

April 3, 2023

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building by videoconference and teleconference on Monday, April 3, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Dist: 1 Clr. Don Butler
2 Clr. Deborah Wadden
3 Clr. Darla MacKeil
4 Clr. Mary Elliott
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

Brian Cullen, CAO, Municipal Clerk-Treasurer
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer
Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services
Sueann Musick, Director of Corporate Services/Deputy Clerk
Adam MacInnis, Communications Officer
Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development

CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Warden 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 and to remember our indigenous communities. He acknowledged that we are on the ancestral territorial lands of the Mikmaqi people and thanked the Mikmaqi people today for their ancestors sharing these precious lands with all our ancestors, whether they arrived here 400 years ago or four years ago. May we all live in peace and harmony together.

AGENDA

It was moved by Clr. Elliott and seconded by Clr. Parker that the agenda be approved as presented.
Motion Carried

MINUTES

The minutes from the Council meeting of March 6, 2023, were received as presented. The minutes from the Special Council Meeting of March 20, 2023, were received as presented. The Warden proclaimed the minutes of the meetings of March 6th and March 20th as the official record of those meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

(Required for Action) No correspondence requiring action was presented.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES

Correspondence was received from the Minister of Public Works with regards to Hurricane Fiona debris on the grounds. Clr. Boyles stated that he is still receiving calls about debris still in people's yards. People are being told that they will be there in two weeks, but things have not been happening. Warden Parker said that clean-up should progress as spring comes on. Clr. MacKeil noticed that in District 3 there are still many trees down; she is hoping that those trees be taken care of before the ferry opens next month so that we can provide a welcoming place for our tourists coming off the boat. Warden Parker said this is a concern for many people, and there is a lot of work to be done.

Clr. Thompson, regarding the Town of New Glasgow letter regarding sidewalks stated that he did not feel the response was a surprise. He asked Public Works Director McDowell where the project was in the design stage. Mr. McDowell said the MOPC has received correspondence from the Department of Public Works and re-engaged with the consultants to develop design revisions based upon those comments.

INTRODUCTIONS

Warden Parker introduced the Council to the Municipality's new employees, Adam MacInnis, Communication Officer and Shellie Pettipas, Administrative Assistant.

PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL

A presentation was given by Andrew Fraser on Survey Snapshots: Sustainable Development Goals and NS Quality of Life Survey Results. Mr. Fraser circulated a package to Council members called Behind the Green Mask UN Agenda Climate Change.

Clr. D. Parker asked what the definition of real science would be and what the objective of the presentation would be. Mr. Fraser responded that the UN Goals should not be implanted.

Clr. MacKeil asked Mr. Fraser what the Municipality of Pictou County can do on this topic. Mr. Fraser stated that governments need to stop infringing on people's rights.

RESOLUTION COMMUNITY GENERATOR FUND

Clr. Wadden presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

The Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou has created a Community Generator Fund for \$60,000 in the 2022/23 fiscal year, funded from surplus general funds or a transfer from the general operating reserve.

Council has determined that municipal grants provided to community centres will be no more than 10 percent of the project costs to a maximum of \$5000.

Be it Resolved by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou accepts the following grant requests:

Abercrombie Fire Vol. Fire Department	\$5,000
Hillside Community Centre	\$2,500
Little Harbour Community Centre	\$3,012
River John Vol. Fire Department	\$4,890
Scotsburn Vol. Fire Department	\$5,000

DATED at Pictou, N. S. this 3rd day of April 2023.

(Sgd.)

Clr. Deborah Wadden
Clr. Larry Turner

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION STUDENT EMPLOYMENT POLICY

Clr. Palmer presented the following resolution to Council:

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 student employment:



STUDENT EMPLOYMENT POLICY

PURPOSE

To establish a uniform policy for the employment of students by the Municipality of the County of Pictou.

POLICY

The Municipality supports the employment of students as a means of providing both financial support for their academic programs and skills that are relevant to those programs and their career goals. The following criteria shall be used in the recruitment and selection of student employees:

1. The Municipality will use a variety of communication methods to advertise student employment opportunities.
2. Students must be enrolled in a full-time post-secondary educational program at the time of their application.
3. Applications will be screened based on educational merit and any related work experience which may be an asset to the position sought.
4. Where financial assistance is being received by the Municipality from another level of government for specific student positions, the guidelines of the funding organization will be given priority.
5. Successful applicants will be chosen by the respective supervisor.
6. The salary for students shall be determined by minimum wage for the Province of Nova Scotia plus \$3/hour.
7. All previous policies with respect to the employment of student employees are hereby repealed.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 3rd day of April 2023.

(Sgd.) Clr. Randy Palmer
Clr. Darla MacKeil

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION PACE PROGRAM FUNDING AND INTEREST RATE

Clr. Turner presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou is working with PACE Atlantic to administer a program on behalf of the Municipality that will allow homeowners to borrow money to complete solar projects on their property and repay the loan over a period of time.

WHEREAS the Municipal investment in the program will leverage private equity at a 90/10 ratio, and the municipality does not need additional staffing resources as PACE Atlantic provides all the support.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipality budget \$250,000 towards the PACE program for its fiscal year 2023/2024 and that this program be funded through a loan from the general operating reserve.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipality charge 3.5 percent on the loan from the general operating reserve.

