

January 3, 2017

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 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

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. D. Parker and seconded by Deputy Warden Murray that the agenda be approved as circulated.
Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- (a) Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal regarding dispatch services
- (b) Area Manager Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal regarding road signage
- (c) Area Manager Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal regarding road side vegetation & management.

Clr. D. Parker referred to correspondence received from Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal regarding vegetation management. His first concern was terms of tight budget times and that usually means it does not get done. He advised that he was also concerned with the policy on brush cutting because the work is not getting done. You cannot see road signs and the limbs are overgrown along the sides of the roads.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. Boyles that Council send a letter to Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal asking the Department to review its policy on brush cutting because it is not giving the results needed to keep our roads safe.

Motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF INDIVIDUALS & GROUPS

There were no recognition of individuals & groups.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clr. Butler reported that the Seniors Outreach Program in District 1 will begin January 8, 2017 and will run for 8 consecutive Tuesdays. Each week we try to make it a social event for seniors in the district where they do rug hooking, quilting, knitting and playing cards. At lunch time a meal is provided free of charge to them and once the meal is over they listen to a guest speaker. This program is provided throughout the winter as an activity that gets them out of their home and socializing.

Clr. D. Parker reported that on Saturday, January 7, 2017 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the West River Fire Hall the Murray and Langille families will be hosting a 100th Birthday party for Isabel Murray.

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 December:

1. Met with Gerry Isenor and Blaine Rooney to review the draft water rate study, prepared for submission to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.
2. Reviewed a report on Minor Hockey participation for the past 10 years.
3. Considered an application for Municipal Services Grant. (Resolution to follow)
4. Agreed to have further discussion in January on the establishment of a Canada 150 Fund to assist community organizations within Pictou County promote the event.
5. Considered a request from the Town of Stellarton on adopting a common taxi bylaw within Pictou County. The Committee agreed to table the proposal until further information is available from the Towns on consensus on the bylaw terms.
6. Reviewed applications for appointments to the Riverton Guest Home, Planning Advisory Committee, Police Advisory Board and Fencing Arbitration Committee. (Resolution to follow)
7. Considered a request from a resident to remove street light and sewer user charges. The Committee agreed to table the request until such time that the mobile home owned by the bank is removed from the property.
8. Considered applications from Council members wishing to attend the Canadian Federation of Municipalities Conference in Ottawa, June 1-4. Councilors Wadden, Turner, Boyles and Thompson were selected.

9. Reviewed the Accounts Paid for the Month of November 2016.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 3rd day of January, 2017.

(Sgd.) David Parker
Don Butler

MOTION

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

Motion carried.

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 December:

1. Reviewed the reports of the Building Inspector, By-Law Enforcement/Dog Control Officer, Warden and Business Development Officer for the month of December.
2. Review snow removal tenders for municipal properties, roads and sidewalks.
3. Agreed to have further discussions in January on capital priorities.
4. Agreed to write the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal concerning the speed limit in Lyon's Brook and request that a review be conducted to determine if the limit should be reduced from 60 km/h to 50 km/h.
5. Discussed water quality issues that residents on the Bowden Road are experiencing. The Committee instructed staff to undertake testing to determine possible causes and solutions.
6. Discussed the fire hydrant area rate. The Committee instructed staff to undertake a review of the area rate policy, starting with flow testing to determine if hydrants are capable of providing protection.
7. Discussed a possible extension to the Landfill Voucher Program. (Resolution to follow)

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 3rd day of January, 2017

(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.

MUNICIPAL ALCOHOL PROJECT

Clr. Wadden reported that in mid-December we received confirmation that all municipalities will have representation on our MAP Committee and we have scheduled Thursday Jan 12th for the first meeting of the new team.

Warden R. Parker reported that he brought up this issue with the Mayors & Warden and all units will be taking part.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

Clr. Turner reported that the Economic Development Working Group met in mid-December with former Clrs. returning as well as new members. There were discussions on strategic plans for Pictou County and they reviewed strategic plans that were done in the past. They have taken the latest study from 2013 that was prepared by the former Pictou Regional Development Agency so Request for Proposals will be sent out this week to quote on up-dating that strategic plan. They would also like to invite the Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce and Chief Paul from the First Nations to sit on the working group.

RESOLUTION – MUNICIPAL GRANTS

Clr. Butler 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:

D5 (2016) Street Light Subsidy	\$550.00	Street Light costs for community halls in Meadowville, West Branch and Elmfield
TOTAL:	\$550.00	

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 3rd day of January, 2017

(Sgd.) Don Butler
Deborah Wadden

MOTION

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – CITIZEN APPOINTMENTS

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 following nominations:

OUTSIDE BOARDS	
Riverton Guest Home Corporation	Earle Cameron 2 year term expiring December 2018
Fences Arbitration Committee	Joyce Roode, 4 year term expiring November 2020
Planning Advisory Committee	Earle Cameron, Blair Van Veld 2 year term expiring November 2018
Police Advisory Committee	Gwen Savage, Gordon Gillis 2 year term expiring November 2018

DATED at Pictou, N. S. this 3rd day of January, 2017.

(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.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – LANDFILL VOUCHER PROGRAM

Clr. Palmer presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

Policy # 2017-01-44

LANDFILL VOUCHER PROGRAM POLICY

In accordance with Section 65 (am) 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 Landfill Vouchers.

Policy

- 1) Each residential assessment shall be permitted two landfill vouchers per fiscal year.
- 2) Vouchers shall be made available during the period of May 1st through November 30th of the fiscal year.
- 3) Each voucher will cover the cost of disposal at the Mount William Transfer Station up to 1000 pounds.
- 4) Vouchers must be used in accordance with the Municipality of the County of Pictou's Solid Waste Bylaw; Pictou County Shared Services Mount William Transfer Station Policies and the Solid Waste Management Regulations of Nova Scotia.
- 5) The form of voucher shall be upon agreement between the Chief Administrative Officer of the Municipality of the County of Pictou and the Chief Operating Officer of the Pictou County Shared Services Authority.
- 6) All other policies enacted with respect to the landfill voucher program are hereby repealed.

DATED at Pictou, N. S. this 3rd day of January, 2017.

(Sgd.)

Randy Palmer
Andy Thompson

MOTION

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

Clr. D. Parker asked if taxes have to be paid before you receive your vouchers and the CAO replied that taxes do not have to be paid.

Motion carried.

MOTION – RIVER JOHN LIBRARY LEASE

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Butler that Council approve the adoption of the lease between the Municipality and the Friends of the River John Library Society for the River John Branch Library space.

Warden R. Parker asked about the history of the library and what the money is used for so everyone would have more information.

Clr. Baillie explained that this is the second lease for the River John Library which is a very successful and well used library. The CAP program is not available anymore but the CAP site is very well used as well as the meeting room. The Friends of the River John Library bought the materials for the library and there were large donations from the community for the construction of the building. The first lease is going to expire so they would like a new lease to continue on because the Board has been very successful looking after the library.

Motion carried.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

There were no emergency resolutions.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES & NOTICES OF MOTION

Clr. D. Parker informed Council that Ms. Lisa Lane with NSP is offering to meet with Council and has asked the CAO set up a time when Council can meet with them to discuss Council's concerns.

Clr. D. Parker gave a brief report on the Board at the Riverview Adult Residential Centre and informed Council that the Board has almost all new members. The new Councillors are Malcolm Houser (Pictou), Frank Proudfoot (New Glasgow), V. J. Earle (Trenton) and Susan Campbell (Stellarton). An orientation session will be held this Friday. The Board is operating well and the CAO will be retiring so plans will have to be made to replace her. The current Minister has declared that institutions like those will be closing but at present there is no obvious plan on what to do with the residents. They operate 3 on-site group homes and 3 off-site group homes.

Clr. Dewar referred to the right-of-ways on the short line from Pictou to River John and informed Council that he received a call the other night from a gentleman who was very upset. Someone had come to the gentlemen's door and told him he would not be allowed to cross that. The residents are worried that down the road the Trail Association will have the same power as the railroad. He asked if more information could be available for a future meeting on this topic.

Clr. Dewar reported that he received another complaint from a resident who received a visit from a woman who told him to take his dog to the vet to have his nails clipped or they would seize the dog. He told the woman to take the dog and it would cost \$80 to get the dog back. Clr. Dewar pointed out this seemed very out of character for the local SPCA to do this type of work and asked if other Councillors had similar situations in their district.

Clr. D. Parker reported that the complaint Clr. Dewar received was from one of the residents in his district. There were 3 residents who live on the same road where 2 of the animals were seized to get their nails clipped and 1 of the dogs was sick so they were probably acting upon complaints. One of the properties is very isolated and another property is semi-isolated and the 3rd complaint dealt with a horse. There were complaints that the feet were not properly tended. This is not the same people who run the SPCA in Granton and they can order a person to have the animal's feet treated. He was not opposed to that but felt that it was a heavy-handed approach. They are creating enemies of the SPCA because of the way they are handling the situation and if it continues we will have to address it.

Clr. Wadden reported that she requested in August a presentation from the Aquaculture Association and she is waiting for confirmation from the Deputy Clerk. She does not want the Aquaculture Association to be superseded by NSP if they are already scheduled for a meeting of the next Committee of Council. The CAO reported that a request was made to the Aquaculture Association but there has been no reply as yet.

Warden R. Parker reminded Council that the strategic planning session will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the J P Gammon Centre in Scotsburn.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Clr. Turner and seconded by Clr. MacKeil that the meeting adjourn.
Motion carried. (7:50 p.m.)

Robert Parker
Warden

Brian Cullen
Municipal Clerk