

June 8, 2020

The Committee of Council as a Whole for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met by teleconference/videoconference on Monday, June 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Wayne Murray, Deputy Warden

Robert Parker, Warden, Vice-Chair

Don Butler

Deborah Wadden

Darla MacKeil

Ronald Baillie

David Parker

Larry Turner

Peter Boyles

Randy Palmer

Andy Thompson

Chester Dewar

IN ATTENDANCE

Brian Cullen, CAO, Municipal Clerk-Treasurer

Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer

Carolyn MacIntosh, Deputy Municipal Clerk

Sueann Musick, Communications Officer

Jane Johnson, Recording Secretary

AGENDA

Clr. D. Parker requested an opportunity to present a brief report on behalf of the Adult Residential Center Board.

The CAO reported that he had an addition to the closed session the East Pictou Middle School.

MINUTES

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the minutes of May 25, 2020 be approved with the following correction:

Pg. 4 "he circulated pictures of properties last year" should read "he circulated pictures of properties last month".

Motion carried.

COVID-19 UPDATE

The CAO reported that on Friday afternoon the Province provides updates on various event and last Friday it was graduation ceremonies and events. They went from no graduations to graduations and now there are graduation events with municipalities having to approve them, without any prior consultation with the municipalities which has created a great deal of frustration. We were never responsible for school functions in the past and it is not the municipalities' job to comply with health orders as they relate to schools. The REMO team met with the not-for-profit sectors (Kids First, United Way and the Aberdeen Health Foundation). They are going to compile a report on the activities they have been doing. REMO has been in contact with not-for-profits doing regular check-ins, and a gaps analysis to see that every group is covered. In regard to the municipal election we made our decision on going electronic and New Glasgow is leaning that way and Stellarton has made the decision to go that way as well.

Warden R. Parker added that there is a lot of confusion around graduations and who is doing what. The graduation has to be run by an organization in the community and not the parents so that is why the municipalities were suggested. There was an offer from the drive-in theater to have graduation ceremonies there. He was talking to the Mayor of New Glasgow to see what the students want.

The CAO reported on the NSFM call and one of the criticisms over the last weeks is that the Department of Municipal Affairs is given little to no notice of the announcements being made by the Premier or Dr. Strang at the 3:00 pm press briefings.

RURAL INTERNET UPDATE

The CAO reported that the make-ready report was completed and we have been advised by Bell that 95% of the application has been validated and they are seeking clarification on a few items. 4 of the 5 outstanding items have been addressed and the remaining issue around insurance certificates will be uploaded to the portal shortly. This week there is a virtual conference and he was invited thru i-Valley to speak on his experience. At the conference today the Minister spoke on the Universal Broadband Fund that will open up in the next ten days. The Federal Government is looking to partner with First Nations and municipalities and any group that can accelerate their investment. The overall concept of the conference is where communities are going and challenges, they face across Canada. The urban and rural divide is significant and it is one of the major barriers. It is not all about money because it is a very regulated market and that environment needs to change. We are one of three municipalities doing community-based projects and i-Valley is present at this conference pitching our project as well.

Warden R. Parker reported that he was glad the CAO was taking part in that conference and pleased to hear the Federal Government is more interested in changing the ways things are being done to make it more open for municipalities. He recalled discussions around July 15th as a potential date to start construction and asked if that date will be achieved.

The CAO reported that they met internally on Friday to set that game plan in motion so we are working on that this week. Hopefully we will be building Phase 1 by July 15th so that is our goal and he will also be speaking with Joe Hickey over the next day or two.

Clr. Palmer referred to the Federal Government's \$6 Billion and asked if it will be going through the Province and the CAO replied there was no indication of that as the Minister today indicated they were going to work directly with the municipalities.

Clr. Wadden reported her understanding we were using NSP poles and the CAO clarified that they are joint use but Bell does most of the administrative side. The CAO reported he believes the majority of poles in Phase 1 are Bell poles.

MOTION - BUILDING INSPECTION REPORTS – FEB./MAR. & APR.

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the Building Inspection Reports for February, March & April, 2020 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

MOTION – BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT/DOG CONTROL REPORTS – FEB./MAR. & APR.

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Clr. Thompson that the By-Law Enforcement/Dog Control Reports for February, March & April, 2020 be approved as circulated.

Clr. Butler asked why it was not a full report as they had asked for and the Deputy Municipal Clerk replied that these reports were done before the new format was developed. Going forward the reports will follow the new format.

Motion Carried.

MOTION - WARDEN'S REPORTS – FEB. & MARCH

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Palmer that the Warden's Reports for February and March, 2020 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

RIVERVIEW RESIDENTIAL CENTER REPORT

Clr. D. Parker reported that at 10 am today there the official opening of the River Run Cafe in New Glasgow took place. Unfortunately, due to COVID, the home is not able to have residents employed there so it is operating with their social director. There are no cases of COVID-19 at the home and at the most recent meeting they were on budget. Regarding the 2 new homes, one is operating in Truro although there have been challenges as some staff want to transfer to that location. The Province has requested that another youth be placed in the home which was only designed for 2 residents. The Stellarton youth home is awaiting licensing before it can be staffed, which could result in more staff transfers. All of the homes are operating at capacity. Finally, plans are underway for a gradual and controlled reopening of the home so that families can see their loved ones.

Warden R. Parker asked why we are operating a home in Truro and Clr. D. Parker replied there was an RFP from the Province for youth homes so we submitted a bid and we were awarded those homes. Clr. D. Parker reported that there is one home in Stellarton and one in Truro. These homes are very expensive to operate so this allows the Riverview Adult Center to have a bit of cash flow.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Committee considered several applications for Municipal Services Grants as follows:

D01	Barney's Riv. Fire Dept.	\$ 1,000.00	Equipment Purchase
	Barney's River Stn. Sch. Mus.	1,000.00	Repairs to Museum Bldg.
	District 1	40.00	Merigomish St. Lts. Annual Costs
	District One Newsletter	2,500.00	Printing & Distribution Costs
	District One Meals on Wheels	900.00	Containers for Meals
	Freedom Bible Church	500.00	Window Repairs
	French River Cemetery Society	1,500.00	Operating Expenses
	Hattie's Cemetery	1,000.00	Fencing

	Kenzieville Cemetery	1,000.00	Operating Expenses
	Kenzieville & Dist. Comm. Club	2,000.00	Table, Chairs & Flatware
	Lismore Community Hall	2,000.00	Dishwasher
	MARSA	1,000.00	Tables
	Merigomish Cemetery	2,000.00	Operating Expenses
	Pictou Co. Celtic Assoc.	1,500.00	Publishing Expenses
	St. Andrew's Cemetery	1,000.00	Operating Expenses
	St. Mary's Cemetery	500.00	Operating Expenses
	Sutherland's Riv. Pioneer Cem.	500.00	Operating Expenses
	Telford Cemetery Assoc.	500.00	Operating Expenses
	Thorburn & Dist. War Vet. Assoc.	<u>500.00</u>	Operating Expenses
		\$ 20,940.00	
D03	Bay View Community Hall	\$ 1,000.00	Water Pump & Operating Exp.
	Caribou Island Cemetery	500.00	Operating Expenses
	Caribou Dist. Fire Dept.	4,000.00	4 Light Weight Breathing App.
	Caribou River Community Hall	1,400.00	Repairs & Operating Expenses
	Caribou River Upper Cemetery	1,000.00	Operating Expenses
	Central Caribou Cemetery	3,800.00	Operating Expenses
	District 3	40.00	Bay View St. Light Annual Costs
	Seaboard Cemetery	1,500.00	Operating Expenses
	St. James Mill Dam Cemetery	1,500.00	Stone Repairs
	Sunrise 4-H Club	2,600.00	Clippers/Cards/Blower/Cattle Shute
	Pictou Cem. Co/Haliburton Cem.	2,500.00	Operating Expenses
	Waterside Cemetery Co.	2,000.00	Operating Expenses
	Pictou Island Community Assoc.	<u>853.75</u>	Gutters 7 Facia
		\$ 22,693.75	

D05	District 5	\$ 80.00	Meadowville & Elmfield Hall St. Lts.
	Bethel Presbyterian Church	5,000.00	Gutters/Blinds/Flooring/Paint
	Scotsburn Recreation Club	<u>6,000.00</u>	Heat. Syst//Roof/Survey/Fireworks
		\$ 11,080.00	
D07	Forest Hill Cemetery	\$ 1,662.75	Operating Expenses
	Mill Brook Community Club	4,000.00	Operating Expenses
	Salt Springs Car Pool Pkg. Lot.	300.00	Annual Cost of St. Lighting
	Salt Springs 4-H Club	4,000.00	Repairs to Irving-Fraser Cemetery
	Union Centre Community Club	4,000.00	Septic Tank & Range Repairs
	Watervale Recreation Centre	<u>4,000.00</u>	Operating Expenses
		\$ 17,962.75	
D10	Dist. 13 Rec. & Planning Comm.	\$ 3,500.00	Rec. Pgm/Ballfield Upgrades/Field & Rink Mtnce
	Ivor MacDonald Memorial Rink	3,508.65	Glass/Nets/Rubber Flooring
	MacLennan's Mtn. Cemetery	3,100.00	Operating Expenses
	MacPherson's Mills Comm. Hall	3,815.00	Tables/Ceiling Tile/Shelving
	Thorburn Cemetery Assoc.	2,000.00	Operating Expenses
	Thorburn & Dist. Fire Dept.	3,000.00	Children's Compound
	Thorburn & Dist. War Vet. Assoc.	1,500.00	Operating Expenses
	Union Presbyterian Church	<u>2,500.00</u>	Doors/Ramp/Paint
		\$ 22,923.65	
D11	Blue Mtn. Fire Dept.	\$ 1,500.00	Equipment Purchases
	Bridgeville Comm. Club	2,000.00	Hall Improvements & Operating Exp.
	East River Valley Com. Dev. Ass.	1,500.00	Newsletter Production & Distribution
	Garden of Eden Cemetery	400.00	Operating Expenses
	Garden of Eden Community Club	1,500.00	Operating Expenses
	Plymouth Community Centre	3,000.00	Overhead Ramp Shelter

Plymouth Fire Department	1,500.00	Equipment Purchases
Plymouth Fire Dept. Ladies Aux.	<u>1,000.00</u>	Catering Equipment
	\$ 12,400.00	

MOTION

It was moved by Warden R. Parker and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that a recommendation be forwarded to Council to approve Municipal Services Grants for Districts 1,3,5,7,10 and 11 as submitted.

Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS PAID – FEB/ MAR. & APR.

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. MacKeil that the Accounts Paid for February, March, and April, 2020 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

MOTION – CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMM.

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Clr. Boyles that a recommendation be forwarded to Council to approve Dominic Boyd and Gordon Galvin as non-elected members to the Climate Change Advisory Committee.

Motion carried.

Clrs. Boyles, D. Parker, and Turner volunteered to sit on the Climate Change Advisory Committee and Warden R. Parker will sit on the Committee in an Ex-Officio capacity.

DELIVERY OF FLYERS

Clr. D. Parker reported people are receiving flyers who do not want them and he suggested flyers should only be accepted through Canada Post.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. Boyles that a recommendation be forwarded to Council to ban the delivery of weekly commercial flyers except through Canada Post.

Warden R. Parker asked if we have the authority to stop the distribution of flyers and he pointed out we will have feedback from the printing company and retailers.

Clr. Palmer noted that if a person does not want the flyers they can call and request they not be sent but we should not be banning them completely as there are those who look forward to receiving their flyers.

Warden R. Parker suggested do a communications piece on flyers in our newsletter and on our social media platforms informing the public on who to call to discontinue delivery.

The CAO reported a by-law would have to be established but first we would have to determine if we have that authority to ban flyer distribution.

WITHDRAWN

On the agreement of the mover and seconder, the motion was withdrawn with the understanding that staff will seek legal advice on whether or not Council has jurisdiction to ban or regulate the distribution of commercial flyers.

Motion withdrawn.

NORTHEAST NS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Clr. Boyles referred to the weekend escape of a prisoner from the Northeast NS Correctional Facility, advising that residents are concerned with who is being housed at this “minimum security” facility. He asked that a discussion on this issue be placed on a future agenda.

MOTION – CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. Boyles that the Committee meet in closed session to discuss matters relating to legal advice eligible for solicitor-client privilege, and to discuss the disposition/security of municipal property. (8:07 p.m.)

OPEN SESSION

The Committee resumed in open session at 8:52 p.m.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Palmer that the meeting adjourn.

Motion carried.

CHAIR


MUNICIPAL CLERK