

July 15, 2024

The Property 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, July 15, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

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

**ABSENT**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Sueann Musick, Director of Corporate Services (videoconference)  
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer  
Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services  
Rhiannon McNair, Dir. of Business Operations, Rural Broadband Project  
Adam MacInnis, Communications Officer  
Shellie Pettipas, Administrative Assistant

**CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Clr. Randy Palmer, Chair of the Property 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. Elliott said that the agenda should be approved as presented.

**Motion Carried**

## **EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS**

There were no emergency resolutions brought forward.

## **MINUTES**

Clr. Boyles asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for June 17, 2024. The members of the Committee entered no errors, omissions, or corrections. The Chair proclaimed the minutes of the meeting on June 17, 2024, as the official record of the meeting. **Motion Carried**

## **REPORTS**

### **PUBLIC WORKS AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

The Public Works and Development Report for June 2024 was received as presented.

Warden Parker asked when the Department of Public Works drops a road, do the rules change versus it being a public road regarding the size of the lot needed to build a home? The Warden was told that because it is not a public road, it would be required to be 25 acres.

Clr. Palmer said that the Department of Public Works does not drop roads; they still own them, but they may be no longer served.

Clr. Parker said that in discussion with Mr. Lewis, the Development Officer, nothing in the act states it must be 2.5 acres and that if approval for a septic system is obtained, it is eligible to be subdivided. It is about having an adequate septic system; if it is 2.3 or greater, there is always room. If wanting to divide off one-acre lots, it would have to go through the Department of Environment and hire a qualified person to design the system. Clr. MacKeil said that is important to get clarification on this.

### **DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REPORT**

The Development Officer Report for June 2024 was received as presented.

## **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. Parker and seconded by Clr. MacKeil is to have Jeramie Lewis, Development Officer, before the committee for clarification purposes. **Motion Carried**

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The Emergency Services Report for June 2024 was received as presented.

## **FIRE INSPECTOR REPORT**

The Fire Inspector Report for June 2024 was received as presented.

## **BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT**

The Building Inspector Report for June 2024 was received as presented.

## **BYLAW OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Bylaw Officer's Report for June 2024 was received as presented.

## **PARL REPORT**

Clr. Wadden said the budget update is 21%, which has been spent and is on target.

Clr. Wadden said that a funding review is underway with the province, and it is felt that there is a good representation of this committee. Assurance has been given that it will be very transparent, and CAOs will be getting updates, which should keep Councils updated. The three main issues being looked at are:

1. Technology and Costs
2. Cost of Collections
3. Salaries

Clr. Wadden said there is no doubt that library workers are grossly underpaid. For the most part, they are college graduates with specialized training, but their salaries do not reflect this. A consultant has been hired to compare the library's jobs to comparable jobs.

Clr. Wadden said the Pictou Hub is about 85% of the way through the project. There was a huge announcement about the support from the Sobeys Foundation and the naming of this facility. The former deCoste and the former Pictou Library have combined forces. The state-of-the-art facility will be called the deCoste, with "Culture Hub" as a secondary description of the building's programming. The sign will also introduce two main tenants, the deCoste Performing Arts Centre and the Murray Family Public Library. The Murray family were instrumental in launching this project and deserve to have their name associated with this much-anticipated facility. Clr. Wadden said that once the facility is officially opened, it is Clr. Wadden's plan is to have the Council recognize the people who were instrumental in having this project move forward.

Clr. Wadden said that the New Glasgow Library renovations budget was \$8M but had a response of \$15M. They are currently looking to reduce these costs and are raising more money for this project. The building is in dire need of an upgrade, and currently, staff are working in that building with no air conditioning.

Clr. Wadden said that Adopt A Library sponsors summer programs at the Library and that John Kennedy is to be commended for his great work on this endeavour.

The Community Pantry, in partnership with Humble Harvest, is being well received, and Foodbanks is fully supporting it. So far, 40 food container garden kits have been given out, and a student has been hired for their Community Garden.

A multi-cultural section is being worked on. There are now books in 18 different languages, and this continues to grow. Every Wednesday, there is a learning the English language session.

More fund-raising ideas are being encouraged, and Nicole LeBlanc and Mary MacLellan have agreed to serve on this committee. Clr. Wadden said the importance of how libraries are constantly pivoting to keep up with a community's needs cannot be stressed enough.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS OR ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION**

### **STREETLIGHT APPROVALS**

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Dewar to approve the installation of a streetlight in District 9 at 3654 Little Harbour Road, Frasers Mountain.

**Motion Carried**

### **EVAN MACDONALD ROAD WATER**

Clr. Boyles said that a resident of Evan MacDonald Road called concerning the wells going dry even after a new well was dug. The water quality in the area is very bad, and residents have been asking for some time if water could be put in that area.

### **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Dewar to have this item sent to an engineer for project details and approximate cost and for Council to decide if it is to be placed on the list of projects.

**Motion Carried**

## **MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION**

There were no motions of reconsideration.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Clr. Boyles said a Hillside School Reunion will be on Saturday, August 17, 2024, at the Hillside Community Hall from 2:00–9:00 p.m. The cost is \$5.00 per person. If interested, please call Edmund Anderson (902) 301-7013 or Clr. Peter Boyles at (902) 759-7976.

Clr. Parker said that on Friday, July 19, 2024, the Union Centre Community Hall will host a Strawberry Social for seniors from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. The Gairloch Church Community Group will prepare the meals.

Warden Parker said that the Salem & Area Recreation Association (SARA) will host its 2nd annual Music in the Park on Sunday, July 21, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

Clr. Dewar said that the Hopewell Ceilidh will once again be held. A new committee has been formed, and work has already begun. There will be a parade, food, and entertainment.

Clr. Elliott said the Toney River Annual Barbeque will be held on Sunday, July 28, 2024, and that live music will be played at the event this year.

Clr. Palmer said the East Pictou Rural Fair will be held from August 14-18, 2024. There will be a children's parade, pageant, horse pull, dunk tank, games, car show and road race. There is a strong committee consisting of a good group of younger people.

Clr. Palmer said over 70 kids registered this year for the summer recreation program. It is nice to see the larger turnout of children registered.

Clr. Butler said that 65 children are registered in District 1, which is a great reflection on the Recreation Department.

Clr. Thompson said that 43 children are registered in East River Valley. It is being hosted out of the Springville Recreation Park which recently completed renovations. Clr. Thompson gave a shout out to Mike Hecimovich for the renovations of a new heat pump and new electrical. Clr. Thompson said that the need is up and people are looking for places for children to go.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business before the meeting, so the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

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MUNICIPAL CLERK