

February 3, 2020

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Monday, February 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Dist.	1	Clr. Don Butler
	2	Clr. Deborah Wadden
	3	Clr. Darla MacKeil
	4	Clr. Ronald Baillie
	5	Deputy Warden 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

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 APPOINTMENT

Mr. Brad Nichols

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 with the addition of an update on the Abercrombie intersection.
Motion carried.

MINUTES

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the minutes of January 6, 2020 be approved as presented.
Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- (a) Thank-You Notes (uncirculated) for financial assistance have been received from Little Harbour Walking & Bicycling Trail Society, John James MacDonald (80th Birthday Certificate), United Way of Pictou County (Donation IMO the Late Wm. Aubrey Cullen)

Clr. Turner reported that he sent an email to Mr. Greg Chisholm TIR requesting an update on the Abercrombie Intersection. Mr. Chisholm replied as follows:

“The intersection upgrade from a signalized intersection to a modern roundabout has been placed on a priority list as a potential project for consideration under a future capital program. We plan on conducting field survey in the near future to enable design work to commence. I have also followed up on the posted speed review for the various approaches which we previously discussed and expect a decision to be made on this in the very near future.”

PRESENTATION – BRAD NICHOLS (7:10 P.M.)

Mr. Nichols met with Council and referred to the property that was sold in the New Scotland Business Park to Parsons Development. He was of the understanding that the property was assessed at \$330,000 and sold for \$143,000 so he was concerned if the assessed value of his property continues to increase he will not be able to sell it for that price. He asked if County money was spent on the New Scotland Business Park regarding infrastructure and Warden R. Parker replied that it is a shared development between the County and the Town of New Glasgow.

Mr. Nichols asked if there was 80/20 work done on the infrastructure work and the CAO responded that the business park was bought after the infrastructure was put in place.

Mr. Nichols pointed out that it was brought to his attention that another tender was out for work in that area.

Clr. Thompson replied a tender was put out for a lift station and C.F. Construction was awarded the tender.

Mr. Nichols asked if the 80/20 rule was associated with that contract and Clr. Thompson replied it would be part of the municipal agreement.

Mr. Nichols reported that he approached Council some time ago to find a way so he could have access to municipal work which fell under the 80/20 rule. Mr. Nichols pointed out that Council could not find a way give him access to that work so he went to the Provincial Government. They found an avenue so that he could be included in that work but when he met with Council he did not receive any satisfaction. He went to Small Claims Court and filed a Small Claims suit against the Pictou County Truckers Association and informed Council that he won that claim. He has a ruling from the Small Claims Court and the Provincial Government but he could not get a ruling from this Council and he is troubled by that. He did not do anything wrong to have his membership denied and he did not receive any County work. He hopes in the future if someone finds themselves in the predicament he was in that Council will not bury its head in the sand. Mr. Nichols read the judge's ruling as follows:

“However, the Association failed to follow its own rules and placed itself in a position that it now finds itself in, whereas they must pay the claimant (a certain amount of money) in damages.”

Clr. Palmer asked Mr. Nichols what he meant by the County took no action and Mr. Nichols replied that he asked Council to find a way so he could have access to County Work.

Clr. Palmer asked if he was able to get County work at present and Mr. Nichols replied he was but the year he came to Council he was not able to get County work.

Clr. Palmer asked Mr. Nichols if he received compensation through Small Claims Court and he responded not for County work. Mr. Nichols explained he was reimbursed through the court system for damages and lost revenue for 2018.

Warden R. Parker thanked Mr. Nichols for his concerns and questions and excused him from the balance of the meeting. (7:20 p.m.)

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- District 1 Tickets for the Lismore Dinner Theatre will go on sale, February 15th, 10 to 12 pm shows run this year on March 6, 7 and 8.
- District 9 Linacy Fire Department, Soup & Dessert, February 7th, \$6.
Hillside Community Association Valentine's day Dance, February 4th, 8 to 1 am.
- District 6 February is Black History Month, Mayors & Warden will be signing a Proclamation at Glasgow Square at 11:45 am.
Following the proclamation from 2 to 4 pm at the Museum of Industry, Walk through Africville.
The Pan African flag will be raised out in front of the administration building this month.

PROPERTY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

Clr. Thompson reported the Property Services Committee Report 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 January:

1. Met with the Regional Manager of EHS Northeastern Region to better understand the distribution and management of local resources to minimize response times for ambulances.
2. Met with representatives from Citizens for a Healthy Pictou County for a briefing on efforts to support doctor recruitment in Pictou County which are being funded by all six municipal units.
3. Reviewed the reports of the Building Inspector, By-Law Enforcement Officer and Warden for the month of December.
4. Discussed plans for consultants to be in the area by the end of the month to meet with local fire departments.
5. Discussed a request for intersection lights in District 11. (Resolution to follow)
6. Approved the installation of several conventional streetlights on Alma Road, Alma from Highway 4 to the Northumberland Regional High School.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 3rd day of February, 2020.

(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.

Clr. Turner reported that he attended a meeting of the Abercrombie Fire Department and there were questions regarding the consultants and when they are going to meet with the fire departments.

Warden R. Parker replied at the last meeting of the Fire Liaison Committee it was noted the consultants were coming to meet with the fire chiefs the second week in February.

Clr. Wadden asked if some of the times can be changed when the consultants are going to meet with the fire chiefs.

The CAO responded there is some flexibility but they cannot meet with everyone in the evening. He pointed out that it does not have to be the fire chiefs so it could be anyone in the fire department.

Motion carried.

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

Clr. D. Parker 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 January:

1. Reviewed the list of Accounts Paid for the month of December.
2. Reviewed the Recreation Report and the Communications Report for the month of December.
3. Considered several requests for funding. (Resolution to follow)
4. Considered requests to issue charitable tax receipts for capital improvement projects in District 11. (Resolutions to follow)
5. Agreed to send letters to the Chignecto-Central Regional Centre for Education in support of the West Pictou Consolidated School Advisory Council's efforts to make improvements to janitorial services at the school to address health and safety concerns, and in support of efforts to improve safety and programming in the gymnasium.
6. Met in closed session to discuss matters relating to contract negotiations and provided direction to staff. An issue involving solicitor-client privilege was deferred to another meeting.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 3rd day of February, 2020

(Sgd.) David Parker
Ronald Baillie

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. Baillie that the preceding report be adopted as presented.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – FUNDING REQUESTS

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the payment of the following Municipal Grants:

Recreation:

Scotsburn Recreation Assoc.	150.00	Clr. Allotment – Improvements @ J P Gammon Rec. Centre
Watervale Recreation Centre	150.00	Clr. Allotment – Heating Expenses

Pictou-North Colchester Exhibition	150.00	Clr. Allotment – Operating Expenses
Hillside Community Society	<u>150.00</u>	Clr. Allotment – Recreation Exp.
	\$ 600.00	

Municipal Services:

D02 Little Hbr. Walking/Biking Soc.	\$ 20.59	Extension of time to Jan. 31/21 to use unspent balance for benches & supplies
D02 Frank H. Elem./EP Middle Sch.	\$ 1,000.00	Extension of time to Jan 31/21 to purchase breakfast pgm. supplies
D04 River John & Dist. Lions Club	\$ 3,500.00	Extension of time to Jan. 31/21 to Complete deck repairs & painting
D09 Frank H. Elem./EP Middle Sch	\$ 1,000.00	Extension of time to Jan 31/21 to purchase breakfast pgm. Supplies
D11 Blue Mountain Fire Department	\$ 1,500.00	Equipment Purchases

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 3rd day of February, 2020.

(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 – SPRINGVILLE ACCESS-ABILITY PROJECT

Clr. Thompson presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Municipality of the County of Pictou is registered with the Canada Revenue Agency as a qualified donee;

WHEREAS the Income Tax Act permits qualified donees to issue official donation receipts for income tax purposes;

WHEREAS the Springville Church Hall has requested that the Municipality receive donated funds for the Springville ACCESS-ability Project and issue charitable tax receipts to respective donors;

WHEREAS the Financial Services Committee supports this request and recommends that the Municipality's charitable tax number be used for that purpose;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council authorize the collection of charitable donations to the Springville ACCESS-ability Project and the issuance of charitable tax receipts for same.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 3rd day of February, 2020.

(Sgd.) Andy Thompson
Chester Dewar

MOTION

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

RESOLUTION – EAST RIVER VALLEY SOLAR PROJECT

Clr. Thompson presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Municipality of the County of Pictou is registered with the Canada Revenue Agency as a qualified donee;

WHEREAS the Income Tax Act permits qualified donees to issue official donation receipts for income tax purposes;

WHEREAS the East River Valley Fire Department has requested that the Municipality receive donated funds for the East River Valley Solar Project and issue charitable tax receipts to respective donors;

WHEREAS the Financial Services Committee supports this request and recommends that the Municipality's charitable tax number be used for that purpose;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council authorize the collection of charitable donations to the East River Valley Solar Project and the issuance of charitable tax receipts for same.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 3rd day of February, 2020.

(Sgd.) Andy Thompson
Chester Dewar

MOTION

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

RESOLUTION – PLYMOUTH EFFICIENCY PROJECT

Clr. Thompson presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Municipality of the County of Pictou is registered with the Canada Revenue Agency as a qualified donee;

WHEREAS the Income Tax Act permits qualified donees to issue official donation receipts for income tax purposes;

WHEREAS the Plymouth Community Centre has requested that the Municipality receive donated funds for the Plymouth Efficiency Project and issue charitable tax receipts to respective donors;

WHEREAS the Financial Services Committee supports this request and recommends that the Municipality's charitable tax number be used for that purpose;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council authorize the collection of charitable donations to the Plymouth Efficiency Project and the issuance of charitable tax receipts for same.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 3rd day of February, 2020.

(Sgd.) Andy Thompson
Chester Dewar

MOTION

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – D11 INTERSECTION ST. LIGHTS

Clr. MacKeil presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou has adopted a policy with respect to the provision of street lighting at intersections in areas where residential street lighting does not exist;

WHEREAS this policy is intended to aid in the safe passage of motor vehicles on public streets or roads and pedestrian traffic at street intersections and other pedestrian infrastructure in a manner which is both affordable and adequate for vehicular and pedestrian traffic;

WHEREAS the Property Services Committee has considered a request for the installation of two intersection street lights in District #11 at the approaches to the bridge in Sunny Brae;

WHEREAS the Director of Public Works & Development has carried out an analysis of the area including a review of traffic volume counts, the condition of the roads, speed limits, and the lack of flashing beacons or signalized traffic control;

WHEREAS the Director of Public Works & Developments agrees that the circumstances are sufficient to warrant 2 lights at this location;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the installation of two intersection street lights, in accordance with Policy #2016-03-34 in District #11 at the approaches to the bridge in Sunny Brae.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 3rd day of February, 2020.

(Sgd.) Darla MacKeil
Andy Thompson

MOTION

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – RETURNING OFFICER & PLO

Deputy Warden Murray presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that, in accordance with section 4 of the Municipal Elections Act, Council approve the following appointments for a term ending November, 2023:

Returning Officer: Josephine MacDonald
Assistant Returning Officer: Donna MacLean

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED by Council that for the 2020 Municipal Election the Preliminary List of Electors be prepared from the Permanent Register of Electors maintained for provincial or federal elections.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 3rd day of February, 2020.

(Sgd.) Wayne Murray
Ronald Baillie

MOTION

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

Clr. Thompson asked if the Returning Officer will be working with the other municipal units and the CAO replied at this point they had discussions with the other units about the sale of service so there is interest from 2 or 3 units.

Clr. Thompson asked when we will decide if we are going to continue with electronic voting and the CAO replied a decision should be brought forward in March. There will be a presentation to the Mayors & Warden on electronic voting in March. HRM issued a Request for Proposals for electronic voting services so the offer that was extended to Halifax must also be extended to all municipalities in the province.

Clr. Boyles asked will 2 officers be enough if the County has more municipal units involved in the election process.

Motion carried.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

There were no emergency resolutions.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES & NOTICES OF MOTION

Clr. Boyles asked has anything been done about the landfill vouchers in regards to changing the amounts to 500 lbs.

The CAO responded they are working on that with the Manager of Pictou County Solid Waste so hopefully there will be a recommendation for the next Committee meeting.

Warden R. Parker reminded Council there is 1 week left until the February 10th deadline for volunteer nominees.

CLOSED SESSION

Council met in Closed Session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss matters relating to legal advice eligible for solicitor-client privilege, and matters relating to contract negotiations.

OPEN SESSION

Council resumed in open session at 9:35 p.m.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Deputy Warden Murray that the meeting adjourn.
Motion carried. (9:35 p.m.)

Robert Parker
Warden

Brian Cullen
Municipal Clerk