

January 8, 2024

The Municipal Council 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 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Dist:

- 1 Clr. Don Butler
- 2 Clr. Deborah Wadden
- 3 Clr. Darla MacKeil
- 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

IN ATTENDANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Warden Parker called the meeting to order and invited Councillors to pray or reflect, as may be their preference, to help Council focus and properly do the work of the Municipality and to remember our Indigenous communities. He acknowledges that we are on the ancestral territorial lands of the Mikmaq people and would like to thank the Mikmaq people today for their ancestors sharing these precious lands with all our ancestors, whether they arrived here 400 years ago or four years ago. May we all live in peace and harmony together.

AGENDA

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

Clr. David Parker extended an apology to staff regarding an upcoming meeting date.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

Clr. Wadden requested an addition to the agenda. A request was received from The Bethel Presbyterian Church; they are requesting a reallocation of the \$1,700.00 Municipal Service Grant money that was received. There was unanimous agreement amongst Councillors and Warden Parker said this would be added to item 9D on the agenda.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 4, 2023, Council Meeting were reviewed by the Municipal Council. Deputy Warden Murray proclaimed the minutes of the meeting of December 4, 2023, as the official record of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to present.

RECOGNITION

Warden Parker, along with Clr. David Parker and Clr. Chester Dewar presented a recognition plaque to Leonard Fraser, Donna Fraser and Keigan MacDonald of Fraser's County Clydesdales.

RECOGNITION: FRASER'S COUNTY CLYDESDALES

On behalf of Council and Staff for the Municipality of Pictou County, I would like to take this time to congratulate Fraser's Country Clydesdales on an exceptional performance at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in November 2023.

Fraser's County Clydesdales, which is owned by Leonard and Donna Fraser of Mill Brook, Pictou County, was the No. 1 Clydesdale hitch throughout the competition and achieved first-place finishes in the following categories:

- Ladies Cart, Clydesdales
- Ladies Cart, All Breeds
- Men's Cart, Clydesdales
- Team Class, Clydesdales
- Unicorn Class, Clydesdales
- 4 Horse Hitch, Clydesdales
- 6 Horse Hitch, Clydesdales
- Classic Cart, All Breeds
- 1st Tack Room Competition - overall horse exhibitors.

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is the pinnacle of competitions for the agricultural community, and the team from Fraser's County Clydesdales showed they have what it takes to compete with the best and win. Our community is proud of their accomplishments.

With their recent success, Fraser's Country Clydesdales qualified to compete at the North American Championships in Indiana in September 2024. We wish them great success as they prepare for this event.

BUSINESS ITEMS OR ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

RECREATION GRANT FOR NORTHUMBERLAND REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

It was moved by Clr. Parker and seconded by Deputy Warden Murray to approve a Recreation Grant in the amount of \$1,000.00 to Northumberland Regional High School for an accessible multi-trail system.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED the Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou approve a Recreation Capital Grant of \$1000 to Northumberland Regional High School for an accessible multi-trail system.

Dated the 8th day of January 2024 in Pictou, NS.

Sgn _____

Motion Carried
Clr. David Parker
Deputy Warden Wayne Murray

ENGAGE NOVA SCOTIA QUALITY OF LIFE MUNICIPAL INVESTMENT PLAN

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. Dewar to approve the Engage Nova Scotia Quality of Life Municipal Investment Plan.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Engage Nova Scotia will conduct a Quality of Life survey in the fiscal year of 2024/2025, providing municipalities with five years of accessible, evidence-based decision-making information.

BE IT RESOLVED the Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou contribute 50 cents a resident towards the cost of administering an Engage Nova Scotia survey in 2024/25.

Dated the 8th day of January 2024 in Pictou, NS.

Sgn _____

Motion Carried
Clr. Andy Thompson
Clr. Chester Dewar

NOVA SCOTIA POWER OUTAGES

Clr. Butler said that over the past month, District 1 has experienced outages 5 different times, which is becoming increasingly frustrating to residents. Clr. Butler said that NSP officials went to lengths to explain the measures put in place, but in view of the number of recent outages and the number of calls received, wondered if there is anything else that can be done to apply pressure for improvement. Clr. Butler asked if other Councillors in the county are hearing similar concerns.

Clr. Parker said there is no doubt of frustrations and that the winds and power outages are more frequent and longer lasting. Clr. Parker said that the MOPC Fibre internet lines are on the same poles, and in working with Nova Scotia Power, there has to be work done to find solutions. NSP spends 2.5 to 3 times more on vegetation management than New Brunswick.

Warden Parker said there was a recent meeting with residents and top NSP officials. Nova Scotia Power has people out clearing trees and has talked about a willingness to set up community meetings; they want to work with the public and be able to cut the trees back further but are unable to without the permission of the property owner.

It was moved by Clr. Elliott and seconded by Clr. MacKeil to contact Nova Scotia Power officials and request a discussion with Council to set up community meetings.

Motion Carried

Clr. Dewar requested sending a letter to the Nova Scotia Power officials who attended the recent meeting with the Warden to thank them for what they are doing and hoping for improvement.

REALLOCATION OF MUNICIPAL SERVICE GRANT MONEY

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Elliott to approve Bethel Presbyterian Church to reallocate the funds from the Municipal Service Grant to make repairs to the church's exterior.

Motion Carried

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clr. Boyles said that the Hillside Community Society hosts a Music Jam on Friday evenings from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00, and lunch is served.

Clr. Boyles said beginning the first Tuesday in February, Stewart Barclay will be doing Martial Arts classes at the Hillside Community Hall from 7:30-9:00 p.m. Classes will be held every Tuesday and Thursday evening.

Warden Parker thanked the residents of the rural municipality who went above and beyond decorating their homes and properties this Christmas. The Warden said this adds to the enjoyment of the holidays, and there were certificates distributed to some of the beautifully decorated homes in the county to acknowledge residents' efforts.

CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Elliott to have the discussion of the Gut Bridge Funding back on the table. **Motion Carried**

It was moved by Clr. Parker and seconded by Clr. Palmer to go to In-Camera. **Motion Carried**

The Council resumed regular session.

Gut Bridge Funding

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Deputy Warden Murray to grant the request from the Town of Pictou for an additional \$30,000.00 toward the Gut Bridge funding, with the caveat if funding is received from other levels of government or community funding that it would be proportionally adjusted. **Motion Carried**

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Warden declared the meeting adjourned at 8.07 pm.

WARDEN

MUNICIPAL CLERK