October 5, 2026

The Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Monday, October 5, 2026, at 7 p.m.

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Brian Cullen, CAO Municipal Clerk-Treasurer
Sueann Musick, Director of Corporate Services
Adam MacInnis, Communications Officer
Rhiannon McNair, Director of Business for the Rural Broadband Project.
Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development (Video Conference)
Paul Smith, Bylaw Officer

ABSENT

Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Management and Public Safety

CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Warden Robert Parker called the meeting to order and invited Councilors to pray or reflect, as may be their preference, to help Council focus and properly do the work of the Municipality. He acknowledged that Council was meeting on the ancestral lands of the Mi'kmaq people and stated that "We are all Treaty People."

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

There were no Emergency Resolutions.

AGENDA

Motion: It was moved that the addition of an information item to the In Camera session.
Moved by Clr.Turner
Seconded by Clr. Baillie
Motion Carried

MINUTES

Warden Parker asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for September 8, 2026, Council meeting. The Chair proclaimed the minutes of September 8, 2026, meeting as the official record of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council received correspondence from:

- Brad Coulter regarding a noise issue and potential bylaw discussion.
- Olivia Sutherland thanking Council for sponsoring a 4-H Award.

Discussion occurred regarding the Agricultural Land Use By-law review. CAO Cullen advised that the province identified concerns regarding consistency with the Statement of Provincial Interest on agricultural lands. He noted the issue is primarily administrative and is not expected to result in substantial changes to Council's adopted policies.

Discussion occurred regarding noise concerns related to event venues and other noise-generating activities. Councillors discussed constituent concerns and were advised that staff are reviewing approaches taken by other municipalities and will report back at a future Property and Finance Services Committee meeting. Discussion also occurred regarding telephone service disruptions affecting residents in the Salt Springs area.

PROCLAMATION

Warden Parker proclaimed October 2026 as Fire Prevention Month in the Municipality of the County of Pictou. The proclamation recognized Fire Prevention Week from October 4 to 10, 2026 and promoted the national theme, “Charge into Fire Safety: Safe Charging is a Superpower." Residents were encouraged to review home fire escape plans, test smoke alarms, and practice safe charging habits for rechargeable devices and lithium-ion batteries.

PRESENTATION - UNSIGHTLY PROPERTY

Paul Smith, Bylaw Officer, presented information and photographs regarding the condition of the property located at 24 Bridgeville Road, Bridgeville. Concerns included

a deteriorating dwelling, collapsing structures, accumulated debris, an uncovered well, and evidence of public access to the property.
Motion: A motion was made to issue an Order requiring the owners of 24 Bridgeville Road, Bridgeville, to remedy the dangerous and unsightly conditions within 30 days, failing which the Municipality undertake the required work and charge the costs to the property.
Moved by: Clr. Thompson
Seconded by: Clr. Dewar
Motion Carried

BUSINESS ITEMS NOT REQUIRING ACTION

New Scotland Business Park Report – submitted for information.

Accessibility Report to Council - September 2026 – submitted for information.

Governance Committee Report to Council - August 2026 – submitted for information.

REPORTS REQUIRING ACTION

District 4 Municipal Service Grant
Motion: A motion was made to approve Municipal Service Grants for District 4 totaling $5,164.74 as presented.
Moved by: Clr. Baillie
Seconded by: Clr. Parker
Motion Carried

District 11 Municipal Service Grant
Motion: A motion was made to approve Municipal Service Grants for District 11 totaling $2,950.00 as presented.
Moved by: Clr. Thompson
Seconded by: Clr. Dewar
Motion Carried

District 12 Municipal Service Grants
Motion: A motion was made to approve a Municipal Service Grant for the Eureka Fire Department in the amount of $1,000.00.
Moved by: Clr. Dewar
Seconded by: Clr. Thompson
Motion Carried

Community Hall Internet Program
Council considered an application from the Caribou River Community Hall for participation in the Municipality's Community Hall Internet Program.
Motion: A motion was made to approve the application from the Caribou River Community Hall and authorize the provision of internet service under the program.

Moved by: Clr. Palmer
Seconded by: Clr. Mackeil
Motion Carried.

Records Management Policy 2026-10-01
Council considered the proposed Records Management Policy 2026-10-01.
Motion: A motion was made to adopt Records Management Policy 2026-10-01 effective immediately and authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to implement the policy and associated administrative procedures.
Moved by: Deputy Warden Murray
Seconded by: Warden Parker
Motion Carried

STP Blowers Tender
Council was advised that the tender closing date for the STP Blowers project had been extended by two weeks. No action was required and the matter will return at a future meeting.

Welsford Bridge Petition
Councillor Ronald Baillie presented a petition containing approximately 600 signatures regarding replacement of the Welsford Bridge. Discussion occurred regarding bridge replacement options and the impact of the bridge closure on area residents.
Motion: A motion was made to send correspondence to the Department of Public Works, MLA Marco MacLeod and Premier Tim Houston requesting that replacement of the Welsford Bridge be advanced within provincial infrastructure planning priorities.
Moved by: Clr. Baillie
Seconded by: Clr. Mackeil
Motion Carried.

Nova Scotia Systems Transformation Pilot
Council discussed a systems transformation pilot proposal presented by the Town of New Glasgow regarding future use of the Riverview Adult Residential Centre property. Members expressed concerns regarding the proposed location, proximity to schools and seniors housing, transportation, consultation, governance and operational details. Council agreed that additional information and discussion would be required before considering endorsement of the proposal.
Motion: A motion was made to defer consideration of the Nova Scotia Systems Transformation Pilot proposal pending further information.
Moved by: Deputy Warden Murray
Seconded by: Clr. Turner
Motion Carried

DEFERRED BUSINESS

There was no Deferred Business.

MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION

There were no Motions of Reconsideration.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Announcements were heard.

IN CAMERA SESSION

Motion: A motion was made that Council move In Camera to discuss Property Matter.
Moved by: Clr.MacKeil
Seconded by: Clr. Palmer
Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Warden Parker declared the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.