion carried.

## **REPORT – VIBRANT, ACTIVE NS SYMPOSIUM**

Clr. Butler reported that he was pleased to represent the County at the Vibrant, Active Nova Scotia Symposium at the Brightwood Golf & Country Club, Dartmouth on March 7, 2017.

Coordinated by the Nova Scotia Department of Culture, Recreation & Heritage the symposium began with greetings from Minister Leo Glavine and the Honorable Arthur J. LeBlanc, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia. Both gave testimonials on how important it is to remain physically active into our senior years. "It is never too early or late to become more physically active," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Dr. Robert Strange, Chief Medical Officer for the province gave remarks which set the tone for the day. In moving forward he suggested:

1. We should focus on the least active.
2. Encourage Nova Scotians to integrate fitness into daily activities.
3. School based physical activity should be increased.
4. Walking is a fundamental activity which must be encouraged.

Dr. Sara Kirk, a Professor of Health Promotion at Dalhousie University said, "Physical activity reduces many forms of disability, preserves muscle mass and slows down cognitive decline as well as preserving brain mass."

Dr. Jonathan Fowles, is the Chair of the National Advisory Council for Exercise in Medicine Canada. This group advocates for physical activity as a key component in the prevention and treatment of chronic diseases. He stressed the following in his presentation.

1. The best medications do not hold a candle against the benefits of physical activity.
2. Doctors have low confidence /knowledge in prescribing exercise to their patients.
3. Should exercise professionals become part of collaborative care practices?
4. Instead of having more walk-in clinics we should have more walking clinics.

We heard testimonials from a variety of communities in Canada and the United States on how they were able to encourage physical activities in their communities. The secret for success in getting people involved was to accent the positive and to have people participate in the planning stages. One great example was given from the town of Amherst where they selected 50 positive people to form a group and to plan an action strategy for their town. Another 50 people were selected the following year.

By using modern technology those attending the symposium will be kept abreast of ongoing initiatives in this field.

## **REPORT – SILVER ECONOMY SUMMIT**

Clr. Boyles thanked Council for allowing him to attend the Silver Economy Summit in Halifax on March 6 & 7, 2018. This was a very informative summit, on day 1 we heard from Ted Graham, head of open innovation General Motors who was the keynote speaker.

On day 2 we heard from Gretchen Addi, Aging 2.0 workshop host. We also heard from Bill Aasvanger, Executive Director CBIC Bluewater and Chris Cowper-Smith CEO, Spring Loaded Technology, Jo-Ann Stone, President and CEO The Stone Group.

We were kept busy with presentations but because you had to choose the presentation you wanted to attend and there were 2 or 3 presentations going on at the same time. He never saw all the presentations but the ones he did get to take in were Alzheimer's, one thing he learned was there are different kinds of dementia, and there are 444 million unpaid caregiver hours per years.

There was a presentation on mentoring, guiding people, not mold them to an image of ourselves. Fighting mobility impairments with bionic knee braces.

Mental Health First Aid. Mental Health First Aid teaches individuals how to help someone showing signs of mental health problems or experiencing a mental health crisis (I think Councillors and staff should have training in).

EDN (Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Network). The Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Network (EDN) was formed in 1995, based in Halifax, Nova Scotia. EDN serves people with disabilities from all over Nova Scotia who own or plan to start a business.

## **REPORT – RURAL CONNECTIVITY STRATEGY**

The CAO reported on the status of the rural broadband project, but more specifically to launch one of the key components of the project. It is an internet performance map that can be accessed through our website. The Municipality has been chosen as one of the only rural areas to apply new ways of recording internet performance at household and business levels. The analysis is conducted by I-Valley and the Canadian Internet Registry Authority. The heat map itself is calibrated to provide information that

community specific in Pictou County. People in their home or business can just click on the URL and launch the test that takes only 30 seconds to complete. On the website's home place there is a link called the I Valley Internet Performance Test so you just click on the link and it will take you to the site to begin the test.

Warden R. Parker reported that we need to encourage people to use this site so we will know where the trouble areas are located.

Clr. Turner asked how long are we going to run this test and the CAO replied it will probably run for at least 6 weeks.

Clr. MacKeil asked if the residents should run tests throughout the day and the CAO replied tests should be run as many times as possible throughout the day.

Clr. Turner asked if this will be run as a utility and the CAO replied we do not know at this point but I-Valley will be looking at the different models.

**RESOLUTION – MUNICIPAL GRANTS**

Clr. MacKeil 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 Council:

Marathon of Respect & Equality	\$ 500.00	Event Donation
Autism Pictou County	1,000.00	“Walk for Autism” Donation
Halifax Regional Municipality	<u>5,000.00</u>	FCM Conference Sponsorship
	\$ 6,500.00	
Dist. Rec. & Plan. Commission	5,000.00	Deadline Extension to use Community Coordinator Grant
Viola’s Place Society	8,000.00	Deadline Extension to complete Homeless Shelter Ppty. Purchase

Municipal Services:

D04 West Branch Burns Mem. Presbyterian Church	\$ 2,000.00	Deadline Extension to complete Church Renovations
D06 Friends of the Green Hill Park	5,400.00	Deadline Extension to complete Park Rejuvenation

**GRAND TOTAL:        \$ 6,500.00**

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2018.

(Sgd.) Darla MacKeil  
Ronald Baillie

**MOTION**

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

Clr. Boyles stated his opinion that the money the Municipality is contributing towards the FCM conference should stay in the County.

Warden R. Parker replied that we would spend more money to send Councillors to other areas to attend the FCM Conference but this year it is being held in Halifax.

Motion carried. (Nay Votes: Clrs. D. Parker & Boyles)

**RESOLUTION – DOG SHELTER & KENNELING SERVICES**

Clr. Dewar presented a resolution to Council as follows:

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS the Municipality’s current arrangement for shelter and kenneling services with the Pictou Branch of the Nova Scotia SPCA has expired;

WHEREAS both parties have entered into negotiations on the renewal of the contract and have reached a consensus on rates for service;

WHEREAS the terms of the agreement have been reviewed by Council, in committee;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council enter into an agreement with the Pictou Branch of the Nova Scotia SPCA under the following terms:

Term of Agreement:	March 1, 2018 – February 28, 2021
Monthly Rental Fee:	\$750
Daily Boarding Fees:	\$10 (for the first 3 days)
Pound Fees:	50% of fees collected
After Hours Calls:	\$30
Needling Costs:	\$30/dog adopted by SPCA

DATED at Pictou, N. S. this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2018.

(Sgd.) Chester Dewar  
Andy Thompson

**MOTION**

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

Clr. D. Parker pointed out that he has a concern with this arrangement because this is not the local SPCA and now they are all under the 1 umbrella.

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION – RIVERTON WIND FARM TAXATION**

Clr. Thompson 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 write off of taxes levied annually on the Municipality's Wind Farm at Riverton (AAN 03400417).

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2018.

(Sgd.) Andy Thompson  
Chester Dewar

## MOTION

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

Motion carried.

## VON FOOT CLINIC FEES

Clr. Butler referred to the foot care clinics provided in various locations by the VON, noting that in the last month a notice was given to clients that the cost would be increasing from \$30 to \$45 per service. This is a significant increase for seniors on fixed incomes and, given that this Municipality has contributed to the VON in the past for the good work that they do, he felt Council should be expressing concern over this increase.

## MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Butler and seconded by Clr. Baillie that a letter be sent to the VON (with copies to the Minister of Health and the 3 MLAs) expressing Council's displeasure with the increased fees for foot care.

Clr. Wadden reported that she could not support the motion because the VON is a business trying to make costs work and they need the money from the fees to do that.

