

Minutes of a Town of Pictou Committee of Council meeting convened 3:00 pm in Council Chambers on the above date. Mayor Joseph Hawes presiding.

**PRESENT:** Deputy Mayor Lynn Vigneault; Councillors Bob Naylor, Cam Beaton and Alta Munroe

**ALSO PRESENT:** Scott Conrod, CAO  
Jim Chisholm, Superintendent Public Works  
Paul Janes, Fire Chief  
Michelle Young, Recreation Coordinator  
Constable Dave Gagnon, RCMP Pictou  
Nicole MacDonald Battist, Deputy Clerk, Meeting Recorder

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Hawes called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED: B. Naylor  
SECONDED: A. Munroe

*COC-09-16-13-1117*

MOTION: To approve the agenda with the following additions:  
5.b Mayor Hawes – UNSM Resolution from Town of New Glasgow  
5.c Mayor Hawes – Riverview Volunteer Association Request  
MOTION CARRIED

### **DEPARTMENTAL AND STANDING REPORTS**

#### R.C.M.P. Pictou Detachment

The monthly report was included in the Council package. Constable Dave Gagnon introduced himself. There were no questions. It was brought up that there has been an increase in fast driving on Patterson Street, immediately after high school is out. Const. Gagnon made note of the issue and will try to have officers drive by at random times to deter the activity.

#### CAO Report

The CAO highlighted a few items in his report:

- Town's water rate application to NSUARB – Working on compliance filing
- Water Tower Refurbishment – Province has committed \$250,000 towards the project; still in discussions with federal and provincial governments regarding additional upgrade funding
- Water Meters Installation – will begin next week
- Piloting of Water Treatment Technology – negotiations underway with designer
- Rotary Development – A meeting is scheduled with the Deputy Minister of TIR on September 19th
- With the return to work of the Deputy Clerk, some changes to administrative staff duties have occurred

- Complaint Tracking – Record Keeping (logging and follow-up) is now assigned to Administrative Assistant/Cashier, Jo-Anne McNamara
- The Building Inspector and Development Officer from the Town of New Glasgow will be taking applications out of the New Glasgow Public Works office, but will each work out of Pictou on project files
- Working on the LUB draft for all five towns and upcoming tax sale
- Upcoming administrative priorities: a special constable needs to be contracted; derelict property inspections on several properties; tax bills to be mailed out within ten days
- Question: A. Munroe asked for a list of the derelict properties

#### Fire Department

Paul Janes, Fire Chief, presented a report for the Fire Department that included the following items:

- Fire Fighting Equipment – No update to report on the sponsorship from EHS for financial support for the MFR equipment.
- Building Maintenance – Fire code structural requirements for the building have been completed; working on getting fire alarm installed; bay doors will be serviced with a new opening system.
- Up and Coming – Hope to start working with yard on requirements for the department to provide them with 911 service (confined space).

#### Public Works

Jim Chisholm, Superintendent, reported on the following:

- Inflow and Infiltration Investigation and Repairs – It would have cost \$8000 to hire an external company to complete this work, so it was decided for town staff to complete. Investigation will determine the extent of ground/storm water infiltration; repairs to catch basins to reduce these flows will be completed as well as upgrades to the sanitary system between Elliott and Wellington Street.
- Question about work to be completed on Farm Street (all branches will be cut back and signage installed).

#### Recreation & Parks

The monthly report was included in the Council package. Michelle Young, Recreation Coordinator, highlighted a number of items in her report, as well as projects being worked on by Active Pictou County.

- Up and Coming – will provide annual report next month

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

#### Requests from DEANS

The following requests were made by DEANS at the Regular Town Council meeting on June 17, 2013:

- 1) DEANS is looking for a letter of support from Council to have the Province enact legislation for a marketing levy on commercially assessed accommodation businesses within Town. If Provincial legislation is passed to that effect, the Town would be required to draft a by-law and administer the collection of the tax. So far six of the eleven municipalities have responded favorably to DEANS' request.

- 2) The Annual Municipal Request of \$4,293.18 which is based in part on uniform assessment.

Core Funding Discussion – It is based on uniform assessment, and not a sale of service. It was brought up that the formula does not take into consideration additional funding the Town contributes to tourism through the deCoste Centre, Ship Hector debenture, the marina and other areas.

Marketing Levy – The marketing levy would only apply to accommodation businesses. Concern was raised over the additional burden collecting this tax would be on administrative staff.

In order for DEANS to operate, they have indicated they will continue to require the core funding from all municipal units, in addition to this marketing levy, which equates to \$2 per room per night.

MOVED: A. Munroe

*COC-09-16-13-1118*

SECONDED: C. Beaton

MOTION: That Council at their next Regular Meeting consider conditional support for the marketing levy.

MOTION CARRIED.

#### Phase I Water Upgrades - Update

The project is 75% complete. The electrical component is nearly complete, but development of the SCADA software is still being worked on.

#### Stand Pipe Rehabilitation Tenders

All tenders were reviewed by Richard Smith, engineer for exp. Services Inc. The Town has two options to complete this work – pressure washing or sandblasting. Pressure washing is cheaper, but will only last five to seven years. The sand blast option will cost a bit more today, but will last fifteen years. In today's dollars, it will save the town \$90,000 over the lifecycle. The Engineer suggested going with the lowest bidder in this case. The budget allows for going with the sandblast option.

It was noted there will be an additional cost to purchase bladders to store the water during the project.

MOVED: L. Vigneault

*COC-09-16-13-1119*

SECONDED: B. Naylor

MOTION: That Council at their next Regular Meeting ratify the engagement of JCDMI at a cost of \$567,584.80 (HST included) to sandblast the inside and outside of the stand pipe.

MOTION CARRIED.

**NEW BUSINESS****Reduction in Taxes due to Property Destruction Request**

A request was received from Renee Teela Weatherbee of 134 High Street, to have her property taxes reduced because of fire destruction that occurred at her home on June 18, 2013. In this case, the *Reduction in Taxes Where Destruction has Impacted Property Use Policy* allows a property owner to apply to the Town to have their taxes pro-rated.

MOVED: B. Naylor

*COC-09-16-13-1120*

SECONDED: L. Vigneault

MOTION: That Council at their next Regular Meeting authorize staff to pro-rate the taxes on this property effective June 18, 2013 (the date of the fire) to March 31, 2014.

MOTION CARRIED.

In correspondence, the owner should be told that she will have to re-apply next year if the property is still uninhabitable.

**UNSM Resolution from Town of New Glasgow**

A resolution regarding who can run for municipal council was received from New Glasgow Town Council. They plan to table this resolution at the UNSM fall conference and would like all Pictou County municipal units to support the resolution. Specifically, the resolution refers to recommending that provincial legislation on disqualified persons be amended from anyone who “has been convicted of any corrupt practice or bribery contrary to this Act within five years preceding nomination day” to anyone that has been convicted of any “serious criminal offense”.

All agreed to support the resolution.

**Riverview Volunteer Association Request**

A request was received to cost share with the other Pictou County municipal units to assist with wages for a lifeguard to provide a 10 week swim program to its residents.

All agreed that as per the *Donation Policy*, in order to be considered for funding for this fiscal year, the request should have been submitted prior to this year’s deadline. The group can re-submit their request if they would like to be considered next year.

**CORRESPONDENCE****PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

What is happening on governance within the County and what does the Town financially support in the tourism industry above and beyond DEANS?

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED: L. Vigneault  
SECONDED: B. Naylor

*COC-09-16-13-1121*

MOTION: That the meeting adjourn at 4:40pm  
MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVED

---

Joseph F. Hawes  
Mayor

---

Scott W. Conrod  
CAO