

Minutes of a Town of Pictou Committee of Council meeting convened 6:30 pm at the deCoste Centre on the above date. Mayor Jim Ryan presiding.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Nadine LeBlanc; Councillors Dan Currie, Melinda MacKenzie and Shawn McNamara

ALSO PRESENT: Dan Troke, CAO
Jonathan Daye, Accountant
Michelle Young, Recreation Manager
Paul Janes, Fire Chief
Nicole MacDonald, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda with one deletion.
3a. Dalhousie Mountain Snowmobile Club

CARRIED

COC-12-07-20-2490

3. PRESENTATIONS

a. Pictou Exploratory Society

Luke Young, Ann Holton-Melong and Jerry Cyr made a presentation on the Pictou Exploratory Society. They highlighted:

- The group history, timeline of progress and future steps
- The vision and purpose of the group to promote lifelong learning
- History of the former Pictou Academy building

The Society would like to use the former Pictou Academy (PA) Building as the location for its programming and experiences. They would like to conduct a facility assessment of the building which they believe would cost approximately \$25,000. They are requesting the Town contribute \$5,000 towards a facility assessment with the Society raising the remainder of the funds. They are also asking the Town to provide a clear process on its expectations of the group and timelines associated with goals.

- Question on whether there is heat in the building
- Question on the role of the PA Foundation
- Comment on expenses to run the building
- Question on commercial expressions of interest

4. PROCLAMATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

5. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

a. Fire Department

- Question on communication system update – CEF may be able to construct the new building
- Question on cleaning/janitorial services
- Comment that the department is now participating in the 50/50 provincial ticket draw
- Question on generator and exhaust system
- The fire department building is closed for two weeks because of increase in Covid-19 cases, except for essential services

b. RCMP

- Question on appointed provincial representative for the committee
- Comment about fast drivers throughout town
- Comment about asking the RCMP to be proactive with Wellington Street and potential speed increase due to new pavement

c. Administration

- Question on tax relief for hotels – it is related to Covid-19 relief
- Question on office hours being expanded
- Question on purpose of the proposed Council Procedure Policy

d. Public Works

- Question on when Wellington Street will be complete
- Question on staff backfill positions
- Question on pump station improvements
- Question on whether county residents were notified about the new pump testing
- Question on whether ice removal policy can be promoted

e. Recreation and Parks

- Shoutout to Public Work employees for assisting with installation of new Christmas lights and to Pictou Business and Marketing Society for the partnership
- Marina RFP will be discussed at an upcoming Council meeting
- Question on stresses on breakwater while in the water

f. Variance

- 7 properties advertised for the upcoming Tax Sale – January 12 at 10:00 am

6. APPOINTMENT COMMITTEES

a. Hector Arena – M MacKenzie/S McNamara

- Darla MacKeil has been appointed chair
- Craig Clarke has been appointed co-chair
- The Arena Board is requesting annual financial support without having to apply on an annual basis

- b. Opportunity Shop – N LeBlanc
 - Not formerly open, however concessions are being made to assist the public in some ways
- c. Northumberland Fisheries Museum – DM LeBlanc
 - Online meetings continue – focusing on future operations and monthly training
- d. McCulloch House Museum & Genealogy Centre, Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL) and Regional Enterprise Network (REN) - D Currie
 - written report submitted with agenda packages
 - Question on cultural hub update – waiting on a decision from Province on their funding share

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

8. RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORTS FROM PRIVATE SESSION

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Electric Vehicle Charging Station
Council directed staff to include the cost of two stations in the 2022 budget for funding consideration.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

- Should the Town be the party that has further assessments completed on the former PA Building, so it is available to other groups?
- How long is the federal funding in place for the Cultural Hub?
- Question on when the marina RFP will go out to tender

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

APPROVED

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Dan Troke
CAO