

December 2, 2019

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Monday, December 2, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Dist.	1	Clr. Don Butler
	2	Clr. Deborah Wadden
	4	Clr. Ronald Baillie
	5	Deputy Warden Murray
	6	Warden Robert Parker
	8	Clr. Larry Turner
	9	Clr. Peter Boyles
	10	Clr. Randy Palmer
	11	Clr. Andy Thompson
	12	Clr. Chester Dewar

ABSENT

Dist.	3	Clr. Darla MacKeil (Illness)
	7	Clr. D. Parker (Out of Province)

IN ATTENDANCE

Donn Fraser, Solicitor, MacIntosh, MacDonnell & MacDonald
Brian Cullen, CAO, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer
Carolyn MacIntosh, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Sueann Musick, Communication Officer
Jane Johnson, Recording Secretary

BY INVITATION

Ruth Thompson & Janet MacDonald, Plymouth Community Center
Kim Goodfellow & Cathy Hay, East River Valley Fire Department

CALL TO ORDER

Warden R. Parker called the meeting to order and requested that Councillors stand and take a moment in silence to pray or simply reflect, as may be their preference, to help Council focus and properly do the work of the Municipality.

AGENDA

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Turner that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

MINUTES

It was moved by Clr. Butler and seconded by Clr. Dewar that the minutes of October 21st and November 4th, 2019 be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- (a) Thank-You Note (uncirculated) for financial assistance has been received from the Pictou County Military Museum & Ryan Nelson/Kale Tibbel/Patricia Levy/Hallie Ellsworth (4-H Award Recipients)

RECOGNITION OF GROUPS & INDIVIDUALS (7:05 P.M.)

Clr. Thompson addressed Council as follows:

"Tonight, we recognize the accomplishments of two community owned organizations. The Plymouth Community and Recreation Association and the East River Valley Fire Department were successful applicants under the Department of Energy's Solar Electricity for Community Buildings Pilot Program. These two groups, through their applications, demonstrate local leadership on the issue of global warming.

Under the Solar Electricity for Community Buildings Program non-profits, municipalities, universities and First Nations were eligible to apply. Successful organizations enter into a 20 year Power Purchase Agreement with Nova Scotia Power. Under this agreement they will sell power produced back into the grid at a preferential rate.

The Plymouth Community Centre was persistent in their pursuit of a successful application. After being denied in the first year of the three year program they re-applied in year two and were selected in August 2018. They proved they were ready for the challenge as they fundraised and financed about two-thirds of the \$53,000 project. When the 22 kW, 72 panel system went live in February of this year they became the first operational system in Nova Scotia under this program. For the Plymouth Community Centre, installing a solar Photo Voltaic system makes the building energy self-sufficient, provides a revenue stream for the building and most importantly relieves the financial strain on this volunteer group. The building no longer relies on oil to heat the building. They have removed the chimney and plans are in the works to remove the furnace and oil tanks to the delight of their insurers. The project was funded through a Council Grant of \$10,000 from the municipality, donations from Sobeys Foundation (\$10,000), Watts Wind (\$10,000), SW Weeks (\$5,000), Pictou Mutual Community Foundation (\$2,500), Pictou County Excavators (\$1,000) along with some community donations. The balance of the project was financed through an ECO loan at the East Coast Credit Union. They will continue their energy efficiency in the coming years with the proceeds from the solar panels by installing energy efficient windows, updating light fixtures and insulating floors.

The East River Valley Fire Department was awarded in the final year of the pilot program. In fact, they were the only Pictou County applicant selected this year. Their 15kW, 48 panel system will be installed in the spring of 2020 in conjunction with the installation of a new steel roof. This project will lower the operating costs of the building and help this small rural fire department focus their energies on funding and maintaining their firefighting equipment. East River Valley Fire Department also plans to make energy efficient upgrades to their building to further reduce their reliance on carbon-based energy sources such as oil and coal-fired electricity.

Both of these projects were aided in their application by a local solar installer. Robert MacKean of Nova Sun Power of Toney River provided the technical expertise to complete the applications and in Plymouth's case a successful installation.

We recognize their accomplishments tonight as local leaders in the global climate change fight. These projects are examples for residents to follow.

Thank you for your commitment and effort in providing an example of what can be accomplished with hard work, determination and a commitment to their communities they serve.

Thank you for your successful efforts."

Certificates of recognition were presented to both groups by Warden R. Parker and Clr. Thompson for successfully qualifying under the NS Solar Electricity for Community Buildings Program.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- District 9 The Hillside Community Society will be hanging the Murray Quintuplets plaque at an Open House from 2 to 4 pm. on December 15th.
District 1 December 8th French River Social & Craft Sale from 2 to 4 pm.

PROPERTY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

Clr. Thompson presented the report of the Property Services Committee as follows:

PROPERTY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

For information purposes the Property Services Committee submits the following report on the activities of the Committee for the month of November:

1. Reviewed the reports of the Building Inspector, By-Law Enforcement Officer and Warden for the month of October.
2. Received an update on current projects. Both the River John Sidewalk Replacement Project and the Stanwood Drive/Barclay Ridge Road Improvement Project are progressing and should be completed shortly.
3. Discussed complaints regarding odors from the sewer lift stations at Hillside and Abercrombie. Public Works staff have been monitoring the Hillside location regularly and report no significant odors at this location. The odor from the Abercrombie location is expected to subside as more connections to the system take place.
4. Received a briefing on the Rural Fire Department Study. The contractor has started preliminary work with our GIS Technician and will be meeting with the Fire Chiefs as soon as possible to gather the data needed to complete the study.
5. Received 12 month notice from the Minister of Municipal Affairs of Government's intention to pass legislation amending the Workers' Compensation Act to mandate workers' compensation insurance coverage for all volunteer firefighters in the Province.
6. Agreed to write TIR asking for a speed limit reduction on the Old Alma Road, and that the department address the poor driving surface on that road.
7. Discussed the significant delays with the installation of new streetlights which are primarily attributable to wait times with NS Power, or inventory issues with the supplier of the fixtures. The Committee will be seeking regular updates from staff on new installations.
8. Agreed to form an Ad Hoc Committee to deal with climate change issues.
9. Met in closed session to discuss matters relating to the acquisition of municipal property.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 2nd day of December, 2019.

(Sgd.) Andy Thompson
Chester Dewar

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. Dewar that the preceding report be adopted as presented.

Motion carried.

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

Deputy Warden Murray presented the report of the Financial Services Committee as follows:

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

For information purposes the Financial Services Committee submits the following report on the activities of the Committee for the month of November:

1. Reviewed the list of Accounts paid for the month of October.
2. Reviewed the report of the Recreation Coordinator for the months of September & October and the report of the Communications Officer for the month of October.
3. Received a Project Status Report on the Rural High-Speed Internet Project.
4. Agreed on improvements to the Low Income Tax Exemption Policy. (Resolution to follow)
5. Considered staff recommendations for tax account write-offs. (Resolution to follow)
6. Agreed to recommend the addition of property at 27 Chance Harbour Road, Hillside recently acquired by the Hillside Community Society to Schedule "A" of the Tax Exemption & Tax Reduction Policy. (Resolution to follow)
7. Received a briefing from the CAO on the CAP Assessment Value on the current Assessment Role (compared to the previous 2 years), and what anticipated changes may be implemented by the Province of Nova Scotia in pending legislation.
8. Approved \$150 Christmas Bonuses for Administrative Staff.
9. Agreed on text for a policy regarding the selection of a "Volunteer of the Year". (Resolution to follow)
10. Agreed to send correspondence to the organizers of the Pinty's Grand Slam Tour Challenge congratulating them on delivering a world class curling event.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 2nd day of December, 2019.

(Sgd.) Wayne Murray
Don Butler

MOTION

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Butler that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented.

Motion carried.

MAP COMMITTEE

Clr. Wadden reported that the MAP Committee had their symposium in Amherst on Nov 20th. This was a coming together of our Northern Health services and MAP committees from Colchester, Cumberland and Pictou Counties as well as other municipal councillors and staff. Our MAP committees are trying to re-focus after almost two years of trying to work through the harms we felt could be encountered with the legalization of cannabis. Our committee was originally put together to deal with the harms of alcohol and we felt it was time for all northern committees to come together and determine where we go from here. We

had three guest speakers, Dr Ryan Somers who spoke to the data we have concerning the use of alcohol especially amongst the youth, the effect excessive drinking is having on our health care especially the costs associated. One interesting fact was the costs associated with the province dealing with the issues surrounding alcohol and its use was much higher than the revenue taken in by alcohol sales. We have a serious health care situation in this province and the data is there to prove the way we consume alcohol in this province is putting a great deal of strain on this problem. Another interesting fact, St FX University has once again been named top party university across Canada with Acadia being number 3 by MacLean's Magazine. Dan Steeves, of Addiction Services spoke to the way alcohol is promoted especially to young women and men and the effect this is having on them with such issues as body image, self-esteem and what they view as social norms. Interesting fact from this presentation was the view our immigrant population are seeing with alcohol consumption in this province. Most of their cultures do not have the same social norms they see happening in NS especially surrounding the use and consumption of alcohol in this province. Our history was primarily working on the sea, coalminers, forest workers and heavy industry workers and this has clearly impacted our understanding of how alcohol should be consumed. Our final speaker was Police Chief MacNeil who spoke to the impacts of alcohol on our Justice System. Again, no big secret here, costs to the municipalities for policing is driven hard by the consumption of alcohol and in many cases addiction to alcohol and/or drugs. For such a small province, we are leading our whole country with the use and consumption of alcohol and cannabis. Children are consuming alcohol as young as 12 in this province. The gap between boys and girls and men and women is really narrowing. It wasn't so long ago, males dominated the consumption of alcohol, well that gap between males and females has really narrowed and now both groups are almost 50/50 especially amongst the youth. Interesting fact here when surveyed, boys overall drink to relax in social surroundings whereas girls drink to party. That is a very scary statistic.

After the presentations we had table discussions to come up with primary topics that our MAP committees can focus on as we proceed and get back on track with alcohol harms but keeping our eyes on drug and vaping issues. We are in the process of sorting through the information and hopefully will have another course of action for our MAP committee.

I was disappointed there was no other municipal representative from all of Pictou County at this seminar even other committee members were not available. I know everyone is busy, I'm busy too, but this committee was agreed upon by our respective councils and the NSFM. In order for MAP to continue we need the commitment to continue the work of this committee. Dealing with alcohol harms is costing our municipalities many tax dollars - look at policing costs and they are costing our province many tax dollars - look at our health care. To make any changes to this problem will take elected officials to lead the way. Policies and By-laws are extremely important to lead these necessary changes. Members on this committee are not Prohibitionists or tea teetotalers. There is definitely a need for alcohol in our society but it doesn't have to be front and center. We would like to see our provincial numbers on these harms be reduced. These are our children and grandchildren we are trying to help.

I would like to ask Council's permission to have Dan Steeves come to Council and do a presentation for us. Dan was one of the organizers who helped initiate the need for MAP committees across the province. I do feel this Council could benefit to help understand why MAP is important and Dan would be a very knowledgeable presenter.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Turner that Council invited Mr. Dan Steeves, Addiction Services, Province of Nova Scotia to a meeting with Council to discuss the role of the MAP Committee.

Motion carried.

LYME DISEASE CONFERENCE

Clr. Boyles informed Council that he attended the Lyme Disease Conference in Bridgewater recently. It was a quick paced with presentations from physicians, Lyme researchers and patients. Guest presenters were Dr. Jennifer Cram (Medical Officer of Health Western Zone Nova Scotia), Dr. Todd Hatchette (Chief Division of Microbiology Dept. of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Capital District H.A.), Dr. Joanne Langley (CIHR-GSK Chair in Pediatric Vaccinology, Dalhousie University & Infectious Diseases

Specialist, IWK), Dr. Vett Lloyd, (Professor, Mt. Allison Univ. working on tick biology founding member of the Mount Allison tick & Lyme Disease Network & Canadian Lyme Consortium), Dr. Ralph Hawkins, (Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Calgary, Internal Medicine & Lyme Specialist, Dr. Jack Lambert, (Infectious Diseases Specialist, Lyme Resource Center at Mater Hospital, Dublin), Dr. John Ross, (Senior Academic Physician, Queen Elizabeth II Health Science Center, Professor of emergency Medicine, Dalhousie University). These doctors pointed out that ticks carry a lot of other diseases and when you deal with Lyme it is a war. Western Nova Scotia is the most affected at 40% of ticks in Nova Scotia and Pictou County is at 25%. Lyme is getting worse because of climate change and black legged ticks hook onto mice to survive the winter. If you have a wood pile you should take care because the ticks get between the bark and wood so then can get on you. There was discussion on people living alone and how would they check themselves for ticks. The United Kingdom has a Minister of Loneliness for people living alone and a lot of people with chronic Lyme disease die from suicide. The big message was no matter what your doctor says do not rule out Lyme disease. People do not realize that Lyme is like Aids used to be and it is getting worse and we better be prepared for it.

RURAL INTERNET PROJECT

The CAO reported that data collection is complete in areas 8, 7, 4 and 5 with progress in areas 1, 2 and 3. The focus at present is on ring 8 the main ring area and it will provide the template for the other rings. Area 7 includes the fiber connection to Truro but one of the issues identified is getting fiber across the causeway. The wireless engineering is continuing so they are looking at where towers will be needed and specific tower heights. Make ready is probably the biggest unknown at this point, however the indications from work that has gone on out in the field was an assumption that 50% of the poles needed to be replaced. The work that has taken place out in the field would say that number was on the high side so that will somewhat drive the option of what we would do in regards to installing our own poles or use NSP and Bell poles. The Non-Dominant Carrier Status application has been submitted to the Federal Government and contact has been made with the REN and NSBI.

Warden R. Parker asked if there was an up-date regarding Develop NS and the CAO replied they are still working through their process. The CAO informed Council the new CRTC Fund is now open for applications with a March, 2020 deadline.

RESOLUTION – LOW INCOME TAX EXEMPT. POLICY

Clr. Dewar presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council adopt the following policy with respect to low income tax exemptions:

POLICY #2019-12-11



MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU LOW INCOME TAX EXEMPTION POLICY

In accordance with the provisions of Section 69 of the Municipal Government Act, being Chapter 18 of the Statutes of Nova Scotia, 1998, the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou hereby enacts the following policy with respect to low income tax exemption:

1. In this policy "income" shall be as defined in Section 69 (1) of the Municipal Government Act and means a person's total income from all sources for the calendar year preceding the fiscal year of the Municipality, and includes the income of all other members of the same family residing in the same household, but does not include an allowance paid pursuant to the *War Veterans Allowance Act (Canada)* or pension paid pursuant to the *Pension Act (Canada)*.

2. An exemption from taxation in an amount not exceeding \$200.00 shall be granted for a person assessed with respect to taxable property in the Municipality of the County of Pictou who is a resident of the Municipality, and whose income from all sources for the year preceding the year for which the exemption is sought is less than \$25,000.00.
3. The exemption extends only to the property occupied by the applicant as his/her principal residence.
4. A person applying for an exemption shall make an affidavit confirming the person's income.
5. The deadline for filing an application for a low income tax exemption shall be March 31st annually.

REPEAL

All former policies with respect to low income tax exemptions are hereby repealed.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 2nd day of December, 2019.

(Sgd.) Chester Dewar
Andy Thompson

MOTION

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – TAX WRITE-OFFS

Clr. Wadden presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

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

<u>ACCOUNT #</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>REASON</u>
08839174	MR MacDonald Holdings & Clarence A. MacDonald	\$ 210.89	Duplicate Assessment
08839182	MR MacDonald Holdings & Clarence A. MacDonald	210.89	Duplicate Assessment
05630681	Jack Rankin	727.84	Removed from Assessment Roll in 2016
00604348	Florence & Robert Cameron	2,655.34	Removed from Assessment Roll in 2010
08253641	Cape John Seafoods	6,916.98	Uncollectible Business Occupancy Tax

00644056	Canadian National Railway	66.48	Sold to PNS & Removed from Assessment Roll
00644048	Canadian National Railway	759.92	Sold to PNS & Removed from Assessment Roll
10294908	Brandon Rhyno	<u>927.83</u>	Duplicate Assessment
		\$12,476.17	

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 2nd day of December, 2019.

(Sgd.) Deborah Wadden
Ronald Baillie

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Baillie that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – TAX EXEMPT. & TAX REDUCTION POLICY

Clr. Boyles presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that the Tax Exemption and Tax Reduction Policy be amended to add the following to “Schedule A”:

AAN	OWNER	PROPERTY	EXTENT OF APPLICATION	CHARITABLE #
04564162	Hillside Community Society	Lands & Buildings at 27 Chance Harbour Rd., Hillside	The whole of the lands & buildings at Hillside of the owner	

DATED at Pictou, NS this 2nd day of December, 2019.

(Sgd.) Peter Boyles
Larry Turner

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Turner that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR POLICY

Clr. Butler presented a resolution to Council as follows:



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR RECOGNITION POLICY

Purpose

1. To recognize volunteer contributions that take place in the Municipality of Pictou County;
2. To recognize volunteer contributions of individuals residing in the Municipality of Pictou County.

Objective

3. To establish a process for nominating and selecting volunteers to be recognized that is fair and consistent;
4. To identify criteria upon which volunteers are selected for nomination.

Background

5. Each year the Municipality of Pictou County honors the work of their hard-working volunteers at a reception dinner during Provincial Volunteer Week. During this reception, volunteers are recognized for their work in the community, including the individual selected to represent the Municipality at the Provincial Volunteer Awards.

Criteria

6. Individuals nominated for recognition must meet one or more of the following requirements to be eligible for participation:
 - a. Nominees must be residents of the Municipality of Pictou County, or
 - b. Nominees must volunteer for a community/recreation/sport group within the Municipality of Pictou County;
 - c. An individual may not be nominated for recognition if they have received the award within the last 5 years.

Selection Process

7. A call for nominations will be sent out through local and social media.
 - a. Nominee applications are reviewed and selected by Council. Councillors will independently select their top 3 choices for recognition and submit them to staff. Staff will then score the top 3 volunteers selected by Council members based on a points system. Three points will be scored for first place, two points for second place, and one point for third place. The nominee with the highest number of points will be selected as the "Volunteer of the Year".

Repeal

All former policies and/or practices with respect to the nomination and selection of a "Volunteer of the Year" are hereby repealed.

DATED at Pictou, NS. this 2nd day of December, 2019.

(Sgd.) Don Butler
Wayne Murray

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Butler and seconded by Deputy Warden Murray that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented.

Clr. Boyles informed Council that the Volunteer of the Year should live in the County.

Motion carried. (Nay Vote: Clr. Boyles)

RESOLUTION – BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT – NSBDI LAND

Clr. Thompson presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Municipality of the County of Pictou and the Town of New Glasgow have created a municipal body corporate, named the New Scotland Business Development Incorporated for the purpose of development of a business park on lands adjacent to current municipal boundaries between the two municipal units;

WHEREAS New Scotland Business Development Incorporated purchased three parcels of land of which one parcel identified by Property Identification Number 65149395 is located within the current boundaries of the Town of New Glasgow;

WHEREAS New Scotland Business Development Incorporated prefers all three parcels of land be located within one municipal boundary;

WHEREAS section 357 of the Municipal Government Act, S.N.S. 1998 c. 18 requires that a Municipality make an application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board for an amendment to municipal boundaries;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipality of the County of Pictou enter into an agreement with the Town of New Glasgow to change the mutual municipal boundary between the Municipality and the Town so as to include the lands now within the current geographic boundaries of the Town which are owned by the New Scotland Business Development Inc., and identified by PID No. 65149395, within the intended changed geographic boundaries of the Municipality.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipality (on its own behalf or jointly with the Town) thereafter make an application to the Nova Scotia Utility & Review Board, pursuant to section 357 of the Municipal Government Act, SNS 1998. Section 18, as amended, requesting such a change to the mutual municipal boundary.

DATED at Pictou, NS this the 2nd day of December 2019.

Sgd. Andy Thompson
Larry Turner

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. Turner that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented.

Clr. Boyles reported that the annexation should be looked at further before we make this change.

MOTION TO TABLE

It was moved by Clr. Boyles that the preceding motion be tabled for further study. There was no seconder to the motion.

The CAO reported that the boundary adjustment moves the land into the County so the tax rates would decrease, making property in the park more attractive to prospective buyers.

Clr. Thompson reported that this will attract potential investors because the County has the lowest tax rate for industrial land in Northern Nova Scotia.

Motion carried. (Nay Vote: Clr. Boyles)

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

The CAO informed Council that the closing of the Westville Road School which was scheduled for two weeks ago was extended due to an issue with the title of the property. The issue involves a piece of land acquired by the School Board for the expansion of the building. Since all of the lands are not owned by the Municipality, we are working to get the School Board to provide a quit claim deed to the Municipality for the portion that was acquired by the Board.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES & NOTICES OF MOTION

Clr. Boyles reported that he was approached by Clr. Proudfoot from the Town of New Glasgow asking that both Councils meet to discuss the new Scotland Business Park.

Clr. Boyles thanked Council on behalf of the Linacy Fire Department for being their guarantor so they could purchase a tanker truck and advised that the loan has now been paid in full.

Clr. Butler asked to have a discussion on liability insurance at community facilities due to increasing costs.

Warden R. Parker informed Council that we are going to try and market local products in all our districts. People do not know where to buy these products so we want them to be able to go on this website to find available products and where they can go to get them.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Dewar that the meeting adjourn.
Motion carried. (8:10 p.m.)

Robert Parker
Warden

Brian Cullen
Municipal Clerk