Motion carried. (Nay Vote: Clr. Wadden)

## CBRM CHARTER/TAX AGREEMENTS

Warden R. Parker spoke on the concerns have been voiced by a number of municipalities on an amendment to Chapter 18 of the MGA which would provide the Cape Breton Municipality the opportunity to sell or lease property at a price less than market value and the ability to enter into taxation agreements with the owners of an eligible industrial property. Many municipalities believe this gives CBRM an unfair advantage over neighboring municipalities. Warden Parker advised that the UNSM presented at the Law Amendments Committee in favor of CBRM because it felt there was enough protection that it would not be overused. The Bill has to be approved at the provincial level and by the local people in the area as well.

Clr. D. Parker reported he was opposed in principle to the idea that we allow large corporate taxpayers to get a much better rate than the residents who would end up bearing most of the costs.

## REN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT – FINAL DRAFT

The CAO reported that the proposed inter-municipal agreement for the REN has gone through several edits over the last few months but the funding formula has remained the same, 50% shared and 50% based on population. The focus of the REN is economic development and not community development. There is a Liaison Oversight Committee that is made up of 1 member from each Council. The Board of Directors is independent from the municipalities and there is no political representation on the Board. The REN should not own capital assets because it is a service provider of economic development.

As a party to the agreement, Council is delegating its authority to the REN for economic development and it will be the lead agency.

Warden R. Parker informed Council they are still trying to get Pictou Landing First Nations involved because it does involve the whole County. It is important to have good communication between the Oversight Committee and the REN. The location of the office will be a decision of the Board of Directors and the Nominating committee has been working on the names for the Board.

Clr. Turner reported that it has been a 2.5 year process and there has been a real culture of cooperation with the units involved. All the units worked toward a common goal and agreement for the common good of the County.

Clr. Butler informed Council that there was a concern that the South Shore REN was too large and did not address all their issues. Although this has been a long process and we have not been courted positively by our neighboring counties perhaps what we ended up with is a unit that will represent the needs and concerns of a smaller area instead of a regional REN.

Clr. Palmer asked the amount of surplus funds that were left over from PRDA and the CAO advised that there was \$225,000 in surplus funds.

Clr. Palmer asked if all six municipal units were participating in the PRDA at the time of dissolution. Warden R. Parker replied that the Town of Stellarton was not contributing at that time.

Clr. Palmer asked if Stellarton will also benefit from this PRDA funding.

Warden R. Parker reported that the Town of Stellarton had contributed over the years but in the interest in everyone working together the funding should be shared by all units.

Clr. Wadden reported that she still had a concern with First Nations and the CAO advised that he had reached out to them last week so he hopes they will meet next week.

Clr. Wadden asked who would do an evaluation on the REN and the CAO explained that it would be contracted to an accounting firm.

Clr. Thompson asked for clarification on Item 4 (b) and the CAO responded that someone may leave money in a will and the REN has the power to accept gifts.

## **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the Inter-Municipal Agreement for the establishment of a Regional Enterprise Network be executed on behalf of the Municipality of the County of Pictou.

Motion carried.

## **EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS**

There were no emergency resolutions.

## **REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES & NOTICES OF MOTION**

Clr. MacKeil reported that she received several calls from residents about the increase in their power bills. She asked that this issue be discussed at a future meeting and Warden R. Parker responded that it will be put on the next Financial Services Committee agenda.

Clr. D. Parker reported that the Westville Road School is now vacant and he would like to discuss the future of that building on a timely agenda.

Warden R. Parker informed Council there has been significant interest in that building but any decisions on it should be with the Municipality and not the School Board.

Clr. Boyles asked for an update on the Linacy School and the CAO replied that environmental testing will be done this week before moving forward with demolition.

## **ADJOURN**

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the meeting adjourn.

Motion carried. (8:40 p.m.)

Robert Parker  
Warden

Brian Cullen  
Municipal Clerk