

Minutes of a Town of Pictou Committee of Council meeting convened 6:30 pm via Zoom Video Conferencing on the above date. Mayor James Ryan presiding.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Kyle Slaunwhite, CAO
Paul Janes, Fire Dept
Addie MacCallum, RCMP
Cst Daphne Mirkovic-Riley, RCMP
Iain MacIsaac, Public Works
Michelle Young, Recreation Manager
David Nicholson, Finance
Nicole MacDonald, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

1. PRIVATE SESSION – PROPERTY AND CONTRACT MATTERS (5:30 pm)

2. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order.

3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It was acknowledged that Town Council was meeting in the unceded territory of Mi’kma’ki, the ancestral and unceded land of the Mi’kmaq people.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda with one omission:

5a. African Heritage Month (acknowledged at January meeting)

CARRIED

COC-02-07-22-2524

5. PROCLAMATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

6. PRESENTATIONS

7. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

a. Fire Department

- Council thanked Fire Chief Janes for publicly sharing how the 50/50 Rafflebox funding is used – new equipment and apparatus
- Question on old boiler age
- Question on what constitutes “Haz Mat” calls

b. RCMP

- Question on moving vs non-moving calls – whether a car is in motion or stationary ie: speeding vs parking
- Council thanked the RCMP for their initiative with educating businesses on theft and protection of property prevention
- Question on recent theft investigations

c. Administration (Active PC)

- Deputy Clerk MacDonald encouraged the public to complete the Accessibility Survey that is ongoing throughout February
- Question on after school programming

d. Public Works

- Question on whether all equipment is back in service
- Question on how many employees are presently working
- Comment thanking the small but mighty crew for all their efforts this winter

e. Recreation and Parks

- Changeover from Red Cross to Lifesaving swim lessons – Red Cross weening out program
- Winter Carnival not happening due to covid
- Question on launch of new website
- Question on why banners and Christmas decorations are still up – staff capacity, safety is primary focus

f. Variance

- Question on RCMP retro pay

8. APPOINTMENT COMMITTEES

a. Ship Hector Foundation – DM McNamara

- Restorative work continues on ship
- Chart the Course campaign ongoing
- Indigenous workshop completed – will be used to assist with new interpretation at site

b. Opportunity Shop – N LeBlanc

- AGM held; executive appointed
- Meeting next week to review bylaws

c. Northumberland Fisheries Museum – N LeBlanc

- 2022 student grants completed
- Advertising for manager/curator position

d. deCoste Entertainment Centre – M MacKenzie

- No performances since Christmas; working on spring lineup
- Looking at alternative spaces while construction is taking place

- e. Hector Arena – M MacKenzie
 - The rink received \$150,000 from the Province towards ice making equipment
 - Losing \$1700-\$2200 weekly since last shutdown
- f. Pictou Recreation and Parks – M MacKenzie
 - Instead of a Winter Carnival the Committee is working on a Spring Fling
- g. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library (PARL) – D Currie
 - On budget
 - One card borrowing system to be up and running in next month or so
 - Virtual care project assists people with barriers to access healthcare system
 - Covid testing kits distribution site
- h. McCulloch House Museum & Genealogy Centre – D Currie
 - Open by appointment only

9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

a. Fire Truck – Fundraising

Fire Chief Janes proposed that the membership will commit to putting \$75,000 towards the truck.

- Question on whether membership voted to contribute from their stipend
- Question on custom cab
- Question on why a larger tank is required

MOTION: For Council at their next Council meeting to recommend providing \$700,000 towards a new fire truck with the balance of money coming from the Fire Fighters Society and the members of the Fire Department.

CARRIED *COC-02-07-22-2525*

10. RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORTS FROM PRIVATE SESSION

Three land matters and one contract matter were discussed.

- Direction was given to the CAO to negotiate the purchase of sale of a town-owned piece of land
- A property matter will be discussed the Special Council meeting immediately following this meeting
- Direction was given to the CAO to negotiate a Development Agreement on a piece of privately-owned land

MOTION: For Council at their next Regular Meeting to transfer \$275,000 to Capital Reserves and \$438,334 to the Operating Reserve, per the Variance Report.

CARRIED *COC-02-07-22-2526*

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. RCMP Additional FTE Request

Staff Sergeant MacCallum introduced the idea of hiring another full-time officer to be cost-shared with the County of Pictou. If Council is interested, a more in-depth proposal can be presented.

- Question on how this position differs from the RCMP position that is based out of the schools and funded by Department of Justice – community policing outside the schools, but could include schools
- Question on cost-share with county

Council tabled the request until budget deliberations.

b. Tax Write-Offs

MOTION: For Council at their next Regular meeting to write off four tax accounts with inactive roll numbers, per staff report.

CARRIED

COC-02-07-22-2527

c. Public Works Staff (temporary)

Direction was given to the CAO to hire temporary staff.

d. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Comfort Centre's

For information purposes, a MOU is being developed to use the New Horizons Club as a comfort centre for the Town of Pictou during emergencies.

e. RCMP Resolution for Retro Pay

A request was made from the FCM for the Town to pass a motion asking the Federal government to pay for RCMP town retro pay.

MOTION: **WHEREAS** the recent collective agreement between the RCMP and National Police Federation includes significant retroactive pay going back to 2017 as well as pay increases going forward; and

WHEREAS Our municipality and others that depend on RCMP contract policing are facing significant, unbudgeted costs that may force us to make very difficult choices at a time when our primary focus needs to be on economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS Municipalities were not consulted at any stage of the negotiations process, despite the outcome of these negotiations having a direct and significant impact on municipal operations; and

WHEREAS RCMP cost increases will disproportionately impact rural communities; and

WHEREAS municipalities are eager to work more closely with other orders of government and the RCMP on contract policing issues to ensure the financial sustainability of contract policing and to maintain the service levels necessary for community safety; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Pictou joins the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in calling on the federal government to absorb all retroactive costs associated with the implementation of the new RCMP labour relations regime; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government should commit to ensuring municipalities are properly consulted prior to implementation of measures that impact local fiscal sustainability and ability to maintain effective levels of police services in communities.

CARRIED

COC-02-07-22-2528

12. CORRESPONDENCE

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:54pm.
CARRIED

APPROVED

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO