

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 and Krista Fulton

Also Present: Kyle Slaunwhite, CAO
Wayne Robinson, Fire Chief
Curtis MacKinnon, RCMP
Michelle Young, Community Development
Iain MacIsaac, Public Works
Sally O’Neill, Recreation
David Nicholson, Finance
Nicole MacDonald, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

1. Private Session – Personnel Matter

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 two additions:
• 4b. King George III Coronation Medal
• 10g. Fisheries Pool Operational Changes

Moved, Seconded and Carried

COC-04-07-25-001

4. Proclamations and Acknowledgement

a. Hector Arena Manager Retirement

Town Council thanked Ron Clarke for his years of dedicated service to the Hector Arena.

b. King George III Coronation Medal

Mayor Jim Ryan was congratulated on receiving the King George III Coronation Medal in recognition of his commitment to public service. This is a very prestigious medal and well deserved.

5. Presentations

6. Departmental Reports

a. Fire Department

- Report shared in Council package

- b. RCMP
 - Report shared in Council package
 - Question about ATV calls
- c. Community Development
 - Report shared in Council package
- d. Public Works
 - Report shared in Council package
 - Question on paving top of Prince and Patterson Streets
 - Question on outside engineering firms
 - Question on Market Wharf percentage of completion
 - Question on why divers were working in the harbour
- e. Parks and Recreation
 - Report shared in Council package
 - Question on deadline for the Grants to Organizations
 - Question on the Fitness Trails
- f. Variance
 - Report shared in Council package
 - Question on revenue and expenses variance – received several grants after budget approval, which increased revenues and expenses;
 - Question on snow removal budget

7. Appointment Committees

- a. Lobster Carnival – Deputy Mayor LeBlanc
 - Monthly 50/50 raffle is ongoing
 - Hosted a ham and salad takeout dinner with lots of volunteers
 - Early bird tickets are sold out; advanced tickets are on sale
- b. Northumberland Fisheries Museum – Deputy Mayor LeBlanc
 - Sprucing up the building for the season
 - Interviewing for summer positions soon
- c. Ship Hector – Councillor Fry
 - Ongoing display upgrades
 - Repairs are needed at the Gift Shop
 - The Big Splash – launch of the Ship Hector will take place July 11-13, 2025
 - Town of Trenton, Stellarton and Westville have made donations to the fundraising campaign
 - Continue to meet with First Nations
- d. Hector Arena – Councillor Fry
 - The sprinkler system will be replaced this summer

- Sr Hockey may be coming to Pictou County on Saturday nights in the fall
- Dave MacIntyre is the new rink manager

e. deCoste Centre Society – Councillor Fulton

- 14 shows this month – anticipate this will now be the norm
- Budget on track

f. Police Advisory Committee – Councillor Fulton

- Town & County Police Advisory Board members attended orientation training
- New members will be sworn in at the April 10 meeting

8. Reports/Recommendations from Private Session

9. Recommendations

a. 2025-26 Operating Budget

Motion: For Council at their next Regular Council meeting to approve the 2025-26 Operating Budget with the following rate structure:

Residential / \$100 of assessed value	\$ 1.69
Commercial / \$100 of assessed value	\$ 4.34
Sewer Operating Flat Tax	\$ 286.03
Sewer Capital Flat Tax	\$ 89.70
Hydrant Rental Area Rate / \$100 of assessed value	\$ 0.16
Curbside Collection Flat Tax	\$ 166.40
Recycling Flat Tax	\$ 54.96

Moved, Seconded and Carried

COC-04-07-25-002

10. Discussions

a. Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV)

The CAO reviewed an alternative route option for OHVs to access the downtown area, and most accommodations and businesses, without using the Jitney Trail. A diagram was shared, proposing OHVs could access West River Road, Church Street, Coleraine Street, Front Street and all streets south, as well as Haliburton Road. Patrol and enforcement would fall under the RCMP. If approved, the NS Road Trails Act would prevail, which limits speeds to 25 km/hr and sets a curfew of one-half hour before sunrise and one-half hour after sunset.

Council agreed to hold a Special Council meeting immediately following this meeting to consider the new amendments to First Reading of the Off Highway Vehicles Bylaw.

A Public Input session will still take place on April 22 prior to Second/Final Reading.

b. RCMP Financial Pressures

NS Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) is encouraging municipalities to correspond with the federal government letting them know about the financial pressures that RCMP place on municipalities and the sacrifices/trade-offs required when new burdens are added.

Council consensus was for the Mayor to write a letter related to this request.

c. Equity and Anti-Racism Plan

In 2022, municipalities were mandated by the Province to develop and implement equity and anti-racism plans. The Town has been working with other Pictou County municipalities and community organizations to develop and implement a living document. Once accepted by Council, it will be uploaded to the Town website.

Motion: For Council at their next Regular Council meeting to accept the Equity and Anti-Racism Plan.

Moved, seconded and carried.

COC-04-07-25-003

d. 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 or warden and clerk or the person designated by the council, by policy, 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 October 21, 2024.

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 \$2,002,369 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 or warden and clerk or the person designated by the council deems proper, provided the average interest rate of the debenture does not exceed the rate of 6.5%;

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-04-07-25-004

e. Purchase of PID 65209884

The CAO announced that the Town has purchased PID 65209884 (retaining wall property) on the Jitney Trail from Rob McDowell for \$25,000.

f. Regional Libraries Staff Wages

Despite no change in funding for Regional Libraries in the most recent budget, a significant wage disparity remains between staff at Pictou-Antigonish Regional Libraries and their counterparts in the unionized Halifax area. Mayor Ryan reported that this was discussed at the Mayors and Warden meeting last week and they agreed to send a combined letter that was mailed to the Province earlier today.

g. Fisheries Training Pool

The Fisheries Training Pool building is owned by the Province. Since the Pictou County Wellness Centre (PCWC) opened in 2012, the Town of Pictou operated the facility on their behalf. This morning, the Board of Governors of the Pictou County Wellness Centre decided to assume the Fisheries Pool operations and subsequently enter into an agreement with the Pictou County YMCA to operate the pool. More details will be announced at a later date.

11. Correspondence

a. Pending Legislation – NSFAM President (fr.)

A Letter of Thanks was received from the President of the NSFAM in regard to participation in meetings related to new legislation before the provincial legislature.

12. Public Comments/Questions

- Comment about the cleanliness of Hector Arena
- Comment about garbage around town
- Comment about sidewalk going to pool on Beeches Road
- Question on whether OHV proposal is a pilot
- Question on OHV signage
- Question on OHV survey
- Comment on Mariners Swim Club being considered with pool change

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Approved

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO