

August 4 2026

The Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Tuesday, August 4, 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
Adam MacInnis, Communications Officer
Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Management and Public Safety
Rhiannon McNair, Director of Business for the Rural Broadband Project.

ABSENT

Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development

CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Warden Robert 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 acknowledged 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.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed and Clr. Dewar paid respect to former Central Nova MP Elmer MacKay who died in July 2026.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

No Emergency Resolutions were presented

AGENDA

It was moved that the agenda be approved as presented.

Moved by Clr.Boyles

Seconded by Clr. Turner

Motion Carried

MINUTES

Warden Parker asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for July 6, 2026, Council meeting. The Chair proclaimed the minutes of July 6, 2026, meeting as the official record of the meeting.

Warden Parker asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes of July 6, 2026, in camera session. He noted there was one error in the name of Deputy Warden Murray which had it spelled Deputy Warden Murray Parker. It was noted this correction would be made, and the Chair proclaimed the in-camera minutes of July 6, 2026, meeting as the official record of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council received and reviewed:

- Thank you letter from CHAD Transit for Council grant.
- Thank you letter from Olivia Caldwell regarding the NRHS Graduation Bursary.
- Thank you letter from Northumberland Regional High School regarding graduation bursaries.
- Response from the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care regarding the long-term care strike.
- Letter from Minister Gregor Robertson regarding the Salem Wastewater Extension Project.
- Letter from the Federal Department of Justice regarding RCMP funding.

Motion: A motion was made to send a follow-up letter to the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care requesting review of policies and procedures to ensure adequate care standards during any future labour disruptions.

Moved by Clr. Boyles

Seconded by: Clr. Parker

Motion Carried

Nay Votes; Clr. MacDonald, Clr. Wadden, Clr. Turner, Clr. Thompson, Clr. Baillie.

BUSINESS ITEMS NOT REQUIRING ACTION

New Scotland Business Park Report -submitted for information.
Pictou Antigonish Regional Library Annual Report – submitted for information
Governance Committee Report – submitted for information
Climate Change Committee Report – submitted for information
Audit Committee Report – submitted for information
Police Advisory Committee Report – submitted for information
Litter Committee Report – submitted for information
Accessibility Committee Report -submitted for information

REPORTS REQUIRING ACTION

District 2 Municipal Service Grant

Motion: A motion was made to accept the District 2 Municipal Service grant in the amount of \$16,000.00 to the Little Harbour Community Centre for building upgrades.

Moved by: Clr. Wadden

Seconded by: Clr. MacDonald

Motion Carried

District 4 Municipal Service Grant

Motion: A motion was made to approve a Municipal Service Grant in the amount of \$5,250 to River John Recreation for ball field upgrades.

Moved by: Clr. Baillie

Seconded by: Clr. Wadden

Motion Carried

District 6 Municipal Service Grant

Motion: A motion was made approve a Municipal Service Grant in the amount of \$2,000 to Stillman Cemetery Corporation for maintenance.

Moved by: Clr. Turner

Seconded by: Clr. Boyles

Motion Carried

District 8 Municipal Service Grants

Motion: A motion was made to approve Municipal Service Grant for District 8 totalling \$27,711.00.

Moved by: Clr. Turner

Seconded by: Clr. Boyles

Motion Carried

District 12 Municipal Service Grants

Motion: A motion was made to approve Municipal Service Grants for District 12 totalling \$17,000.00.

Moved by: Clr. Dewar

Seconded by: Clr. Thompson

Motion Carried

Community Recreation Program Operating Grants

Motion: A motion was made to approve Community Recreation Program Operating Grants for 2026-2027 as follows:

- UC Friends Group Thorburn: \$1,000
- Youth Leagues Arts Little Harbour: \$1,000
- Youth Leagues Arts Lismore: \$1,000

Total: \$3,000

Moved by: Clr. Palmer

Seconded by: Clr. MacKeil

Motion Carried

Nay Votes: Clr. MacDonald, Clr. Wadden

Coastal Protection Public Engagement Contract Award

Motion: A motion was made to award the Coastal Policy Public Engagement consulting contract to C&D Community Design in the amount of \$24,000 plus HST.

Moved by: Clr. Wadden

Seconded by: Clr. MacDonald

Motion Carried

Employee Internet Service Benefit Policy

Motion: That Council approve Policy No. 2026-08-04, Employee Internet Service Benefit Policy, effective August 4, 2026.

Moved by: Clr. Turner

Seconded by: Clr. MacKeil

Motion Carried

Nay Votes: Clr. Baillie, Clr. Boyles

Community Boundary Amendment – Colburn/MacLellans Brook

Motion: A motion was made to approve the amendment to the community boundary between Colburn and MacLellans Brook affecting PID 65212599 (125 Campbell Lane), transferring the property into the community of MacLellans Brook.

Moved by: Clr. MacKeil

Seconded by: Clr. Palmer

Motion Carried

Rural Broadband Project Supply Vehicle

Motion: A motion was made to approve the award of the purchase of one 2024 Ram Promaster 2500 in the amount of \$65,964.70 plus applicable HST, with funding to be provided from the approved 2026-27 capital budget for the Rural Broadband Project.

Moved by: Deputy Warden Murray

Seconded by: Clr. Turner

Motion Carried.

Council discussed the recommendation to purchase a supply vehicle for the Rural Broadband Project, with particular focus on whether an electric or hybrid vehicle could

be used. Warden Parker noted Council's policy preference for electric or hybrid vehicles and asked whether those options had been explored.

CAO Brian Cullen advised that electric and hybrid options were reviewed; however, the available electric vehicle did not meet operational requirements. Its battery range was approximately 250 kilometres and would be significantly reduced during winter months, making it unsuitable for the daily travel demands of the broadband project.

Administration explained that the recommendation was based on the specific needs of the broadband operation rather than a departure from Council's environmental objectives. It was noted that electric vehicles may still be suitable for other municipal departments where driving distances and operational requirements are different.

Emergency Management Department Vehicle

Motion: A motion was made to approve the purchase of one new Ford Explorer from Highland Ford in the amount of \$51,974.70 plus HST, funded through the approved 2026-27 capital and operating budget.

Moved by: Clr. MacKeil

Seconded by: Clr. Palmer

Motion Carried

Emergency Resolution -District 10 Municipal Service Grant

Motion: A motion was made to approve a Municipal Service Grant in the amount of \$3,000 to McPherson's Mills Cemetery for maintenance and upkeep.

Moved by: Clr. Palmer

Seconded by: Deputy Warden Murray

Motion Carried

DEFERRED BUSINESS

There was no Deferred Business.

MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION

There were no Motions of Reconsideration.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Announcements were heard.

IN CAMERA

Motion: A motion was made to go in-camera for a discussion regarding sale of property.

Moved by: Clr. MacKeil

Seconded by: Clr. Palmer

Motion Carried

Motion: It was moved to leave the in-camera session of the meeting.

Moved by Clr. Palmer

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 8:45 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

MUNICIPAL CLERK