

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

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

ALSO PRESENT: Kyle Slaunwhite, CAO
Wayne Robinson, Fire Department
Michelle Young, Recreation/Community Development
Iain MacIsaac, Public Works
David Nicholson, Finance
Nicole MacDonald, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Addie Maccallum, RCMP

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda with one deletion:

8a. BID By-Law (repeal)

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

COC-03-06-23-2639

3. PROCLAMATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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. PRESENTATIONS

5. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

a. Fire Department

- Question on Jaws of Life components – they currently have spreaders, cutters will be purchased this year, would like to get rams in 2024
- Question: do we have the only Jaws of Life in Pictou West?

b. RCMP

- No questions

c. Administrative (Active PC)

- The Municipal Physical Activity Leader (MPAL) position was advertised and the deadline was today at noon; next steps are to short list applications and set up interviews; this is a joint position with the Town and County of Pictou

- Michelle Young is now the Community Development Office, effective November 2022 and Sally O’Neill has been hired as the Recreation Manager, effective April 1 2023; the vacancy will replace Ms. O’Neill in her current role
- The Active Living Plan update is in progress; a draft plan will be ready mid-March; this plan will be used to develop the MPAL workplan, but can be used by the Town and County to inform other departments

d. Public Works

- Question on when telephone pole on Denoon St will be replaced – received request from Bell for a Utility Locate yesterday, which is the next step in getting the pole moved
- Question on Groundwater Under the Direct Influence (GUDI) of surface water environmental approval process
- Question on when the former Visitor Information Centre will be relocated to Broidy Park – will release tender in April; target move date is this summer or fall
- Question on catch basins

e. Recreation and Parks

- Volunteer of the Year Nomination deadline: March 31
- Grant program deadline: March 31 – high demand, so it is important for groups to file by deadline
- Question on how community groups can register an event for Pictou 2023 – via the Pictou 2023 website
- Comment on multisport program success
- Comment that Pictou 2023 is happening because of two important milestones – town incorporation and arrival of Ship Hector

f. Variance

- Question on transfers and environmental development overage – due to Hurricane Fiona

6. APPOINTMENT COMMITTEES

a. McCulloch House Museum & Genealogy – Councillor Currie

- Book signing, governance training, genealogy conference being planned

b. Pictou County Sports Heritage – Councillor McNamara

- Grant received for \$23,000 to hire someone to itemize their contents

c. Construction Engineering Flight – Councillor McNamara

- Recruitment is a problem so smaller jobs are all they can take on now

d. Ship Hector Foundation – Councillor McNamara

- September 15 event being planned, Bluenose II is confirmed

e. Northumberland Fisheries Museum – Councillor LeBlanc

- AGM last month, new chair is Karen Vaughn, March Break Camp

- f. deCoste Entertainment Centre – Deputy Mayor MacKenzie
 - ticket sales are going well despite not having the building to use, hats off to staff for their efforts
- g. Pictou Business and Marketing Society – Deputy Mayor MacKenzie
 - Discussed existing bylaw and purpose of the committee
- h. Pictou Recreation and Parks – Deputy Mayor MacKenzie
 - Snowmazing Race event still has a couple openings

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Public Engagement Policy

Staff reported that this is a new provincial requirement of Municipal Government when revising planning documents.

- Question on whether we have a current policy
- Question on when the County will have their Land Use Bylaw (LUB) in place
- Comment that we should only consult with neighboring units if they have their own LUB

Staff will gather further information and report back to Council at a future meeting.

8. DISCUSSIONS

a. Short Term Accommodation Briefing Note

Consensus was to give staff direction to continue discussions with our regional partners on implementing a regional tax for short term accommodations.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Healthy Pictou County Extension Request

Direction was given to staff to include \$3500 per year in the next five budgets. This would have to be approved as part of the Operating Budget.

- Question on accomplishments in the last 5 years – a report was shared with Mayors/Warden in January
- There was a request for the group to make a presentation to Council to receive a project update
- Healthy Pictou County is being used as a model for the rest of the Province

b. Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) Recommendations

A PAC meeting was held prior to this meeting, with the following highlights:

- Land Use Bylaw is under review
- Continue with the process of changing R1 Zones to R2 Zones, with the exception of MacLennan Court, to permit as-of-right multi-unit dwellings
- A Public Hearing will be held on March 20 to consider a Variance Request for height only, of the Old Hospital Hill property located on Beeches Road.

10. COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the public portion of the meeting at 7:40 pm.

APPROVED

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO