

Minutes of a Town of Pictou Committee of Council meeting convened at the CN Station – Council Chambers on the above date. Mayor Jim Ryan presiding.

Present: Deputy Mayor Robert Fry; Councillors Terry Dunbrack and Krista Fulton and Nadine LeBlanc

Also Present: Wayne Robinson, Fire Department
Michelle Young, Community Development
Iain MacIsaac, Public Works
Sally O’Neill, Recreation
David Nicholson, Finance
Nicole MacDonald, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

Absent with Regrets: Kyle Slaunwhite, CAO
Curtis MacKinnon, RCMP

1. Public Session – Audit Committee (5:45 pm)

2. Public Session – Call to Order (6:30 pm)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

It was acknowledged that Town Council was meeting in the unceded territory of Mi’kma’ki, the ancestral and unceded land of the Mi’kmaq people.

3. Changes/Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda with three additions:
9f. Business Advisory Committee – Façade Program
10b. Parking on Water Street
11a. Viola’s Place

Moved, Seconded and Carried

COC-04-07-26-001

4. Proclamations and Acknowledgement

a. Tartan Day

The Chair declared April 6 as Tartan Day in Pictou.

5. Presentations

6. Departmental Reports

a. Fire Department

Report was included in Council package

- New Facebook page: Pictou Fire and Rescue
- Hosting the Rolling Barrage again this year

- Annual Awards Banquet on March 28 – members were recognized for accomplishments over the past year
- The Chief reviewed the Town’s guidelines for outdoor fires
- Question: Was there a reason for installing security cameras? – no, being proactive
- Question: With the illegal burn incident, was it what they were burning or the time? – what they were burning, they were following provincial guidelines, but not aware of the town bylaw
- Question: Are you allowed to burn softwood? – no, gives off more sparks

b. RCMP

- Report was included in Council package
- No questions

c. Community Development

Report was included in Council package

- Working on waterfront Summer Program
- Question: Will there be a food truck on the waterfront this summer? – yes, will be announced soon, Marina Kiosks will be the same as last year
- Question: What is the status on the RFP for in front of the Curling Club? – it is closed now, 3 submissions

d. Public Works

Report was included in Council package

- Spring Clean Up begins April 20
- Hydrant Flushing will begin after Clean Up
- Caladh Avenue work will commence the end of the month
- Tenders are on hold for now to see if fuel prices decrease
- Question – update on Broidy Park
- Question – estimate on Marina completion date, hopefully October but could run later
- Question – where does Spring Clean Up start? – east end of town
- Question – what type of paint are we using on roads?

e. Parks & Recreation

Report was included in Council package

- Volunteer Reception – April 22
- Working on bringing Ball Program to Pictou
- Question – When/where is Yoga held?

f. Variance

Report was included in Council package

- Question: Why did we spend money on beautification before we had approval? – grant approvals are often received too late in the season to proceed with the work, so staff proceeded at risk; however, the program was subsequently cancelled
- Question: was snow removal over budget? – yes

7. Appointment Committees

- a. Business Advisory Committee – Councillor Fulton
 - Business Mixer was held on March 5 at the Waterview Restaurant
- b. Pictou Lobster Carnival – Councillor LeBlanc
 - Ham & Potato Salad Takeout – April 23
 - Headliners will be announced tomorrow morning at 10:00 am
 - Tickets will be sold at the deCoste Centre – watch for updates
- c. Fisheries Museum – Councillor LeBlanc
 - AGM was held last week; Karen Vaughn is still Chairperson
 - Applied for summer students and waiting for approval
- d. Hector Arena – Deputy Mayor Fry
 - \$20,000 left over from Zamboni grant – discussing what projects/purchases can be done with remaining money
 - Senior Pipers Hockey Team owe approximately \$6500
 - Question: Does Revenue Canada owe the rink money? – yes approximately \$38,000 HST rebate
- e. Ship Hector – Deputy Mayor Fry
 - Two employees on staff
 - Applied for a grant for 4 students
 - Working on future fundraising projects/ideas
- f. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library – Deputy Mayor Fry
 - Adopt-a-Library received an \$8,000 grant for a Seniors Library Club funded by the Aberdeen Health Foundation
- g. Construction Engineering Flight (CEF) – Councillor Dunbrack
 - Discussed Canada’s commitment made to increase its military spending to 5% and how it affects places like the CEF School
- h. McCulloch House Museum & Genealogy Centre – Councillor Dunbrack
 - Signed a caretaker MOU with the Nova Scotia Museums for McCulloch House to stay open until April; waiting to hear back if we can move forward and it is looking like we should be able to
 - Tartan celebrations will be held on April 12 at 2 pm
- i. Fire Department – Councillor Dunbrack
 - The Fire Department held its Annual Firefighter Awards on Saturday. Congratulations were extended to Matt Ringuette, recipient of Firefighter of the Year; Byron Bush, recipient of Rookie of the Year; and all members recognized for milestone achievements.

8. Reports/Recommendations from Private Session

9. Recommendations

a. 2025-26 Operating Budget

Town Accountant David Nicholson reviewed the first draft of the 2026-27 Operating Budget.

Questions/Comments:

- Deed Transfer Tax: A question was raised regarding the Deed Transfer Tax
- RCMP staffing level: It was noted that RCMP staffing was at 5.5; clarification was provided that the Town’s contract is for 7
- Splash Pad operations: A question was raised regarding chemical management for the splash pad and whether this will be automated by timer or require a paid staff member
- Staffing: Council asked whether staff are comfortable operating with one fewer staff member while still completing required work
- Street sweeper: A question was raised regarding whether the street sweeper is still being rented
- Assessments: Concern was expressed regarding an assessment figure of \$130,000 being cited as the average home value
- Budget development: A question was raised regarding the process for creating the municipal budget
- Fuel costs: Council asked how increases in diesel and gasoline prices may impact the budget

b. Pre-Approval of Debenture Issuance

Motion: For Pictou Town Council at their next Regular Council Meeting to approve the following:

Whereas clause 66 (1) of the Municipal Government Act (the “Act”) provides that a municipality may borrow to carry out an authority to expend funds for capital purposes conferred by the Act or another Act of the Legislature;

And whereas clause 91(1)(a) of the Act provides that where a municipality is authorized to borrow money, subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (the “Minister”), that the sum shall be borrowed by the issue and sale of debentures, in one sum or by installments, as determined by the council;

AND WHEREAS clause 91(1)(b) of the *Municipal Government Act* authorizes the council to determine the amount and term of, and the rate of interest, on each debenture, when the interest on a debenture is to be paid, and where the principal and interest on a debenture are to be paid;

And whereas clause 91(2) of the *Municipal Government Act* states, that in accordance with the *Finance Act*, the mayor or warden and clerk or the person designated by the council, by policy, shall sell and deliver the debentures on behalf of the municipality at the price, in the sums and in the manner deemed proper;

And whereas the resolution of council to borrow for was approved by the municipal council on March 16, 2026;

Be it therefore resolved,

That under the authority of section 91 of the *Municipal Government Act*, the Town of Pictou (*Name of Unit*) borrow by the issue and sale of debentures a sum or sums not exceeding \$1,438,455 , for a period not to exceed 20 years, subject to the approval of the Minister;

That the sum be borrowed by the issue and sale of debentures of the Town of Pictou, in the amount that the Mayor and clerk deems proper, provided the average interest rate of the debenture does not exceed the rate of 7.0%;

That the debenture be arranged with the Province of Nova Scotia with interest to be paid semi-annually and principal payments made annually;

That this resolution remains in force for a period not exceeding twelve months from the passing of this resolution.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

COC-04-07-26-002

c. Growing Canada’s Community Canopies (GCCC) – Application

A discussion was held on an application being submitted with the GCCC for purposes of creating an Urban Forest Plan.

Motion: To table the discussion until there is more information circulated.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

COC-04-07-26-003

d. Parks and Recreation Committee – Appointment

Motion: For Council at their next Regular meeting to appoint Devin O’Brien to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

COC-04-07-26-004

e. Business Advisory Committee – Appointment

Motion: For Council at their next Regular meeting to appoint Chris Smith to the Business Advisory Committee.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

COC-04-07-26-005

f. Business Advisory Committee – Façade Program

Motion: For Council at their next Regular meeting to approve the reinstatement of the Façade Improvement Program as a micro-grant initiative, funded through leftover funds by the former Pictou Business and Marketing Society, with the following parameters:

- Grants to support exterior, street-facing façade improvements
- Cost-shared model at 50% of eligible project costs
- Maximum grant of \$500 per applicant

Moved, Seconded and Carried

COC-04-07-26-006

10. Discussions

a. Spring Cleanup

Spring Cleanup will commence on April 20, beginning on the east side of town. Residents are advised to consult local newspapers and the Town’s social media channels for a list of items that will and will not be collected.

b. Parking on Water Street

A discussion was held regarding parking in the downtown area. It was noted that approximately ten days prior, an issue arose involving a business attempting to restrict parking in front of its premises by displaying three “No Parking” signs in its window. It was clarified that businesses do not have the authority to prohibit parking in public parking spaces and that such signage is not enforceable. The business has since been advised accordingly, and discussions have taken place with the RCMP regarding the matter.

Council requested that a formal report be prepared outlining the following:

- Ownership of parking lots within the Town;
- The total number of available parking spaces; and
- A proposed traffic and parking flow plan in the event that Commercial Street is closed.

11. Correspondence

a. Viola’s Place

A petition was delivered to the Town Office. Mayor Ryan presented the contents as correspondence rather than as a formal petition as the conditions for petition presentation were not met. The correspondence relates to Viola’s Place and issues surrounding homelessness in Pictou County. While homelessness was acknowledged as a concern within the broader community, it was noted that responsibility of ensuring continuing operations of Viola’s Place does not fall within the jurisdiction of the Town.

12. Public Comments/Questions

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Approved

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO