

February 7, 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 Wednesday, February 7, 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
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

ABSENT

Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer

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 Mikmaqi people and would like to thank the Mikmaqi 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. Parker that the agenda be approved as presented. **Motion Carried**

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

Warden Parker added an emergency discussion about the storm to the agenda as item 10E.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 8, 2024, Council Meeting were reviewed by the Municipal Council. Warden Parker proclaimed the minutes of the meeting of January 8, 2024, as the official record of the meeting.

The Municipal Council reviewed the In-Camera minutes of January 8, 2024. Warden Parker proclaimed the minutes of the In Camera meeting of January 8, 2024, as the official record of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from Alexandra Stalley in support of CARMA Cat Rescue.

An email was received from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's office acknowledging the letter about CEBA repayment.

PROCLAMATION

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Nova Scotia has more than 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep, and complex history dating back more than 400 years.

WHEREAS African Heritage Month provides an opportunity to celebrate and promote the culture, achievements, and contributions of people of African descent in Nova Scotia – past and present.

WHEREAS The 2024 African Heritage Month theme is **Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians**. This month is a time to celebrate and recognize the history and culture of people of African descent. The theme aligns with the final year of the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024 with a goal to strengthen global cooperation in support of people of African descent, increase awareness and recognize their full and equal participation in all aspects of society.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that the Month of February be proclaimed African Heritage Month and we encourage all residents to partake in events and celebrations taking place throughout the county and province.

Dated the 7th day of February 2024 in Pictou, NS.

(Sgd.)

Warden Robert Parker

**PROCLAMATION
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE WEEK**

WHEREAS the first Women's Institute in Nova Scotia was formed in 1913 in Salt Springs, Pictou County;

WHEREAS for 111 years, the Women's Institutes in Nova Scotia continue to provide women opportunities to improve the quality of life for families in their local and global communities through community service and involvement, education, and personal and leadership development;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that February 18th – 24th be proclaimed as "Women's Institute Week" in the Municipality.

DATED at Pictou, NS, this 7th day of February 2024.

(Sgd.)

Warden Robert Parker

Debbie White, WI District President

PRESENTATION

Lindsay Corbin, Coordinator for the Nova Scotia Coalition for Healthy School Food presented to Council and requested Council to become an endorser of a Canada-wide school food program.

Ms. Corbin said that only 1/3 of children in Canada eat enough fruits and vegetables daily and that 1/3 of elementary and 2/3 of secondary school students do not eat a nutritious breakfast. Ms. Corbin said the Coalition for Healthy School Food advocates for a universal, cost-shared, healthy Canada-wide school food program.

Clr. Turner asked if the provincial government would support the program if it received federal funding, and Ms. Corbin said the province would sign the agreement if federal funding were received. Clr. Turner stated there would be a downstream of benefits, and Ms. Corbin said there was good research data from other countries.

Clr. Parker, a member of the School Advisory Board at Northumberland Regional High School, said that this school didn't wait, and they went ahead with the Karma Closet. Clr. Parker questioned how to convince other schools to take that approach. Ms. Corbin said there are a lot of opportunities and ways to do this, and there are grants out there that schools are taking advantage of.

Clr. Dewar questioned how to get this across to the children. Ms. Corbin replied that nutrition education and food literacy is an important part of the program, and schools across the county have been pleasantly surprised at the involvement and what kids are willing to eat when they are learning about the food and helping to prepare it.

Clr. Wadden asked Ms. Corbin if a motion is just Council showing support to the coalition, and Ms. Corbin said that the ask is for MOPC to become an endorser to support this coalition.

BUSINESS ITEMS OR ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

MUNICIPAL SERVICE GRANTS

Clr. Dewar presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED the Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou the following Municipal Services Grants:

District 11

a. Bridgeville Community Club	\$2000.00	Operating Costs
b. SBI 4H	<u>\$ 250.00</u>	Program Expenses

Total \$ 2250.00

Dated the 7th day of February 2024 in Pictou, NS.

(Sgd.) Clr. Chester Dewar
Clr. Andy Thompson

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. Thompson that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented. **Motion Carried**

Clr. Wadden presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED the Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou approve the following sponsorship request:

Pictou County Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet and AGM - **\$1800.00**
Dated the 7th day of February 2024 in Pictou, NS.

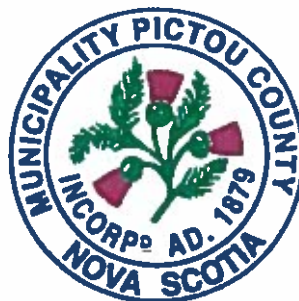
(Sgd.) Clr. Deborah Wadden
Clr. Larry Turner

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Turner that the preceding motion be approved as presented. **Motion Carried**

Clr. Thompson presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED the Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou approve the following policy:



Policy 2024-02-05

Municipality of the County of Pictou Community Hall Internet Program Policy

Purpose

1. To establish a uniform policy for the provision of Internet services to community organizations.

Policy

2. The Municipality will provide free internet services to community organizations and their facilities under the following conditions:
 - a. The community organization has been designated as a warming/comfort centre (Schedule A) by the Pictou County Regional Emergency Management Resource Plan.
 - b. The facility provides the opportunity for programs or events that serve the broader community and not strictly the organization's membership.
 - i. The community organization may be required to demonstrate the use of the facilities through a calendar of events or booking records.
 - c. The facility can be adequately serviced by the Municipality's broadband project in terms of minimum speeds.
 - i. Fibre Network (50 Mbps download/10 Mbps Upload)
 - ii. Wireless Network (25 Mbps download/5 Mbps Upload)
3. If an application is received from a community organization that does not meet the criteria established in Section 2 above; staff shall prepare a recommendation report for the Financial Services Committees review.
 - a. The report shall highlight the ability of the location to be adequately serviced by the network (fibre/wireless).
 - b. The report shall also indicate the proximity of the location to other facilities designated in section 2.
 - c. The report shall also indicate the typical usage of the hall in terms of frequency; which can impact data and bandwidth costs.
 - d. The Financial Services Committee shall decide if the organization shall be granted free internet services.

Dated the 7th day of February 2024 in Pictou, NS.

(Sgd.) Clr. Andy Thompson

Clr. Chester Dewar

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. Dewar that the preceding motion be approved as presented. **Motion Carried**

Clr. Palmer presented the following resolution to Council:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Municipality of the County of Pictou issued a Request for Proposals for qualified engineering consulting firms to provide design consulting services to extend the Municipality's water distribution systems in the MacLellans Brook and Coalburn areas.

WHEREAS the Municipality received responses from three engineering consulting firms which were reviewed and scored by staff and brought to the Property Services Committee for consideration. These firms included:

Strait Engineering Limited
CBCL Limited
WSP Canada Inc.

BE IT RESOLVED the Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou award the design tender to Strait Engineering Limited as presented in its proposal for a total value of \$251,180.00 (excluding HST).

Dated the 7th day of February 2024 in Pictou, NS.

(Sgd.) Clr. Randy Palmer
Deputy Warden Murray

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Deputy Warden Murray that the preceding motion be approved as presented. **Motion Carried**

EMERGENCY DEBATE ABOUT THE STORM

Warden Parker said it was a difficult week for many residents in the County. The Warden said three meetings were held on Monday with himself, Deputy Warden Murray, CAO Cullen, Evan Hale, and John Davison (REMO). The first concern was how to help people and discussions on declaring a state of emergency were had. The Warden said that in the end, the conclusion was that declaring a state of emergency would not significantly

change anything. The Warden did interviews with the media and radio and felt that Pictou County was hit hard by the storm and was not being recognized.

Mr. Hale said that 5 snowmobiles were in the County and 5 more would be arriving the following morning. Each snowmobile has two people, and the Rubicon team is expected to identify areas of homes they can go into and help people shovel. Mr. Hale said that an emergency phone line will open in the morning and operate from 8:30 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. daily until the call volume stops and forms are now available online. The number for residents to call is 1-902-485-3445 for non-emergency calls.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Elliott and seconded by Clr. Parker will meet to discuss procedures during a state of emergency, including snowstorms, hurricanes, flooding, and forest fires.
Motion Carried

Clr. Wadden said it was bothersome that the Council did not meet for 8 days following the disaster, and people were scrambling to get answers. There should also be something complete with a list of vulnerable residents.

Clr. Parker thanked Mr. Hale for doing a good job and said the thing now needed is to get a list of contractors with a loader that could be given to residents with difficulty cleaning long driveways. Mr. Hale said he would investigate this. Clr. Turner asked if the SimplyCast program had been in place and operational if it would have been beneficial to residents to communicate. CAO Cullen said that information could have been pushed out to residents, and the hotline could have taken information in. Mr. Cullen said the subscription has been renewed, and work has begun on the emergency side of it.

Clr. MacKeil asked Mr. Hale what worked well during this storm. Mr. Hale said it was too early to call it done. Some things that would be good to bring to the future meeting would be what worked well, what was done, how many people were helped, and where the struggles were.

Warden Parker said that Council's role is to be the contact between the public and the people who can make things happen.

CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

There was no deferred business.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no community announcements.

MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION

There were no motions of reconsideration.

ADJOURN

With no further business to come before the meeting, the Warden declared the meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

WARDEN

MUNICIPAL CLERK

