

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

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

ALSO PRESENT: Kyle Slaunwhite, CAO
Jonathan Daye, Accountant
Jason MacLeod, Fire Department
Addie MacCallum, RCMP
Heather Beaton, CAO Assistant
Michelle Young, Recreation Manager/Minute Recorder

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Councillor Shawn McNamara
Nicole MacDonald, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda with one addition:
9b. Waterfront Revitalization

CARRIED

COC-04-06-21-2545

3. PRESENTATIONS

a. Pictou County Solid Waste

On behalf of Pictou County Solid Waste, Deborah Searle made a presentation on the operation of waste management for Pictou County. Highlights included:

- Facility and operational overview
- Programs, outreach, educational resources and mobile events
- History of past practices
- Transfer of material to other facilities
- Composting
- Enforcement approaches

Question on safety of collections during COVID. Council thanked PCSW for the informative presentation.

4. PROCLAMATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mayor Ryan joined the Mayors and Warden of Pictou County in declaring April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

5. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

a. Fire Department

A written report was circulated in the agenda packages.

- Question on emergency assistance training
- Clarification on what a fit test involves

b. RCMP

A written report was circulated with agenda packages.

- Question on mental health calls increase
- Update requested on speeding occurrences and monitoring
- Comment on the importance of attending Council meetings and appreciation on direct reporting and discussions

c. Administration

A welcome was extended to Kyle Slaunwhite in his new role as CAO. A written report was circulated with agenda packages.

- Question on contracting services for building inspection, planning, and dangerous and unsightly premises
- Question on the leasing of space and the breakwater insurance claim

d. Public Works

A written report was circulated with agenda packages.

- Update on the awarding of contracts was provided for tenders and standing offers
- Sinclair Street Wastewater Treatment Plant Pumping Station is back in service
- Questions on the plan to grade dirt roads, condition of Patterson Street, Prince Street culvert and drilling samples at the marina

e. Recreation and Parks

A written report was circulated with agenda packages.

- Pool operations continue at a positive level; activities over March have increased over previous years
- Go Clean Get Green community cleanup event organized for April 24
- Bikes for Kids will be based out of the CN Station this year
- Grant application submitted to the federal government for the Skate Park Project
- Question on what equipment is available at the kiosks on the waterfront – the Town does not own any food service equipment other than the exhaust system that is part of the building infrastructure

f. Variance

A written report was circulated with agenda packages. Town Accountant Daye reported that the Town is trending towards a surplus.

- Water and tax bills will be mailed no later than April 15
- Unionized and non-unionized employees will receive a cost-of-living increase of 1.7%, as previously approved
- Question on transfers from own funds and whether COVID funding was included in the statements

6. APPOINTMENT COMMITTEES

- a. Municipal Alcohol Project – M MacKenzie
 - Working on a national events program
- b. Hector Arena – M MacKenzie
 - Ice is now out; possible lacrosse activities; potential training space in upper level
- c. Heritage Committee
 - Funding allocated to banners and plaques
- d. Northumberland Fisheries Museum – DM LeBlanc
 - Student grants approved for 3 positions: open date end of May/early June
- e. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library (PARL) – D Currie
 - D Currie appointed as chair of finance committee; accessible workstations; improvements to Wi-Fi access; One Card Project
- f. Regional Enterprise Network (REN) Liaison Oversight Committee (LOC) – D Currie
 - Budget approved; assistance to business startup; new website; requesting presentation at May meeting
- g. Pictou Lobster Carnival – S McNamara
 - Plans underway for a Carnival for July 9-11; local Nova Scotia entertainment
- h. deCoste Entertainment Centre – M MacKenzie
 - fundraising campaign; sold out shows

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- a. Hector Quay Society Funding Request

A request was made last fiscal year for Council to contribute \$100,000 over 3 years towards Ship Hector and related property enhancements. Council contributed \$33,000 in the previous year. This year’s contribution can come out of the Waterfront Reserve.

MOTION: For Council at their next regular meeting to approve a contribution of \$33,333 annually for the next two years to the Hector Quay Society.

CARRIED *COC-04-06-21-2546*

\$334 will have to be contributed to fulfill the \$100,000 commitment.

- b. CN Station Capital Budget 2021/22

CAO Slaunwhite provided a detailed budget of previously approved capital work to be completed at the CN Station in 2021/22. Work includes walkway replacement, exterior lighting, efficiency upgrades, flashing work and floors in Council Chambers (depending on funds). Council agreed with this itemized list, in addition to the purchase and installation of signage to direct people to Council Chambers.

c. Water Street Project 2021/22

The original RFP design was to make the street wider and remove the flower planters. Council had discussion on accessibility, traffic calming, greening the street and crosswalks.

Questions were asked on project drawings, bike lanes, and start date. The projected start date is May 1.

Council directed staff to provide a few options on beautification and crosswalks.

d. Pictou Welcome Initiative Update

Councillor MacKenzie provided an update on the Welcome Initiative. A welcome package is being prepared for new residents that will include a brochure with local services and amenities; businesses have been asked to contribute by way of offering free samples or discounts.

8. RECOMMENDATION/REPORTS FROM PRIVATE SESSION

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Cultural Hub Working Committee

MOTION: For Council at their next regular meeting to approve the appointment of the Mayor and CAO as Town of Pictou representatives on the Cultural Hub Working Committee.

CARRIED

COC-04-06-21-2547

b. Waterfront Revitalization

The revitalization of the Pictou Waterfront has been identified as a priority of Council for this term. Mayor Ryan reviewed the Planning Exercise facilitated by McKenzie Business Strategies at the deCoste Centre on April 1. Presentations were made by the Town, the Hector Heritage Quay and the deCoste Centre. Develop NS provided a presentation on marine traffic and tourism. A report is expected soon which will detail next steps. A request was made for timing of future meetings to be held after regular working hours.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Questions on the Water Street Project and area to be worked on, bump outs around telephone poles, widths of sidewalks and the Pictou Welcome Initiative

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

APPROVED

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO