

September 3, 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 Tuesday, September 3, 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 (videoconference)  
Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services (videoconference)  
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. Parker that the agenda be approved as presented. **Motion Carried**

## **EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS**

No emergency resolutions were brought forward.

## **ERRORS AND OMISSIONS/CORRECTION OF MINUTES**

Warden Parker asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for the August 6, 2024 Council Meeting. The minutes of the August 6, 2024, Council Meeting were reviewed by the Municipal Council. Warden Parker proclaimed the minutes of the meeting of August 6, 2024, as the official record of the meeting.

Clr. Wadden corrected a comment from Tim Houston, saying, "This is clear it is not a municipal issue," to say, "is a municipal issue" on page 20 of the minutes regarding the letter to the NSFM.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Thank you from Ryan's Case for Smiles for the Council Grant.
- b. Thank you from Camp Geddie for the Council Grant.
- c. Thank you from Pictou County Ground Search and Rescue for the Council Grant.
- d. Thank you from the Trenton Fire Department Lob Ball Tournament with the Recreation Grant.

## **PROCLAMATION: RIGHT TO KNOW WEEK SEPTEMBER 23-29, 2024**

### **PROCLAMATION RIGHT TO KNOW WEEK September 23 to September 29, 2024**

WHEREAS the **Municipality of the County of Pictou** has adopted the principles of openness, transparency and accountability; and

WHEREAS *Part XX* of the *Municipal Government Act* gives citizens a right of access to information in the custody or under the control of the **Municipality of the County of Pictou**; and

WHEREAS access to information ensures citizens of Nova Scotia have the opportunity for meaningful participation in the democratic process; and

WHEREAS a celebration of the right of citizens to access information will facilitate informed public participation in policy formulation, ensure fairness in government decision-making and permit the airing and reconciliation of divergent views; and

WHEREAS the **Municipality of the County of Pictou** joins all other Canadian jurisdictions and democracies world-wide in acknowledging International Right to Know Week;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, **Robert Parker Warden, of the Municipality of the County of Pictou**, do hereby proclaim September 23 to September 29, 2024, to be Right to Know Week in the **Municipality of the County of Pictou**.

**DATED at Pictou, Nova Scotia this the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2024.**

Sgd. \_\_\_\_\_  
**Robert Parker, Warden**

Warden Parker said that the provincial government will review the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPOP) on September 17, 2024. The review will be conducted virtually, allowing Councillors to provide input or have any questions answered.

**PRESENTATION: 144 CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING FLIGHT**

Mr. Roy Byrne, Chairman of the Community Advisory Board for 144 Construction Engineering Squadron (CES), presented to the Council.

Mr. Byrne said that the program looks for projects that benefit both parties. The goal is for members to receive valuable and cost-effective on-the-job training, and it cannot compete with local contractors.

The requesting agency bears material expenses, and the unit absorbs labour costs. Applications are screened on the last Thursday of each month to look at the value of the project; there must be technical value. Once the approval is done, a site visit is arranged. A not-for-profit number is required to have access to the program.

Training and job opportunities include carpenters, electricians, plumbing and heating technicians, refrigeration technicians, mechanics, drivers, resource managers, supply clerks, and heavy equipment operators.

The job is competitive with civilian pay, all the education is covered, and many opportunities exist. Mr. Byrne said the 1.2-million-dollar mark was just hit in materials purchased, which shows how much of an impact this has on a community.



ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE RESERVE

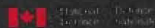
# 14 CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING SQUADRON (CES)

RISE ABOVE



APPLY TODAY

THIS IS FOR YOU



Canada

PART-TIME CAREER

# BIG-TIME OPPORTUNITIES

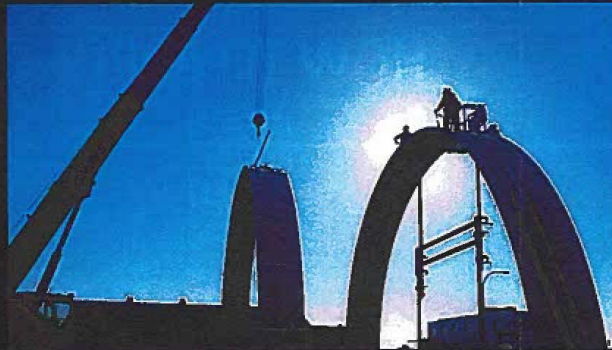
Learn and practice construction trade skills that are transferable to civilian life

Get hands-on experience

Secure stable and flexible employment opportunities



No experience necessary  
We provide ALL training  
WITH FULL PAY!



## WHAT YOU WILL DO

- » You will serve Canada while living in your own community
- » You may volunteer to deploy, domestically or abroad, in support of Canada's commitments
- » You may support construction maintenance at Canadian Forces Bases across Canada
- » You may participate in the construction of projects for your community that helps hone your skills



## OCCUPATIONS

### CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING OCCUPATIONS:

- » Construction Technician (Carpenter)
- » Plumbing and Heating Technician (Plumber)
- » Refrigeration and Mechanical Systems Technician (HVAC)
- » Electrical Distribution Technician (Electrician)
- » Electrical Generating Systems Technician (Power Generation)
- » Water, Fuels and Environmental Technician

### SUPPORT OCCUPATIONS:

- » Human Resources Administrator (HR)
- » Financial Services Administrator (Finance)
- » Mobile Support Equipment Operator (Heavy Equipment Operator / Transport)
- » Materiel Management Technician (Supply)



*"I feel respected and valued. I'm surrounded with people who genuinely care about my well-being, both personally and professionally."*

Colonel Corporal Elizabeth Sharples  
Human Resources Administrator

*"The friendships, experiences and opportunities are all things that you will not get anywhere else in the (civilian) work field."*

Corporal Kodie Powell  
Plumbing and Heating Technician

*"The diversity of work here makes no day like any other. Working with engineers allows me to learn practical skills while challenging myself."*

Corporal Monica Garneau  
Material Management Technician

*"I joined the CAF at 17 when I graduated from High School. Since joining, I've been all over Canada. After 20 years in this unit, I can say I made the right choice and wouldn't change a thing."*

Sergeant Christina Wynant  
Mobile Support Equipment Operator

## TESTIMONIALS

## HOW TO APPLY



Scan the QR Code\* to reach a local recruiter  
Send us an email to connect with us  
Or call 1-800-241-9349

### PAY & BENEFITS

Pay is based on your rank and whether you work part-time or full time.

#### Benefits include:

- » Competitive pension plan
- » Access to health insurance
- » Reimbursement program for post-secondary education to a maximum of \$3,000 during your career

### BASIC REQUIREMENTS

#### A successful candidate must:

- » be a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident
- » have completed at least Grade 10 or secondaire IV in Quebec
- » be between 16 and 57 years old and have parental consent if under age 18

### LOCATIONS

#### We are hiring in four locations known as Construction Engineering Flights (CEF):

- » 91 CEF Gardier, MI
- » 143 CEF Bridgewater, NS
- » 144 CEF Picton, NS
- » 192 CEF Aldergrove, BC

Clr. Boyles said this is a great organization and asked what the age limit on the program was. Mr. Byrne said the age range is between 17 and 60, and an extension can be given until age 65. Clr. Boyles said everyone appreciated the help at Hillside Hall, and the members did a great job.

Clr. David Parker expressed thanks to the members for the help with the spring tree plant held on May 13, 2024. Clr. Parker said that about a dozen members showed up and stayed and worked the whole time. The help was greatly appreciated and was a big help in making the event successful. Clr. Parker asked how many local reservists were

in the group. Mr. Byrne said that the numbers constantly change, but now, there are 49 positions and 38 members. Mr. Bryne said a few members are set to retire soon, but 15-20 people are on the base on a regular day. Clr. Parker said this program is particularly important so that people can earn a wage while receiving training. Clr. Parker said to keep up the good work.

Warden Parker heard that the program is extremely busy. Mr. Byrne said that planning in advance is essential. The Warden said this is a great opportunity, and people don't realize it could be a career. Mr. Byrne said the opportunities are endless, and it could be a long-term career.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS NOT REQUIRING ACTION**

The East River Business Park Business Development Report was received as presented.

Clr. Butler asked if there had been any movement regarding the new hotel to be built in the Business Park. Clr. Palmer said there was an announcement that the plan to begin work on this would start in 2025. Another project is being worked on, and the hotel will begin once it is finished.

Warden Parker said a call came in due to the traffic through the business park, especially big trucks using this as a shortcut. The Warden emailed Mr. MacFarlane to enquire if anything could be done about this through traffic. Sidewalks would help keep people safe, but there is no way to stop vehicles from going through.

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

#### **MUNICIPAL SERVICE GRANTS**

It was moved by Clr. Elliott and seconded by Clr. Parker to approve the following Municipal Service Grants: **Motion Carried**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** the Municipality of the County of Pictou approve the following Municipal Service Grants:

##### **District 2**

Little Harbour Community Centre	\$3,000.00	Install Water Purification System
Little Harbour Presbyterian Church	<u>\$7,000.00</u>	Offset Costs of Revovations
<b>TOTAL \$10,000.00</b>		

##### **District 4**

Melville Seafoam Community Hall	<u>\$3,500.00</u>	Upgrade to Kitchen
<b>TOTAL \$3,500.00</b>		

**District 12**

Hopewell 4-H

\$2,000.00

Operating Expenses for 4H Club

St. Columbia United Church

\$525.00

Battery for Lifepak

**TOTAL**

**\$2,525.00**

Dated at Pictou, NS, on this 3rd day of September 2024.

(Sgd)

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**Motion Carried  
Clr. Mary Elliott  
Clr. David Parker**

**MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. MacKeil to amend the Municipal Service Grants for District 12 to include Friends of Iona Park for a \$2,000.00 grant for maintenance and upkeep.

**Motion Carried**

**CLEAN NOVA SCOTIA FUNDING REQUEST**

It was moved by Clr. Turner and seconded by Clr. Wadden to approve the following Clean Nova Scotia Funding Request:

**Motion Carried**

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS** the Municipality of the County of Pictou’s Climate Change Advisory Committee has been working with Sydney Griffiths, Climate Lead for the Clean Foundation, to bring Quest Canada’s Net-zero Communities Accelerator Program to the municipality.

**WHEREAS** the Quest Canada’s Net-zero Communities Accelerator Program equips communities in Atlantic Canada with the tools and knowledge to develop and implement Community Energy and Emission Plans and to understand the net economic benefit they can provide, including benchmarking progress, peer-to-peer exchange and providing services that could bring local projects to life.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipality of the County of Pictou commit \$5,000.00 from the general operating budget to fund the Quest Net-zero Communities Accelerator Program.

Dated at Pictou, NS, on this 3rd day of September 2024.

(Sgd)

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**Motion Carried  
Clr. Larry Turner  
Clr. Deborah Wadden**

**RECREATION OPERATING GRANT**

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Turner to approve the following Recreation Operating Grant: **Motion Carried**

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS** The Little Harbour Community Centre is interested in hosting the Youth Leads Arts program for youth aged 7 to 15, which will develop the creative talents of the area's next community leaders.

**WHEREAS** the youth in this program excel in developing their visual arts, filmmaking, drama, and cooking skills and have significantly boosted their confidence through volunteering at community events.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipality of the County of Pictou approve a \$2,900.00 Recreation Grant for Little Harbour's Youth Lead Arts program.

Dated at Pictou, NS, on this 3rd day of September 2024.

(Sgd)

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**Motion Carried  
Clr. Deborah Wadden  
Clr. Larry Turner**

Warden Parker said that it was pleasing to see some grant money going toward an arts program in the community. This program will help some youth with some interests.

**AD HOC COMMITTEE ON LITTER**

It was moved by Clr. Butler and seconded by Clr. Boyles to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on Litter: **Motion Carried**

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS** the Municipality of the County of Pictou has beautiful landscapes, country roads, and scenic beaches often tarnished by litter.

**WHEREAS** the Municipality of the County of Pictou sees littering as a disrespectful action that needs to be addressed by this Council to keep our districts beautiful.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipality of the County of Pictou establish an Ad Hoc Litter Awareness Committee, a dedicated body comprised of three elected members and three citizen members, to effectively address the issue of littering. This committee will be established after the October 2024 Municipal Elections for a one-year term.

Dated at Pictou, NS, on this 3rd day of September 2024.

(Sgd)

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**Motion Carried  
Clr. Don Butler  
Clr. Peter Boyles**

**PICTOU ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT FUNDING**

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Clr. Palmer to approve the Pictou Island Fire Department funding increase: **Motion Carried**

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS** the Municipality of the County of Pictou has provided the Pictou Island Fire Department with a grant of \$6,000.00 per year for operational purposes since 2001.

**WHEREAS** the Pictou Island Fire Department, recognizing the increasing demands and responsibilities, formally requested in August 2024 an increase in the grant for operational and training purposes.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipality of the County of Pictou grant the Pictou Island Fire Department a total of \$16,000.00 from its 2024/2025 general operating budget.

Dated at Pictou, NS, on this 3rd day of September 2024.

(Sgd)

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**Motion Carried  
Clr. Darla MacKeil  
Clr. Randy Palmer**

## **NEW CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ELECTED MEMBERS**

CAO Cullen discussed the province's new Code of Conduct policy, which must be adopted within 60 days of the election. Mr. Cullen said that the existing Code of Conduct Policy will need to be amended to incorporate the items not in the current policy.

Mr. Cullen said the recommendations explain how a complaint would be handled. Complaints will be handled by an independent investigator, who the municipality is responsible for appointing. This person must have some form of training in conducting investigations and the rule of natural justice.

Warden Parker asked if the new or old Code of Conduct would be used for the swearing-in of the new Council. CAO Cullen said the old policy would be used when swearing in the new Council.

Clr. Boyles asked how this would work and if this would apply to the public. CAO Cullen said this would apply if a constituent were to file a complaint following an interaction. Mr. Cullen said it is broad, and the investigator would look at each circumstance individually.

Clr. Dewar said that if the province suggests this, then the province should pay the lawyers.

## **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

There was no deferred business.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Clr. Boyles said the Friday Night Jam sessions will start on Friday, September 6, 2024. The jam will take place at the Hillside Community Hall from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00, and lunch will be provided.

Clr. Parker said there will be an adult fundraising dance on Saturday, September 21, 2024, at Fraser's Barn in Pleasant Valley from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Admission will be \$10 or a free-will offering. The funds raised from this event will go to the Union Centre Community Hall.

The Pictou North Colchester Exhibition will be held from Wednesday, September 4, until Sunday, September 8, 2024, and Clr. Parker will be working at the back gate. The exhibition has had many challenges and has lost two long-time members. Clr. Parker said that 4-H is a large part of the exhibition, but several groups in the community depend on it. Clr. Parker encouraged everyone to attend the exhibition.

Clr. MacKeil is pleased to MC the Fiddle Fest at the Pictou North Colchester Exhibition on Saturday. Mr. Jack Ferguson is not feeling well, and this was one of Jack's

favorite parts of the exhibition. Clr. MacNeil said this event used to be a competition, but it has become a celebration of local fiddlers. Clr. MacKeil adores Mr. Ferguson and said the musicians will be playing for Jack. Clr. MacKeil is happy to be doing this and hopes to see everyone come out and enjoy the exhibition.

Clr. Thompson gave a shout-out to a group of community volunteers around Pictou County who have taken up the climate change initiative and are reducing their power bills. The group of non-profit buildings is part of the Pictou County Net Zero Community Buildings Project. Clr. Thompson said this project is community-led, has gone through Efficiency Nova Scotia's energy audits, and has identified about ¾ million dollars in rebates with efficiency upgrades and solar PV. Clr. Thompson said there are applications out for funding through provincial and federal sources to cover the remainder of the cost. The project started, and some buildings have used capital money to upgrade. Clr. Thompson said there is confidence that it will be finished within 3-4 months. The buildings involved in the project are the Abercrombie Community Centre, West Branch Community Centre, Toney River Community Centre, Elmfield Community Hall, Union Centre Community Centre, Plymouth Community Centre, Churchville Hall, Springville Church and Community Hall, East River Valley Recreation Park, MacDonald Rebekah Lodge, Lismore Community Centre, Merigomish Community Centre, Sutherland's River Community Centre, Blue Mountain Fire Department, Garden of Eden Community Centre, Pictou County Women's Resource and Sexual Assault Centre, Pictou Community New Horizons 50+ Club, Bridgeville Community Club, Ivor MacDonald Memorial Arena, Little Harbour Community Centre and the Star of the Sea Society. Clr. Thompson said these community groups have taken the leap to set an example for others to follow. There is a path for everybody to reduce energy costs drastically. Many of these groups are motivated to eliminate oil and power bills. Clr. Thompson commends these groups and looks forward to working with them.

For the 28<sup>th</sup> year, Warden Parker will participate in the Terry Fox Run on Sunday, September 15, 2024. The Warden said that even with the progress made after 44 years, people are still being lost to cancer. Warden Parker said that Jack Ferguson is known as Mr. Exhibition. Mr. Ferguson is presently in the Palliative Care Unit at Aberdeen Hospital. The Warden will be the MC at the opening of the exhibition. Mr. Fred Fox, Terry Fox's brother, will be in Pictou on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. and has been the driving force of keeping the run going. It is essential to keep this alive and to keep money coming in to help with research. Warden Parker will be accepting donations or sponsorships, and any help would be greatly appreciated.

### **MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION**

There were no motions of reconsideration.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Warden declared the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

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WARDEN

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MUNICIPAL CLERK