

Minutes of a Town of Pictou Committee of Council meeting convened 6:30 pm via Zoom Video Conferencing 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
Nicole Battist, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Condolences were expressed on the recent passing of former Town employee Walter LeBlanc.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: DM Houser
SECONDED: D Currie

COC-05-04-20-2405

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.
MOTION CARRIED

3. PROCLAMATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a. Gaelic Nova Scotia Month – May 2020
Mayor Ryan proclaimed May as Gaelic Nova Scotia Month.

4. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- b. Department Reports
Department Reports were distributed in meeting packages. The following questions were asked:

- Question on water leak in a town building
- Question on new Public Works employee – started May 4
- Question on cleaning up lawn damage to a number of areas due to snowplow damage from the winter – Public Works will be making repairs over the coming weeks
- Question on paving projects – tenders for water and paving have been released
- Question on opening parks again – there is no real change for Town-owned parks, however yellow tape could be placed around playground equipment so that people know they remain closed
- Question on Variance Report – surplus projected
- Question on fire watch – security continues
- Question on dumping behind town public works building – staff will look at options for after-hours access

c. CAO Update

- Property Tax Financing Program – A high level briefing note was presented to Council, with program details to follow, including:
 - This is a provincial response to a municipal ask to assist residential and commercial property owners financially impacted by the State of Emergency declared due to COVID-19 (proof of impact will be required).
 - Participation by municipalities is voluntary.
 - There will be an application process for business or home owners.
 - It is a financing program, not a deferral.
 - Taxes will be due and payable on prescribed due dates.
 - Property owners can choose to finance their taxes over a 30-month period at less than two (2) percent interest.
 - The first 6 months will require minimal tax payments, with the outstanding taxes being repaid over the remainder of the period.
 - A Policy of Council must be passed in order for the Town to participate in the program.

Council directed staff to prepare a draft policy and present to Council at a future meeting.

- Question on Market Wharf and Marina reopening – The Town is working in conjunction with New Glasgow to open under the same time and rules, once permission is given by the Premier and Chief Medical Officer; breakwater repairs will be started this coming week; a number of washouts need repair on Market Wharf.
- It was mentioned that methods to celebrate Grads of 2020 are being developed in the absence of usual Graduation Activities. The Town will look at opportunities to support the acknowledgement of our students.

5. APPOINTMENT COMMITTEES

- Question as to when the Hector is being lifted out of the water – it has been postponed until June 15
- Question on PC REN Strategic Plan and budget – a more focused plan will be forthcoming

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

7. RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORTS FROM PRIVATE SESSION

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Heritage Committee – Member Appointment

There is one vacancy, with three people putting their names forward. A name was drawn, and this person will be contacted before it is made public. The others who expressed interest will be encouraged to attend these meetings or to join one or more of the sub-committees.

b. Accessibility Committee – Framework

Mayor Ryan and Councillor Currie offered to serve on this committee. Three community members have also put their names forward and will be contacted about sitting on the Committee. Council recommended starting off with six members; if the group feels there are gaps in representation, the Committee could be expanded to a maximum of eight.

Council directed staff to prepare a draft policy, which includes the Committee Terms of Reference, to be presented at an upcoming meeting.

c. Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) Application – Wellington Street Sewer Extension and Storm Water Management

MOVED: D Currie *COC-05-04-20-2406*
SECONDED: DM Houser

MOTION: To recommend that Town Council authorize the submission of a Provincial Capital Assistance Program application requesting funding assistance for the following two projects in order of priority:

1. \$107,154 for Sanitary Sewer Extension – Wellington Street
2. \$104,286 for Storm Water Masterplan

9. CORRESPONDENCE

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: E Daley *COC-05-04-20-2407*
SECONDED: DM Houser

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:47 pm.
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Dan Troke
CAO