

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
Kimberly Ward, RCMP
Sally O’Neill, Recreation Department
David Nicholson, Finance
Michelle Young, Community Development/Minute Recorder

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Iain MacIsaac, Public Works
Nicole MacDonald, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. 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.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda with two additions:
4a. Tartan Day – April 6
9a. RCMP Retroactive Pay
9b. Climate Change Advisory Committee
9c. Brush Dump Behind Public Works
9d. Spring Cleanup

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

COC-04-03-23-2645

4. PROCLAMATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

a. Tartan Day – April 6, 2023

It was noted that Tartan Day is being celebrated on April 6, 2023 and that activities will be held at McCulloch House.

5. PRESENTATIONS

6. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

a. Fire Department

- Annual Muscular Dystrophy Boot Fund will take place on April 6 at the Pictou NSLC
- New truck went for bump test on Friday, still scheduled to arrive mid-April

b. RCMP

- Body worn camera equipment has been installed in Stellarton and Pictou detachments, members have received training.
- Question on why more warnings are given than tickets – contact and bringing awareness to safety is the goal.
- Question on incident this past weekend and people’s concern for safety – not able to provide comment as it is an active investigation; however, nothing from the investigation shows any danger to the general public.

c. Public Works

CAO Slaunwhite gave a brief report on behalf of Superintendent MacIsaac.

- Question on start date for hot patching potholes – will begin as time permits after May 1 (highway restrictions in place until then)

d. Active Pictou County

Sally O’Neill is now serving in her role as Recreation Manager.

- Walk & Roll Program – for older adults who need mobility aids to walk safely; Tuesdays at 1:00 pm at the Legion, participation has been high.

e. Community Development

- 150th Celebration of the Incorporation of the Town will kick off on April 30 at the CN Station with the unveiling of a permanent 150 photo gallery along with some traditional music and a social
- New 2023 waterfront event spot should be ready for Canada Day
- Go Clean Get Green is on April 22 and Town Volunteer Reception is on April 18

f. Variance

- No questions

7. APPOINTMENT COMMITTEES

a. Heritage Advisory Committee – DM MacKenzie

- Lots of beautification discussion
- Plans to showcase heritage properties during the 2023 celebrations.

b. Hector Arena Commission – DM MacKenzie

- Arena is closed for the season.
- Shout out to Ronnie Clarke and his team on a successful season.
- Several events planned at the arena during the summer months.

c. deCoste Centre – DM MacKenzie

- Construction Contract has been awarded.

- d. Pictou County Sports Heritage – Councillor McNamara
 - 30th Anniversary and Induction Ceremony will be held in October.
 - New property in Trenton has been rezoned and a deal signed.

- e. Construction Engineering Flight – Councillor McNamara
 - Priority is recruitment.
 - Interested in participating in Pictou’s 150th Anniversary activities.

- f. Northumberland Fisheries Museum – Councilor LeBlanc
 - Volunteer Appreciation night was held last Friday
 - Ongoing fundraising
 - Accepting applications for summer student positions

- g. Lobster Carnival – Councillor LeBlanc
 - Headliners announced
 - Accepting applications for summer student position

- h. Regional Library (PARL) – Councillor Currie
 - Financial report – Spent 95% of budget
 - Accessibility Audit was completed
 - Pictou project awarded to Iron Maples and should be starting any day
 - Need increase in funding due to the raise in minimum wage
 - Library offering new service called mobile hotspots – available upon request

- i. Cruise Committee – Councillor Currie
 - New owners of Pier C have joined the committee

- j. Pictou County Partnership – Councillor Currie
 - Strategic plan reviewed

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Operating Budget 2023-24

David Nicholson, Town Accountant presented the proposed 2023-24 Operating Budget. Council gave direction to staff to transfer \$118,000 from the Operating Reserve balance the proposed budget.

