

Memorandum of Understanding Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 9:30am
Municipality of the County of Pictou - Council Chambers

In attendance:

Municipality of the County of Pictou	Warden Ronald Baillie Councillor Deborah Wadden Brian Cullen, CAO
Town of New Glasgow	Councillor Jack Lewis Lisa MacDonald, CAO
Town of Pictou	Mayor Joe Hawes Councillor Cam Beaton Scott Conrod, CAO
Town of Stellarton	Mayor Joe Gennoe Councillor Denise Taylor Joyce Eaton, Town Clerk

Observers in Attendance:

Town of Pictou	Councillor Lynn Vigneault Councillor Bob Naylor Councillor Alta Munroe
Municipality of the County of Pictou	Councillor Scott Johnston Councillor Sally Fraser
Town of New Glasgow	Councillor Trudy Vince Councillor Nancy Dicks Councillor Clyde Fraser
Town of Stellarton	Councillor Ken Francis
NS Department of Municipal Affairs	Emily Pond

Regrets

Mayor Barrie MacMillan, Town of New Glasgow

Call to Order

Warden Baillie called the meeting to order. The Chairman introduced Emily Pond as the Department of Municipal Affairs new Municipal Advisor assigned to our area and welcomed her to the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the Agenda as presented.

Moved: Councillor Deborah Wadden

Seconded: Councillor Cam Beaton

Motion Approved.

Approval of Minutes – April 20, 2015

Motion: To approve the minutes for April 20, 2015.

Moved: Mayor Joe Hawes

Seconded: Councillor Cam Beaton

Motion Approved.

Business Arising from the Minutes

a. Update on Meeting with Provincial Staff

CAO S. Conrod advised he met with the Department of Municipal Affairs Deputy Minister, Dan McDougall and Executive Director Mark Peck last Thursday. The meeting provided the opportunity to bring the Department up to date with respect to the work of the MOU Steering Committee. The enabling legislation requirements will be applicable Province wide and will be led by their Department. The MOU Steering Committee will assist the Department with information from our study work. The Committee's commitment to evidence based decision making was stressed and updates were provided on the various work plans. S. Conrod advised of the Provincial funding request. The Committee should expect a response letter shortly from the Minister.

Warden Baillie noted that in his discussions with Departmental Officials that he understands they feel we are advancing well with the process.

b. Update on Staff Meetings – Study Components

CAO S. Conrod advised that he, B. Cullen and L. MacDonald completed interviews with the Dalhousie Co-op Students and a successful candidate has been selected who will start tomorrow. He will work out of the Pictou Town Office.

c. Update on the Human Resource Study

S. Conrod advised that Nadine Rivard of Grant Thornton's Quebec office is here conducting interviews with the Senior Staff.

New Business

a. Messaging – Proposed Newspaper Article

Warden R. Baillie noted that the Alma Fire Hall meeting was well attended. During this meeting residents expressed that the public may not be aware of these information sessions. It was felt

by the Steering Committee that the advertising and messaging for these meetings need to be increased.

Councillor Cam Beaton inquired if there is a direct link between the County Councillors and their constituents. CAO B. Cullen noted that the County holds Rate Payers Meetings and a number of the information sessions held in the County have been conducted as part of Rate Payers Meetings. He noted the Council Members are required to advertise their Rate Payers Meeting.

Councillor Deborah Wadden raised great points regarding the advertising of meetings and recommended a business card with contact information. It was also recommended that the water and tax bills could include information related to the MOU and website.

Warden Baillie noted that the County has a newsletter coming out within the next two weeks which includes a specific article about the MOU.

Councillor Jack Lewis recommended using the PC Wellness Centre LED sign to promote the www.onepictoucounty.ca website and to advertise meetings.

S. Conrod noted that a draft media release has been circulated for consideration by the Steering Committee. The Committee reviewed and authorized the release of same.

Councillor Deborah Wadden noted that the last meeting held in Alma was very positive and that it may be a good idea to develop a Q&A sheet that could be distributed during meetings.

b. MOU Budget

S. Conrod reviewed the current working budget for the MOU – Phase 1. The current cash costs are valued at \$240,000. S. Conrod noted the additional GIS licensing requirements and the cost associated with this license. Phase 1 does not include the election piece and plebiscite costs.

L. MacDonald provided an overview of the communications powerpoint presentation and costs associated with the communications initiatives.

c. Review of upcoming Public Presentation Dates & Locations

- Tuesday, May 5th at 7pm – Pictou Landing Fire Hall

Requests for Presentations:

- Pictou North Colchester Presentation request
- Pictou County 2020 Meeting date
- Seniors in various municipalities
- United Way – Quarterly Meeting
- CHAD Meeting request

Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday, May 12th at 9:30am at the Municipality of the County of Pictou Council Chambers.

Motion: To go in-camera to receive Solicitor-Client advice.

Moved: Councillor Cam Beaton

Seconded: Councillor Jack Lewis

Motion Approved.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Councillor Cam Beaton

Seconded: Mayor Joe Hawes

No recommendations were forthcoming from private session.

Motion Approved.