

December 7, 2020

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

PRESENT

Dist.	1	Clr. Don Butler
	2	Clr. Deborah Wadden
	3	Clr. Darla MacKeil
	4	Clr. Mary Wooldridge-Elliott
	5	Deputy Warden Wayne Murray
	6	Warden Robert Parker
	7	Clr. David Parker
	8	Clr. Larry Turner (via video-conference)
	9	Clr. Peter Boyles
	10	Clr. Randy Palmer
	11	Clr. Andy Thompson
	12	Clr. Chester Dewar

IN ATTENDANCE

Donn Fraser, Solicitor, Mac Mac & Mac (via video-conference)
Brian Cullen, CAO, Municipal Clerk-Treasurer
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer (via video-conference)
Carolyn MacIntosh, Deputy Municipal Clerk (via video-conference)
Sueann Musick, Communications Officer (via video-conference)
Jane Johnson, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Warden R. Parker called the meeting to order and invited Councilors to pray or reflect, as may be their preference, to help Council focus and properly do the work of the Municipality.

CONGRATULATIONS

Warden R. Parker congratulated Clr. Wadden on her recent election to the NSFM Rural Caucus.

AGENDA

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the agenda be approved as circulated.
Motion carried.

MINUTES

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the minutes of November 2, 2020 be approved as circulated.
Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- (a) Min. Communities, Culture & Htg. – Acknowledging correspondence on funding for community rinks and offering a discussion with Highland Regional Manager, Rae Gunn, to fully understand the issue.
- (b) Mun. of East Hants – Enclosing a copy of a letter sent to Premier McNeil in support of funding for community rinks and other not-for-profit groups that own and operate recreation facilities and community halls.

Clr. Palmer referred to correspondence from Culture & Heritage and asked if the Recreation Coordinator would be involved in the discussion.

The CAO replied that it would be more beneficial if the Thorburn and Hector Arenas met with department representatives on the issue.

Clr. Palmer reported that he would like to have further discussions with Rae Gunn on funding for the 2 arenas.

Clr. MacKeil reported this is something the 2 arenas should discuss and to communicate to Rae Gunn.

RESOLUTION – MUNICIPAL GRANTS

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 approve the payment of the following Municipal Grants:

Municipal Services:

D10 Pictou County Snowriders	<u>\$ 848.13</u>	Heat Pump
	\$ 848.13	

Recreation:

Bridgeville Community Club	<u>\$ 150.00</u>	Clr. Allotment – Grass Seed
	\$ 150.00	

Council

Dr. W.A. MacLeod Consolidated Sch.	\$ 1,000.00	Breakfast Program Expenses
F H MacDonald Academy	1,000.00	Breakfast Program Expenses
North Nova Education Centre	1,000.00	Breakfast Program Expenses
Northumberland Regional High Sch.	1,000.00	Breakfast Program Expenses
Saltsprings Elementary	1,000.00	Breakfast Program Expenses
Scotsburn Elementary	1,000.00	Breakfast Program Expenses
Thorburn Consolidated	1,000.00	Breakfast Program Expenses
West Pictou Consolidated	<u>1,000.00</u>	Breakfast Program Expenses
	\$ 8,000.00	

GRAND TOTAL **\$ 8,998.13**

DATED at Pictou, NS this 7th day of December 2020.

(Sgd.) Chester Dewar
Don Butler

MOTION

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

Clr. MacKeil reported that she was disappointed that Dr. Thomas McCulloch School is not on the Breakfast Program list.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the motion be amended to include a \$1,000 grant to the McCulloch Education Centre Breakfast Program.

Clr. Elliott reported that she did a bit of homework and informed Council that there are an additional 6 schools and asked if they will be added to this list.

Warden R. Parker replied they will have to look at those other schools.

Clr. D. Parker asked if the other municipal units also support this program and Clr. Elliott replied that she had spoken with several principals who informed her that they receive \$2,000 per school from the education program for their respective breakfast programs.

Clr. Wadden pointed out that it is not fair to add 1 school and not offer it to all schools.

Clr. MacKeil reported that she was fine with adding the remaining schools to the resolution as she does not want to leave out any County students.

Warden R. Parker asked if we should be looking at the number of County students there are in each of these schools.

Clr. Elliott asked if we could put a challenge out to the other municipal units to contribute as well.

Clr. Thompson suggested Council pass the original motion that looks after the rural schools and then get more information on the other schools.

Warden R. Parker stated that we will leave it with staff for the next meeting so we will know how many rural students are in the other schools.

On the agreement of the mover and seconder, the motion to amend was withdrawn.

Clr. Wadden pointed out that we should also look at the Pictou Landing First Nation School.

Clr. Wadden asked where the funding was coming from for the program and the CAO advised that the funds could be taken from the COVID Relief money received from the Federal Government.

Clr. Dewar reported that is why he brought this issue up because some of the volunteers are not in the schools because of COVID.

Clr. Boyles questioned if the schools are getting money for COVID relief, would this money cause any problems?

Clr. MacKeil suggested in future we should look at an application for the Breakfast Program from the various schools.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – NOMINATIONS

Clr. MacKeil 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 appointments for the 2020/21 term:

OUTSIDE BOARDS	
Pictou County Sports Heritage Hall of Fame	Larry Turner
Planning Advisory Committee	Wayne Murray

DATED at Pictou, N. S. this 7th day of December 2020

(Sgd.) Darla MacKeil
David Parker

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the preceding resolution be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – CHARITABLE RECEIPTS

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 Churchville Hall has requested that the Municipality receive donated funds for the Club's Rural Renewal Project (Phase 2) 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 Churchville Hall Rural Renewal Project (Phase 2) and the issuance of charitable tax receipts for same.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 7th day of December 2020.

(Sgd.) Andy Thompson
Randy Palmer

MOTION

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – BROOK NAMING

Clr. D. Parker presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services has undertaken an initiative to identify a commemorative feature that could be named to honor the late Chief Petty Officer William Alfred Boudreau from New Glasgow who was lost on the HMCS Kootenay in 1969;

WHEREAS an unnamed brook in the Hazel Glen/Union Centre area has been identified as a potential candidate for this purpose;

WHEREAS public consultation in the area indicates support for this commemorative initiative;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council support the efforts of Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services to name the aforementioned brook "Billy Boudreau Brook".

DATED at Pictou, NS this 7th day of December, 2020.

(Sgd.) David Parker
Darla MacKeil

MOTION

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – COVID-19 POLICY UP-DATE

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 Council adopt the following policy with respect to COVID-19:

POLICY #2020-12-54



MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU COVID-19 POLICY

1) Purpose

- a) To provide direction and alter administrative provisions of certain municipal policies enacted by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou.

2) Policy statements

- a) The following changes to policy are hereby enacted in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic:
 - i) **POLICY #2001-07-08 MUNICIPAL VEHICLES:** All sections pertaining to staff use of vehicles are hereby suspended, until otherwise directed by the Chief Administrative Officer.
 - ii) **POLICY #2019-05-52 MUNICIPAL SERVICES GRANT POLICY:** Section 6 (a)-(d) Ratepayer Meeting Requirements are hereby suspended for the duration of Order of the Chief Medical Officer for Nova Scotia as amended limiting gatherings to no more than ten (10) persons; Section 7 (a) Financial Statements shall be amended in accordance with the following policy statements:
 - (1) The following terms shall now be applied to the Municipal Services Grant Policy:

- (a) A Councilor may receive applications via email at any point from qualified applicants.
 - (b) The Councilor shall make a recommendation to a Committee of the Whole for the Municipal Council the amount of grant that an organization shall receive.
 - (c) The Municipality shall advertise on its website the new process for approval of Municipal Services Grants.
 - (d) A Municipal Councilor may contact any group to determine if they have any requirements for a Municipal Services Grant.
 - (e) Prior to payment of a municipal services grant a copy of the most recent financial statements of the organization shall be provided to the Administration of the Municipality.
- d) The aforementioned policy amendments shall remain in effect until December 31, 2020 unless repealed by Municipal Council at an earlier date.
 - e) This policy may be extended and or amended by the Municipal Council at a duly called meeting of the Municipal Council.

3) Repeal

All former policies with respect to COVID-19 are hereby repealed.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 7th day of December, 2020.

(Sgd.) Wayne Murray
Chester Dewar

MOTION

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

Motion carried.

INTERNET PROJECT UP-DATE

The CAO reported that they are still waiting on make-ready applications to come back from NSP and Bell. The field work has been completed on the applications. We are moving forward on the tower location on Hardwood Hill and applications have been made for aerial dome approvals. We expect the engineering report on the tower to be back by December 9th for the actual tower base and the intention would be to try and reach an agreement on purchase and sale of the land before Christmas. The fiber is scheduled to arrive next Monday so that is on schedule. Work is on-going on the contract for the network operations Centre. The equipment has been ordered for the NOC as well as for the Halifax Internet Exchange. We are going through an exercise on the make-readies to look at trenching instead of aerials so it may be quicker to bury. If that results in a change order, we will bring that back to Council.

They are looking at 1,400 additional homes they can extend using fiber for Ring 8. In Ring 8 they are building the network for the future.

Warden R. Parker reported that they are looking at trenching instead of running on poles and that may be our only choice. It may work out better anyway because we would have to pay to use those poles every year.

Clr. D. Parker asked where the trenching would occur if that option is pursued and the CAO replied that is something, we would have to look at with TIR.

Clr. D. Parker asked the areas we would be looking at and the CAO replied that he will have a more detailed map next week showing the additional 1,400 homes.

Clr. Wadden reported that she is interested in the cost benefit analysis regarding trenching and the CAO replied that is being formulated.

Clr. Butler asked about the tower on Hardwood Hill because residents in his area are concerned that they will be the last being serviced.

The CAO explained that they are focusing on the Rapid Response component of the Universal Broadband Fund to support expenses on the wireless side and they will be building towers to serve the entire Municipality. There are 12 towers that would service the County and they could put them up within the next 11 months so the wireless component would be completed long before the fiber. The CAO reported that the Hardwood Hill tower does have some interference with others using the frequencies so its reach may not be as far however they are still pursuing the wireless that will provide residents with the minimum standard until fiber service is available.

Clr. Palmer asked where they are going to store the fiber and the CAO replied it will be at a secure location in Pictou County.

Clr. Palmer asked how deep they will trench, and the CAO responded that needs to be approved by TIR.

Clr. Thompson asked the program they are going to apply for funding and the CAO replied the Universal Broadband Emergency Fund. The 1.75 billion will be divided into a Rapid Response Fund for make ready projects which is what we are looking for, \$800 million in Communities fund and \$800 million in large projects which we would not be eligible for.

Clr. Thompson asked if there was a marketing plan for this project and the CAO replied the Communication Coordinator as well as Nova and i-Valley are working on that plan.

Clr. Thompson asked if there was engineering plan and pointed out that each time, we come to a meeting that changes. He asked to have a copy of the plan and asked if there was a build out plan because we should stick to it so we do not exceed our budget. He has a concern that the way we are approaching this it is going to cost us in the long run. He asked if we are following the cell tower protocol that we have in place and the CAO replied yes, we are following the protocol. He pointed out that we need to publicize the internet project so residents will know when they will get service.

Clr. MacKeil reported there was quite a bit of misunderstanding on the map that was on social media with the different rings, so she suggested better messaging for residents.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

There were no emergency resolutions.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES & COUNCIL

Clr. Boyles reported on correspondence received from TIR regarding Egypt Road and informed Council the guard rail is now in place and hopefully will save lives.

Clr. Wadden asked if Phase 3 of the fire study been received and the CAO replied he received part of the study but is still waiting on the remainder.

CLOSED SESSION

Council met in closed session at 8: 30 p.m. to discuss matters relating to the disposition of municipal property and matters relating to personnel.

OPEN SESSION

Council resumed in open session at 9:29.

ADJOURN

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

Motion carried. (9:29 p.m.)

WARDEN

MUNICIPAL CLERK