

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

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

ALSO PRESENT: Scott Conrod, CAO
Michelle Young, Recreation Coordinator
Paul Janes, Fire Department
Eldon MacDonald, Town Accountant
Jim Chisholm, Public Works
Cst. Gerald Glymse, RCMP
Nicole MacDonald Battist, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

1. PRIVATE SESSION – CONTRACT MATTER (6:00 PM)

No recommendations. Council provided direction to staff on a contract matters.

2. PUBLIC SESSION – CALL TO ORDER (6:30 PM)

Mayor Hawes called the meeting to order.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: C. Beaton
SECONDED: DM Vigneault

COC-03-10-16-1634

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.
MOTION CARRIED

4. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

a. Fire Department

Fire Chief Janes indicated:

- there has been an increase in calls lately – some preventive burning may be required
- training continues
- storage space for equipment/gear is becoming scarce

Mayor Hawes commended the department on their involvement with Dave Ferguson’s memorial. Councillor Beaton added it was very professional and compassionate.

b. RCMP

Mayor Hawes pointed out an ongoing problem with parking on Church Street – “no parking” signs were erected a couple of years ago; the RCMP are being asked to look into the matter. Fire Chief Janes added that it can be difficult at times for fire trucks to maneuver through Church Street when cars park on that street.

c. CAO

CAO Conrod reported that:

- NSTIR provided recent correspondence that the Roundabout tender will be released in early spring
- still waiting for official confirmation on water treatment funding

d. Public Works

- Superintendent Chisholm reported that Town staff provided assistance with advice and organization of sewer pipe repairs at the Curling Club; the Club was responsible for contractor expenses
- Question on how much lead pipe is used throughout the town

e. Recreation and Parks

M. Young indicated that:

- the new pool pump is working great; water quality is greatly improved
- several new pool rental users
- an Age Friendly Grant has been awarded; will be used for an intergenerational program in conjunction with the Library
- using the Curling Club as the base for Winter Carnival went over well and exposed people to the facility
- Recreation NS Conference to be held in Pictou County this year

f. Variance Report

Town Accountant MacDonald reported a slight surplus is now projected, mainly due to:

- a light winter
- a spending freeze

5. STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Construction Engineering Flight

Councillor Beaton reported that involvement with community projects is slow due to a shortage of personnel.

b. Northumberland Fisheries Museum & Heritage Association

Councillor Beaton reported that the Association is preparing for the summer season.

c. Pictou County Sports Heritage Hall of Fame

Councillor Beaton reported the group provided support for the new book launch by Jim Nicholson.

d. Ship Hector Foundation

Councillor Beaton reported there has been a merger of the Ship Hector Foundation and the Hector Heritage Quay to become the Ship Hector Society.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

a. Spring Cleanup

Councillor Munroe brought up the topic of discontinuing the Town’s Spring Cleanup. She felt the process of not bringing it to Committee with a staff briefing note was out of order and asked for a Motion to Reconsider. A Motion to Reconsider can only be made by a member who voted with the prevailing side (in this case, someone who voted for the previous motion). No one from the prevailing side brought forward a Motion to Reconsider.

The previous motion from February Regular Council stands.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Plebiscite Resolution

CAO Conrod read the proposed Plebiscite Resolution.

MOVED: A. Munroe
SECONDED: C. Beaton

COC-03-10-16-1635

MOTION: To recommend to Council that at their next meeting they approve the following:

WHEREAS the Municipality of the County of Pictou, together with the Towns of New Glasgow, Pictou, and Stellarton have executed a Memorandum of Understanding on municipal reform and have filed a conditional and voluntary application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board for amalgamation;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Pictou wishes to poll the eligible voters of the Municipality to determine support for amalgamation of the aforementioned municipal units;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Town of Pictou that, in accordance with Section 53(1) of the Municipal Government Act, Council hereby directs that a plebiscite be held in the Municipality on Saturday, May 28, 2016 on the following question:

Do you favor the amalgamation of the Municipality of the County of Pictou and the Towns of New Glasgow, Pictou and Stellarton into one municipal unit?

AND BE IT RESOLVED that there be two possible answers to the plebiscite question: “Yes” or “No”.

MOTION CARRIED

b. Regional Library Project

Councillors Beaton and Vigneault reported that the first stage concept drawings are complete. The next steps are to complete a costing, design and development report, followed by construction drawings. The flow and unity of the new addition with the existing space works well. There will be an unveiling of the plans in the near future.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

a. CAIRN – Financial Request

Mayor Hawes read a letter from CAIRN requesting assistance with rent for the first year of their matched Syrian family. Council agreed to consider the request during budget deliberations.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: B. Naylor
SECONDED: A. Munroe

COC-03-10-16-1636

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

Joseph F. Hawes
Mayor

Scott Conrod
CAO