

December 3, 2018

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building on Monday, December 3, 2018 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, Communications Officer
Jane Johnson, Recording Secretary

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. D. Parker that the agenda be approved with the deletion of the NSFMC Conference Report and the addition of a closed session to discuss matters eligible for solicitor-client privilege.

Motion carried.

MINUTES

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Deputy Warden Murray that the minutes of November 5, 2018 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- a) Veteran's Affairs Canada – Acknowledging receipt of Council's correspondence regarding veteran's benefits which has been brought to the Minister's attention.

- b) Thank you notes (uncirculated) for financial support & bursaries have been received from Henry Parks, Saltsprings 4-H.
- c) NSFM Board Initiatives Report – November 2018

RECOGNITION OF INDIVIDUALS & GROUPS

There were no recognition of individuals and groups.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no community announcements.

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 and Warden for the month of October.
2. Received an up-date on the status of capital projects. Work has begun on the McLellan's Brook Watermain Replacement and completion is targeted for December 21st. The Springfield Estates Water & Wastewater Extension is complete and residents have been provided information on connection to the system. Commissioning of the pumps for the Alma Wastewater Extension has been delayed by 4 days. Record drawings are being prepared; information packages for property owners are expected to be released soon. The two remaining gate valves have been located in Hillside. Boxes have been replaced and all valves have been confirmed as being open. Tenders have been called for the demolition of the former Linacy School with a November 30th closing date. The sidewalk projects are drawing to a close with only some fencing to be completed.
3. Correspondence was received from the Riverview Home Corporation thanking Council for the installation of the sidewalk, and for covering the cost of the culvert replacement.
4. Correspondence was received from between the Town of Pictou and Northern Pulp advising the mill that any plans to install an effluent pipe across the Town's watershed would be unacceptable to the Town. The Municipality will be extending an invitation to the Ministers of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal, Environment NS, and the Minister of Fisheries & Aquaculture to meet with Council for a discussion on the proposed effluent pipe.
5. Agreed to forward additional information to G & W Railroad Services Inc. in an attempt to resolve a rail crossing issue involving property owned by Charles Baillie at Merigomish.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 3rd day of December, 2018.

(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. Boyles asked if correspondence was sent regarding Charlie Baillie's property and the Deputy Municipal Clerk advised that the letter will be done later in the week.

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 November:

1. Reviewed the list of Accounts Paid for the month of October.
2. Reviewed the report of the Recreation Coordinator for the month of October.
3. Considered several applications for financial assistance. (Resolution to follow)
4. Considered a recommendation for the write-off of sewer user charges on a property that is more than 200 ft. from the sewer lateral. (Resolution to follow)
5. Reviewed the Low Income Tax Exemption Policy and agreed that no changes are required at this time to either the exemption amount or qualifying income.
6. Approved the payment of \$150 Christmas Bonuses to municipal staff.
7. Met in closed session to discuss matters relating to litigation and provided direction as necessary.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 3rd day of December, 2018.

(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.

REN LIAISON OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Clr. Turner reported that the REN Liaison Oversight Committee is working towards the recruitment of a CEO, governance and securing new Board members. They are looking to bring their board number to 9. Board members have been assigned to specific "advisory" capacities that include Community Relations and Governance as well as Board functions of Secretary and Vice-Chair. They are working to get an organizational chart together for the Board. They had a meeting on November 21st to work exclusively on a recruitment process. They want a vigorous process to identify and hire the best available candidate for the CEO position. The incorporation process has been completed and banking arrangements have been made. Brian Cullen is leading the development of the required Interim Business Plan and the Board recently hosted 2 presentations from other RENS who assisted the Board in developing a good understanding of the CEO and Board roles. The LOC is going to have a meeting with the Board on December 13th so he will update in early January on further developments.

MUNICIPAL ALCOHOL PROJECT

Clr. Wadden reported that at their last meeting on Nov 18th the Committee discussed some of the issues we had seen or heard about with the now legal sale of cannabis. Our next task will be to prepare for the edible cannabis products which will soon be legal although like cannabis, we are already dealing with this issue.

We discussed a National Cannabis Survey being put out each quarter from Statistics Canada in each of the three quarters this year Nova Scotia has led the country in cannabis use. This data is about Canadians, 15 and older and reflect their cannabis use and related behaviours in the past three months. This past Survey has NS at 23% in cannabis use. That is people 15 and older. The closest province to us is BC at 20%.

5% of Canadians have reported being a passenger in a car driven by someone who had consumed cannabis within 2 hours of driving. 14% of cannabis users with a valid driver's license reported driving within 2 hours of using, this information was taken before Oct 17th.

We discussed some of the risks with personal cultivation. You are allowed to cultivate up to 4 plants per household. This will be a difficult one to enforce so just to think about some of the risks that we will be associating with personal growth is first the risks associated with poisoning and the hazard this presents to children and pets. A message you can encourage is to keep Poison Control Information on hand. The high humidity required for young cannabis plants can lead to fungal growth and mold issues in homes. The various enrichment practices such as using generators, compressed CO2 and so forth can result in carbon monoxide poisoning so make sure you equip your home with a carbon monoxide detector and ensure regular testing. The risk of fire from improperly used or installed equipment or from tampering with an electrical supply so encourage compliance with building and fire codes.

A concern we have on the committee is that we came together to deal with the harms of alcohol and have kind of pushed this issue to our back burner while we deal with the legalization of cannabis but we must continue to keep the harms from alcohol on our radar.

We were supposed to have a MAP gathering from all the Northern area, being Colchester and Cumberland and Pictou counties on Nov 22nd which was cancelled due to weather conditions. This has been rescheduled for Dec 10th so hopefully we will be able to come together to share our knowledge and where we are going from here as a Northern group.

The only other issue discussed was a smoking Bylaw. It was indicated that the Warden and Mayors are discussing having a common Bylaw concerning smoking in the county. I am not sure where this stands with our county so perhaps the Warden can let us know the discussion surrounding this.

RESOLUTION – MUNICIPAL GRANTS

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 | Dist. 13 Rec. & Plan Comm. | \$ 2,185.00 | Repurposing funds originally approved for surveillance equip't. to cover the cost of compressor repairs |
|-----|----------------------------|-------------|---|

Council:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Pictou Lobster Carnival | \$ 160.00 | Ice Rental Co-Sponsorship |
| | \$ 160.00 | |

Recreation:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| National Challenger Baseball Jamboree | <u>\$ 1,800.00</u> | Travel Costs |
| Riverview Home Corporation | 1,000.00 | Recreation Programming |
| Valley View Villa | 1,000.00 | Recreation Programming |
| Pictou Co. Basketball Assoc. | 382.50 | Programming |
| Pictou County Mariners | 195.00 | Programming |
| Pictou Co. Gymnastics Club | <u>502.50</u> | Programming |
| | \$ 4,880.00 | |
| GRAND TOTAL: | <u>\$ 5,040.00</u> | |

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 3rd day of December, 2018.

(Sgd.) Darla MacKeil
Ronald Baillie

MOTION

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

Clr. Boyles reported that he disagrees with giving the Pictou Lobster Carnival more funding when there are other areas in the County that could use the money.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – SEWER USER CHG. WRITE OFF

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 following write-off on sewer user charges, 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> |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------|--|
| 06246044 | Michael Joseph Daye | 303.00 | Property is more than 200 ft. from Sewer Lateral |

DATED at Pictou, N.S. this 3rd day of December, 2018.

(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.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS - CHAIR

Deputy Warden Murray assumed the Chair to permit the Warden to speak on an issue.

Warden R. Parker informed Council that he has a safety issue on Highway 376 that happened both yesterday and today. He felt it was of enough urgency that it be brought to Council tonight rather than leave it to the next Committee meeting. He asked for unanimous consent to bring this request forward this evening.

It was unanimously agreed that Warden R. Parker's issue be dealt with this evening.

Warden R. Parker referred to the email that was sent to all Councillors that shows a sign that states trucks are not allowed on Highway 376 (except for local trucks under 3,000 lbs). He explained that law was passed after much contention, mostly due to PEI trucks that were coming over in groups of 4 and 5 heading to the gravel pit in Mount Thom. They were a danger to bicyclists and walkers and this law was passed a long time so the people felt much safer on the roads. This summer the problem arose again with trucks coming from Mount Thom and they have been told very clearly that there is another way to the Pictou Rotary. They are not to use Highway 376 but instead go to Exit 22 then across the causeway to get onto the rotary. If there are local trucks going to the mill in Scotsburn, then people understand and accept that with businesses in the area. When work was being done on Highway 61 this summer the trucks started using Highway 376 again and it became very dangerous especially for walkers and people pulling out of their driveways. They worked with the RCMP to try and get that stopped but it started again yesterday. He contacted the RCMP Staff Sgt. who was surprised it was happening and said he would look into it. It appears the truckers are flaunting the law and they are driving very aggressively to get more trips to the pit in Mount Thom.

MOTION

It was moved by Warden R. Parker and seconded by Clr. MacKeil that a letter be sent to the Staff Sgt. for the Pictou County RCMP (with copies to the Attorney General, Transportation & Compliance, and Pictou West, MLA) requesting that this issue be addressed immediately.

Clr. Dewar suggested an email be sent because that would be the quickest way to look after this issue.

Clr. Palmer asked where the trucks are going and what they are hauling and Warden R. Parker replied that the trucks were followed this morning by several residents who informed him they were going to the wharf in Pictou.

Clr. Palmer suggested a copy of the letter be sent to the Minister of Transportation and Compliance because tickets can be issued for that type of offense.

Clr. Boyles pointed out that he had something similar in his area so he called the RCMP who called the companies who hired the truckers and now everything is fine.

Motion carried.

CHAIR

Warden R. Parker assumed the Chair. There were no further emergency resolutions.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES & NOTICES OF MOTION

Clr. Turner commented that it has been almost a year since Council worked on its strategic plan and asked that it be brought forward at a future meeting to assess the progress that has been made.

Clr. Turner reported he received complaints regarding snow removal on the sidewalks and asked to have that issue on the next Property Services agenda.

Clr. Boyles asked if the Trenton Fire Department will be meeting with Council regarding the hydrant testing in Hillside.

Warden R. Parker replied that Trenton's Fire Chief will be coming to a meeting in January.

Clr. Butler asked that the existence of Exit 28 on the TCH be on the next Property Services agenda.

Deputy Warden Murray pointed out that he had complaints that Scotsburn and Lyon's Brook sidewalks were not plowed. He asked who is responsible for sidewalk plowing until the new tenders are approved and the CAO replied it was his understanding that the Director of Public Works did have interim coverage until the tenders were approved.

CLOSED SESSION - LITIGATION

Council met in closed session at 7:39 p.m. to discuss matters relating to litigation.

OPEN SESSION

Council resumed in open session 8:10 p.m.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Wadden that the meeting adjourn.
Motion carried. (8:10 p.m.)

WARDEN

MUNICIPAL CLERK