DATED at Pictou, N.S., this the 3rd day of April 2023.

(Sgd.) Clr. Larry Turner
Clr. Deborah Wadden

Clr. David Parker asked if the projects must be connected to the grid or if they can be stand-alone solar projects. Warden Parker said this was always meant to be connected to the grid, but staff can look into it further. Clr. MacKeil said there should be a clear policy in effect that we should allow homeowners to have solar off the grid as well. She said part of her district is not on the grid (Pictou Island) and it should be a person's choice if they want to be a part of the grid.

Deputy Warden Murray asked how soon applications could be received, and CAO Cullen said it would be June. He said the bylaw is not that specific to prohibit anybody who is not connected to the grid.

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION CITIZEN APPOINTMENTS

Clr. David Parker presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the following appointments through March 31, 2025.

Outside Board	2023-2025 Appointments
Municipal Audit Committee	Rick Feehan
Climate Change Advisory	Analee Caldas MacEachern Kyle MacKenzie
Planning Advisory	Earl Cameron
Riverton Guest Home	Earl Cameron
Hector Arena Commission	Bayne Barkhouse
Police Advisory Committee	Gordon Gillis Gwen Savage

DATED at Pictou, N. S. this 3rd day of April 2023.

(Sgd.) Clr. David Parker
 Clr. Mary Elliott

Clr. Boyles said Council is putting the same people on these boards and that should not happen when we have other people applying. Clr. D. Parker said that three of the seven are new people and there is still an opening on the Planning Advisory Committee.

Motion Carried

CERB PAYMENTS

Clr. Boyles raised some concerns regarding CERB payments. He said three years later the federal government is looking for people to pay this back; amounts owing are anywhere between \$2,000 and \$6,000. He said the government should give payment options for repayment.

It was moved by Clr. Boyles, seconded by Clr. Turner that the Council send a letter to the Prime Minister, MP Sean Fraser, Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland and Service Canada to ask why there is no explanation given to the amounts owed, why there was

no option for a repayment plan and if they know how much financial hardship this causes.

Clr. MacKeil said several people were switched over to CERB without their knowledge or and it is surprising to a lot of people that they must pay it back. Clr. Parker said in a letter presented by Clr. Boyles from MP Sean Fraser, states that Service Canada will work with individuals to establish repayment schedules. No penalties or interest will be charged on these CERB overpayments. It encouraged Canadians who received notices of debt that they do have options available to them for repaying in a manner that is reasonable and flexible. Any individual who does not agree with the repayment notice may request reconsideration of the decision. Requests for reconsideration should be submitted within 30 days after the decision has been communicated. If the request for reconsideration is submitted after 30 days, Service Canada will still accept requests if there is a reasonable explanation for the delay. He said the government is trying to be flexible and provide a process. Clr. Elliott said there were very clear and strict criteria for anyone drawing CERB, and it was publicly known that if you drew CERB and didn't qualify, you would pay the funds back.

Clr. Boyles said he was willing to amend the motion to not speak about the reconsideration option if it meant Council would pass it. Clr. Wadden stated that the two issues, repayment, and reconsideration, were addressed and feels that the government is making every effort for people to get payments repaid back. Clr. Boyles said people have nothing and the government wants repayment. He said agreed with Clr. MacKeil that this is causing financial hardships. He asked that a letter be sent asking why people owe the money back.

Motion Defeated

Nay Votes

Clr. D. Butler, Wadden, Elliott,
Murray, Palmer, Thompson

COUNCIL VISIONING REPORT

Warden Parker stated Council worked with Mr. Frank Gallant for the last month and a half and asked Council if it was prepared to accept the final Visioning Report. The objective of the report is to look forward as a Council and to do some long-term visioning. He said Land Use Planning would be a part of the Council's work over the next year and a half, and Clr. Palmer will be leading that as Chair of the Planning Advisory Committee. Another part of the report is community halls and community recreation areas. He said it is important to build a sense of community and have places to go when storms come. Clr. Parker said his biggest concern is the Land Use Planning process. He wanted to state freely and clearly that the Province of Nova Scotia mandates this, and if people have an issue with it, they can speak to local MLAs.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Wayne Murray, seconded by Clr. Elliott that Council adopts the final visioning report submitted to Council by Frank Gallant.

Motion Carried

PICTOU COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SPONSORED

It was moved by Clr. Palmer, seconded by Clr. Elliott that the Pictou County Chamber of Commerce receives sponsorship for the Entrepreneurship Award for \$1500.

Motion Carried

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clr. MacKeil said the Pictou North Colchester Exhibition will host a pancake brunch on Saturday, April 8, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Caribou Fire Hall. The cost is adults \$10.00, kids 6-12 \$6.00 and children under 5 are free. Pancakes, sausage, beans, tea, coffee, juice, and dessert will be served.

Clr. Mary Elliott said that the Melville Seafoam Community Hall will have a chili supper supporting the hall. The supper will be held Sunday, April 16, 2023, between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The cost is \$12.

Clr. Don Butler said there will be a salmon supper in Lismore on Sunday, April 16, 2023, between 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Clr. Don Butler also mentioned that the Department of Transportation completed its study of an intersection on Highway 245 and Trunk 4. That study was done, and recommendations came forward positively. In the past ten days, the lights have been put up.

ADJOURN

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

Warden

Municipal Clerk