

November 20, 2023

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, November 20, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

- 1 Clr. Don Butler
- 2 Clr. Deborah Wadden
- 5 Deputy Warden Wayne Murray
- 6 Warden Robert Parker
- 7 Clr. David Parker
- 8 Clr. Larry Turner
- 10 Clr. Randy Palmer
- 11 Clr. Andy Thompson
- 12 Clr. Chester Dewar

ABSENT

- 3 Clr. Darla MacKeil
- 4 Clr. Mary Elliott
- 9 Clr. Peter Boyles
- Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services
- Rhiannon McNair, Director of Business Operations, Broadband Project

IN ATTENDANCE

- Brian Cullen, CAO, Municipal Clerk-Treasurer
- Sueann Musick, Director of Corporate Services/Deputy Clerk
- Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer
- Adam MacInnis, Communications Officer
- Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development
- Shellie Pettipas, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Clr. Dewar, Vice 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. Thompson and seconded by Warden Parker that the agenda be approved as presented. **Motion Carried**

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

There were no emergency resolutions brought forward.

MINUTES

Clr. Dewar asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for October 16, 2023. The members of the Committee entered no errors, omissions, or corrections. The Vice-Chair proclaimed the minutes of the meeting on October 16, 2023, as the official record of the meeting. **Motion Carried**

PROCLAMATION LEBANESE HERITAGE MONTH



Proclamation in Celebration of Lebanese Heritage Month- November

WHEREAS November is recognized in Canada as Lebanese Heritage Month -a time to recognize and honour the many contributions of Lebanese Canadians and ongoing achievements of people of Lebanese Descent all over Canada and here in Pictou County in the Province of Nova Scotia.

WHEREAS we are celebrating the 1st year of Lebanese Heritage Month as designated by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

WHEREAS this proclamation recognizes the important legacy of people of Lebanese immigrants since the 1800's with hundreds of thousands of Lebanese Canadians residing in communities from coast to coast to coast, this vibrant diaspora has formed an integral piece of Canada's rich cultural mosaic. Their contributions have made, and continue to make- our county more diverse, prosperous, and inclusive.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Robert Parker, Warden for the Municipality of the County of Pictou do hereby proclaim the month of November to be Lebanese Heritage Month. I encourage residents, businesses, and community groups to share in Lebanon's cuisine, to celebrate with traditional music and dancing.

Dated at Pictou, N.S. this 20th day of November 2023

Warden Robert Parker

CORRESPONDENCE (Uncirculated)

A Thank You letter was received from Northern Subway Selects U18AAA Female Team for a Recreation grant.

A Thank You letter was received from the Pictou Celtic Arts Society for a Recreation Start-Up Grant.

A Thank You was received from Shirley Whytewood, a new fibre customer located in Loch Broom.

CORRESPONDENCE (Circulated)

A letter was received from Premier Tim Houston introducing the YourHealthNS app.

A letter was received from Peggy Cameron regarding the unnecessary paving of gravel roads.

A letter was received from Digby Mayor Ben Cleveland in support of maintaining Digby ferry service between Digby, NS and Saint John, NB.

It was moved by Warden Parker and seconded by Clr. Thompson to send a letter to the Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Transport with copies to Mayor Ben Cleveland and the Honourable Sean Fraser, encouraging them to continue support to the Digby ferry service. **Motion Carried**

COMMUNICATION REPORT

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Palmer that the Communication Report be received as presented. **Motion Carried**

RECREATION and MPAL REPORT

It was moved by Warden Parker and seconded by Clr. Palmer that the Recreation Report be received as presented. **Motion Carried**

ACCOUNTS PAID – JULY 2023

It was moved by Clr. Parker and seconded by Deputy Warden Murray. that the Accounts Paid for October 2023 report be received as presented. **Motion Carried**

DEED TRANSFER TAX (For Information Purposes Only)

It was moved by Clr. Turner and seconded by Clr. Parker The Deed Transfer Tax Report for the month of October 2023 was received for information purposes. **Motion Carried**

TAXES RECEIVABLE REPORT

The Taxes Receivable Report for the month of October 2023 was received for information purposes.

PICTOU COUNTY WELLNESS CENTRE GUARANTEE

Mr. Cullen said that the Wellness Centre undertook an energy retrofit project. They had applied for several grants from various sources, some of which they haven't heard back yet. The contractor, Johnson Controls Inc, guaranteed to meet the savings predicted from the various repairs done. Mr. Cullen said the savings from the project will fund the debt.

JCI was brought in to see what was wrong. The power bills are through the roof, and following the project, if they continue to increase, the responsibility is put on JCI, not on the Wellness Centre.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Palmer to recommend to Council to approve the temporary borrowing resolution for the Pictou County Wellness Centre. **Motion Carried**

STAFF CHRISTMAS BONUSES

It was moved by Clr. Parker and seconded by Clr. Palmer to grant staff Christmas bonuses in the amount of \$150.00. **Motion Carried**

MUNICIPAL SERVICE GRANTS

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Parker that the following Municipal Service Grants be approved for District 3.

District 3

a. Braeshore Area Neighborhood Watch	\$2,170.68	Erect Signs in Com
	Total \$2,170.68	

Motion Carried

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. Parker that the following Municipal Service Grants be approved for District 12.

District 12

a. Eureka Fire Dept	\$3,000.00	Ongoing Fire Hall Projects
b. Candy Cane Committee	\$1,250.00	Annual Event
	Total \$4,250.00	

Motion Carried

COMMUNITY GENERATOR PROGRAM

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. Parker that the following be approved for the Community Generator Program.

a. Eureka Fire Dept	\$3,540.00	Installation of Generator
b. West River Fire Dept	\$4,870.00	Installation of Generator
	Total \$8,410.00	

Motion Carried

COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY EVENT

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Deputy Warden Murray that the following be approved for the Community Connectivity Event Grant.

a. D13 Rec. & Planning Comm	\$1,500.00	Holiday Festival Exp.
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Motion Carried

INTERNET COMMUNITY HALLS

Mr. Cullen said there were several requests from community halls requesting free internet service. Many of these halls are comfort centres, and the recommendation would be to provide free internet service to the community halls that have been designated as warming centres.

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. Turner to broaden this beyond comfort centres to include community centres and fire departments.

A discussion was held on the definition of a community hall and the consideration that some halls may not be serviceable.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Warden Parker to table this discussion until the next meeting to further define what organizations would be included.

Motion Carried
Nay Andy Thompson

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business before the meeting, so the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:43.

CHAIRPERSON

MUNICIPAL CLERK