

September 21, 2026

The Financial Services Committee for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Monday, September 21, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

- 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
Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development
Rhiannon McNair, Director of Business Operations, Broadband Initiative
Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services
Sueann Musick, Director of Corporate Services/Deputy Clerk
Adam MacInnis, Communications Officer
Samantha Rankin, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Clr. MacKeil, Chair of the Financial Services Committee, called the meeting to order and acknowledged that we are on the ancestral territorial lands of the Mi'kmaq people.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

No Emergency Resolutions were brought forward.

AGENDA

Motion: It was moved that the agenda be approved as presented.

Moved by: Clr. Boyles

Seconded by Clr. Turner

Motion Carried

ERRORS OR OMISSIONS/CORRECTIONS TO MINUTES

Clr. MacKeil asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for August 17, 2026. The members of the Committee entered with no errors, omissions, or corrections. The Chair proclaimed the minutes of the meeting on August 17, 2026, as the official record of the meeting.

Clr. MacKeil asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the In-Camera minutes for August 17, 2026. The members of the Committee entered with no errors, omissions, or corrections. The Chair proclaimed the minutes of the meeting on August 17, 2026, as the official record of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Committee received a thank you note from Rayna of Pictou County 4-H for sponsoring a 4-H award.

PRESENTATION - Jennifer Whitaker, Tanner Hill Road - Noise Bylaw Request

Jennifer Whitaker addressed the Committee regarding excessive noise from a nearby property that has recently been used for campground and concert events. She advised that amplified music could be heard late into the night over several days, significantly affecting nearby residents and disrupting the enjoyment of their properties. She noted that RCMP were unable to take action regarding the noise due to the absence of a municipal noise bylaw.

Committee members questioned Ms. Whitaker about the frequency of events, impacts on neighbouring properties, interactions with the property owner, and possible land-use or permitting requirements. Ms. Whitaker indicated that the activities began during the summer of 2026 and had generated concerns among several residents in the area.

Councillors discussed the challenges associated with noise regulation and enforcement, while acknowledging the concerns raised. Staff advised that zoning and compliance matters related to the property would be reviewed.

The Chair thanked Jennifer Whitaker for her presentation. No motion was made.

REPORTS NOT REQUIRING A MOTION

Communications Report

Received for information. Warden Parker commented positively on the annual tree giveaway program.

Recreation Report

Received for information. Clr. Turner highlighted the installation of the accessibility Mobi-Mat at Caribou Provincial Park.

Warden's Report

Received for information.

Tax Receivable Report

Received for information.

Deed Transfer Tax Report

Received for information.

REPORTS REQUIRING A MOTION**Accounts Payables**

Motion: A motion was made to accept the Accounts Payables for August 2026.

Moved by: Clr. Turner

Seconded by: Clr. Palmer

Motion Carried

Water Utility Account

Motion: A motion was made to approve the Water Utility Account for August 2026.

Moved by: Clr. Wadden

Seconded by: Clr. Palmer

Motion Carried

Internet Accounts Payables August 2026

Motion: A motion was made to approve the Internet Accounts Payables for August 2026.

Moved by: Clr. Baillie

Seconded by: Deputy Warden Murray

Motion Carried

BUSINESS ITEMS OR ITEM REQUIRING ACTION**Noise Concerns**

Warden Parker brought forward concerns received from several residents regarding excessive noise from both commercial and recreational activities occurring in rural areas of the municipality. He referenced complaints involving amplified music, campground events, and industrial operations taking place late into the evening and early morning hours, noting the impact on residents' quality of life.

Committee members discussed the challenges of regulating noise while balancing the rights of residents and businesses. Staff advised that traditional noise bylaws can be difficult to enforce and may require additional resources. Alternative approaches, including quiet-hour provisions, special event regulations, and land-use controls used in other municipalities, were discussed.

Following discussion, Committee agreed that staff would research options used by other municipalities and prepare a report outlining potential approaches, enforcement considerations, and any available tools that could address recurring noise concerns. The report will be brought back to a future meeting for further consideration.

Municipal Service Grants - District 4

Motion: A motion was made to approve the municipal service grants totaling \$5,164.74 for the Campbell's Point Cemetery (Seafoam), Community Support Society of River John, and River John Action Society.

Moved by: Clr. Baillie

Seconded by: Clr. Palmer

Motion Carried

Municipal Service Grants - District 11

Motion: A motion was made that the District 11 Municipal Service Grants totalling \$2,950.00 for the Churchville Hall and the Plymouth Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary be approved as submitted.

Moved by: Clr. Thompson

Seconded by: Clr. Dewar

Motion Carried

Municipal Service Grants - District 12

Motion: A motion was made that the District 12 Municipal Service Grant totalling \$1,000.00 for the Eureka Fire Department be approved as submitted.

Moved by: Clr. Dewar

Seconded by: Deputy Warden Murray

Motion Carried

Community Hall Internet Program

Motion: A motion was made to approve the Caribou River Community Hall for participation in the Community Hall Internet Program.

Moved by: Warden Parker

Seconded by: Clr. Palmer

Motion Carried

Records Management Policy

Staff presented a proposed Records Management Policy to improve records management practices within the Municipality. During discussion, Director of Corporate Services Sueann Musick introduced Samantha Rankin, the Municipality's new Administrative Assistant, who will assist with records management initiatives.

Motion: A motion was made to approve the Records Management Policy as presented.

Moved by: Deputy Warden Murray

Seconded by: Clr. Wadden

Motion Carried.

Valley View Villa Care Concerns

Clr. Boyles raised concerns regarding resident care and staffing levels at Valley View Villa during the recent labour disruption. He presented questions and concerns received from employees, family members of residents, and members of the public regarding staffing levels, food services, maintenance coverage, communication with residents' families, and the status of ongoing collective bargaining negotiations. He emphasized the importance of ensuring quality resident care and avoiding another labour disruption in the future.

Committee members discussed the governance structure of the facility, noting that labour relations and operational decisions are overseen by the Villa's Board of Directors and management. Members also discussed the provincial oversight framework in place during labour disruptions, including essential service agreements, inspections, and regulatory requirements intended to ensure residents continue to receive necessary care.

Several councillors expressed support for both quality resident care and a fair resolution to ongoing labour negotiations, while noting that Council's role in the bargaining process is limited. Discussion also included the process for submitting and investigating complaints related to resident care and the importance of following established channels when concerns arise.

No motion was made. The matter was received for discussion and information.

DEFERRED BUSINESS

Rebranding of MOPC

Staff advised that the rebranding materials circulated with the agenda did not contain all previous design iterations requested by Council. The item was deferred to the October meeting so all design options can be reviewed.

MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION

No motions were brought forward for reconsideration.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Clr. MacKeil declared the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

MUNICIPAL CLERK