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 Terry Dunbrack; Councillors Robert Fry, Krista Fulton and Nadine LeBlanc

Also Present: Kyle Slaunwhite, CAO
Derek Bjorklund, RCMP
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

1. Call to Order

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.

2. Changes/Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda with two corrections:
- change 10a and 10b to 9a and 9b

Moved, Seconded and Carried ***COC-11-02-26-001***

3. Proclamations and Acknowledgement

a. Veterans Week
The Chair proclaimed November 5 to 11 as Veterans Week and recognized November 8 as Indigenous Veterans Day, which honours the military service and contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. People were reminded that the Remembrance Day Service in Pictou will be held on November 11 at 10:45 am at the Pictou Cenotaph.

b. Purple Ribbon Campaign for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
The Chair proclaimed November as Purple Ribbon Campaign for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The Town of Pictou will be illuminating the Town Office in purple for the month.

c. Municipal Awareness Week
The Chair declared November 1-7 as Municipal Awareness Week.

4. Presentations

a. Department of Natural Resources – Cormorants

Representatives from the Department of Natural Resources presented information on the Pictou Causeway Cormorants Pilot Project. The project would relocate the cormorants from the Pictou Causeway to Loch Broom Point.

The reason for the relocation is because of public safety and the welfare of the cormorants. Information was provided on the history and behaviour of cormorants in the Pictou area, along with details of the proposed pilot project.

The presenters also outlined the work required to prepare for the relocation before the spring season.

Questions:

- Will the project focus solely on the cormorants at the causeway, given that birds are also gathering at other locations, including the Ferry Wharf, Shipyard, Logan's and Market Wharf?
- Is the Municipality of the County of Pictou aware of the proposed plan?
- What would be the next step if all of the cormorants were to relocate into town?
- Were the high-visibility tags installed on the power lines along the causeway specifically for the cormorants?
- What is Nova Scotia Power's involvement in the project?
- Why is the project specifically seeking support from the Town?
- How long is the relocation process expected to take?

As the project is already moving forward, the presentation was provided as a courtesy to Council. The Chair thanked the presenters for their time and wished them success with the project.

5. Departmental Reports

a. Fire Department

- Report was included in Council package
- Question on whether the Live Fire Trainer is operational

b. RCMP

- Report was included in Council package
- Comment on people not stopping to let school children cross street when getting off bus

c. Community Development

- Report was included in Council package

d. Public Works

- Report was included in Council package
- Question regarding the retaining wall, fence and boardwalk budget
- Question about Broidy Park lights being on in the morning
- Question about status of Union Street project
- Question about Front Street sidewalk project timeline

e. Parks & Recreation
- Report was included in Council package

f. Variance
- Report was included in Council package
- Forecasting a favourable budget position of approximately $116,000 budget by year-end
- Next Tax Sale is February 18 – approximately 6-8 properties will proceed to title searches, compared to 22 last year

6. Appointment Committees

a. Pictou Lobster Carnival – Councillor LeBlanc
- Selling tickets on a Christmas Basket

b. Northumberland Fisheries Museum – Councillor LeBlanc
- PICCOLA is still renting the upstairs
- Working on building an accessible ramp for the hatchery

c. Pictou Business – Councillor Fulton
- Did a debriefing on HarvFEST
- Discussed winter activities in the downtown
- Next mixer will be held on November 26

d. Construction Engineering Flight – Deputy Mayor Dunbrack
- Open House was held at NSCC in Stellarton

e. McCulloch Heritage and Genealogy Society – Deputy Mayor Dunbrack
- Increased interest in genealogical research is being driven by individuals tracing family histories to support citizenship applications under Bill 13
- Had their first ever Bus Tour
- To date the province has not signed off on handing over the property

f. Ship Hector – Councillor Fry
- Closed for the season on October 24
- Planning for the 27-28 seasons
- Priorities to finish the ship, apply for loans and grants, and the Ship Building School

7. Recommendations

a. Credit Limit Increase

Motion: For Council at their next Regular meeting to authorize a combined credit limit of up to $50,000 for Town-issued credit cards.

Moved, Seconded and Carried ***COC-11-02-26-002***

Motion: For Council at their next Regular meeting to authorize an increase to the Operating Credit Line of up to $1 Million.

Moved, Seconded and Carried ***COC-11-02-26-003***

b. Accounting Software
The Town's accounting software, Microsoft Dynamics GP, will no longer be supported after 2029, creating the need to transition to a new financial system.

CentralSquare (the current provider) has offered to waive implementation costs if the Town moves to its Naviline accounting software now, providing a cost-savings of $114,000 for the transition.

Motion: For Council at their next Regular meeting to authorize staff to proceed with the implementation of Central Square's Naviline accounting software.
Moved, Seconded and Carried ***COC-11-02-26-004***

8. Discussions

9. Correspondence

a. RMS Energy
Council received a request from RMS Energy seeking support for the proposed Clydesdale Ridge Wind Farm. Council directed the CAO to obtain additional information on the request, including the purpose of the support and how the letter would assist the project.

b. Berma's Place
Council received a request from the John Howard Society of Nova Scotia for a capital contribution toward petroleum remediation at Berma's Place, and for a letter of support for funding applications.

Council discussed the request, expressed concerns about providing financial assistance for the project, and agreed to table the matter.

10. Public Comments/Questions

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Approved

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James J. Ryan
Mayor

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Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO