

February 21, 2023

The Financial Services Committee for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building and by videoconference and teleconference on Tuesday, February 21, at 7 p.m.

PRESENT

Dist. 2 Clr. Deborah Wadden
3 Clr. Darla MacKeil (Chair)
4 Clr. Mary Elliott
5 Deputy Warden Wayne Murray
6 Warden Robert Parker
7 Clr. David Parker
8 Clr. Larry Turner
9 Clr. Peter Boyles
10 Clr. Randy Palmer
11 Clr. Andy Thompson
12 Clr. Chester Dewar

ABSENT

1 Clr. Don Butler

IN ATTENDANCE

Brian Cullen, CAO, Municipal Clerk-Treasurer
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer
Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services
Sueann Musick, Communications Officer
Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development

CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Clr. Darla MacKeil, Chair of the Finance Committee to, order and acknowledged that we are on the ancestral territorial lands of the Mikmaq people.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Clr. MacKeil asked if there were any errors, corrections, or omissions in the minutes for January 16, 2023. The members of the Committee entered no errors or omissions and the Chair proclaimed the minutes of the meeting on January 16th, 2023, as the official record of that meeting.

MOTION - RECREATION REPORT

It was moved by Clr. Turner, seconded by Clr Wadden, that the recreation report for January 2023 be received for information purposes.

Warden Parker asked for an update on the MPAL position and its impact on the Municipality's recreation department. CAO Cullen said the Town of Pictou and the Municipality are contributing to the program, and the primary focus for our municipality will be on trail development. There is an opportunity for goals to be incorporated. He said this MPAL program is a good fit for the Municipality and is cost-shared by the province.

Motion Carried

MOTION - COMMUNICATON REPORT

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Elliott and that the communications report be received for information purposes.

Motion Carried

MOTION - EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the Emergency Services Report be received for information purposes.

Motion Carried

MOTION - WARDEN'S REPORT

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. Turner that the Warden's Report be received for information purposes.

Clr. Turner asked why emergency meetings were needed for the Pictou Library Project. Warden Parker said the project cost had gone over tender, so the committee has been working hard to save the project.

Warden Parker said each Municipality was asked if any district has a demand for a rural transit service; it could be one day a week. If the Municipality decided to participate in this, it could be discussed further, but if there were no interest, it would not go any further. He asked councillors to email him if they have an interest in their area.

Motion Carried

MOTION- ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and second by Clr. Elliott that the accounts paid for the month of January 2023 be received for information purposes.

Motion Carried

DEED TRANSFER TAX FUND

The Deed Transfer Tax Report for the month of January 2023 was received for information purposes only.

OUTSTANDING TAXES RECEIVABLE REPORT

The Taxed Receivable report for the month of January 2023 was received for information purposes only.

MOTION – RECREATON GRANT REQUEST

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. Elliott the following grant be recommended to Council for approval:

Pictou County Skeet and Trap Club - \$1000 Capital Grant - Repairs to site
Motion Carried

MOTION – RECREATION FUNDING REQUEST

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Warden Parker the following grant be recommended to Council for approval:

Lismore and District Recreation Committee - \$2000 - Youth Leadership
Programming Motion Carried

MOTION - GRANT EXTENSION REQUEST

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. Turner that the following grant extension be recommended for approval:

D01 Barney's River School House Museum - \$1500 – repairs to the museum
D04 Toney River Community Hall- \$3000 –repairs on the hall.
D06 West River Fire Department - \$3,000 - new signage on the damaged firehall
D10 The Mountain Cemetery - \$836.34 – maintenance and repair work
D11 Bridgeville Community Hall - \$1467.91 –insurance deductible and taxes.
D11 Plymouth Community and Recreation Assoc. - \$4000 – Repairs to building

Motion Carried

MOTION - COUNCIL GRANT EXTENTION REQUEST

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. Thompson that the following grant extension be approved:

D11 Churchville Community Hall - \$5000 – to replace a floor in hall.
D11 MacDonald Rebekah Lodge #108 Sunny Brae - \$5000 - repairs to building.

Motion Carried

MOTION - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT EXTENSION

It was moved by Warden Parker and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the following grant extension be approved:

D01 District One Development Society - \$237.53 - community coordinator position.

Motion Carried

MOTION - MUNICIPAL TAX WRITE OFF- TOWN OF TRENTON

It was moved by Warden Parker and seconded by Clr. Elliott the Municipal Tax Write-Off to the Town of Trenton for \$483.57 be approved.

Motion Carried

TREE REMOVAL PROGRAM 2023 SUMMARY

Director of Emergency Services Evan Hale submitted the Hurricane Fiona Tree Removal Program for 2023 for information purposes. Clr. D. Parker congratulated Mr. Hale on a job well done and suggested the summary be called POST Fiona. Hence, people think it is something other than an automatic renewable program.

LETTER FROM TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW REGARDING WATER USAGE

Clr. Wadden asked for an update regarding a letter sent from the Town of New Glasgow to rural fire departments about water usage. She said there is a real concern from rural departments about additional charges, and some are worried this will extend to the use of the ladder truck, boat rescue, and hazmat. Director of Emergency Services Evan Hale told Council that the Municipality was given the letter at the same time as the rural fire departments, so it has reached out to the Town of New Glasgow for clarification. As of the time of the meeting, he has yet to hear from the Town.

STATUS OF MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH TOWN AND COUNTY FIRE DEPTS

Clr. Wadden asked if it was time for the Municipality of Pictou County to relook at its mutual aid agreement based on a recent letter circulated Town of New Glasgow over water usage. Director of Emergency Services Evan Hale said the agreement was negotiated in the past with the local fire departments rather than the Municipality, so he is unsure of the County's negotiating power at this time. Mr. Hale has kept in correspondence with rural fire chiefs on the issue.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

There were no emergency resolutions brought forward.

ADOURN

There was no further business before the meeting, so the Chair declared the meeting to be adjourned (9:30 pm).

CHAIRPERSON

MUNICIPAL CLERK