

August 3, 2021

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers and by video-conference on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 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 Murray
	7	Clr. David Parker
	8	Clr. Larry Turner (by video-conf.)
	9	Clr. Peter Boyles
	10	Clr. Randy Palmer
	11	Clr. Andy Thompson
	12	Clr. Chester Dewar

ABSENT

6 Warden Robert Parker (Out of County)

IN ATTENDANCE

Donn Fraser, Solicitor, Mac Mac & Mac (by Video Conference)
Brian Cullen, CAO, Municipal Clerk-Treasurer
Logan McDowell, P. Eng., PMP, Director of Public Works & Development (by Video Conference)
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer (by Video Conference)
Sueann Musick, Communications Officer (by Video Conference)
Jane Johnson, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Warden Murray 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, and to remember our indigenous communities.

CLOSED SESSION

Council met in closed session at 7:10 p.m. to discuss to matters relating to legal advice eligible for solicitor-client privilege.

OPEN SESSION

Council resumed in open session at 8:00 p.m.

AGENDA

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. MacKeil that the agenda be approved with the addition of a Municipal Services Grant for the Caribou River Community Hall and the deletion of the 2021/22 General Operating Budget and resolutions regarding tax rates, fire rates, budget grants, and municipal grants.

Motion carried.

MINUTES

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the minutes of July 5, 2021 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- (a) Premier Iain Rankin – Advising that at this time there are no provincial infrastructure plans to open a dialysis unit at the Aberdeen Hospital, however, dialysis infrastructure is expanding in other parts of the province which would free up space at the Sutherland Harris Memorial Hospital Unit.
- (b) Letters/Notes of appreciation for funding (uncirculated) have been received from Sierra Fraser (NNEC Bursary Recipient)

Clr. Boyles reported that he was disappointed in the correspondence from Premier.

PROCLAMATION – RIGHT TO KNOW WEEK

PROCLAMATION RIGHT TO KNOW WEEK

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; 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 worldwide 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 27th to October 3rd, 2021 to be “Right to Know Week”. In the Municipality.

Deputy Warden Wayne Murray
Municipality of the County of Pictou

Clr. Wadden asked if Council had anything planned for that week and the Communications Officer replied nothing has been planned as yet.

RESOLUTION – 2021/22 WATER UTILITY BUDGET

Clr. Thompson 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 approved the Water Utility Budget for the 2021/22 fiscal period in the amount of \$492,900.00, the same having been reviewed and approved by the Financial Services Committee of Council.

DATED at Pictou, N. S. this 3rd day of August, 2021.

(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. (Nay Vote: Clr. Boyles)

RESOLUTION – 2021/22 ST. LIGHTS, HYDRANTS & SEWER AREA RATES

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

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipal of the County of Pictou, that Council authorize the rating and collection of area rates for streetlights, hydrant fire protection and sewer maintenance fees on applicable properties assessed in all districts as follows for the fiscal period 2021/22:

<u>Type of Area Rate</u>	<u>Per \$100 Assessment</u> <u>Assessment</u>	<u>Per Property</u> <u>Flat Rate</u>
Street Lights	\$	\$ 49.35
Street Lights (District 1)		9.09
Street Lights	0.052	
Street Lights (Little Harbour/Pictou Landing)	0.016	
Street Lights (Abercrombie/Granton)	0.017	
Hydrant Fire Protection Residential		270.00
Hydrant Fire Protection Commercial	0.0043	
Hydrant Fire Protection Institutional	0.0047	
Sewer Maintenance Fee		313.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all rates and taxes as set out above shall be due and paid to the Treasurer on or before the 15th day of October, 2021. If such rates and taxes are not paid by the 15th day of October, 2021 an additional charge will be payable in accordance with the Municipality's Interest Rate Policy.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 3rd day of August, 2021.

(Sgd.) David Parker
Mary Elliott

MOTION

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

Motion carried. (Nay Vote: Clr. Boyles)

RESOLUTION – ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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 Council approve the following appointments for the 2020/21 term:

<u>OUTSIDE BOARDS</u>	
Accessibility Advisory Committee	Peter Boyles, Larry Turner, Rae Gunn, Susan Matheson, Rick Parker, Grace Maxner (all non-elected appointments to Nov/23)

DATED at Pictou, N. S. this 3rd day of August, 2021.

(Sgd.) Peter Boyles
David Parker

MOTION

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – GSA BOUNDARY CHANGE

Clr. Elliott 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 General Service Area boundaries to provide for a standardized means of setting community boundaries;

WHEREAS the Municipality, the Nova Scotia Geomatics Centre or the Emergency Management Office of Nova Scotia may initiate a change to an existing GSA where it is felt that the adjustment to the boundary will enhance and/or improve efficiencies of emergency responder service;

WHEREAS there are occasions where residents believe they are incorrectly identified with a particular GSA that does not match what they consider to be their historical community of record;

WHEREAS residents identified in the community of “Bigney” believe they are more closely connected to “Hodson” and consider Hodson to be their community of historical record and have therefore requested a boundary adjustment to include then in the Hodson General Service Area;

WHEREAS the Property Services Committee agrees that the boundary change is warranted;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve a change in the GSA boundary for aforementioned area which would move civic #'s 997, 998, 1691, 1705 & 1800 on the Old Pictou Road to the Hodson GSA, in accordance with the Municipality's General Service Area Boundaries Policy.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 3rd day of August, 2021.

