

March 18, 2024

The Financial Services Committee for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building by videoconference and teleconference on Monday, March 18, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

- 1 Clr. Don Butler
- 2 Clr. Deborah Wadden
- 3 Clr. Darla MacKeil
- 4 Clr. Mary Elliott
- 5 Deputy Warden Wayne 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

Brian Cullen, CAO, Municipal Clerk-Treasurer
Sueann Musick, Director of Corporate Services/Deputy Clerk
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer
Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services
Adam MacInnis, Communications Officer
Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development
Shellie Pettipas, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Clr. MacKeil, Chair of the Financial Services Committee called the meeting to order and acknowledged that we are on the ancestral territorial lands of the Mikmaq people.

AGENDA

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the agenda be approved as presented. **Motion Carried**

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

There were no emergency resolutions brought forward.

MINUTES

Clr. MacKeil asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for February 20, 2024. The members of the Committee entered no errors, omissions, or corrections. The Chair proclaimed the minutes of the meeting on February 20, 2024, as the official record of the meeting. **Motion Carried**

CORRESPONDENCE

A request was received from North Nova Education Centre for funding for graduation expenses. This item is listed as 10D on the agenda and will be discussed.

PRESENTATION

NEW GLASGOW FARMERS MARKET

Kristi Russell, Market Manager for the New Glasgow Farmer's Market and Michelle Mullins, Fund Development Lead gave a presentation and requested a letter of support from Council. This presentation was previously circulated to Council members.

Deputy Warden Murray asked where the money will come from in the future to operate the farmer's market. Ms. Russell said that some of what is being done will continue for fundraising efforts, the facility will be open days other than Saturday, there will be an increase in vendor space, table fees and membership fees. During off weeks, the building can be used for other purposes throughout the year. This new building would facilitate conferences, meetings, or weddings. There would also be additional revenue from the kitchen, which would have the ability to facilitate two vendors at a time. The commercial kitchen would give the opportunity for catering events. The New Glasgow Farmers Market has partnered with Coastal Nova Scotia.

Clr. Turner asked if once this is built, is it anticipated to have larger staff and increased operating costs. Ms. Russell said that the facility would be self-sustainable from hosting events. Clr. Turner asked what the time frame is on this project. Ms. Russell said that it would be ideal to have this for next year but more likely would be a 2025/26 project. There is the hope for a federal infrastructure grant.

Clr. Thompson expressed support for this project and said the market is a springboard for businesses and really helps people grow.

Warden Parker said that there is a lot of use for the farmers market and expressed support for what is in the presentation in terms of what market does. The Warden asked if there were other municipalities who would commit to the project other than the county. Ms. Russell said that the Town of New Glasgow has committed but other municipalities have not been approached. Presently they are asking for a letter of support for the campaign team and then will be asking for investment from the community and other private sector support. Ms. Russell said that this project will benefit the residents of the

whole county. Warden Parker asked if another building the size of the current one would be adequate. Ms. Russell responded that the building that size is inadequate and would not allow for their needs.

Clr. Parker asked if it would be possible to add more space to the current dome. Ms. Russell said the dome sustained damage from Hurricane Fiona and it cannot meet the demand of vendors, the water must be shut off from November to May. This dome has less than ideal conditions and it is not a secure facility. It has previously been broken into and vandalized. They want a year-round structure that is stable and secure.

Clr. Wadden said that is a huge opportunity for women entrepreneurs. This is something that is for the future of Pictou County. This is long overdue in this county and the market has proven itself over the years.

Clr. Elliott said that markets work well because they are seasonal. There are other venues in the county that are competing to host events. Sometimes when you make it bigger doesn't always make it better. There is concern that the market could end up in the same situation as them. Ms. Russell said that they are a community space and do not charge admission to go to the farmer's market. We are there to compliment other things and really wish that people would not pit one against the other. They are trying to make it more accessible to have the farm store open more than just Saturdays.

COMMUNICATION REPORT

The Communication Report for the month of February 2024 was received as presented.

Warden Parker asked Mr. MacInnis if there had been any response from SaltWire regarding flyer distribution. Mr. MacInnis said they were getting several calls and were trying to address the concerns.

RECREATION REPORT

The Recreation Report for the month of February 2024 was received as presented.

Clr. Butler expressed concern that the summer swim program may be in jeopardy and strongly felt this program should be continued. Clr. Butler asked if any decision had been made about this. Mr. Cullen said that an application has been made for federal funding, however a response has not yet been received. Mr. Cullen also stated that staffing resources for the program have been an issue as well over the last couple of years.

WARDEN'S REPORT

The Warden's Report for the month of February 2024 was received as presented.

Warden Parker said the AGM and the regular meeting of the Board of Governors for the Pictou County Wellness Centre was attended. Chad McDavid is now the new Chief Operating Officer of the Wellness Centre. They are currently working with Johnson Controls because energy costs have continued to put wellness in the deficit over the last eight years.

Warden Parker said that an emergency preparedness meeting will be held on March 21, 2024 with provincial staff and Council will have a meeting following that.

TAXES RECEIVABLE REPORT

The Taxes Receivable Report for the month of February 2024 was received for information purposes.

Clr. MacKeil made a correction on the second last row of the first column it should read tax receivable balance end of month should be 2023 and the bottom row should be 2024.

Clr. Parker encouraged staff to be working on this and asked if letters have gone out to some of the delinquent accounts. CAO Cullen said that the letter provided 14 days for the recipient to make contact and if a response is not received, the next step would be to refer those properties for a title search. The 14 days have now passed and the ones who have not entered into an agreement will be looked at. Deputy Warden Murray said that approximately 100 letters went out and staff is starting to work on the second batch.

DEED TRANSFER TAX

The Deed Transfer Tax for the month of February 2024 was received as presented.

ACCOUNTS PAID – FEBRUARY 2024

It was moved by Clr. Parker and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the Accounts Paid Report for the month of February 2024 be received as presented. **Motion Carried**

COMMUNITY GENERATOR FUND EXTENSION REQUEST

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. Turner that the following be approved for an extension for the Community Generator Fund. **Motion Carried**

East River St. Mary's Fire Dept. \$3,410.00 Generator Installation

MUNICIPAL SERVICE GRANT EXTENSION REQUEST

It was moved by Clr. Thompson and seconded by Clr. Parker that the following Municipal Service Grant be approved for an extension. **Motion Carried**

East River St. Mary's Fire Dept \$3,500.00

Generator Installation

COUNCIL GRANT EXTENSION REQUESTS

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the following Council Grants be approved for an extension: **Motion Carried**

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|---------------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Creative Pictou County | \$2,500.00 | START Program |
| 2. Pictou Co. Athletics | \$5,000.00 | Purchase of Discus Cage |

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION BURSARY AND GRADUATION ANNUAL GRANTS

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Thompson that the following High School Graduation Bursary and Graduation annual grants be approved: **Motion Carried**

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| 1. North Nova Education Centre | \$2,000.00 |
| 2. Northumberland Regional High School | \$2,000.00 |
| 3. Pictou Academy | \$200.00 |
| 4. Tatamagouche Regional High School | \$200.00 |

RECREATION SPONSORSHIP GRANTS

It was moved by Clr. Palmer and seconded by Clr. Wadden that the following Recreation Grants be approved: **Motion Carried**

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| 1. Chignecto Regional (East) Science Fair | \$1,000.00 |
| 2. Pictou County Crushers U15AA | \$250.00 |

Clr. Parker declared a conflict of interest and would not be voting on this motion.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY GRANT

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Turner to approve the following Community Connectivity Event Grant. **Motion Carried**

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| 1. Little Harbour Community Centre | \$1,500.00 | End of Year Party |
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MUNICIPAL ELECTION VOTING RECOMMENDATION

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Elliott to accept staff recommendation of electronic voting for the October 2024 Municipal Elections.

Motion Carried

Nay Votes:

Clr. Darla MacKeil
Clr. Peter Boyles
Clr. Chester Dewar

CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

The discussion on the New Glasgow Farmer's Market will be at the April 2, 2024 Council meeting.

MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION

There were no motions of reconsideration.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business before the meeting, so the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

MUNICIPAL CLERK