

January 19, 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, January 19, 2026, at 7:00 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

ABSENT

Rhiannon McNair, Director of Business Operations, Broadband Initiative

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
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. Wadden said that an email was received from an Airbnb host regarding the Tourism Marketing Levy. Clr. Wadden requested that this matter be placed on a future agenda for the Property and Finance Committee meeting.

Warden Parker advised that caution should be exercised when bringing forward emergency resolutions, noting that such items should be limited to matters requiring immediate attention and should only be used in true emergency situations.

MINUTES

Clr. MacKeil asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the December 15, 2025, minutes. The members of the Committee entered no errors, omissions, or corrections. The Chair proclaimed the minutes of the December 15, 2025, meeting as the official record of the meeting. **Motion Carried**

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Thank you from Ciara MacDonald of Sunrise Trail 4H for the sponsorship of the building blocks judging award.

REPORTS NOT REQUIRING A MOTION **COMMUNICATION REPORT**

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

Warden Parker noted that the Waste Sorting Guide was the most viewed post and highlighted the work underway on Extended Producer Responsibility for Residential Packaging and Paper Products. Warden Parker noted that the program began on December 1, has been well-received, and is expected to result in cost savings for the municipality.

RECREATION REPORT

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

WARDEN'S REPORT

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

Clr. Turner referenced a discussion with Marco MacLeod regarding a new government initiative. Warden Parker advised of having been informed of the Province's intention to enter into a partnership with Dalhousie University related to fracking research, noting that limited public reaction had occurred to date. Clr. Turner added that while public

reaction has been limited, there has been significant opposition from the academic community regarding Dalhousie's involvement. Warden Parker noted that from a government perspective, Dalhousie's input is considered valuable.

Clr. Wadden enquired about the purpose of the meeting with MP Sean Fraser. Warden Parker indicated that the meeting was regarding the Salem Waste Water Project issue. Sean Fraser indicated that decision-making authority for federal grant funding has been transferred to the province, which will now determine project approvals. CAO Cullen confirmed that funding remains available and that former federal funding streams have been consolidated into a single provincial process.

Warden Parker noted that total provincial property assessments have exceeded \$200 billion. Locally, assessments increased by approximately 6%; however, due to the provincial tax cap, residential tax increases are limited to 2.6% for the current year.

PICTOU ANTIGONISH REGIONAL LIBRARY REPORT

The Pictou Antigonish Regional Library Report was received as presented.

Warden Parker noted that two retirements were announced in the report. The Warden attended a send-off for Bonnie Allen, who retired after 35 years with the library. Ms. Allen is a former Councillor and currently serves on the Board of Valley View Villa.

HEALTHY PICTOU COUNTY REPORT

The Healthy Pictou County Report was received as presented.

TAX RECEIVABLE REPORT

The Taxes Receivable Report for the month of December 2025 was received for informational purposes.

DEED TRANSFER TAX

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

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

MOTION

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

Clr. Wadden inquired about the picture frame for the Warden's Office and whether there would be any additional expense. Warden Parker noted the intent was to recognize former Wardens. Ms. Musick advised that the additional photographs will be placed in the same frame, with the primary cost being framing, and that any additional costs are expected to be minimal.

INTERNET ACCOUNTS PAID

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

Motion Carried

BUSINESS ITEMS OR ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION **DISTRICT 1 MUNICIPAL SERVICE GRANT**

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. MacDonald and seconded by Warden Parker to approve the District 1 Municipal Service Grant for Sutherland's River and District Community Association in the amount of \$3,000.00.

Motion Carried

DISTRICT 10 MUNICIPAL SERVICE GRANT

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Turner to approve the District 10 Municipal Service Grant for MacPherson's Mills Community Centre in the amount of \$4,000.00.

Motion Carried

COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY GRANT EXTENSION

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Turner and seconded by Clr. Palmer to approve the Abercrombie Community Centre's grant extension request on their \$50,000.00 Community Connectivity Grant until funding is received from the provincial or federal governments.

Motion Carried

COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY EVENT FUND

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Baillie to approve the District 2 Community Connectivity Event Fund for the Little Harbour Community Centre in the amount of \$1,500.00.

Motion Carried

TAX WRITE-OFFS

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Wadden to approve the tax write-offs for AAN 05298296, AAN 08832447, and AAN 03434419 for the current fiscal year, and previous accounts that were deactivated on the previous fiscal year's roll.

Motion Carried

GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE OF THE MOPC

Clr. Boyles requested a list of grants awarded to organizations outside the county and expressed concern that funding is being provided to organizations based in other towns while some County residents are experiencing financial hardship. Clr. Boyles questioned the total annual funding provided to organizations outside the County and the rationale for doing so.

Warden Parker responded that it is appropriate to review whether the Municipality is paying for services it should not be; however, funding decisions should not be based solely on the physical location of a facility. The Warden noted that many services located within towns are used by County residents and are funded on a shared basis. Warden Parker emphasized that funding should be based on service use and benefit, rather than on municipal boundaries.

Clr. Boyles noted that a list of grants would be helpful and reiterated that funding should prioritize facilities serving County residents. A majority of Council agreed that a list of grants be prepared and brought forward for review.

DEFERRED BUSINESS

There was no deferred business.

MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION

There were no motions of reconsideration.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Clr. MacKeil declared the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

MUNICIPAL CLERK