

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

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

ALSO PRESENT: Dan Troke, CAO
Jonathan Daye, Town Accountant
Kyle Slaunwhite, Public Works
Paul Janes, Fire Chief
Cpl Natasha Farrell
Nicole Battist, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

ABSENT: Michelle Young, Recreation

1. PRIVATE SESSION – PROPERTY MATTERS (6:00 pm)

2. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: D Currie
SECONDED: DM Houser

COC-02-03-20-2365

MOTION: To approve the agenda with the following additions:
4a. African Heritage Month Proclamation
11a. Pictou Exploratory Society
11b. Minister Zach Churchill (from Mayor Ryan)
11c. Minister Zach Churchill (response to Mayor Ryan)
MOTION CARRIED

4. PROCLAMATION

a. African Heritage Month Proclamation
Mayor Ryan proclaimed February 2020 as African Heritage month in the Town of Pictou.

5. PRESENTATIONS

a. Pictou Splash Pad
Representatives Megan Graham, Katie MacKay-Wong and Brittany Currie from Pictou Splash Pad made a presentation to Council.

- M Graham is the founding member and started exploring the concept last fall
- B Currie spoke to the benefits of having a splash pad in the community
- K MacKay-Wong spoke to the details of the project:

- \$200,000 total project
- \$100,000 corporate funding (\$10,000 confirmed)
- \$25,000 group commitment
- \$75,000 grants
- The group is asking for the following from Pictou Town Council:
 - Endorsement of the project
 - Approval to build the pad at Broidy Park
 - To have Town staff serve as project manager
 - For the Town to assume ownership and operations
- Question on daily maintenance of facility and longer-term equipment maintenance – Daily maintenance of sweeping grounds and checking on equipment; long-term maintenance minimal based on knowledge from other communities
- Question on recycling the water versus in-and-out process
- Question on amount of water required

Consensus was to table the request. Council asked that staff gather further information related to their questions and report back at a future meeting.

6. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

a. Fire Department

Chief Janes presented his report.

- Question on free courses being offered by the department

b. RCMP

Cpl Farrell reviewed the RCMP report.

- Question on offender management checks

c. Administrative

Deputy Clerk Battist was on hand to answer questions related to her report.

- Question on unsightly premises

d. Public Works

Superintendent Slaunwhite presented his report.

- Question on a collapsed manhole
- Question on sidewalk plow

e. Recreation & Parks

M Young's report was tabled.

- Question on website stats
- Council wanted to acknowledge the businesses that have been sponsoring free swims at the pool

f. Variance

Town Accountant Daye reviewed the variance report.

- Question on Projected Surplus figure versus actuals

7. APPOINTMENT COMMITTEES

- a. Hector Quay Society; Riverview Home Corporation; Pictou Business and Marketing Society; deCoste Centre and Heritage Advisory Committee – DM Houser
 - DM Houser reviewed the written report he had submitted
- b. Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL) – D Currie
 - Slight revisions are being made to the design of Pictou Place; Dining Among the Stacks Event is coming up
- c. McCulloch House Museum & Genealogy Centre – D Currie
 - New exhibit on Pictou’s past is currently on display
- d. Pictou County Sports Heritage Hall of Fame – E Daley
 - Draft business plan presented
- e. Hector Arena – E Daley
 - Running in the black; revenue up \$1800 over last year
 - Repairs to glass around boards completed
 - Ann Young nominated for Volunteer of the Year for Walking Track
 - Met with potential funding groups on future projects
 - Exploring fitness centre possibility
- f. Northumberland Fisheries Museum – N LeBlanc
 - The focus at the last meeting was on plans for replacing hatchery equipment
- g. Pictou Recreation and Parks – N LeBlanc
 - Winter Carnival this weekend
- h. Opportunity Shop – N LeBlanc
 - January 23 AGM; officers appointed
- i. Pictou Lobster Carnival – N LeBlanc
 - January 30 AGM; officers appointed

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

9. RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORTS FROM PRIVATE SESSION

- a. Marina Operational Lease

The Marina lease ends March 2021. Staff was given direction to look at options for future operations.
- b. Another property matter was discussed.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Electronic Voting in the next Municipal Election

CAO Troke introduced the key considerations if Council were to use electronic voting in the upcoming fall election.

- Comment that this option makes voting more accessible, as we move towards a more accessible community
- Question on number of people that used e-voting in the last election

Staff will present further information at the next meeting or as it becomes available.

b. Capital Budget 2020-21

Superintendent Slaunwhite presented the draft Capital Budget for the upcoming year. A decision will be made at the next Council meeting.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Pictou Exploratory Society

An expression of interest to run the former Pictou Academy Building was given to Council; the first public meeting is February 4, 2020.

b. Minister Zach Churchill (from Mayor Ryan)

Mayor Ryan tabled a letter he sent to Minister Churchill related to the location of the Early Childhood Education program for 4-year olds in Pictou next year. With an already overcrowded elementary school, he suggested the Grade 7s and 8s be moved to Pictou Academy.

c. Minister Zach Churchill (response to Mayor Ryan)

A response was received on behalf of Minister Churchill from Jill Piers, Early Childhood Education Advisor, Dept of Education and Early Childhood Development that no decision has been made on the most appropriate space for the Early Childhood Education program.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

- Next Regular Council is February 24
- Question on Capital Budget
- Question on free wi-fi project along the waterfront

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: E Daley
SECONDED: DM Houser

COC-02-03-20-2366

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm.
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Dan Troke
CAO