

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

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dan Troke, CAO  
Jonathan Daye, Accountant  
Kyle Slaunwhite, Public Works  
Michelle Young, Recreation Manager  
Nicole MacDonald, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Paul Janes, Fire Chief  
Addie MacCallum, RCMP

**1. PRIVATE SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTER (5:30 pm)**

**2. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.  
CARRIED

*COC-01-04-21-2495*

**4. PRESENTATIONS**

**5. PROCLAMATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**6. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

a. Fire Department

A written report was circulated at the meeting. Fire Chief Janes was unable to attend.

- The CEF may be helping with constructing a new structure to house communication equipment.
- Comment was made on importance of carbon dioxide alarms.

b. RCMP

A written report was circulated with agenda packages. Staff Sergeant MacCallum was unable to attend.

- Spot checks and radar checks were completed in various locations over the last few weeks.
- Question on what types of calls warrant COVID classification.
- Can compliance officers work in conjunction with RCMP?

c. Administration

No formal report. No questions.

d. Public Works

No formal report.

- Outstanding capital work – shoulder work on Wellington Street and sidewalk on Church Street
- New dump truck arriving this week

e. Recreation and Parks

No formal report.

- Newsletter distributed this week
- Breakwater – the breakwater was removed from the water over the holidays due to damage caused by high winds
- Christmas lights – comment that the Public Works Department did a great job installing new pole lights that were purchased in conjunction with Pictou Business and Marketing Society (PBMS), who also had a successful wreath-decorating contest that added to the Christmas-charm around town

f. Variance

Town Accountant Daye reported there is a \$191,500 Year-to-date surplus and a \$204,500 forecasted surplus for year-end.

**7. APPOINTMENT COMMITTEES**

a. Northumberland Fisheries Museum – DM LeBlanc

- Currently closed but decorated for Christmas and participated in the business wreath competition

b. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library (PARL) – D Currie

- Report distributed with agenda package

**8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

a. Pictou Exploratory Society Request

Mayor Ryan and Councillor MacKenzie declared a conflict and sat in the galley. DM LeBlanc took over at this point in the meeting.

MOTION: For Council at their next regular meeting to approve striking a sub-committee in conjunction with the Society to further explore options of costing out required repairs to the former PA Building.

CARRIED

*COC-01-04-21-2496*

Mayor Ryan and Councillor MacKenzie rejoined the meeting. Mayor Ryan resumed the Chair.

**9. RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORTS FROM PRIVATE SESSION**

a. CAO Resignation

CAO Troke is resigning from his position effective January 24, 2021. Council has chosen to be the Hiring Committee and will not be using an Executive Search Firm.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Safe Restart Funding

With assistance from the NS Federation of Municipalities, \$120,296 has been received from the federal government to help offset lost revenue during the pandemic.

Council gave direction to staff to prepare a list of possible reserves that this funding could be directed towards to prepare for future financial pressures.

b. Sewer By-Law Update

MOTION: For Council at their next Regular Meeting to recommend first reading of the Sewer By-Law amendment.

CARRIED *COC-01-04-21-2497*

Council requested that an information piece be prepared and distributed via the Water Utility Bill explaining how sewer operating is charged, responsibilities of homeowners regarding ditching and who owns and is responsible for paying for various piping.

c. Economic Development Advisory Committee

Mayor Ryan brought forward the idea of forming an Economic Development Advisory Committee. A draft Terms of Reference was circulated for Council's consideration.

d. Accessibility Committee Policy

MOTION: That the following serve as the required seven (7) day advance notice to adopt a new Town Policy entitled "Accessibility Committee Advisory".

CARRIED *COC-01-04-21-2498*

**11. CORRESPONDENCE**

**12. PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

- Question on the public receiving copies of staff reports
- Question on CAO sharing
- Question on why boilers were seized up at the former PA building
- Question about breakwater inspection by divers at the end of the season
- Question on shoulder of road along West River Road

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

APPROVED

---

James J. Ryan  
Mayor

---

Nicole MacDonald  
Deputy Clerk