

Minutes of a Town of Pictou Special Committee of Council meeting convened 2:15 pm in Council Chambers on the above date. Mayor Joseph Hawes presiding.

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Scott Conrod, CAO  
Jim Chisholm, Public Works  
Nicole MacDonald Battist, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

**REGRETS:** Councillor Bob Naylor

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Hawes called the meeting to order.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED: DM Munroe  
SECONDED: L. Vigneault

*COC-06-17-15-1508*

MOTION: To approve the agenda as circulated.  
MOTION CARRIED

**3. UPDATE ON ROAD REALIGNMENT AND ROUNDABOUT PROJECT**

CAO Conrod reported the following:

- Staff would prefer to release the tender without including Veterans Drive, award the contract, then complete a change order to include that street in the tender or issue separate tenders for Veterans Drive. These approaches would not slow down the tender process and would provide an estimate on paving costs for Veterans Drive

Consensus from Council was for staff to use either of these approaches in moving forward with this project.

**4. PROVINCIAL VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE**

Discussion was held around DEANS taking over the Provincial Visitor Information Centre. Currently the Town receives a Grant-in-Lieu from the Province for \$9,500, which may continue if DEANS signed a License Agreement with the Province. Another point brought up was that if certain commercial entities were to locate inside or around the building, the assessment might change. CAO Conrod will follow up with a letter of support for the endeavour highlighting these points that should be considered when planning for future operations.

**5. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS**

CAO Conrod reviewed the following information related to the 2016 Budget:

- Assessments are being capped at 2.1% this year, if eligible.
- Mandatory Provincial Contributions and Equalization Funding has a net increase to the Town of just over \$36,000
- The Town has a \$48,000 surplus to start with from the 2015 Year-end

The Hector Arena Commission has requested an annual operating grant of \$25,000, with 40% being provided by the Town and the remaining 60% by the County of Pictou. Council agreed to include \$10,000 in the budget. A request was also made that the current financial statements and a summary of fund raising efforts be submitted to Council.

It was also noted that the Ship Hector Society did not submit a grant application for the Ship Hector Golf Classic this year, but that Council could put a team in for \$800 or donate a lesser amount to the fund raiser.

Council direction to staff was to prepare the draft budget based on:

- Improving the operating surplus ratio by 10%
- Keeping the Regional Housing costs at \$133,000 as estimated from previous year
- Capping Grants to Organizations at 2% or last year's figure
- Including an appropriate dollar amount for a geo-technical survey for the Library study
- Including \$25,000 for MOU related expenses
- Including \$10,000 for an operating grant for the current year

Council agreed to have the next meeting related to the budget on June 23, 2015 at 10am. Topics to discuss will be the Fire Department and Public Works, specifically Prioritized Streets, Equipment and Overtime Detail.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED: DM Munroe  
SECONDED: C. Beaton

*COC-06-17-15-1509*

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.  
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

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Joseph F. Hawes  
Mayor

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Scott W. Conrod  
CAO