

July 21, 2025

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, July 21, 2025, at 7:15 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
Rhianon McNair, Director of Business Operations, Broadband Initiative
Adam MacInnis, Communications Officer
Shellie Pettipas, Administrative Assistant

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.

AGENDA

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

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

Clr. MacKeil stated that CAO Cullen requested that the Tender for the renovations on the MOPC Administration Building be added to the agenda.

MINUTES

Clr. MacKeil asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the June 16, 2025, minutes. The members of the Committee entered no errors, omissions, or corrections. The Chair proclaimed the minutes of the meetings on June 16, 2025, as the official record of the meetings. **Motion Carried**

Warden Parker noted that in the discussion surrounding new microphones in the Council Chambers, the motion states that it was moved by Clr. Turner and seconded by Clr. Turner, and requested that this error be corrected.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Thank you from Tatamagouche Regional Academy for the graduation bursary.
- b. Letter from Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources.

REPORTS NOT REQUIRING A MOTION

COMMUNICATION REPORT

The Communication Report for the month of June 2025 was received as presented.

RECREATION REPORT

The Recreation Report for the month of June 2025 was received as presented.

WARDEN'S REPORT

The Warden's Report for the month of June 2025 was received as presented.

Clr. Turner requested details regarding the meeting with the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources. Warden Parker said that shortly after the meeting in River John, a meeting was called with the Deputy Minister. The Warden said it was a good meeting, and at the meeting, the lack of danger surrounding uranium was discussed. The Warden noted that representatives from Hants County were also in attendance. The Warden said that during the meeting, it was explained why it is planned to move ahead with this.

Clr. Turner questioned who the special guests were in attendance to the Police Advisory meeting. Warden Parker said that members of the Emergency Response Team presented to the board. Warden Parker noted that this is a provincial program and that members are highly skilled in their roles. Clr. Turner asked who has the authority to engage the ERT. CAO Cullen replied that the District Commander would issue the request through the risk assessment person for the province. The 18-member team is based in Halifax, as well. There are teams located in New Brunswick and Ottawa that

would assist if required. The CAO said that each officer is equipped with a vehicle and can be mobile within 5-10 minutes of receiving a call.

Warden Parker said that the recent flag raising at the Municipal Administration Building for the Disability Pride Flag was impressive, about 20 people were in attendance and the speeches given by residents with disabilities were great.

Deputy Warden Murray attended the opening for the 22nd Annual Race on the River. There were 32 teams in this year's race, and a total of over 2 million has been raised in the past 22 years. The money raised from this event goes directly back to cancer patients, hospitals, prostate cancer organizations and Special Olympics.

INTERNET REPORT

The MOPC Network Sales and Marketing Report for the month of June 2025 was received as presented.

Clr. Turner requested an update on the potential launch of cell service. Ms. McNair stated that Rogers was recently at one of the towers and is preparing to mount equipment. Ms. McNair noted that the project has already started to receive revenues from that agreement. Warden Parker said that cell service had been discussed since the beginning of the project. The Warden noted that the only role the municipality plays in this initiative is the use of the towers, and it is in the hands of Rogers' as to when the service will be provided.

TAXES RECEIVABLE REPORT

The Taxes Receivable Report for the months of June 2025 was received for informational purposes.

DEED TRANSFER TAX

The Deed Transfer Tax for the month of June 2025 was received as presented.

REPORTS REQUIRING A MOTION **ACCOUNTS PAID – JUNE 2025**

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. MacDonald that the Accounts Paid Report for the month of June 2025 be received as presented. **Motion Carried**

INTERNET ACCOUNTS PAID

It was moved by Warden Parker and seconded by Clr. Turner that the Internet Accounts Paid Report for the month of June 2025 be received as presented.

Motion Carried

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING TENDER

CAO Cullen noted that the project was estimated at approximately \$200,000.00. The CAO stated that the tender received from Ridgemark Construction was a reasonable price and also the quickest time. References have been checked. The company does a lot of work throughout Pictou and Colchester counties; it is bondable and meets all the criteria.

The renovations will consist of the creation of five offices on the second floor and the redistribution of the HVAC system to the individual spaces.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Deputy Warden Murray to accept staff recommendation to award the tender for the Municipal Administration Building renovations to Ridgemark Construction & Design Ltd.

Motion Carried

APPOINTMENT TO VALLEY VIEW VILLA BOARD

Clr. Thompson nominated and Clr. Palmer seconded the nomination for Howie Cotter as the community member of the Valley View Villa Board.

Clr. MacDonald nominated and Clr. Dewar seconded the nomination for Don Butler as the community member of the Valley View Board.

Clr. Thompson stated that \$100,000,000.00 facility is being put in the heart of Plymouth, and it needs representation from that community. Mr. Cotter was a former Director at Sobeys and has decision-making skills. Clr. Thompson said that now is the time to have local representation on that board.

Clr. MacDonald stated that Mr. Butler has experience on that board, and it takes time to gain knowledge about everything. Clr. MacDonald feels that Mr. Butler would be a good addition to the board.

Clr. Boyles questioned if both applications were received by the deadline. Ms. Musick noted that the application deadline was July 3, 2025. Mr. Butler's application was received on June 18th, and Mr. Cotter's was received on July 10th.

Clr. Boyles stated that there should be no need for a vote, the application was submitted late for one of the applicants, and the deadline was put in place for a reason.

MOTION

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Dewar to appoint Don Butler as the citizen representative to the Valley View Villa Board of Directors.

Motion Carried

BUSINESS ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

MSG DISTRICT 2

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Baillie to approve the following District 2 Municipal Service Grants: **Motion Carried**

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Keltic Chorus | \$1,000.00 | Choral Federation |
| Little Hrb. Community Centre | \$16,000.00 | Extension of Centre |
| Little Hrb. Presbyterian Church | \$2,000.00 | Restoration of Church Bells |

Total: \$19,000.00

MSG DISTRICT 4

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Baillie and seconded by Clr. Wadden to approve the following District 4 Municipal Service Grants: **Motion Carried**

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|---|
| Bellevue & Extension Cemetery | \$4,500.00 | Maintenance |
| Campbell Point Cemetery | \$2,000.00 | Maintenance |
| Melville Seafoam Community Hall | \$3,800.00 | Storage Bldg. |
| Mountain Road Cemetery | \$1,500.00 | Maintenance |
| R.J. & Area Historical Society | \$2,250.00 | Windows, Paint Basement |
| R.J. Community Action Society | \$4,070.00 | Repairs/Maintenance to docks, comm watch signs, gravel for cemetery |
| R.J. & District Lion's Club | \$2,800.00 | Tables & Chairs for Club |
| R.J. & Area Recreation | \$5,500.00 | Activity items, upkeep/main |
| Royal Canadian Legion #108 | \$3,500.00 | Maintenance |
| Salem United Church Cemeteries | \$2,500.00 | Cemeteries |
| West Branch Hall Street Light | \$40.00 | Yearly Street Light |
| Salem United Church Street Light | \$40.00 | Yearly Street Light |

Total: \$32,500.00

MSG DISTRICT 8

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Turner and seconded by Clr. Baillie to approve the following District 8 Municipal Service Grants: **Motion Carried**

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------|--|
| Abercrombie Cemetery Co. | \$8,000.00 | Maintenance |
| Abercrombie Community Ctr. | \$5,997.00 | Maintenance |
| Alma Cemetery | \$4,775.00 | Groundskeeping and Headstone Repair |
| Mt. William Cemetery | \$5,485.00 | Maintenance/Gate Repair |

Total: \$24,257.00

APPLICATION FOR THE ABERCROMBIE COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR MOPC COMMUNITY HALL INTERNET PROGRAM

Clr. Turner stated that installing the MOPC Network Fibre at the Abercrombie Community Centre would be an opportunity to create a better source of revenue for the hall, by making it more user-friendly for corporate and community meetings.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Turner and seconded by Clr. Thompson to approve the Abercrombie Community Centre's request for the MOPC Community Hall Internet Program. **Motion Carried**

DEFERRED BUSINESS

There was no deferred business.

MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION

There were no motions of reconsideration.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business before the meeting, so the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

MUNICIPAL CLERK