

Minutes of a Town of Pictou Committee of Council meeting convened 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers on the above date. Mayor Joseph Hawes presiding.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Scott Conrod – CAO
Constable Bent – RCMP Pictou
Jim Chisholm – Superintendent Public Works
Michelle Young – Recreation Coordinator
Eldon MacDonald – Town Accountant
Paul Janes – Fire Chief
Jo-Anne McNamara – Meeting Recorder

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Hawes called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED: B. Naylor
SECONDED: C. Beaton

COC-01-13-14-1209

MOTION: To approve the agenda as circulated with one addition:
5 (i) Property Valuation Services Corporation Press Release
MOTION CARRIED

3. **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

a. **R.C.M.P. Pictou Detachment**

The monthly report was included in the Council package. It was also noted that the detachment priorities for January are:

- Enforcement of the non use of electronic devices, (cell phones) while driving; and Community/police contacts.

b. **CAO Report**

The CAO Report was circulated. Highlights included:

- Work with financial consultants under contract with the Pictou County Shared Services
- Tax Sale certificates and deeds have been prepared for the properties dealt with in the December sale by tender.
- Municipal Climate Change Action Plan was updated and delivered to Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations prior to the December 31, 2013 deadline.
- The Tender Call for engineering design services for road realignments at the rotary area and the corner of Haliburton and West River Roads will be released shortly on the Provincial procurement site.

c. Fire Department

The monthly report for the Fire Department was included in the Council package. There were no questions.

d. Public Works

The monthly report for Public Works was circulated. It was noted that the salt truck was out of service in December and equipment had to be rented. Public Works is one machine operator short and will be looking at filling the position in the near future.

e. Recreation & Parks

Michelle Young, Recreation Coordinator, highlighted a number of items in her report, as well as projects being worked on by Active Pictou County.

- Winter Carnival will be held February 14-16, 2014
- Will look at extending the Marina Tender as there were no submissions by the deadline of December 19th
- Recreation and Parks Services Community Survey will be carried out over the next three months

f. Variance Report

The variance report was included in agenda packages. Town Accountant, Eldon MacDonald, indicated that to date the Town is looking at an \$80,000 deficit. The main contributing factors being: \$21,000 tax sale write off, \$16,000 environmental, \$8,000 legal costs for installation of sewer and \$15,000 for street maintenance.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTESa. Water Project Updates

Information was included in agenda packages on the water meter supply and installation project update. Approximately 67% of the meters have been installed.

5. NEW BUSINESSa. Recreation Committee Appointments

COC-01-13-14-1210

MOVED: A. Munroe

SECONDED: C. Beaton

MOTION: To recommend to Council the approval of the following residents to the Pictou Recreation and Parks Committee:

- 1) Krista Fulton
- 2) Camille Davidson
- 3) Isaac Young
- 4) Lindy Quann

MOTION CARRIED.

b. Snow Budget Removal

The year to date snow removal budget has been exceeded by about \$12,000. The Town Accountant noted that if weather trends continued this could lead to a significant issue.

c. FCM Sustainability Conference (2014/15)

The Conference will take place in Prince Edward Island but due to budget constraints Council will not participate.

d. Town participation in Heritage Conference (2014/15)

MOVED: A. Munroe

COC-01-13-14-1211

SECONDED: C. Beaton

MOTION: To recommend to Council that \$1,000 be approved for the Heritage Conference from next year's budget. Mayor Hawes will sit on the planning committee.

MOTION CARRIED.

e. Town participation UNSM Spring Workshop (2014/15)

The 2014 UNSM Spring workshop is to be held at the Pictou County Wellness Centre. A request has been made for representatives from each of the six local Councils to participate on the planning committee, and for each unit to contribute \$2,500 from their 2014/15 budgets. Mayor Hawes indicated that Councillor Vigneault would serve as the Town's representative.

MOVED: L. Vigneault

COC-01-13-14-1212

SECONDED:

MOTION: That it be recommended to Council for the Town to participate on the UNSM Spring Workshop Planning Committee, and to contribute \$2,500 from the 2014/15 operating budget.

NO SECONDER.

Mayor Hawes explained that while the matter can be reintroduced at a future meeting, without a seconder it would not be dealt with during the January 13, 2014 meeting.

f. Support for Trenton Park proposal

MOVED: B. Naylor

COC-01-13-14-1213

SECONDED: C. Beaton

MOTION: To recommend to Council that a letter of support for the Trenton Park proposal be issued by the Town of Pictou.

MOTION CARRIED.

g. Amendments to (Donation) Grant Policy

Amendments to Policy - Name change from Donation to Grant Policy; grant categories 1-4 and Capital Program.

MOVED: L. Vigneault *COC-01-13-14-1214*
SECONDED: C. Beaton

MOTION: To recommend that Council approve the amendments to the (Donation) Grant Policy; and that this motion serve as the Town's seven day notice of adoption pursuant to requirements of the Municipal Government Act.
MOTION CARRIED.

h. Tax Sale update

Discussed earlier with Town Variance Report.

i. PVSC Press Release

The Mayor and CAO reviewed a press release issued by the Property Valuation Services Corporation regarding 2014 assessment notices. It was noted that property owners have until February 13, 2014 to file an appeal.

6. CORRESPONDENCEa. The Honourable Mark Furey, Minister of Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations

A letter was received from Honourable Mark Furey, Minister of Service NS & Municipal Relations, confirming that Service NS and Municipal Relations will provide an additional \$250,000 toward the cost of the Town's water utility upgrade project.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Anne Emmett would like info on the Heritage Conference sent to her.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: B. Naylor *COC-01-13-14-1215*
SECONDED: L. Vigneault

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

Joseph F. Hawes
Mayor

Scott W. Conrod
CAO