

August 17, 2026

The Property Services Committee for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Monday, August 17, 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
Sueann Musick, Director of Corporate Services/Deputy Clerk
Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development
Rhiannon McNair, Director of Business Operations, Broadband Initiative
Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services
Josie Conrod – Public Works and Development Summer Student

ABSENT

Adam MacInnis, Communications Officer

CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Clr. Randy Palmer, Chair of the Property 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

MINUTES

Clr. Palmer asked if there were any errors, omissions or corrections to the minutes of July 20, 2026. There were no errors, omissions or corrections to the minutes of July 20, 2026, so they were proclaimed as the official record of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented.

REPORTS NOT REQUIRING A MOTION

Director of Public Works and Development's Report – Reviewed for information

Engineering Summer Student Introduction

Mr. McDowell introduced Josie Conrad, the Municipality's Engineering Summer Student. Ms. Conrad briefly addressed the committee and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work with the Municipality during the summer.

Sidewalk and Crosswalk Discussion

- Councillor Larry Turner inquired about accessibility features on the Abercrombie sidewalk project, specifically tactile pedestrian warning strips. Staff advised the strips were not included because the project was a sidewalk reinstatement rather than a new installation. Future inclusion remains an option.
- Councillor Turner expressed concern regarding the lack of painted crosswalk markings at the Abercrombie town boundary despite repeated requests over several years. Staff confirmed discussions have continued with the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works and that commitments have been received indicating the work will be completed.
- Warden Parker and Clr. Thompson also expressed concerns about crosswalk safety and responsibility for maintenance and painting. Staff clarified that crosswalk maintenance is undertaken by the Province and billed to the Municipality after completion.

Sidewalk Repairs

Deputy Warden Murray requested an update on sidewalk repairs in Scotsburn and Lyons Brook. Staff advised repairs and replacement work are budgeted and expected to proceed during the fall construction season.

Development Officer's Report – Reviewed for Information

Emergency Services Report – Reviewed for Information

Fire Inspection Report – Reviewed for Information

Bylaw Enforcement Report

Warden Parker noted concerns regarding readability of the report format. Staff indicated changes in reporting software and photocopy quality contributed to the issue and advised that future reports would return to the standard format.

Clr. Baillie raised concerns regarding delays in title searches associated with dangerous and unsightly property files. Staff acknowledged the delays and advised follow-up would occur with legal counsel. Staff to follow up with legal counsel regarding outstanding title searches and provide an update to Clr. Baillie.

Clr. Dewar requested updates on previously discussed property issues and associated agreements. Staff advised legal agreements had been completed and would be finalized shortly.

Building Official's Report – Reviewed for Information

Ground Search and Rescue Modernization in Nova Scotia

Council discussed the provincial report on modernization of Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR).

Key discussion points included:

- Future governance and funding structures for GSAR.
- Potential implications for municipalities.
- The importance of search and rescue activities during major incidents, including recent high-profile searches.
- Challenges associated with volunteer recruitment.
- The role and development of the Nova Scotia Guard.
- Staff advised they were gathering additional information from the Province and would circulate updates to Council when available.

BUSINESS ITEMS REQUIRING A MOTION

There were no business items brought forward.

DEFERRED BUSINESS

No deferred business.

MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION

No motions of reconsideration were brought forward.

ADJOURMENT

There was no further business before the meeting, so Clr. Palmer declared the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

MUNICIPAL CLERK