

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: Nicole MacDonald, Acting CAO
Jonathan Daye, Accountant
Kyle Slaunwhite, Public Works
Paul Janes, Fire Chief
Heather Beaton, Assistant to Acting CAO
Michelle Young, Recreation Manager/Minute Recorder

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Addie MacCallum, RCMP

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.
CARRIED

COC-02-01-21-2512

3. PRESENTATIONS

4. PROCLAMATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

a. African Heritage Month

Mayor Ryan proclaimed February 2021 as African Heritage Month in the Town of Pictou. He acknowledged that the Town continues its efforts to be an inclusive and welcoming community.

5. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

a. Fire Department

A written report was circulated in the agenda packages.

- Question on generator exhaust status
- Question on Communications Building near water tower
- Comment on illegal burning within the Town
- Question on number of active members – 31 members, 3 new members with little training due to pandemic

b. RCMP

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

- Information received on crosswalk safety
- Requesting updates on patrolling problematic areas and portable speed sign

c. Administration

A written report was circulated with agenda packages.

- Sewer By-Law policy – Council directed staff to prepare a policy that would address financial responsibilities of homeowners concerning re-instatement of streets after sewer pipe repairs are conducted by homeowners
- Deputy Mayor LeBlanc raised the point that any hiring, even for temporary positions, should happen with appropriate advertising; Councillor Currie responded by saying it is his experience that direct hires for short term, temporary positions are both appropriate and common place

d. Public Works

A written report was circulated with agenda packages.

- Water Rate Study will be presented February 22

e. Recreation and Parks

A written report was circulated with agenda packages.

- Veterans Drive Park – new design concept and slide installation are the priorities for this year

MOTION: For Council at their next Regular meeting to appoint Leah Heighton as a member of the Recreation and Parks Committee.

CARRIED

COC-02-01-21-2513

f. Variance

A written report was circulated with agenda packages. Town Accountant Daye reported there is a \$144,400 Year-to-date surplus and a \$209,800 forecasted surplus for year-end.

- Clarification still needed on what Restart Funds can be used for

6. APPOINTMENT COMMITTEES

a. Northumberland Fisheries Museum – DM LeBlanc

- Digital program – Nova Museum

b. Police Advisory Board – DM LeBlanc

- At a recent meeting Cpl Natasha Farrell made a presentation on the RCMP Negotiator Program and their role during critical incidents
- Public presentation being planned on driver safety and speeding when permitted under pandemic rules

c. Winnifred Grant Opportunity Shop – DM LeBlanc

- AGM planned for later this month

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

- Updated new Minister on library project
- Rack cards will be available at library and Town Office on new library project

- e. Pictou County Cruise – D Currie
 - New partners being pursued
 - Upcoming session on developing shore excursions

- f. Regional Enterprise Network (REN) Liaison Oversight Committee (LOC) – D Currie
 - AGM for last year held January 22, 2021
 - Successful at leveraging money and supporting new business startups

- g. Pictou Lobster Carnival – S McNamara
 - Moving forward with planning this year’s event
 - DEANS is organizing an event’s meeting
 - Upcoming fundraiser February 22 (Ham & Potato Salad Dinner)

- h. Heritage Committee – M MacKenzie
 - Discussed Hector 250 and designation of heritage homes
 - Presentation on Heritage District by Council reps to be made at a future meeting

- i. Hector Arena – M MacKenzie
 - Health incident at rink – staff and community residents commended
 - A grant has been applied for to install heated floors near the Zamboni and renovations to the mezzanine

- j. deCoste Entertainment Centre – M MacKenzie
 - Rebranding of the deCoste logo is in the works
 - Public fundraising efforts have begun for the Pictou Place expansion project

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- a. Safe Restart Funding
Previously discussed; staff still need clarification on what it can be spent on.

- b. Marina Operations
 - Update on status of breakwater provided
 - In discussion with ACOA and Develop NS regarding a Waterfront Revitalization plan
 - Items discussed: docking along Market Wharf, kiosk operations and launch ramp
 - Question on management of marina facility this summer; staff directed to investigate and develop a plan for coming season
 - Discussion on proposed armour stone breakwater

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Capital Budget 2021-22
K Slaunwhite presented the proposed capital budget for 2021-22. Presentation included:
 - 2020/21 Capital Projects Review
 - 2019 Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) Starting Points
 - Considerations for 2021/22 and onward

- Proposed 2021/22 Budget Options (4 options with descriptions and preconditions)
- Major discussion on Water Street capital work proposed for 2021/22 – paving, sidewalk and water services replacement plan; timing for Water Street capital work is optimal this year.
- ICSP preconditions include:
 - Gas tax be used for paving projects only
 - Debt ratio stays below 10%
 - Capital from Revenue/Operations stay below \$375,000
- Recommendation was made for Option 1 which:
 - Aligns with Council’s commitment and eagerness to continue improvements along the waterfront
 - Allows the Town to complete major infrastructure project to be completed in one year
 - Shows focus on downtown Pictou for 2023 and enhances feel for downtown businesses
 - Meets all preconditions
 - Continues an aggressive replacement program for aged equipment

MOTION: For Council at their next Regular meeting to approve the Town Capital Budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022 with expenditures totaling \$3,921,000 (of which up to \$1,647,000 is to be borrowed and \$366,000 is to be transferred from 2021-22 Town Operating); conditional on outside grants to support the breakwater/market wharf project.

CARRIED ***COC-02-01-21-2514***

b. Pool Fees

MOTION: For Council at their next Regular Council meeting to approve an increase in pool fees of no more than 8% effective April 1, 2021 (exact increases per staff report).

CARRIED ***COC-02-01-21-2515***

c. Water Services at Exhibition Grounds

The Town replaced water services at the exhibition grounds located on Prince Street. The repairs were required to improve the water services and allow the capability for the Town to meter future usage.

MOTION: For Council at their next Regular meeting to provide a one-time grant to the Pictou North Colchester Exhibition in the amount of \$6781.65 to cover costs associated with water service upgrades completed by the Town.

CARRIED ***COC-02-01-21-2516***

d. Deregistration of a Municipal Heritage Property

An existing municipal heritage property owner is requesting its property be de-registered because of insurance costs associated with its designation. A public hearing must be held with at least 30 day’s public notice to consider the request. Staff will move forward on the requirement, set up a public hearing and investigate possible solutions.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

APPROVED

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Nicole MacDonald
Acting CAO