

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: Wayne Robinson, Fire Chief
Staff Sergeant Collier, RCMP
Cpl Farrell, RCMP
Iain MacIsaac, Public Works Superintendent
Michelle Young, Community Development Manager
Sally O’Neill, Recreation Manager
David Nicholson, Town Accountant
Kyle Slaunwhite, CAO
Nicole MacDonald, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

1. PUBLIC SESSION – PUBLIC HEARING

2. PUBLIC SESSION – SPECIAL COUNCIL

3. PUBLIC SESSION – CALL TO ORDER

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

4. CHANGES/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda with two amendments:

- Addition of 10b: Flag Policy
- Change order of 9b and 9c

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

COC-09-05-23-2684

5. PROCLAMATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

6. PRESENTATIONS

7. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

a. Fire Department

- Fire Prevention Week activities being planned
- Comment that Show and Shine was well received
- Question on membership numbers – 24 current; 3 new recruits
- Question on commercial alarm calls – most were malfunctions

b. RCMP

- New District Commander starting September 18

- If the public sees suspicious activity that is a non-emergency, they can call Crime Stoppers anonymously or the non-emergency number 902-485-4333 during regular day time hours
- c. Community Development
- Hector 250 has another vendors market – September 14-17
 - Mom Market taking place this weekend
 - The team that brought the Caladh Marquee and Vendors Village together are to be commended on a successful season
- d. Public Works
- Capital work is starting in the coming weeks
 - Well #18 is operating now and running as expected
 - Street patches will begin this week or next
 - Comment that crosswalks are quite visible this year
- e. Parks and Recreation
- Question on installation quotes for the playground equipment
 - Comment about the fall ball program
- f. Variance
- Question on whether Revenue from Own Sources reflects the tenants that are leaving the Town Administration Building – yes
 - Question on water meters
 - Question on why people are paying more for taxes when the tax rate did not go up – most properties saw an increase in their assessments this year; tax rate X assessments, plus other fees equals the total tax bill

8. APPOINTMENT COMMITTEES

- a. Ship Hector – Councillor McNamara
- Still need more volunteers for the Ship Hector 250 Celebrations
 - ACOA donated \$2.2M for the interpretative centre
 - Need \$1M to complete the ship
- b. Neighbourhood Watch (not an Appointment Committee – update only) – DM MacKenzie
- Several safety items were brought up that were not directly related to this program and may be better suited for the Police Advisory Board or town departments
 - Block Parents and “Next Door” app are being researched
 - Ways people can anonymously report to the RCMP was discussed
- c. Northumberland Fisheries Museum – Councilor LeBlanc
- Open 7 days a week all summer
 - Higher numbers this year because of waterfront traffic
 - Contest running related to the Hector celebrations

- d. Pictou Lobster Carnival – Councillor LeBlanc
 - Huge success
 - 90th year planning will begin soon – need lots of volunteers
- e. Heritage – Deputy Mayor MacKenzie
 - QR codes around town related to heritage homes
- f. Hector Arena – Deputy Mayor MacKenzie
 - Hosting Fight League Atlantic on September 30

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Battery Street Closure 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 “Battery Street Closure”.
MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED *COC-09-05-23-2685*

This policy will allow staff to have the land sub-divided so it can be sold.

- b. Tourism Marketing Levy By-Law
 - Can the by-law be enacted and not turn the money over to Coastal NS? – yes
 - Comment that it is important that the charge is applied throughout the County, so that Pictou accommodations are not at a disadvantage
 - Question on enforcement – Coastal NS would be the auditors
MOTION: For Council at their next Regular meeting to approve First Reading of the Tourism Marketing Levy By-Law.
MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED *COC-09-05-23-2686*

10. DISCUSSIONS

- a. Service Exchange Agreement with the Province
The CAO provided details around the Service Exchange Agreement review between the Province and the municipalities. For information purposes, the five high points are pointing to:
 - Reduction in the Municipal Financial Capacity Grant (formerly call the Equalization Grant) from \$495k to \$491k but this will be topped up to \$495k for the first 5 years after the Service Exchange Agreement is adopted by the Province
 - Corrections – the Town will save \$36,477 annually associated with mandatory contributions
 - Housing – no longer paying net operating loss – savings up to \$130,368 annually
 - Roads – possibly see a turnover of Division Road, but this would be shared between Town and County. If this happens, the funding for the road to be repaved would be 50%/25%/25% (Province/County/Town). New funding programs could benefit the Town for former trunk routes (West River Road, Haliburton Rd, Church St, Denoon St, Beeches Rd, Wellington St).
 - No longer automatically turn over surplus schools to municipalities

b. Flag Policy

Consensus was that the Town would only fly the Canadian flag at Market Square until the new 3-pronged flag staff is installed.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

12. COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:53 pm.

14. PRIVATE SESSION – LAND MATTERS

APPROVED

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO