

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

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

ALSO PRESENT: Scott Conrod, CAO
Michelle Young, Recreation Coordinator
Eldon MacDonald, Accountant
Cpl. Shawn Reynolds, RCMP
Nicole MacDonald Battist, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Jim Chisholm, Public Works
Paul Janes, Fire Department

1. PRIVATE SESSION – PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY MATTERS (5:30 pm)

2. PUBLIC SESSION – CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hawes called the public portion of the meeting to order.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: DM Munroe

COC-12-07-15-1594

SECONDED: C. Beaton

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.
MOTION CARRIED

4. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

a. Fire Department

A copy of Fire Chief's Report was circulated to Council for their review. Fire Chief Janes sent his regrets and indicated no one else was available to be present as there was special training underway.

b. RCMP

Corporal Reynolds was present to answer questions on his report. He reported that the RCMP plan to be more involved with safety of community special events by using the Incident Command System (he recently completed training on the system).

- Special thanks was passed on to the RCMP for their help with a recent food drive
- Thanks was passed along to Corporal Reynolds for providing his expertise in resolving some recent parking matters

c. CAO

Covered under New Business

d. Public Works

Superintendent Jim Chisholm was not able to be present. A copy of his report was provided in Council's package.

e. Recreation and Parks

Michelle Young reviewed highlights from the past month and upcoming work:

- The Cruise Committee received a TIANS Award for their work
- The Christmas Light-Up included a successful food bank drive this year
- Participated in Sport Day in Canada
- Michelle Young will begin Canadian Parks and Recreation Association Professional Development Certification in the new year
- Two grants were recently submitted for a Trans Canada Trail connection project
- Staff will be spending some time on pool-related planning later this month

A special thanks was passed along to Michelle Young for her hard work and dedication to this year's Christmas Light-up

f. Variance Report

Town Accountant Eldon MacDonald reported there is a projected Town operating deficit of \$(40,000). Noteworthy points include:

- Transportation projections decreased over last month
- The Fire Department is under budget
- RCMP costs are higher than the approved figure

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Recommendations from Private Session

Instructions were provided to staff on a property related matter and personnel matters.

b. MOU on Municipal Reform - Update

CAO Conrod provided an update and clarification on the work being done on the MOU on Municipal Reform.

- He explained there are two opportunities where municipalities can withdraw from the voluntary application filed with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB): (1) pre-conditions listed in the Agreement not being satisfactorily addressed; and (2) the public have expressed that they do not wish to amalgamate.
- March 7-11, 2016 – Public Hearings will be held by the NSUARB
- May 28, 2016 – Proposed date of the plebiscite; results will be provided based on municipal unit and polling district
- Public Polling will be conducted in addition to the plebiscite
- Some documents that have been filed with the NSUARB include a Governance Report with proposed boundaries for the new districts; status quo 5 Year Capital and Operating Plans for the four individual municipalities including Financial Condition Index (FCI)
- There are currently 140 full-time employees related to the review; 124 are suggested for the new structure
- Transitional and infrastructure costs are to be negotiated with the Province through a Letter of Intent; this funding would relate to infrastructure upgrades and transition to the new organization

- Work is now being done on a 5 Year Financial Plan for the new municipality, which will include tax rate burdens and other municipal fees
- The filing deadline of the Human Resources and Financial Reports has been extended to allow for the impact on the decision of the Province on the Letter of Intent
- June 14, 2016 is the last day any municipal unit can withdraw from the NSUARB application.
- The public will be engaged in the process between February 1, 2016 and May 28, 2016 (the tentative date of the plebiscite). The purpose of the public engagements/communications will be to share and discuss the evidence filed with the NSUARB.

c. Economic Development Committee Report

DM Munroe provided a brief update of the working group. They have met three times so far. A number of groups were invited to attend the last meeting and priorities will be set at the next meeting.

d. Healthy Eating Policy

MOVED: C. Beaton
SECONDED: L. Vigneault

COC-12-07-15-1595

MOTION: That the following serve as the required seven (7) day advance notice to adopt a new Town Policy entitled “Healthy Eating”.
MOTION CARRIED.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Trans Canada Trail – Routing through Pictou

The Trans Canada Trail Foundation is working on a country-wide connection plan to be completed by 2017. The Jitney Trail, which is part of the existing Trans Canada Trail, will need to be connected via the Town boundary on Beeches Road. The group is asking for Council’s support to further explore the best route for the Town of Pictou. All of Council was in agreement of supporting this request.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

None

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: L. Vigneault
SECONDED: B. Naylor

COC-12-07-15-1596

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

Joseph F. Hawes
Mayor

Scott Conrod
CAO