MOTION: For Council at their next Regular Meeting to approve the 2023-24 Operating Budget with the following rate structure:

Residential / \$100 of assessed value	\$ 1.69
Commercial / \$100 of assessed value	\$ 4.34
BID Area Rate / \$100 of assessment	\$ -
Sewer Operating Flat Tax	\$ 225.44
Sewer Capital Flat Tax	\$ 96.74
Hydrant Rental Area Rate / \$100 of assessed value	\$ 0.154
Curbside Collection Flat Tax	\$ 159.12
Recycling Fee	\$ 50.38

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

COC-04-03-23-2646

b. Tax Certificate Fee

MOTION: For Council at their next Regular Meeting to approve an increase to the Tax Certificate fee from \$25 to \$40, effective June 1, 2023.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

COC-04-03-23-2647

c. Pre-approval of debenture issuance

MOTION: For Council at their next Regular Meeting to approve the following:

Whereas clause 66 (1) of the Municipal Government Act (the “Act”) provides that a municipality may borrow to carry out an authority to expend funds for capital purposes conferred by the Act or another Act of the Legislature;

And whereas clause 91(1)(a) of the Act provides that where a municipality is authorized to borrow money, subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (the “Minister”), that the sum shall be borrowed by the issue and sale of debentures, in one sum or by installments, as determined by the council;

And whereas clause 91(1)(b) of the *Municipal Government Act* authorizes the council to determine the amount and term of, and the rate of interest, on each debenture, when the interest on a debenture is to be paid, and where the principal and interest on a debenture are to be paid;

And whereas clause 91(2) of the *Municipal Government Act* states, that in accordance with the *Finance Act*, the Mayor and CAO, shall sell and deliver the debentures on behalf of the municipality at the price, in the sums and in the manner deemed proper;

And whereas the resolution of council to borrow for was approved by the municipal council on Oct 24, 2022.

Be it therefore resolved

That under the authority of Section 91 of the Municipal Government Act, the Town of Pictou borrow by the issue and sale of debentures a sum or sums not exceeding \$626,479, for a period not to exceed 20 years, subject to the approval of the Minister;

That the sum be borrowed by the issue and sale of debentures of the Town of Pictou in the amount that the Mayor and CAO deems proper, provided the average interest rate of the debenture does not exceed the rate of 6.0%;

That the debenture be arranged with the Province of Nova Scotia with interest to be paid semi-annually and principal payments made annually;

That this resolution remains in force for a period not exceeding twelve months from the passing of this resolution.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED *COC-04-03-23-2648*

d. Public Engagement Policy – 7 days’ Notice of Intent to Consider

MOTION: That the following serve as the required seven (7) day advance notice to adopt a new Town Policy titled “Public Engagement”.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED *COC-04-03-23-2649*

e. Street Sweeper Budget

MOTION: For Council at their next Regular Meeting to approve the use of \$40,000 from the heavy equipment budget to cover the additional \$32,155 cost of a street sweeper.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED *COC-04-03-23-2650*

f. Pictou County Age Friendly Request

MOTION: For Council at their next Regular Meeting to accept the Pictou County Age Friendly Plan, but not contribute financial or staffing resources to the project going forward.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED *COC-04-03-23-2651*

Councillor Currie declared a conflict and abstained from voting.

9. DISCUSSIONS

a. RCMP Retroactive Pay

MOTION: For Council at the next Regular Meeting to approve the following:

Whereas, the Government of Canada has made the decision in Budget 2023 to make municipalities responsible for all retroactive costs stemming from the latest RCMP collective bargaining agreement; and

Whereas, local governments will now be forced to make difficult decisions that will impact residents, such as cutting essential services, reducing policing levels, raising property taxes significantly, and/or cancelling work

on local infrastructure, at a time when Canadians' concerns about community safety and the cost of living are already rising; and

Be it resolved, that The Town of Pictou joins the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in calling on the federal government to commit to ensuring that local governments are meaningfully consulted, fully informed, and at the table on issues related to policing costs given the municipal role in keeping our communities safe.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

COC-04-03-23-2652

a. Climate Change Advisory Committee

DM MacKenzie put on the table to form a Climate Change Committee.

- Council has committed to the AIMS Summit in June which is progress and a good starting point
- Council is expected to have a committee review and this will be added to the discussion

b. Brush Dump Behind Public Works

The Town's brush dump is at capacity and can no longer be used. Residents can still access Pictou County Solid Waste in Mount William.

c. Spring Cleanup

A discussion was held on the Town's annual Spring Cleanup. Staff have been asked to investigate options if the traditional cleanup is discontinued and report back to Council.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Land Use Bylaw – Town of New Glasgow

Notice was received from the Town of New Glasgow advising that they will be withdrawing from the Common Land Use Bylaw. Staff will take this into account when conducting the bylaw review that is in progress.

11. COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO