

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

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

Also Present: Kyle Slaunwhite, CAO
Nicole MacDonald, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

1. Private Session – Contract Matters (6:00 pm)

2. Public Session – Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:40 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 one addition:
9a. New Horizons Partial Tax Exemption Policy
Moved, Seconded and Carried.

COC-07-06-26-001

4. Proclamations and Acknowledgement

a. Pictou Lobster Carnival

On behalf of the Town, the Chair thanked the Lobster Carnival Committee, led by Philip Harpell and Clare Steele, for their work in organizing this year's Lobster Carnival. The Chair noted the excellent music lineup and the many successful events held throughout the weekend. He extended appreciation to the committee, volunteers, sponsors, performers, and everyone who contributed to making the event such a success.

5. Presentations

6. Departmental Reports

a. Fire Department

- Report was included in Council package

b. RCMP

- Report was included in Council package

c. Community Development

- Report was included in Council package

- d. Public Works
 - Report was included in Council package
- e. Parks & Recreation
 - Report was included in Council package
- f. Variance
 - Report was included in Council package

Questions:

- Can the RCMP regularly report on Off-Highway Vehicle incidents?
- Will the retaining wall engineering be done in-house?

7. Appointment Committees

- a. deCoste Centre – Councillor Fulton
 - Winter programs are now online
 - 2 proms and graduations held in June
 - Weekly updates on the deCoste Facebook page
- b. Pictou Business
 - Business mixer on July 16 at Stone Soup from 5-7 pm
- c. Pictou Lobster Carnival – Councillor LeBlanc
 - Echoed the Mayor's appreciation for all the hard work of the committee and volunteers
- d. Fisheries Museum – Councillor LeBlanc
 - Now open for the summer 7 days a week from 10:00 am-4:30 pm
 - New Lighthouse Exhibit
- e. Ship Hector – Deputy Mayor Fry
 - AGM was held and four members resigned
 - Looking to fundraise \$250,000
 - Rigging and masks are in process
- f. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library – Deputy Mayor Fry
 - AGM held; \$131,000 over budget
 - The budget overage was attributed to wages; several fundraising initiatives are underway.
 - Donation stations have been set up at the libraries for public contributions.
 - The Pictou Library recorded 65,000 visitors since opening
- g. McCulloch House Museum & Genealogy Centre – Councillor Dunbrack
 - Anonymous \$100,000 donation to the Centre
 - Plans are being considered for a walkway fundraiser in the fall
 - The Escape Room is scheduled to reopen in August
 - The Centre welcomed 300 visitors in June

8. Reports/Recommendations from Private Session

a. Capital Budget Update

Contract matters related to the Capital Budget were discussed.

The Town was unsuccessful in obtaining the requested federal funding for the Union Street and retaining wall projects; however, provincial funding has been approved for the retaining wall project.

Council agreed to proceed with both the proposed Union Street project and the retaining wall project.

All other approved capital projects will proceed as planned, with the exception of two water infrastructure projects: the watermain replacement on Welsford Street and the pipe replacement in the Bark Street area. These projects will be deferred at this time.

The existing boat launch at the marina will be removed. A replacement had been planned for next year; however, this work will now take place in 2026.

MOTION: For Council at their next Regular meeting to approve borrowing an additional \$1.23 million to complete capital projects related to Union Street, the retaining wall and relocation of the boat launch.

Moved, Seconded and Carried.

COC-07-06-26-002

9. Recommendations

10. Discussions

a. New Horizons Partial Tax Exemption Policy

Motion: That the following serves as the required seven (7) day advance Notice of Intent to consider adoption of the Policy titled “New Horizons Partial Tax Exemption”.

Moved, Seconded and Carried.

COC-07-06-26-003

11. Correspondence

12. Public Comments/Questions

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Approved

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO