

April 7, 2025

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Monday, April 7, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Dist:

- 1 Clr. Joe MacDonald
- 2 Clr. Deborah Wadden
- 3 Clr. Darla MacKeil
- 4 Clr. Ronald Baillie
- 6 Warden Robert Parker
- 7 Clr. Donald Parker
- 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
Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development
Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services
Rhiannon McNair, Director of Operations, Broadband Initiative
Shellie Pettipas, Administrative Assistant
Adam MacInnis, Communications Officer
Paul Dec, Upland Planning + Design

ABSENT

Sueann Musick, Director of Corporate Services/Deputy Clerk
8 Clr. Larry Turner
5 Deputy Warden Wayne Murray

CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Warden Parker called the meeting to order and invited Councillors 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 acknowledges that we are on the ancestral territorial lands of the Mikmaq people and would like to thank the Mikmaq 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. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Parker that the agenda be approved with the following amendments: **Motion Carried**

Warden Parker added amendments to the land use bylaw to be added to the agenda.

Warden Parker added an in-camera discussion to the agenda.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

There were no emergency resolutions.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Warden Parker asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for the March 3, 2025, Public Hearing. The minutes of the March 3, 2025, Public Hearing were reviewed by the Municipal Council. Warden Parker proclaimed the minutes of the Public Hearing meeting of March 3, 2025, as the official record of the meeting.

Warden Parker asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for the March 3, 2025, Council Meeting. The minutes of the March 3, 2025, Council Meeting were reviewed by the Municipal Council. Warden Parker proclaimed the minutes of the meeting of March 3, 2025, as the official record of the meeting.

Warden Parker asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for the March 3, 2025, In-Camera Meeting. The minutes of the March 3, 2025, In-Camera Meeting were reviewed by the Municipal Council. Warden Parker proclaimed the minutes of the meeting of March 3, 2025, In-Camera, as the official record of the meeting.

Warden Parker asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for the March 24, 2025, Special Council Meeting. The minutes of the March 3, 2025, Special Council Meeting were reviewed by the Municipal Council. Warden Parker proclaimed the minutes of the meeting of March 3, 2025, Special Council, as the official record of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 7.1. Letter from Municipal Affairs on Code of Conduct Training
- 7.2. Letter from Municipal Affairs on Council's concerning the Code of Conduct and volunteers.
- 7.3. Nova Scotia Physicians warn of health risks of fracking and uranium mining.

Clr. Boyles said that fracking and uranium mining should be investigated further if these letters were received from physicians regarding the dangers of these activities. Warden Parker said that Minister Lohr requested municipalities to sign the letter, and it was on the news that most municipalities did not sign on to it. Clr. Dewar said it was announced on the radio that aboriginal communities in Nova Scotia are opposed to this.

PRESENTATION: DANGEROUS AND UNSIGHTLY PROPERTY

Mr. Hale presented to Council regarding a dangerous and unsightly property at 6190 Pictou Landing Road. Mr. MacPherson attended the meeting as a representative of the property.

Mr. Hale said the initial complaint was received on November 24, 2022. The first site visit was on January 21, 2023; the property was found dangerous and unsightly at that time. Mr. Hale corresponded with the property owner and did not receive a response. Neighbours have witnessed people entering and leaving the property late at night, and Mr. Hale is requesting Council's permission to act.

Mr. MacPherson addressed Council and stated that the plan was to tear the house down this year. Mr. MacPherson said no notification was received and enquired why he was not informed earlier. Mr. MacPherson asked for the timeline for the property to be cleaned up. Mr. Hale confirmed that registered mail was sent to all addresses registered to the property. CAO Cullen stated that 30 days from the time the order is issued by Council.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Wadden to issue the dangerous and unsightly order on PID #01017961 AAN #01586521, the property located at 6190 Pictou Landing Road. **Motion Carried**

Clr. Thompson confirmed with the property owner that any wells would be secured or filled in, and Mr. MacPherson confirmed this would be done.

BUSINESS ITEMS OR ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. MacKeil to go to an In-Camera session. **Motion Carried**

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. MacKeil to go to regular public session. **Motion Carried**

LAND USE BYLAW AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING STRATEGY AMENDMENTS

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Baillie to make the following amendments to the Land Use Bylaw and Municipal Planning Strategy:

1. Add PID #65055196 to the existing top soil removal properties.
2. Rezone PID #65063083 from rural general to commercial recreation.

Motion Carried
Nay Vote: Clr. Peter Boyles

FIRST READING OF THE LAND USE BYLAW AND MPS

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Baillie to adopt the Land Use Bylaw and Municipal Planning Strategy First Reading.

Motion Carried
Nay Votes: Clr. Chester Dewar
Clr. Peter Boyles
Clr. Donald Parker

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Clr. Dewar to approve the following citizen members:

Motion Carried



RESOLUTION

BE RESOLVED that the Municipality of the County of Pictou approve the following citizen committee nominations for the term April 2025 to March 2027:

Climate Change Advisory Committee	Ian McKay, Rick Williams, David Parker and Allen Best
Litter Awareness Committee	Bernice Langille, Robbie MacInnis and David Hutchings.
Planning Advisory Committee	Earl Cameron
Police Advisory Committee	Gwen Savage and Gordon Gills

DATED at Pictou NS this 7th day of April, 2025

Sgd _____

Motion Carried
Clr. Darla MacKeil
Clr. Chester Dewar

FIRE DEPARTMENT LEVIES

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Baillie to approve the following fire rates: **Motion Carried**



RESOLUTION

FIRE DEPARTMENT LEVIES

WHEREAS Policy # 2018-03-47 Municipality of the County of Pictou Fire Department Area Rate Policy provides uniform guidelines for the approval of area rates levied for fire protection services within the Municipality.

WHEREAS a fire department wishing to adjust its area rate for the next fiscal year shall notify the Chief Administrative Officer or their member of the Council of its intention to adjust the rate by February 28th of the preceding fiscal year.

WHEREAS the fire department, applying to the Municipality for an adjustment to the area rate shall hold a public meeting to discuss the purpose for which the change in area rate is required and to provide information to the residents of the need for the adjustment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipal Council authorizes the rating and collection of the following fire rates in the fire coverage areas:

Abercrombie Fire Department 12.0 cents per \$100 of assessment
Little Harbour Fire Department 8.0 cents per \$100 of assessment
West River Fire Department 14.0 cents per \$100 of assessment

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 7th day of April 2025.

(Sgd.)

PLYMOUTH FIRE DEPARTMENT LOAN GUARANTEE

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. Dewar to approve the borrowing of two hundred thousand dollars by the Plymouth Fire Department for the purchase of a new fire truck.

Motion Carried



**RESOLUTION
FIRE DEPARTMENT LOAN GUARANTEE**

**Amount \$200,000.00 Fire Department: Plymouth Fire Department
Purpose: New Fire Truck**

WHEREAS the Plymouth Fire Department is a registered fire department with the Municipality of the County of Pictou.

WHEREAS the Plymouth Fire Department is incorporated by the Societies Act.

WHEREAS the Plymouth Fire Department has determined to borrow the aggregate principal sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the purpose of a new fire truck by special resolution on the 17th Day of March 2025 as per section 10 (d) of the Societies Act.

WHEREAS the Plymouth Fire Department has requested the Municipality of the County of Pictou to guarantee the said borrowing.

WHEREAS Section 294 (6) of the Municipal Government Act provides that a Municipality may grant or lend money to, or guarantee a loan for, a registered fire department for operating or capital purposes; and

WHEREAS Section 88 (3) of the Municipal Government Act provides that no guarantee of borrowing by a municipality shall have effect unless the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has approved the proposed borrowing or debenture and off the proposed guarantee.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED

THAT the Municipality of the County of Pictou does hereby approve the borrowing by Plymouth Fire Department of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the purpose set out above.

THAT subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of the guarantee, the Municipality, unconditionally guarantee repayment of principal and interest of the borrowing so made.

THAT upon the issue of debentures the Warden and the Clerk of the Municipality do sign the guarantee attached to each of the debentures and affix thereto the Corporate Seal of the Municipality.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 7th day of April 2025.

(Sgd.)

Clr. Thompson stated that the Plymouth Fire Department members work hard and are always there when needed. Clr. Thompson said the department is excited about the new equipment and looks forward to paying this loan off quickly.

LETTER OF SUPPORT

Clr. Wadden stated that it is now time to write a letter to Minister Ritcey with a copy to all MLAs in the area, regarding the concerns with the library and the funding formula that did not happen with the provincial budget. Clr. Wadden said the library requires this

funding, and with the pressure now on governments due to the tariff situation, cutbacks and layoffs do not want to be seen. CAO Cullen said a letter was signed at the Mayor's and Warden's meeting to be sent regarding these concerns.

. Clr. Boyles said such elaborate libraries are unnecessary, and this is where all the money goes. Clr. Boyles said it has been done for years for less.

Clr. Dewar feels it is also important to send a letter from the Council, and said that the more requests the province receives, the more attention it gets.

Clr. Wadden said the libraries have pivoted so much over the years and are a necessary part of our communities. Clr. Wadden said the libraries are doing so much more work and doing positive things in the communities with children and immigrants. Clr. Parker agreed with sending a letter and said the more letters sent, the better.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Palmer to send a letter to Minister Ritcey, with copies sent to local MLAs to express concerns about the lack of funding for libraries in Pictou County.

Motion Carried

Nay Vote: Clr. Peter Boyles

SOLAR PROGRAM PARTICIPATION POLICY

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Parker and seconded by Clr. Baillie to adopt the following Solar Program Participation Policy:

Motion Carried

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU
Solar Program Participation Agreement Policy**

1) PURPOSE

- a) To establish equitable guidelines for the application of the Pictou County PACE Program Loan Program.

2) AUTHORITY

- a) Authority is provided under Section 65, Municipal Government Act, as amended.

3) OBJECTIVES

- a) To identify conditions upon which loan applications will be processed and approved.

4) GENERAL POLICY STATEMENTS

- a) A Participation Agreement approved under the Switch MOPC program and Property Assessed Clean Energy Program By-law for Solar/Battery Projects can be extended for a term not to exceed 15 years for a residential application.
- b) A Participation Agreement approved under the Switch MOPC program and Property Assessed Clean Energy Program By-law for Solar/Battery Projects can be extended for a term not to exceed 10 years for commercial application.

CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

There was no deferred business.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community announcements were given.

MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION

There were no motions of reconsideration.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Warden declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

WARDEN

MUNICIPAL CLERK