

April 7, 2026

The Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Tuesday, April 7, 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/Deputy Clerk
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer
Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development
Adam MacInnis, Communications Officer
Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services

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 Mikmaqi people and would like to thank 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.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

There was no emergency resolutions brought forward.

AGENDA

It was moved that the agenda be approved as presented.

Moved by Clr. Boyles

Seconded by Clr. Turner

Motion Carried

Clr. Baillie asked said he realizes three unsightly properties were removed from the property agenda because title searches were not complete. Staff said the title searches were filed six months ago and CAO Cullen said he would follow up with the lawyer on their status.

MINUTES

Clr. Robert Parker asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for March 2, 2026. The members of the Council entered no errors, omissions, or corrections. The Chair proclaimed the minutes of the March 2, 2026, meeting as the official record of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council received and discussed the following correspondence:

- Letter from the County of Antigonish supporting the Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty
- Letter from the Municipality of the District of Digby supporting the Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty.
- Letter from Peggy Simpkin regarding Environmental Assessment approval of the proposed Salt Springs and Marshdale natural gas plants.
- Correspondence related to J-class roads funding from Nova Scotia Public Works.
- Letter regarding funding and operational impacts at the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library.

Council members raised concerns about provincial road funding, library funding pressures, and environmental and site-selection issues associated with the proposed natural gas plants.

PRESENTATION OF PETITION – VIOLA’S PLACE BY RUBY RUDOLPH

Ms. Rudolph presented a petition requesting continued operation and support for Viola’s Place, including housing, meals, medical, and social supports for unhoused individuals. She provided supporting data from neighbourhood canvassing indicating a high level of community support.

Council acknowledged receipt of the petition and recognized community members who assisted with the petition.

PRESENTATION – MATT RUSSELL OF THE ATLANTIC SALMON FEDERATION

Mr. Russell of the Atlantic Salmon Federation presented regarding concerns about the proposed natural-gas plants at Marshdale, Salt Springs, and other sites.

- The presentation highlighted potential ecological impacts on the East River, Salt Springs, Marshdale, and associated tributaries (Cameron Brook, Stullerton watershed, etc.).
- Concerns were raised about effluent volumes (approximately 50,000 litres per hour) and temperature increases in affected water bodies.
- Council members asked questions related to:
 - Thermal impacts on salmon and eggs
 - Cold-water refuges
 - Existing industrial impacts on the East River
 - Jurisdictional challenges between provincial and federal authorities

REPORTS NOT REQUIRING A MOTION

No Reports Presented to Council.

REPORTS REQUIRING ACTION

MOPC Rebranding Resolution

It was moved that the Municipality of the County of Pictou accept a proposal from New Brooklyn Media in the amount of \$8,604.00 plus HST to rebrand the municipality.

Moved by Clr. Turner

Seconded by Clr. Boyles

Motion Carried

Recreation Capital Grant – Pictou County Arm Wrestling Club

It was moved that a recreation capital grant in the amount of \$1,000.00 from the 2025-2026 Financial Recreation Capital Budget be approved for the Pictou County Armwrestling Club for the purchase of equipment.

Moved by Clr. Boyles

Seconded by Clr. Turner

Motion Carried

Waterville Area Recreation Centre Tax Receipts

It was moved that the Council authorize the Municipality of the County of Pictou to receive charitable donations on behalf of the Waterville Area Recreation Centre Association and to issue official charitable tax receipts for donations in excess of \$100.

Moved by Clr. Palmer

Seconded by Clr. MacDonald

Motion Carried

Creative Pictou County Grant

It was moved to approve a council grant of \$1,000.00 to Creative Pictou County to assist with its operations for the remainder of the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Moved by Clr. Parker

Seconded by Clr. Baillie

Motion Carried

School Graduation Grants and Bursaries

It was moved to approve the following grants and bursaries to local high schools:

Northumberland Regional High School - \$2,000.00,

Nova Education Center - \$2,000.00

Pictou Academy - \$200.00,

Tatamagouche Regional High School - \$200.00

(total \$4,400.00).

Moved by Clr. Dewar

Seconded by: Clr. Thompson

Motion Carried

Committee Appointments (2026-2028)

It was moved to approve the citizen appointments for various committees from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2028, as listed below.

Audit Committee

a. John Carruthers

b. Susan Robinson

Police Advisory

a. Kevin MacDonald

Riverton Guest Home Association

a. Bonnie Allen

Climate Change Advisory

a. Ed Kennedy

Accessibility Advisory Committee

a. Rae Gunn

b. Antonia Phillips

c. Susan Crowe

d. Alan Collie

Rural Broadband Governance Oversight Committee

a. John Carruthers

b. David Muise

Hector Arena Commission

a. Blake Ferguson

Planning Advisory Committee

a. Lori McCullough

Moved by Clr. MacKeil

Seconded by Clr. Palmer

Motion Carried

11.7 Rural Broadband Governance Solar Site Committee Appointments – Motion:

It was moved to approve the appointments of elected officials to the Rural Broadband Governance Solar Site Committee:

Robert Parker, Wayne Murray, Ronald Baillie, Larry Turner, Deborah Wadden.

Moved by Deputy Warden Murray

Seconded by Clr. Palmer

Motion Carried

11.8 International Network of Michelin Cities Membership – Motion:

It was moved that the Municipality of the County of Pictou pay the annual €1,500.00 membership fee and join the International Network of Michelin Cities for a minimum of one year.

Moved by Clr. Wadden

Seconded by Clr. MacDonald

Motion Carried

Nay Vote: Clr. Boyles

11.9 Hillside Pumping Station

Council discussed ongoing operational and cost concerns. Staff were asked to provide a written update and infrastructure breakdown. Mr. McDowell will oversee completion of pump and panel upgrades, pipe upsizing, and associated lateral repairs within the capital year. Deputy Warden Murray asked that a timeline for the work be sent to Council in writing.

11.10 Nova Scotia Power Outage

Council discussed a recent power outage attributed to a substation insulator failure.

11.11 Police Costs – Unlicensed Dispensaries

This item was removed from the agenda at the request of Clr. Boyles.

11.12 MOTION - Letter Regarding Ferry Service

It was moved that the Council send a letter to the Federal Minister of Transportation, copied to local MP Sean Fraser, the Premier of Prince Edward Island as well as the MP for the same province, and local MLA Marco MacLeod, requesting a firm date for the new ferry and reaffirming Council's support for ferry continuation and improvement.

Moved by Warden Parker

Seconded by Clr. MacKeil

Motion Carried

Nay Votes: Clr Thompson and Clr. Turner

Clr. Thompson said he contacted Central Nova MP Fraser's office on the status of the new ferry and was told the purchase of a new ferry was paused for five years due to budgetary constraints, but the federal government remains committed to the service.

11.13 Letter Concerning Clause 60 of Bill 198

It was moved that the Council send a letter to the appropriate provincial ministers and to

MLA Marco MacLeod seeking clarification of clause 60 of Bill 198 carbon-sequestration rules and any exemption for small wood-lot owners.

Moved by Warden Parker

Seconded by Clr. Parker

Motion Carried

10. DEFERRED BUSINESS

Dreamery Gardens

11. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION

None brought forward.

12. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community announcements were heard.

13 IN CAMERA

It was moved to go in-camera for discussion of certain items.

Moved by Clr. MacKeil

Seconded by Clr. Boyles

Motion Carried

It was moved to come out of in camera session.

Moved by Clr. MacKeil

Seconded by Deputy Warden Murray

Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Warden Parker declared the meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.