

March 16,2026

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 March 16, 2026, at 7:45 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

IN ATTENDANCE

Sueann Musick, Director of Corporate Services/Deputy Clerk
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer
Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services
Adam MacInnis, Communications Officer
Rhiannon McNair, Director of Business Operations, Broadband Initiative

ABSENT

Brian Cullen, CAO, Municipal Clerk-Treasurer
Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development

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

No Emergency Resolutions were brought forward.

MINUTES

Clr. MacKeil asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the February 17, 2026, minutes. Warden Parker asked for a clarification on the DEANS presentation that the tourism marketing levy did not draw in \$22,000 in revenue but rather that money was from businesses through the levy. The Chair proclaimed the minutes of February 17, 2026, meeting as the official record of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee received correspondence from:

- Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library regarding provincial funding cuts.
- The Province of Nova Scotia concerning the release of the 2026–27 provincial budget; and
- The Nova Scotia Attorney General regarding RCMP retroactive pay liability.

Clr. Wadden advised that the Library Board recently met and will forward additional correspondence outlining its financial planning and approach to managing required budget reductions. She confirmed that the library does not intend to request additional municipal funding in the current year, although this may be reconsidered in future years depending on provincial decisions.

The correspondence was discussed and noted for information.

REPORTS NOT REQUIRING A MOTION

7.1 Communications Report — Reviewed for information.

7.2 Recreation Report — Reviewed for information.

7.3 Warden's Report for February — Reviewed for information.

7.4 Internet Report for February — Reviewed for information.

7.5 Healthy Pictou County Report — Reviewed for information.

7.6 Tax Receivable Report — Reviewed for information.

7.7 Deed Transfer Tax Report — Reviewed for information.

REPORTS REQUIRING A MOTION

8.1 Accounts

Motion: It was moved to approve accounts paid for the month of February 2026.

Moved by Clr. Turner

Seconded by Clr. Dewar

Motion Carried

8.2 Internet Accounts

Motion: It was moved to approve the internet accounts paid for the month of February 2026.

Moved by: Clr. MacDonald
Seconded by:Clr. Wadden
Motion Carried

BUSINESS REQUIRING ACTION

9.1.1 Cairn Refugee Sponsorship

Motion: It was moved to grant the extension of \$5,000.00 for Cairn Refugee Sponsorship which was a 2024-2025 Council Grant for one year.

Moved by Clr. Wadden
Seconded by Deputy Warden Murray
Nay Vote: Clr. Boyles

Motion Carried

9.1.2 Re-Branding Quote

Motion: It was moved to accept the quote for \$8,607.00 to explore the possibility of rebranding the county.

Moved by Clr. Turner
Seconded by Clr. Thompson

Motion Carried

9.1.3 Recreation Capital Grant Request

Motion: It was moved to grant \$1,000.00 to the Pictou County Arm Wrestling Club.

Moved by Clr. Boyles
Seconded by Warden Parker

Motion Carried

9.1.4 Watervale Area Recreation Center

Motion: It was moved to issue tax receipts for donations on behalf of Watervale Area Recreation Center.

Moved by Warden Parker
Seconded by Clr. Palmer

Motion Carried

9.1.5 Creative Pictou County Funding Request

Motion: It was moved to allocate \$1,000.00 to Creative Pictou County.

Moved by Clr.Parker
Seconded by Clr. Wadden

Motion Carried

9.1.6 School Bursaries and Graduation Expenses.

Motion: It was moved to approve \$2,000 graduation and bursary for Northumberland Regional High School, \$2,000 for North Nova Education Center, and two \$200 bursaries for Pictou Academy and Tatamagouche Regional High School (total \$4,400).

Moved by Clr. Dewar
Seconded by Clr. Palmer

Motion Carried

9.1.7 Committee Nominations

Motion: It was moved to accept the nominations of John Carruthers and Susan Robinson to the Audit Committee.

Moved by Clr.Wadden

Seconded by Clr.Dewar

Motion Carried

Motion: A motion was made to defer the nominations to the Riverton Guest Home and Climate Change Committee until legal advice could be sought regarding policy clarification on the number of terms a citizen appointment can service and if Council can extend the appointment.

Moved by: Clr. Wadden

Seconded by: Deputy Warden Murray

5 Nays – Clr. MacDonald, Clr. MacKeil, Warden Parker, Clr. Parker, Clr. Dewar.

Motion Carried

Motion: A motion was made to accept Lori McCullough to the Planning Advisory Committee.

Moved by: Warden Parker

Seconded by: Clr. Parker

Motion Carried

Motion: A motion was made to accept the nominations of Rae Gunn, Antonia Phillips and Susan Crowe to the Accessibility Awareness Committee.

Moved by: Deputy Warden Murray

Seconded by: Clr. Palmer.

Motion Carried

Motion: A motion was made to accept Kevin MacDonald to the Police Advisory Board.

Moved by: Clr. Palmer

Seconded by: Clr. Baillie

Motion Carried

Motion: It was moved to accept the nomination of Blake Ferguson to the Hector Arena Commission.

Moved by Clr. Baillie

Seconded by Warden Parker

Motion Carried

Motion: It was moved to accept both applicants John Carruthers and David Muse for the Rural Broadband Governance Oversight Committee.

Moved by Clr. Wadden

Seconded by Clr. MacDonald

Motion Carried

9.1.7 Nominations of Elected Members to the Rural Broadband Oversight Committee.

Motion: It was moved to appoint Clr. Turner, Clr. Baillie and Clr. Wadden as elected

members to the Rural Broadband Governance Oversight Committee.

Moved by Warden Parker

Seconded by Deputy Warden Murray

Motion Carried

9.1.8 International Network of Michelin Cities

Motion: It was moved to accept staff's recommendation of joining the International Network of Michelin Cities.

Moved by Deborah Wadden

Seconded by Randy Palmer

Nay Vote: Clr. Boyles

Motion Carried

10. DEFERRED BUSINESS

No deferred items were discussed.

11. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION

None brought forward.

12. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community announcements were made.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Clr. MacKeil declared the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

MUNICIPAL CLERK