

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
Michelle Young, Recreation Coordinator
Nicole Battist, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

ABSENT: Kyle Slaunwhite, Public Works
Addie MacCallum, RCMP
Paul Janes, Fire Chief

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: E Daley
SECONDED: DM Houser

COC-10-05-20-2458

MOTION: To approve the agenda with the following additions/changes:
8b. Hector Arena Funding
8c. Election PIN Mailout
6b. Move NS Health Authority from 9a to 6b
MOTION CARRIED

3. PROCLAMATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

4. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

a. Fire Department

No report was received.

Council acknowledged that Fire Prevention Week was happening from October 4 to 10, 2020.

b. RCMP

- Question on provincial rep for Police Advisory Board (PAB)

c. Administration

- Question on office hours at the Pictou Town Office during pandemic

d. Public Works

- Question on lift stations
- Question on Groundwater Under the Direct Influence of surface water (GUDI) reassessment report
- Comment about smell along Jitney Trail – eel grass decomposition
- Question on RCMP building repairs – new heat pump, waterline replacement and shower stall upgrades completed
- Question on hydrant flushing timelines
- Comment on Wallis Drive water pressure issues
- Question on crosswalk flashing light installation timeline – footings are in and remainder to be installed within the week

e. Recreation and Parks

- Swim lessons numbers are lower, but as anticipated
- Parks and playgrounds staff will be done by end of October
- Equipment loan program – looking to build on summer success and make some equipment available for winter months
- Cruise – website upgrades to several regional sites
- High School soccer happening this fall
- Question on when cruises might start up again – unknown
- Comment about the recreational opportunities that took place this summer – staff were commended for their innovation

f. Variance

- A \$67,500 projected surplus is estimated; keeping in mind there are many unknowns due to the pandemic
- Deficit in taxes because of successful property appeals
- Decrease in Sales of Service – pool revenue is down because of the closure
- Increase in Revenue from own Source – new unplanned rental in Town Administration Building
- Lower spending in general government with office and office supplies due to office closure
- Decrease in RCMP – down one FTE
- Transportation – savings due to one vacant position
- Public Health – Grants-to-Organizations is currently underbudget
- Environmental Development – savings due to pandemic
- Decrease in Recreation spending – saved expenses at pool and recreation due to pandemic

5. APPOINTMENT COMMITTEES

a. DM Houser – a written report was circulated with agenda packages including updates on the Hector Quay Society, Riverview Home Corporation and deCoste Centre

- Question on whether Christmas Daddies event will take place this year – unknown
- Question on Dream Draw – a revamp is taking place that includes Atlantic bubble packages

- b. D Currie – a written report was circulated with agenda packages including updates on the regional library, Hector Arena and McCulloch Genealogy Centre
- c. E Daley – programs at the Construction Engineering Flight are starting up again with personnel returning to work
- d. N LeBlanc – meeting of the Police Advisory Board is coming up; working to open the Opportunity Shop with pandemic measures

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

a. Pictou Splash Pad – Staff Report

MOVED: N LeBlanc

COC-10-05-20-2459

SECONDED: E Daley

MOTION: For Council at their next regular meeting to approve and endorse the Pictou Splash Pad project, with the following conditions:

- Site to be at Broidy Park, with exact location to be determined
- Staff take over lead on project management after skatepark project completion
- The Town will assume ownership and operations once project is built

MOTION CARRIED

b. NS Health Authority (NSHA)

The Mayor was planning to send a letter to NSHA related to the potential closure of the detox unit in Pictou. Before that letter was sent off, a plan had been released by NSHA to move the inhouse detox unit from Pictou to the Aberdeen Hospital. The Mayor spoke with the Manager of Addictions Services who indicated the decision was made to improve clinical care (having onsite hospital resources); all staff have been offered a job somewhere else.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORTS FROM PRIVATE SESSION

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Public Works Employee Manual Update

MOVED: N LeBlanc

COC-10-05-20-2460

SECONDED: D Currie

MOTION: For Council at their next regular meeting to approve updates to the Public Works Employee Manual.

MOTION CARRIED

b. Hector Arena Funding

MOVED: E Daley
SECONDED: N LeBlanc

COC-10-05-20-2461

MOTION: For Council at their next regular meeting to approve an additional \$3000 to the Hector Arena in this fiscal year (\$12,000 was previously awarded during budget deliberations).
MOTION CARRIED

c. Election PIN Mailout

Returned mail is forwarded to the Returning Officer and PINs are then void. Voters should call 1-833-901-1990 for questions or to have a new PIN issued.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

- Question on Wellington Street sewer upgrades – is there a plan for people that want to hook up and is there communication to get new people to hook up now while the project is being done?
- Question on cruise ships and regional funding
- Comment that most of the conversation cannot be heard at the new Council meeting location
- Ambassatours oversees cruise excursions
- Question about Red Cross office closing
- Comment wishing all nine candidates good luck in election

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: D Currie
SECONDED: E Daley

COC-10-05-20-2462

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm.
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Dan Troke
CAO