

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

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

ALSO PRESENT: Dan Troke, CAO
Michelle Young, Recreation
Kyle Slaunwhite, Public Works
Corey Smith, Town Accountant
Paul Janes, Fire Department
Nicole Battist, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

ABSENT: Cpl Greg Deagle, RCMP

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: E Daley
SECONDED: M Houser

COC-04-01-19-2261

MOTION: To approve the agenda with one addition:
6c. Spring Cleanup
MOTION CARRIED

3. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

a. Fire Department

Paul Janes was on hand to answer questions.

- Question on leak at back of building
- Discussion on replacing leaking windows
- Question on replacement lens for Truck 11
- The Mayor commented on the value of the department to the community, in particular, to limiting damage at Advocate Printing during a recent fire
- Comment that the banquet was an enjoyable evening

b. RCMP

Cpl Deagle was not available for the meeting; there were no questions.

c. Administration

Nicole Battist highlighted her report. Corey Smith also showed a mock up of the new water bill based on consumption.

- Question on provincial beautiful grant program
- Question on way-finding signage

d. Public Works

Kyle Slaunwhite highlighted items from his report.

- Question on pressure zone work
- Question on ditches and culverts maintenance plans
- Question on life left of breakwater

e. Recreation & Parks

Highlights of the Recreation Report were provided by Michelle Young.

- She attended the Provincial Volunteer Reception today
- Town Reception is April 9
- Question about Town's grant program
- Question about park maintenance at John Allan Chisholm Field

4. APPOINTMENT COMMITTEES

a. Pictou County Sport Heritage – E Daley

- Variety Concert Fundraiser to be held May 11
- Signage issue on front of building resolved
- New lease good until September 21
- PC Historical Society will be making a presentation on the history of cricket in PC
- Effective October 1, Barry Trenholm will be resigning from his role
- Induction ceremony being planned prior to October

b. Northumberland Fisheries Museum – N LeBlanc

- Preparing for new tourist season
- Looking for summer volunteers
- AGM is March 12 at 6:00 pm

c. Pictou Lobster Carnival – N LeBlanc

- Ham & Salad Dinner next week

d. Riverview Home Corporation; Hector Heritage Society; Pictou Business and Marketing; deCoste Centre and Source Water Protection

- M Houser submitted a written report

e. Pictou County Cruise – D Currie

- First cruise is May 22
- Two more cruises in September and October
- Cruise Canada/New England Symposium this June in Sydney

f. Hector Arena – D Currie

- Closed March 31
- Increase in ice rentals, participants and walkers from previous year
- In-the-black projections

g. McCulloch House – D Currie

- Presentation by Sandy Mackay on the Mackays of Haliburton, along with an exhibit on the Two Mary's – articles from the attic in his house

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Historic Property Request

98 Water Street was designated a municipal historic property in 1999. An architect has been hired by the owner to design two add-ons to the property. Normally this would filter through the Heritage Advisory Committee as it is a request to substantially alter a municipal heritage property. Given the Committee is inactive, it has been brought directly to Council. The two add-ons relate to:

- a sunroom at the back of the building – since this request does not alter the front of the building or the streetscape, Council does not see any issue with the request given the current information; and
- two additional dormers to the front of the building – this type of building traditionally had one or two dormers on it; the building is now a duplex; the proposal only requests dormers for one side of the duplex, which changes the balance of the building and the streetscape; Council is concerned this request deviates substantially from the traditional building style given the current information.

The Mayor noted, there is a request from a citizen to discuss protection of Town heritage properties.

Council agreed to defer the decision until they hear from the interested citizen, referenced above.

b. Draft 2019-20 Town Operating Budget

CAO Troke reported that a draft balanced budget will be tabled this evening with no tax increase. Town Accountant Corey Smith presented the draft and among other items, stated that key points include:

- Inclusion of full seven-person complement of RCMP
- Inclusion of Town paying for water consumption of town and certain non-profit properties to the Water Utility

Questions/considerations/follow-up:

- Consideration of an increase in contributions to the Regional Library to allow for a Cost-of-Living increase for one year only
- Question on decrease to Fire Department Operational Budget – in previous years, some expenses that were charged to operations were considered capital; this year, those items were moved to the Capital Budget; capital was increased and operations were decreased to reflect this change which is in keeping with General Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP); it was also noted that this practice occurred for all departments

- Question on reduction to street maintenance
- Question on comparison of other local town residential taxes and fees
- Question on Business Improvement District (BID) tax versus an increase to all commercial properties (for future consideration)
- Question on comparisons of contributions of other towns to CHAD Bus

c. Spring Cleanup

Question on whether it will take place this year – it has been included in the draft budget and is part of Council’s deliberations

7. CORRESPONDENCE

None

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

- Question on whether audio can be improved in Council Chambers as part of the budget
- Question on ditches and culvert matters – if a neighbor is at fault; if existing hedges are in the way
- Question on water bills
- Question on tender opening of CN Roof and other tenders
- Question on Source Water Protection Committee
- Question on outstanding properties eligible for tax sale

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: DM LeBlanc
SECONDED: M Houser

COC-04-01-19-2262

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm.
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Dan Troke
CAO