

Minutes of a Town of Pictou Committee of Council meeting convened 6:35 pm in Council Chambers on the above date. Mayor Jim Ryan presiding.

**PRESENT:** Deputy Mayor Dan Currie; Councillors Eric Daley, Malcolm Houser and Nadine LeBlanc

**ALSO PRESENT:** Scott Conrod, CAO  
Eldon MacDonald, Town Accountant  
Michelle Young, Recreation  
Jim Chisholm, Public Works  
Paul Janes, Fire Department  
Cpl Murphy, RCMP  
Nicole MacDonald Battist, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

**1. PRIVATE SESSION – PROPERTY, LEGAL & PERSONNEL MATTERS**

**2. PUBLIC SESSION – CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED: N. LeBlanc  
SECONDED: E. Daley

*COC-01-09-17-1760*

MOTION: To approve the agenda with the following addition:  
8g. Signage on Weaver Road  
8h. Signage on Winter Parking  
8i. Phase-in of Commercial Assessment By-Law  
MOTION CARRIED

**4. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

a. Fire Department

Fire Chief Janes was available to answer questions.

b. RCMP

Cpl Murphy was on hand to answer questions. He noted that the RCMP have been issuing warnings under the winter parking ban; they will now start to issue fines.

c. CAO

CAO Conrod provided an overview of items contained on in his report.

d. Public Works

J. Chisholm was available to answer questions.

- Question related to the number one priority regarding replacement of future equipment
- Comment that the snow removal staff do a great consistent job

e. Recreation and Parks

M. Young highlighted the projects that kept her busy over the past month. She noted the Tall Ships visit to Pictou which is scheduled for June 30-July 2.

- Question on diving board usage

f. Variance Report

To date, the budget is \$34,000 over-budget; mainly due to:

- street maintenance
- the salary allotment for water utility versus general operations is different compared to estimated figures
- Question on status of current capital projects – E. MacDonald will provide a report at the next meeting
- Question on number of RCMP officers the Town is paying for

**5. STANDING COMMITTEES**

a. Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL)

DM Currie attended one meeting so far related mainly to orientation.

b. Hector Arena Commission

DM Currie indicated the arena is operating in the black and that operations are running smoothly.

c. Fire Department

DM Currie reported that the Fire Department is looking at ways to raise more money in the coming year.

d. Pictou Business & Marketing Society (PBMS)

M Houser reported that snowmobiles being permitted within Town limits has been a topic of discussion.

e. Ship Hector Society

M Houser reported that the Foundation and Society are in the process of merging for ease of operation and filling board member requirements.

f. Riverview Home

M Houser reported operations include a main facility plus six group homes; there are issues with the funding model from the Province, so the Home always operates in the red despite operating efficiently.

g. deCoste Centre

M Houser reported one meeting that was held related to the library project.

h. DEANS

M Houser reported DEANS has plans to operate the VIC at the Rotary again this summer.

- i. Northumberland Fisheries Museum  
N. Leblanc informed those present about the beautiful rental space available at the museum.
- j. Lobster Carnival  
Fund raising efforts continue; new members are always encouraged
- k. CEF  
They are working on efforts to relocate Veterans Park.

**6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- a. Street Lights and Cross Walks  
A staff update report was presented related to background information gathered to-date on crosswalks. A number of publications have been ordered to assist with a course of action that will be presented in February or March. This information can be used in conjunction with developing a capital long-term plan.

**7. RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORTS FROM PRIVATE SESSION**

The Mayor reported that the following items were discussed in private session:

- A matter related to an ongoing legal action
- Two Town leased properties
- A personnel matter regarding an employee on leave of absence

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Annual Review of OH&S Policy  
Council would like the policy brought back to the OHS Committee to remove permissive language and add the messaging around “culture of safety”.
- b. Examples of Draft Internal Control Policies  
CAO Conrod gave a brief overview of a draft of internal control policies. The next step is to have staff use the draft for a period of time in case any changes should be made; the policies will then be tabled with Council for their consideration and approval.
- c. Common Taxi By-Law  
There is a request from Don Hussher, Chief of Police for Westville and Stellarton, asking the Town to consider a common taxi bylaw for all five towns. The intent of this bylaw is to address inter-jurisdictional concerns. The question is whether the draft addresses the inter-jurisdictional concerns.

MOVED: DM Currie  
SECONDED: M. Houser

*COC-01-09-17-1761*

MOTION: That Council at their next regular meeting pass a conditional motion to express their desire to pursue a common or uniform By-Law provided that the following points be included within a review of the draft:

1. The Police Chiefs confirm that their proposed provisions 39 and 40 are intended to address the previously expressed inter-jurisdictional concerns;
2. That the draft wording for provisions 39 and 40 be vetted through a Municipal Solicitor; and
3. A legal opinion be obtained on the authority to enact a common by-law versus the adoption of six individual but identical by-laws (bearing in mind this aspect may have a bearing on the inter-jurisdictional issues).

MOTION CARRIED

d. Scheduling of Final Orientation Sessions

Orientations sessions will be held on Monday, January 16 and Tuesday, January 24.

e. Scheduling of Joint Council Land Use Planning Session

A joint land use orientation will be held on Wednesday, January 25.

f. Scheduling of Council Planning Meeting

The planning meeting will be held on February 4 from 9:00 am-4:00 pm.

g. Winter Parking Restriction Signs

A question was asked about placing signs around Town advising the public of the winter parking ban.

h. Signage on Weaver Road

Question on whether more signs can be put up related to “do not enter/wrong way”.

i. Phase-in of Commercial Assessment By-law

MOVED: DM Currie  
SECONDED: E. Daley

*COC-01-09-17-1762*

MOTION: To recommend to Council that staff be given direction to develop a Commercial Assessment By-law.

MOTION CARRIED

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

a. Rob McDowell email – for information

Mr. McDowell sent a letter opposing motorized vehicles on the Jitney Trail, but is okay with special permission being given on occasion.

b. Rural Emergency Centers from Marie Hatt – for information

Ms. Hatt forwarded a letter related to her view on the importance of emergency centers for our smaller communities.

**10. PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

Comment on directional signs and winter parking.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED: M. Houser  
SECONDED: N. LeBlanc

*COC-01-09-17-1763*

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm.  
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

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James J. Ryan  
Mayor

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Scott W. Conrod  
CAO