

Minutes of a Town of Pictou Committee of Council meeting convened 6:30 pm at the deCoste Entertainment Centre. Mayor James Ryan presiding.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Dan Troke, CAO
Jonathan Daye, Accountant
Paul Janes, Fire Chief
Addie MacCallum, RCMP
Michelle Young, Recreation Coordinator
Nicole Battist, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

ABSENT: Kyle Slaunwhite, Public Works

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: E. Daley
SECONDED: DM Houser

COC-09-14-20-2437

MOTION: To approve the agenda with the following additions:
6c. Splash Pad Commitment
8e. Council Chambers
MOTION CARRIED

3. PROCLAMATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

4. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

a. Fire Department

Fire Chief Janes was present to highlight his report.

- The department is resuming training by breaking the group into companies, split into three groups
- Question on what heavy hydraulic equipment is used for – vehicle extraction
- Question on Communications system issues – the chlorine and damp area location may be causing issues

b. RCMP

Staff Sergeant MacCallum reported that:

- The detachment front office was closed until 5-6 weeks ago; interviews with investigations have resumed and fingerprints are now permitted
- Three new vehicles purchased this year under current town contract – no extra cost to the Town
- Service calls during COVID-19 saw a 25% reduction because people were not leaving their homes as much, however, crimes against people and mental health were up (these calls are major time commitments)
- Question on increase in alcohol and drug calls – alcohol has been more prevalent, in particular impaired driving
- Question on decibel reading levels permitted in town – 65 DBA daytime and 55 DBA nighttime
- Question on bike and foot patrols – began July 1st, goal is to interact with the public more
- Motorcycle patrol – had a bit of usage this summer throughout town
- Question on digital radar signs effectiveness – one study showed 70% of drivers slowed down, 10% did not see it and 20% went faster; small signs are around \$3000, larger signs that are transported by trailer run higher

c. Administration

Deputy Clerk Battist highlighted her report.

- Question on how many complaints in total have been received with regard to cannabis odour – one in total
- Question on who the new tenant is on the third floor of the Town Administration Office – Riva International Inc

d. Public Works

CAO Troke presented the Public Works report on behalf of Superintendent Slaunwhite.

- Question on repairs along the waterfront – damage behind Marina Bar and Grill was complete; work will be covered under Hurricane Dorian provincial relief
- Question on whether repair costs of dirt roads has been compared to investing in paving
- Question on when new capital equipment will arrive for Public Works – COVID-19 has delayed some of the deliveries; however, the Town will be receiving 2020 trucks for the same price as 2019s; and by using the Provincial Standing Procurement Offer, the Town is able to get better deals than used trucks off-the-lot
- Question on delay of catch basin replacements – because of COVID-19, there were supply issues

e. Recreation and Parks

Michelle Young highlighted her report.

- Pool re-opened September 1 – re-opening strategy was significant, and the work continues
- Swim Team started back this week
- Free equipment loan program major success this summer
- Financial support for Skatepark Society has been ramping up – fundraising at more than 50% of goal
- Summer Musical Showcase was scaled back, but still took place this year

- Community Recreation and Cultural Survey developed to gather feedback on guidance for future programs for the department and deCoste Centre
- 40th year of Terry Fox Run
- Question on whether schools are available for community usage – not at the moment; Visitor Information Centre is being used for a few programs, CN Station could be used in the future

f. Variance

Accountant Daye reported:

- A forecasted surplus of \$76,000, still many uncertainties
- Final tax bills issued and due Oct 22nd; if people have not received their bills, they should contact the Town Office as there has been a lot of returned mail
- Tax Sale planned for this fiscal year
- Question on Housing Authority increase – the Town share has been reduced by \$40,000 and is now \$60,000 more than last year; next is to look at contracts with Province; considering investments are planned for these properties, assessments should increase next year

5. APPOINTMENT COMMITTEES

a. DM Houser

His report was circulated with the packages. Highlights from his report included:

- Riverview Home – with a \$28M mortgage on properties that are owned by the six municipal units, representation is important in having a voice
- Hector Quay Society – in need of funding to secure ship for winter
- deCoste Entertainment Centre – 10 shows have been held since re-opening with close to sold outs, 2 court bookings for trials, 14 more shows to be announced
- Pictou Business and Marketing Society – recommending a Committee of Council as attendance, involvement and communication has been challenging – Council is requesting a presentation be made in November after the new Council has been sworn in

b. E Daley

- Hector Arena – meeting tomorrow, applied for an age-friendly grant
- Police Advisory Board – September 28th is next meeting

c. N LeBlanc

- Northumberland Fisheries Museum – closed August 28th, admission by donation this summer, revenue down, presented volunteer awards to Terry MacNeil and Dwight MacDonald

d. D Currie

- Municipal Alcohol Project (MAP) – introduced new coordinator to CAO and Mayor; harm-reduction checklist being developed for events; 2/3 injection drugs usage is in Northern NS
- Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL) – re-opening phases have progressed during the summer months, increased online services; Stage 3 re-opening in October – includes

more social integration, linked-in-learning (online courses available for free with a library card), online election voting demos for the public

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

a. Wastewater Conveyance System (Sinclair St) – Reallocation of Capital Funds

Since the capital budget was approved, it was discovered that the backflow prevention valve at the Sinclair St Lift station is leaking salt water. This saltwater can disrupt the treatment process and damage the plant; therefore, it needs to be fixed immediately.

By reallocating funds from other projects (savings from Hurricane Dorian funding for waterfront damage, sewer work, street sweeper purchase, sidewalk work) that have not been fully expended or where savings were found, this project can be financed.

MOVED: D Currie **COC-09-14-20-2438**
SECONDED: DM Houser

MOTION: For Council at their next regular meeting to reallocate debenture (\$50,000) and operating (\$33,000) funds for work related to the repairs at Sinclair Street lift station.
MOTION CARRIED

b. COVID-19 Tax Financing Program – Municipal Financing Corporation Borrowing Resolution

Five applications qualified for this program – “two residential and three commercial” for COVID-19 Tax Financing Applications.

MOVED: N LeBlanc **COC-09-14-20-2439**
SECONDED: E Daley

MOTION: For Council at the next regular meeting to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Municipal Finance Corporation is offering a temporary short-term operating loan to clients who are experiencing cash flow challenges for the 2020-21 fiscal year due to the impact of COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS in accordance with the policy of the Municipal Finance Corporation, the Council of the Town of Pictou has deemed it necessary and expedient to seek approval from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to take part in this short-term operating loan program offered by the Municipal Finance Corporation; and

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 84 of the *Municipal Government Act*, a Municipality may borrow to cover the annual current expenditures to an amount not to exceed fifty per cent of the combined total of the taxes levied by the Municipality for the previous year and the amounts to be received by the provincial and federal governments; and

WHEREAS the summary amounts and descriptions of the cash flow impact of COVID-19 on the Municipality are contained in Schedules 'A' and 'B' to support analysis by the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Municipality shall provide officials from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing with reports and information deemed necessary to support this request;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED

That subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Council of the Town of Pictou borrow a sum or sums not exceeding *Thirty-Eight Thousand, Seven Hundred and Ninety Nine* Dollars (\$38,799) for the purpose set out above; and,

THAT the sum be borrowed for a period not exceeding Thirty-Six (36) Months from the date of withdrawal from the Municipal Finance Corporation; and,

THAT the borrowing will be under the terms and conditions of the agreement as determined by the Municipal Finance Corporation.

MOTION CARRIED

c. Splash Pad

The group is requesting a response to the original request, prior to the term ending for this current Council, that Council:

- endorse the project
- approve Broidy Park as the location
- appoint Town staff as project manager
- have the Town assume ownership and operations

The Mayor, who has been acclaimed, reiterated his endorsement of the splash pad and said that he would continue to promote the value of this project to the new council. As part of the decision making around operations, Council was looking for feedback from staff on the different system options related to water usage. Council asked for a report for the October meeting.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORTS FROM PRIVATE SESSION

On September 8th, a private session was held related to a property matter. CAO Troke was given instruction on this item.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP) Stormwater Submission

MOVED: DM Houser *COC-09-14-20-2440*
SECONDED: E Daley

MOTION: For Council at their next regular meeting to approve the submission of a MAMP application for a Storm Water Masterplan in the amount of \$80,000.
MOTION CARRIED

b. Additions Services Re-opening

Consensus was for Mayor Ryan to write letter of concern about in-patient services not being re-opened in Pictou.

c. Water Manual Update

MOVED: D Currie *COC-09-14-20-2441*
SECONDED: DM Houser

MOTION: For Council at their next regular meeting to approve the annual water manual update.
MOTION CARRIED

Question on whether backflow incidence response plan is new? It is a new required plan that has an internal oversight committee.

d. Wastewater Manual Update

MOVED: D Currie *COC-09-14-20-2442*
SECONDED: DM Houser

MOTION: For Council at their next regular meeting to approve the annual wastewater manual update.
MOTION CARRIED

e. Council Chambers

Instruction had previously been given in private session for CAO Troke to pursue leasing space on the third floor of the Administration Office to a third party. It can now be publicly announced that Riva International Inc, an IT company, will be the new lessee. Part of the space includes Council Chambers. Staff are seeking out a new permanent location for Council Chambers, but temporary places will be used until then. If space is not available, online meetings may still be held.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Hector Quay Society

The Society is asking for an additional \$8,000 grant this year to assist with securing the Ship Hector for the winter months, as well as \$33,000 in the next two years. The County of Pictou has committed \$100,000 over the next three years, on the condition that the Town of Pictou matches these funds.

The Mayor has informed the Society that Council cannot commit to the next two years, that this decision would be left for the new council.

MOVED: DM Houser
SECONDED: E Daley

COC-09-14-20-2443

MOTION: For Council at their next regular meeting to approve a request for an additional \$8,000 for the Hector Quay Society.
MOTION CARRIED
Abstention: N LeBlanc

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

- Question on when sign will be put up to direct people to the businesses in the downtown area
- Question on if all façade applications were approved
- Comment on whether a moment of silence could be dedicated to a fallen fire fighter
- Comment on Pictou Business and Marketing Society
- Question about the smell along the Jitney Trail

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: D Currie
SECONDED: N LeBlanc

COC-09-14-20-2444

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Dan Troke
CAO