

February 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 Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 7 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  
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer  
Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development  
Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services  
Adam MacInnis, Communications Officer  
Rhiannon McNair, Director of Business Operations, Broadband Initiative

**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 Mikmaq people.

**AGENDA**

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Turner that the agenda be approved as presented. **Motion Carried**

**EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS**

No emergency resolutions were brought forward.

## **MINUTES**

Clr. Palmer asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026, The members of the Committee entered no errors, omissions, or corrections. The Chair proclaimed the minutes of the meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026, as the official record of the meeting.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received from George Smith and from Fred and Diane Hampson regarding the proposed natural gas project in Salt Springs. Extensive discussion followed addressing environmental, community, and Indigenous consultation concerns.

## **7. REPORTS NOT REQUIRING A MOTION**

### **7.1 Director of Public Works & Development Report**

The Director provided updates on several ongoing issues.

**Streetlight Installation:** A resident at 5065 Little Harbour Road has been waiting over a year for streetlight; Bell has recently advanced the necessary file, indicating progress.

**Crosswalk Markings:** Councillors raised concerns that crosswalk lines in Blue Acres area appear faded or missing. Staff will inspect the site and ensure the markings are visible and refreshed as needed.

**Flash Beacon Installations:** Staff reported that the province stated the requested rapid flashing beacons are “not warranted,” though staff is seeking clarification on whether installation is *permitted* even if not required. Other counties have similar beacons, so staff continues pushing for a definitive answer.

**Lighting Along Sidewalk Corridor:** Councillors stressed the need for continuous overhead lighting in the dark sidewalk area, citing safety concerns for residents, particularly women walking at night and residents of a nearby group home. Enhanced lighting remains a priority.

**Fire Hydrant Functionality (Alma):** Hydrants that previously froze were confirmed to be fully functioning after being pumped and cleared by staff. Fire departments notify staff after hydrant use to prevent refreezing.

### **7.2 Development Officer Report**

The Development Officer provided updates related to wind turbine development in District 11.

**Windmill Construction:** Developers have secured all required building and development permits. Most turbine bases have already been completed.

**Snowmobile Club Concerns:** Staff have reached out to SWEB (the developer) regarding concerns raised by snowmobile clubs about access routes. Staff is awaiting a formal response and will update Council once received.

### **7.3 Emergency Services Report**

No Questions raised from this report.

### **7.4 Year-End Fire Service Report**

The report confirmed the county's departments remain operationally strong. Fire hydrant accessibility and readiness were emphasized.

Hydrants in Alma were specifically discussed as having been recently cleared of snow and checked for functionality after previous freezing caused outages.

### **7.5 Fire Inspection Report**

Reviewed for information.

### **7.6 Building Officials Report**

Reviewed for information.

### **7.7 Bylaw Enforcement Report**

- Staff provided an update on an animal control matter involving a dog running large in the Lairg Road area.
- The dog was retrieved and returned to its owner.
- Bylaw staff is issuing summary offence tickets where appropriate to address persistent issues.
- Currently, staff does not have grounds for animal seizure, as the behaviour does not meet the threshold of "egregious."

## **8. Business Items or Items Requiring Action**

**8.1 Burning Bylaw** – Discussion occurred regarding relevance to rural vs. urban jurisdictions. It was recommended that staff search for bylaws in rural areas.

### **8.1.1 Tenders for Water Meters**

**Motion:** It was moved to proceed with Option 2 (AMI/Cellular) for the water meter upgrades.

Moved by Clr. Wadden

Seconded Deputy Warden Murray

**Motion carried**

### **8.1.2 Tenders for Mobile Generator**

**Motion:** It was moved to award the tender to Samson for the purchase of a new mobile generator.

Moved by Clr. Baillie

Seconded by Clr. Wadden

**Motion carried.**

### **8.1.3 J-Class Roads Agreement**

**Motion:** It was moved to renew the J-Class Roads Agreement for three years with the Province of Nova Scotia.

Moved by Warden Parker

Seconded by Councillor Wadden to renew the J-Class Roads Agreement for three years with the Province of Nova Scotia.

**Motion Carried.**

**9. Deferred Business**

No deferred business.

**10. Motions of Reconsideration**

No motions of reconsideration were brought forward.

**11. Adjournment**

There was no further business before the meeting, so the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

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CHAIRPERSON

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MUNICIPAL CLERK