

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

Present: Deputy Mayor Nadine LeBlanc; Councillors Robert Fry, Krista Fulton and Matt Harris

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

Regrets: Wayne Robinson, Fire Chief

1. Private Session – Setting Minimum Prices at Tax Sale (5:30 pm)

2. Public Session – Call to Order

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

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. Changes/Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda with one addition:
4a. African Heritage Month
Moved, Seconded and Carried

COC-02-03-25-001

4. Proclamations and Acknowledgements

a. African Heritage Month

The Chair declared February as African Heritage Month in Pictou.

5. Presentations

6. Departmental Reports

a. Fire Department

- Report shared in Council package
- Question about relocating/displaying the antique trucks to free up working space

b. RCMP

- Report shared in Council package
- Good to see the traffic stops – visibility is good

- Question on drug traffic and use calls – shows number of calls called in during that time, does not mean files are not active
- Comment that if people see illegal activity, they need to call it in, to help build cases
- Safer Communities program phone number 1-877-35SAFER – to report illegal activity
- Question on house raids

c. Community Development

- Report shared in Council package
- Question about buying local

d. Public Works

- Report shared in Council package
- Question on wharf work
- Question on water breaks
- Comment on how quick the water break was fixed last week
- Question on clearing of sidewalks after the initial plow to make it accessible
- Question about hydrants and whether we have enough pressure to flow up hills and valleys at ends of town

e. Parks and Recreation

- Report shared in Council package
- Question on pool study

f. Variance

- Report shared in Council package
- Question on deadline for paying off taxes that are on the Tax Sale list

7. Appointment Committees

a. Lobster Carnival – Deputy Mayor LeBlanc

- Monthly 50/50 raffle box draw has started
- Winter Carnival Pancake Breakfast fundraiser will be held on February 22
- Question on oil spill

b. Police Advisory Board – Deputy Mayor LeBlanc

- Safer Communities and Neighborhood Act discussed
- Undercover agent was at last meeting to talk about street crime
- Training upcoming for members of the board which they will be doing in conjunction with the municipality

c. Northumberland Fisheries Museum – Deputy Mayor LeBlanc

- Closed for the winter
- Rental opportunity that is wheelchair accessible and full kitchen

d. McCulloch House Museum & Genealogy Centre – Councillor Harris

- Joined events committee

- Attended the Robbie Burns Night
- Darby Lecture: Stories from the Caledonia Cemetery – February 23 at 2:00 pm
- Tartan Day – April 6

e. Ship Hector Society – Councillor Fry

- Work continues on the displays in the Interpretive Centre along with electrical updates
- 3-day relaunch weekend – July 10-12, 2025
- Need to move boat over the Pier C after the launch to install cement ballast – access to ship may be a problem

f. Hector Arena – Councillor Fry

- 3 applicants for arena manager
- Cash flow is tight
- Issue with jet system; working on rebuilding a motor

8. Reports/Recommendations from Private Session

Council set minimum and maximum bids for the Town in preparation for the Tax Sale on February 19, 2025.

9. Recommendations

a. Capital Budget 2025-26

Motion: For Council at their next Regular meeting to approve the 2025-26 Capital Budget Option 2 (Caladh Avenue out of debt) but change the truck purchase to an SUV.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

COC-02-03-25-002

10. Discussions

a. Site Plan Approval – 215 Cedar Street

A Public Hearing will be held on February 24 at 5:30 pm for a proposed duplex.

b. James Street (between High and Church Streets)

Council previously asked staff to look into making James Street one-way between High and Church Streets.

The local Traffic Authority recommends making it northbound because Constitution Street is southbound.

Council would like staff to follow up with the Local Traffic Authority and ask if there would be a concern going southbound? They also asked about whether Constitution Street could be two-way.

11. Correspondence

12. Public Comments/Questions

- Could the people that live on James Street be consulted about the one-way street idea?

13. Private Session – Contract Matters

Council moved into Private Session at 7:40 pm.

Council moved back into Public Session.

14. Reports/Recommendations from Private Session

Council discussed Contract Matters.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm.

Approved

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO