

June 15, 2026

The Financial Services Committee for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building by videoconference and teleconference on Monday, June 15, 2026, at 7:51 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
Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development
Adam MacInnis, Communications Officer
Rhiannon McNair, Director of Business Operations, Broadband Initiative
Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services

ABSENT

Sueann Musick, Director of Corporate Services/Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Clr. MacKeil, Chair of the Financial Services Committee called the meeting to order and acknowledged that we are on the ancestral territorial lands of the Mikmaq people.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

No Emergency Resolutions were brought forward.

AGENDA

Motion: It was moved that the agenda be approved as presented.

Moved by: Clr. Turner
Seconded by Clr. Boyles
Motion Carried

ERRORS OR OMISSIONS/CORRECTIONS TO MINUTES

Clr. MacKeil asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for May 19, 2026. The members of the Committee entered with no errors, omissions, or corrections. The Chair proclaimed the minutes of the meeting on May 19, 2026, as the official record of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from the Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Affairs regarding:

- Proposed fiscal changes for 2027–2028 and future years
- Provincial audit invoice

Discussion Highlights:

- The Warden raised concerns about significant increases in Department of Public Works fees, specifically:
 - Manhole and catch basin adjustments increasing from \$600 to \$1,200
 - Water valve adjustments increasing from \$300 to \$600He noted that these increases represent approximately a 100% rise, which he described as substantial.
- Staff clarified that these costs typically arise when the Province undertakes road paving or infrastructure projects involving municipal sewer and water systems. The municipality is responsible for costs associated with adjustments and upgrades to its infrastructure during such projects

REPORTS NOT REQUIRING A MOTION

Communications – Reviewed for information
Recreation — Reviewed for information.
Warden's Report — Reviewed for information.
Healthy Pictou County Report — Reviewed for information.
Tax Receivable Report — Reviewed for information
Deed Transfer Tax Report - Reviewed for information

REPORTS REQUIRING MOTION

Accounts Payables

Motion: A motion was made to accept the Accounts Payables for May 2026.

Moved by: Clr. Wadden
Seconded by: Clr. Turner
Motion Carried

Water Utility Account

Motion: A motion was made to approve the Water Utility Account for May 2026.
Moved by: Clr. Palmer
Seconded by: Clr. Turner
Motion Carried

Internet Accounts Payables April 2026

Motion: A motion was made to approve the Internet Accounts Payables for April 2026.
Moved by: Clr. Parker
Seconded by: Clr. Baillie
Motion Carried

Internet Accounts Payables May 2026

Motion: A motion was made to approve the Internet Accounts Payables for May 2026.
Moved by: Clr. Murray
Seconded by: Clr. Wadden
Motion Carried

BUSINESS ITEMS OR ITEM REQUIRING ACTION

District 2 MSG

Motion: A motion was made to approve the District 2 Municipal Service Grants totalling \$4,500.00
Moved by: Clr. Wadden
Seconded by: Clr. Baillie
Motion Carried

District 4 MSG

Motion: A motion was made to approve the District 4 Municipal Service Grants totalling \$18,840.00
Moved by: Clr. Baillie
Seconded by: Clr. Parker
Motion Carried

District 5 MSG

Motion: A motion was made to approve the District 5 Municipal Service Grants totalling \$24,272.00.
Moved by: Deputy Warden Murray
Seconded by: Warden Parker
Motion Carried

District 7 MSG

Motion: A motion was made to approve the District 7 Municipal Service Grants totalling \$29,010.00.

Moved by: Warden Parker

Seconded by: Clr. Baillie

Motion Carried

District 9 MSG

Motion: A motion was made to approve the District 9 Municipal Service Grants totalling \$22,000 total.

Moved by: Clr. Boyles

Seconded by: Clr. Baillie

Motion Carried

Pictou County Forest School Charitable Tax Receipt Request

Motion: A motion was made that the Municipality of Pictou County accept Charitable donations over \$100.00 on behalf of the Forest School so tax receipts can issued.

Moved by: Clr. Wadden

Seconded by: Deputy Warden Murray

Motion Carried

Community Hall Internet Program Applications

Motion: A motion was made to approve the following halls to be part of the Community Hall Internet Program:

River John and District Lions Club

Meadowville Poplar Hill Community Hall

Barney's River

Moved by: Clr. Dewar

Seconded by: Clr. Baillie

Motion Carried

Supply of New Municipal Vehicle

Motion: A motion was made to purchase Chevrolet Equinox EV for \$48,563.50 + HST for the Rural Broadband Project.

Moved by: Clr. Turner

Seconded by: Clr. Wadden

Motion Carried

Atlantic Canada FireFit Championship Sponsorship

Motion: A motion was made to approve \$2,500.00 sponsorship for the Atlantic Canada Firefit Championship being held in Pictou County in August.

Moved by: Clr. Wadden

Seconded by: Clr. Palmer

Motion Carried

Valley View Villa RFP Update

Staff advised that the Request for Proposals (RFP) is complete and essentially ready for release. The document has been shared with the Administrator of Valley View Villa for final review, as certain elements may impact operations. The anticipated timeline is approximately a six-week turnaround period, with submissions expected to close later in July.

Provincial Audit Discussion

Clr. Wadden requested that this item be placed on the agenda following a recent media article and public statement attributed to the group LEAP (Living Ecosystems and Power). The article suggested that the Municipality of the County of Pictou (MOPC) provincial audit invoice was a result of Council requesting an independent review of proposed peaker plants. Councillor Wadden expressed concern about the accuracy of this claim and requested clarification.

- Clarification provided regarding misinformation in external reporting.
- Council confirmed that no link exists between the provincial audit and the peaker plant review process.
- The discussion served to correct the public record and ensure Council awareness of the issue.
- Members acknowledged the need for careful communication and verification of information, particularly when dealing with external groups and media reporting.

Committee of Council Policy Review

Motion: A motion was made to update the Committee of Council Policy, in relation to the Municipal Audit Committee and increase citizen representation from 3 to 4 members.

Moved by: Deborah Wadden

Seconded by: Wayne Murray

Motion Carried

Nay Vote: Clr. Boyles

DEFERRED BUSINESS

Municipal Audit Committee Nomination

Motion: A motion was made to appointment of Sarah MacKinnon and Lindsey MacDonald to the Municipal Audit Committee for a two-year term ending March 31, 2028.

Conflict declared: Randy Palmer

Moved by: Clr. Wadden

Seconded by: Warden Parker

Motion Carried

Nay Vote: Peter Boyles

MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION

No motions were brought forward for reconsideration.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Events were brought forward for community announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Clr. MacKeil declared the meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

MUNICIPAL CLERK