(Sgd.) Mary Elliott
David Parker

MOTION

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – SHEEP VALUER APPOINTMENT

Clr. Dewar presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Section 9(1) of the Sheep Protection Act provides for the annual appointment of Sheep Valuers;

WHEREAS appointments to this office have been made throughout the various districts of the County of Pictou;

WHEREAS in accordance with the aforementioned Statutes of Nova Scotia, these appointments require the approval of Council;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the appointment of the following Sheep Valuers for 2020/21:

DIST. #12 Willard MacDonald

DATED at Pictou, NS this 3rd day of August, 2021.

(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.

Motion carried.

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

The CAO reported the union ratified the terms of the 4 year Collective Agreement. With the Municipality.

MOTION

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Palmer that Council enter into a 4-year Collective Agreement with the Nova Scotia Government & General Employees Union.

Motion carried.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIRST PEOPLES & TRANSITIONAL TERRITORY

Clr. Wadden spoke in support of the principle of acknowledging at our meetings that we are on the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people traditional territory as we are all Treaty People and our relationship together is based on peace and friendship. She explained that acknowledging Mi'kmaq traditional or ancestral territory is a way of showing respect for and honoring our shared Treaty relationship. It is one of many important steps we can take toward reconciliation. In some acknowledgements we hear the "unceded" Mi'kmaw territory - it is referred to as unceded as the treaties signed between Nations were focused on Peace and Friendship not turning over their lands. The treaties between 1725 to 1763 prevented further wars. In the 18th century, Mi'kmaq people and the British Crown entered historic Peace and Friendship Treaties that created treaty relationships within Mi'kma'ki. Mii'kma'ki is the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq and includes seven districts which are found in what is now known as Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador, and the Gaspé region in Quebec. The traditional name for our own Pictou County is Agg Piktuk which mean "The Explosive Place". The first Reserves were established in 1801 before Canada or the US was born. An acknowledgment is not intended to create any legally binding obligations or recognition of asserted claims. Recently, most of us have heard the horrific stories coming from the residential schools where many of our First Nations were forced to attend. Hundreds of unmarked graves have been discovered and continue to be discovered. Robert Bernard who is the founder and CEO of The Indigenous Guide has 30+ years of experience working with Indigenous communities across the Atlantic Region. Mr. Bernard has been involved in the areas of culture, heritage, tourism, business development, Procurement/contracting, sports/recreation, community and event planning, climate change and cross-cultural training. He also utilizes his extensive knowledge and connections in the government and industry sectors to help provide specific guidance with your organization, project and or event in terms of navigating relationship and partnership protocols. I have had the good fortune through NSFM to attend 2 of Mr. Bernard's workshops and the information he can pass on to you is amazing. I would like to recommend this Council invite Mr. Bernard to do a presentation for all of us as it seems most here are unable to attend these valuable workshops put on for us through NSFM. His website www.theindigenousguide.com is a very valuable source of information as we go through the processes of reconciliation. An acknowledgment is the first item on an agenda. It is a way of encouraging to acknowledge Nova Scotia is the Mi'kma'ki traditional territory. A simple acknowledgment can be, "We would like to begin by acknowledging that we are in Mi'kma'ki (Meeg-Ma-Gee) the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people". I know there were more involved acknowledgments included in our agenda and I appreciate whoever put that information together for us. Halifax's acknowledgment is another good example. My main reason for bringing this issue to Council is that I do truly feel we should be acknowledging our ancestral territory just out of respect for our Mi'kmaq people. Perhaps others would like to give their opinions on this acknowledgment before a motion is put forward. One item I will recommend is we request Mr. Bernard do a workshop for this Council. I am sure we can all benefit from this.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Thompson that a Territorial Acknowledgement be presented at the beginning of each meeting.

Motion carried.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dist. 3 Annual Fire Department lobster dinner will be held on Saturday August 14th.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS – CARIBOU RIV. COMM. CTR. MSG

Clr. MacKeil reported she was contacted by the Caribou River Community Center on the week-end and advised that the centre has a leak in the roof that requires urgent repair to prevent structural and internal damage. The group had originally applied for an \$1,120 Municipal Services Grant for operating expenses

which is being recommended for approval but is not requesting an additional \$6,000 to carry out these emergency repairs.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Clr. Palmer that a Municipal Services Grant of \$7,120 be approved for the Caribou River Community Center for operating expenses and emergency roof repairs once funding become available.

Motion carried.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES & COUNCIL

Clr. Palmer suggested that Council have a discussion on approving MSG funds prior to budget approval, noting that our charitable organizations rely on these grants for operating and capital expenditures and under our current practice we are well into a fiscal year before any funds are released. He asked that this discussion be placed on the next Financial Services agenda.

Clr. Wadden asked that Mr. Bernard meet with COW at a future meeting.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the meeting adjourn.

Motion carried.(8:32 p.m.)

Robert Parker
Warden

Brian Cullen
Municipal Clerk