

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 Dan Currie; Councillors Nadine LeBlanc, Melinda MacKenzie and Shawn McNamara

ALSO PRESENT: Kyle Slaunwhite, CAO
Curtis MacKinnon, RCMP
Michelle Young, Community Development
Iain MacIsaac, Public Works
Sally O’Neill, Recreation
David Nicholson, Finance
Nicole MacDonald, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

ABSENT: Wayne Robinson, Fire Chief

1. PRIVATE SESSION – PROPERTY MATTERS (6:00 PM)

2. PUBLIC SESSION – CALL TO ORDER

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

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. CHANGES/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda with two additions:

- 4a. National Day of Remembrance
- 11. Recommendations/Reports from Private Session

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

COC-12-04-23-2723

5. PROCLAMATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

a. National Day of Remembrance – December 6, 2023

December 6 is National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

6. PRESENTATIONS

a. Water Rate Study

A presentation was made to Council on the Water Rate Study prepared by Gerry Isenor Consulting Ltd and Blaine Ruddy Consulting Ltd. Some points made during the presentation were:

- The Town charges a Hydrant Rental fee to the property owner, who (Town) then pays the Water Utility for Fire Protection
- The study projected expenses for the Water Utility over the next 3 years using 3% inflation, with the exception of Nova Scotia Power where rates are known
- Assumed \$600,000 annual capital investment and current debt figures
- New rates will run between \$165-\$178 per quarter, which are slightly above provincial average
- All other municipalities in the province are undergoing water rate studies
- NS Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) require a balanced budget (no profit)

MOTION: For Council at their next Regular meeting to accept the Water Rate Study and advance it to the NSUARB for approval.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

COC-12-04-23-2724

7. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

a. Fire Department

- Fire Chief Wayne Robinson was not able to attend.

b. RCMP

- Great turnout for Remembrance Day ceremonies in Pictou and around the County
- Body Worn Cameras – Pictou was chosen as a pilot site. The cameras from the first study are not being used and so the study will be completed again with new cameras. The new study will begin in February.

c. Community Development

- The Annual Food Drive took place on December 2; \$3200 cash donations were received along with food items
- Lots of Christmas decorating and events taking place in Town

The Chair thanked staff and volunteers that helped with events taking place and in preparing for the holiday season.

d. Public Works

- Gut Bridge Tender closes tomorrow at 3:00 pm
- Capital Work on Denoon St sidewalk is progressing
- Job Opening for Public Works Operator – deadline December 12
- Question on status of sidewalks/streets repair work around town that need some repaving/asphalt – SW Weeks will be in town tomorrow weather permitting to complete

e. Parks and Recreation

- Afterschool Program staff have been hired
- Christmas Light Up was a great success; sponsors were thanked
- Comment on having the MPAL attend an upcoming meeting

f. Variance

- The largest variant is from Own Sources of Revenue at \$169,000 – related to higher interest rates and grants
- The second largest variant is from Protective Services at \$140,000 – related to officers on leave and vacant positions
- Tax sale mid-February

8. APPOINTMENT COMMITTEES

a. Northumberland Fisheries Museum – Councillor LeBlanc

- Scallop draw will be December 15 – anyone looking for tickets can contact a board member
- Talking with groups on possible usage for former Hatchery Building

b. Pictou Lobster Carnival – Councillor LeBlanc

- Selling tickets on a Christmas basket, tickets available from any committee member
- New Year’s Eve Skate is 6-8pm with fireworks after the skate

c. Opportunity Shop – Councillor LeBlanc

- Revised by-laws were completed
- Attended last meeting with the committee before resigning

d. deCoste Centre – Councillor MacKenzie

- Met with presenter who shared about fundraising

e. Hector Arena – Councillor McNamara

- Need a new Zamboni and sprinkler system
- Karen Cornish, who has been a member for 25 years, has resigned from the committee
- Will be asking for an increase in funding next year from the Town and County

f. Christmas Planning – Councillor MacKenzie

- Lots of activities have taken place and still more to come

g. Regional Library, McCulloch Genealogy Centre and Pictou County Partnership – Deputy Mayor Currie

- Attended a symposium related to packaging for cruise excursions
- Pictou County Partnership – a detailed activity report is in the agenda package
- Attended the REN Conference in New Glasgow on November 28 & 29

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Fisheries Training Pool Rates

MOTION: For Council at their next Regular Meeting to approve the proposed rates, per staff report.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

COC-12-04-23-2725

b. Portion of Spruce Street Closure Policy – 7 days’ Notice of Intent to Consider

MOTION: That the following serve as the required seven (7) day advance Notice of Intent to consider the Policy titled “Portion of Spruce Street Closure”.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED *COC-12-04-23-2726*

c. Heritage By-law – Update

MOTION: For Council at their next Regular Meeting to approve First Reading of amendments to the Heritage Advisory Committee By-Law.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED *COC-12-04-23-2727*

10. DISCUSSIONS

a. Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Committee of Council – January 8, February 5, March 4, April 8 and May 6
- Regular Council – January 22, February 20, March 18, April 22 and May 21

11. RECOMMENDATIONS/ REPORTS FROM PRIVATE SESSION

The CAO was given direction to negotiate a purchase and sale agreement for two properties.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

13. COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

APPROVED

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO