

March 4, 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, March 4, 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
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer
Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development
Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services
Shellie Pettipas, Administrative Assistant
Adam MacInnis, Communications Officer

ABSENT

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

There were no emergency resolutions brought forward.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 7, 2024, Council Meeting were reviewed by the Municipal Council. Warden Parker proclaimed the minutes of the meeting of February 7, 2024, as the official record of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE (NOT REQUIRING ACTION)

1. NSFM endorses the creation of a vulnerable person registry.
2. Nova Scotia Government's introduction of the Future of our Coastline: Nova Scotia's Plan to Project.

REPORTS NOT REQUIRING ACTION

The New Scotland Business Inc. Report for the month of February 2024 was received as presented.

BUSINESS ITEMS OR ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

MUNICIPAL SERVICE GRANTS

It was moved by Clr. Parker and seconded by Clr. Elliott to approve the following Municipal Service Grant:

RESOLUTION

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

District 7

a. Union Centre Community Hall	\$ 2558.00	Insulation Upgrades
Dated the 4 th day of March 2024 in Pictou, NS.		

Sgn _____

Clr. David Parker
Clr. Mary Elliott
Motion Carried

COMMUNITY GENERATOR FUND

It was moved by Clr. Butler and seconded by Clr. Boyles approve the following Community Generator Fund Grants:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou approve the following Community Generator Fund Grants:

a. Barney's River Fire Department	\$ 3453.00 - Contribution to Generator
b. Union Centre Community Hall	\$ 2953.00 - Contribution to Generator
Total	\$ 6406.00

Dated the 4th day of March 2024 in Pictou, NS.

Sgn _____

Clr. Don Bulter
Clr. Peter Boyles
Motion Carried

RECREATION GRANTS

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Parker to approve the following Recreation Grants:

RESOLUTION

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

Sponsorship Grant:

a. Pictou County Trails Association	\$ 1000.00 - Workshop
b. 2023/2024 Fundy Highland Stars U13 AAA	\$ 250.00 - Provincials
c. Pictou County Seniors Festival	\$ 500.00 - Programming Expenses

Capital Grant:

a. 100F Moore Lodge #17

\$ 1000.00 - Replace Stair Lift

Total \$ 2750.00

Dated the 4th day of March 2024 in Pictou, NS.

Sgn _____

**Clr. Palmer
Clr. David Parker
Motion Carried**

TENDER FOR INTERNET VEHICLE

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Deputy Warden Murray to approve the following tender for the internet vehicle:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS tenders have been called for the purchase of a new cargo/utility install van for the Municipality of Pictou County's Department of Innovation and Technology (Rural Broadband Department):

WHEREAS a total of 3 tenders were received as follows:

Highland Ford	Ford Transit 350 Cargo	\$63,900	Electric Model
Highland Ford	F-150 4x4 Reg Cab	\$51,900	Gas Model
Herron GM	GMC Sierra 4x4 Dbl Cab	\$62,648	Gas Model

BE IT RESOLVED the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou approve the purchase of the F-150 4x4 Reg Cab from Highland Ford for **\$51,900.00**.
Dated the 4th day of March 2024 in Pictou, NS.

Sgn _____

**Clr. Randy Palmer
Deputy Warden Wayne Murray
Motion Carried**

PROPERTY TAX WRITE OFF

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. Dewar to approve the following property tax write off:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou approve the following write-off on taxes, the same having been reviewed and approved by the Financial Services Committee:

ACCOUNT #	ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT	REASON
00618663	Jennifer Suzanne Sutherland	\$2398.76	Appeal of Assessment

Dated the 4th day of March 2024 in Pictou, NS.

Sgn _____

Clr. Andy Thompson
Clr. Chester Dewar
Motion Carried

Nay Vote: Clr. David Parker

CITIZEN APPOINTMENTS

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Palmer to approve the following citizen appointments:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou approve the following Citizen Appointments from April 1st, 2024, to March 31, 2026:

Audit Committee

- a. Rick Feehan
- b. Susan Robinson

Police Advisory

- a. Kevin MacDonald

Riverton Guest Home Association

- a. Bonnie Allen

Climate Change Advisory

- a. Violet McCullough
- b. Ed Kennedy
- c. Reg Brightman
- d. Pierre Bredall
- e. Troy Kyle

Fences Arbitration

- a. Joyce Roode

Accessibility Advisory Committee

- a. Susan Matheson
- b. Rick Parker
- c. Grace Maxner
- d. Rae Gunn

Dated the 4th day of March 2024 in Pictou, NS.

Sgn _____

Deputy Warden Wayne Murray
Clr. Randy Palmer
Motion Carried

NEW GLASGOW FARMERS MARKET

Warden Parker passed the Chair to Deputy Warden Murray to speak on the New Glasgow Farmer's Market request for support.

Clr. MacKeil asked why this is not made as an application to Council grants, and this will be discussed through that process. Deputy Warden Murray stated that the request is not for funding, but for support of this project.

Warden Parker is a big supporter of farmers and farmer's markets and spoke of the many benefits. The Warden said this price is out of line and \$7.1 million cannot be accepted. What they are trying to build is much more than a farmer's market. The Warden said this was still the taxpayer's money, and this was the only municipality that had given so far. \$45,000.00 was given and used for the drawings for the building. The Warden said it is difficult to vote for the letter of support and is afraid it means there is support in favour of the \$7.1 million. The Warden's opinion on this was also expressed at the Mayor's and Warden's meeting when the package was presented.

Clr. Wadden said that \$7.1 million is a lot of money, but with the right plan in place, this project could move the county into the future.

Clr. Turner said a cost-benefit analysis should be done on this and Council should know what the benefits from this will be.

Clr. Parker stated that this will be a center of activities for other events but also expressed concern regarding the price and said that Council can be certain that they will be back with a funding request and is concerned of the magnitude of that request but will be supporting the motion to go forward.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Turner to request the New Glasgow Farmer's Market present to Council.

Motion Carried

CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

COALITION FOR HEALTHY SCHOOL FOOD

Warden Parker said that following Ms. Corbin's presentation, the provincial government's support for the coalition has changed, as they will announce funding for this in the budget.

Clr. Wadden said that the province has agreed to move forward with a four- or five-year plan, and the Federal Government has taken a back seat. The Coalition is trying to push this forward and show how important this is nationwide.

Clr. Elliott said that there are so many varied factors for each school and so many questions. If the Council endorses it, then who is going to be financially responsible for this down the road? Clr. Parker said there is a lot yet to be resolved and would like it to be as uniform and fair as possible. Clr. Parker spoke in favour of the motion.

Clr. Turner said this should be looked at as a universal program and as a cost-benefit analysis. The benefits of healthy eating are if an individual eats properly and in moderation, then the benefits of health far outweigh the costs. Clr. Turner expressed being strongly in favour of this initiative.

Warden Parker said that there is a separation in income in schools, and this does affect food choices. This program is taking it one step further. There must be a program that is equal and open to all students. Warden Parker has no problem endorsing this coalition but said that steps have to be taken to ensure it is done appropriately and expressed his support for this motion.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Turner that the County Council endorse the Coalition for Healthy School Food.

Motion Carried

MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION

There were no motions of reconsideration.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clr. Dewar congratulated all the people who made the 25th anniversary of the Lismore Wintertime Review a success. He asked that the county send a letter of congratulations and said that it was a terrific night and has been for 25 years. There was unanimous agreement from the Council that this letter be sent.

Clr. Palmer said there was an announcement for District 10 Coalburn/MacLellan's Brook water project. Clr. Palmer, on behalf of the residents in those communities, would like to thank Premier Tim Houston and the Provincial Conservative Government, MP Sean Fraser and the Federal Liberals, The County of Pictou and this Council for recognizing the importance of water in that area. Clr. Palmer also thanked the Town of New Glasgow for investing money into the water utility and making it available for this county to purchase water from, and without them, this announcement would not have happened. The residents will be very happy to hear this.

Clr. Parker said that recently Mr. Rob Douglas, RA Douglas Construction in Alma has passed away. Mr. Douglas shared the gift of his land with students from Northumberland Regional High School. Clr. Dewar said that his wife Donna Cameron passed away that afternoon.

Warden Parker said that Sgt. Andrew Joyce will be hosting a presentation on scams and how to be more aware. The presentation will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024, at the Durham Church Hall, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

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 8:13 p.m.