

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

PRESENT: Councillors Cam Beaton, Bob Naylor and Lynn Vigneault

ALSO PRESENT: Scott Conrod, CAO
Michelle Young, Recreation Coordinator
Jim Chisholm, Public Works
Paul Janes, Fire Department
Cpl. Shawn Reynolds, RCMP
Nicole MacDonald Battist, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Mayor Joe Hawes; Eldon MacDonald, Accountant

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

2. PUBLIC SESSION – CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Munroe called the public portion of the meeting to order.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: C. Beaton

COC-01-07-16-1601

SECONDED: L. Vigneault

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.
MOTION CARRIED

4. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

a. Fire Department

Fire Chief Janes reported that:

- the annual banquet will be on January 16, 2016 at 6:00pm at the Pictou Legion
- Officers election was held in December – the only positions that have changed are the Safety Officer & Secretary/Treasurer.
- the next meeting will be January 25, 2016

b. RCMP

Cpl. Reynolds highlighted the following:

- 27 random checkpoints were conducted in December – there were only two roadside arrests which speaks positively to driver habits
- a diversity workshop will be held on January 20, 2016 for all members with the purpose of learning more about different backgrounds/cultures
- the next Police Advisory Board Community Meeting is scheduled for March 31, 2016
- working to eliminate problems with Winter Parking Ban violators

c. CAO

CAO Conrod reported that:

- most of his time has been spent on Municipal Reform work

- a number of exhibits were filed with the NSUARB on November 27, 2015
- amalgamated financial statements for the merged unit are due late this month

d. Public Works

There was one question asked about how the generators held up during the power outage? J. Chisholm reported that they worked fine and at the same power levels as the electricity.

e. Recreation and Parks

M. Young indicated that:

- the newsletter will be delivered to households next Tuesday
- preparations for Volunteer Week in April have begun
- plans are underway for Winter Carnival being held February 12-14

f. Variance Report

Not available

5. STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Municipal Alcohol Project (MAP)

DM Munroe reported that plans are well underway for the second MAP forum to be held the first week of February at the Wellness Centre. The purpose of the forum is to improve relationships among the different generations. The event is being mainly organized by local high school students.

b. Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library

A Steering Committee Meeting was held earlier in the day. A schematic of the site location was presented, comments were offered and a final draft is expected on January 21, 2016. The next step will be to prepare the design and contract document.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

a. Fee By-Law

CAO Conrod reviewed the main purpose of the by-law as enabling the Town to collect fees from Provincially-owned exempt properties for the Hydrant Rental (the Town rents hydrants from the Water Utility and currently charges an assessment based tax to tax payers); the premise being the more properties paying for the Hydrant Rental, the lower the costs will be to all taxpayers. Council previously agreed to proceed to second reading.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Recommendations from Private Session

None

b. Town of Pictou Alternative Voting By-Law

This by-law sets out provisions for electronic voting. It is proposed to partner with HRM on engaging an e-voting vendor. This by-law will be brought forward to Council for consideration and first reading.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

None

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

- Question on whether funding was received from the Province for the Roundabout and why construction cannot begin in the spring.
- Comment was made that people are driving faster on Veterans Drive now that it is nicely paved.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: C. Beaton

COC-01-07-16-1602

SECONDED: L. Vigneault

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

Alta Munroe
Deputy Mayor

Scott Conrod
CAO