

Minutes of a Town of Pictou Regular Council meeting convened 6:40 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. PRIVATE SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTER (6:30 pm)

2. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: DM Houser

RTC-07-20-20-2432

SECONDED: E Daley

MOTION: To approve the agenda with the following additions:

10a. Financial Indicators Report

10b. REN Report

MOTION CARRIED

4. PROCLAMATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

5. PRESENTATIONS

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Council – June 15, 2020

MOVED: N LeBlanc

RTC-07-20-20-2433

SECONDED: D Currie

MOTION: That the Regular Council minutes of June 15, 2020 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

b. Committee of Council – July 6, 2020

MOVED: DM Houser

RTC-07-20-20-2434

SECONDED: E Daley

MOTION: That the Committee of Council minutes of July 6, 2020 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

8. RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORTS FROM PRIVATE SESSION

a. Non-Unionized Employees Cost-of-Living Increases

MOVED: D Currie

RTC-07-20-20-2435

SECONDED: E Daley

MOTION: To approve a salary increase for non-unionized full-time employees of 1.5%, retroactive to April 1, 2020.

MOTION CARRIED

9. REPORTS

a. Municipal Corporation Reports: circulated prior to the meeting)

These reports were circulated prior to the meeting.

i. Pictou County Wellness Centre

As part of the Re-Opening Plan prepared by Wellness Centre Staff, one ice surface will open mid-July. This will be six weeks earlier than the planned September 1, 2020 date. The decision was made based on guaranteed income from two main users; during the closure, capital work was completed on the gym floors and cooling system coils.

ii. Pictou County Shared Services Authority

They are now back to regular hours and operations; recycled materials are once again being diverted to the Materials Recycling Facility in Kemptown; AGM is postponed to September; the Chair and Vice-chair will be selected after the October Municipal Election.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Financial Indicators Report (FIR)

The annual provincial FIR has just been released. The following was noted:

- the Town has seen improvements from the previous year with one less red area
- tax collection and reserves remain areas where the Province would like to see improvements
- a tax sale will help with uncollected taxes – one may be scheduled for the fall, depending on C-19
- the Town has a modest reserve, but with the increase in capital infrastructure investments, the number is not as high as Provincial standards – rather than borrowing for capital projects, the Town’s approach is to use reserves
- Commercial assessment numbers continue to raise with new construction or improvements to current commercial properties – 20% increase anticipated next fiscal year

b. REN Report

A Spring and Summer report was circulated prior to the meeting – challenges for businesses around C-19 were highlighted; mentoring is being encouraged between experienced business owners and new entrepreneurs.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Stella Maris Cemetery Request

A request was made by Eric LeBlanc, on behalf of the Stella Maris Cemetery group to install a water service line into the cemetery; he is also looking for a fence to be installed along the property line near the soccer field.

Staff let Mr. LeBlanc know that as with all water services, the Town will run a shutoff to the property line during the Wellington Street update, with the remainder being the responsibility of the property owner. Council also agreed they will send a letter of support to the Chignecto-Central Regional Centre for Education (Department of Education), having ‘care and control’ of the soccer field property, encouraging them to install a fence along the property line between the soccer field and cemetery.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: D Currie
SECONDED: N LeBlanc

RTC-07-20-20-2436

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Dan Troke
CAO