

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 Terry Dunbrack, Robert Fry and Krista Fulton

Also Present: Kyle Slaunwhite, CAO
Wayne Robinson, Fire Department
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 – Solicitor/Client Privilege and Property Matters (5:00 pm)

2. Public Session – Audit Committee (5:45 pm)

3. Public Session – Call to Order (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.

4. Changes/Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented.
Moved, Seconded and Carried

COC-09-08-25-001

5. Proclamations and Acknowledgement

a. National Fire Fighters Memorial Day

The Chair acknowledged National Fire Fighters Memorial Day which is the second Sunday of the month in September. This day is to remember fire fighters who have fallen in the line of duty. Thank you to all fire fighters for the important work they do to keep us all safe.

6. Presentations

7. Departmental Reports

a. Fire Department

- Report was in Council package
- Is there an alternative for the fire school training given the recent provincial cuts?

b. RCMP (Police Advisory)

- Report was in Council package

- Comment that number of occurrences are down substantially from last year, noting that these numbers are based on reporting and not actual occurrences; people are encouraged to report their concerns/issues
- What should people do with concerns about speeds and loud noises? – Call RCMP with address area
- Question about new building in Stellarton timelines
- Question about OHVs in town violating rules

c. Community Development

- Report was in Council package
- Question on where money for Market Square upgrades came from
- Great job on summer waterfront events
- Question on number of cruise ships this fall – 3 in October
- Question on who to call for Vendors Village fall weekend rentals – Michelle Young

d. Public Works

- Report was in Council package
- Question on Caladh Avenue scope of work and timelines
- Question regarding High Street replacement of fire hydrants
- Question on stumps
- Question on safety meetings
- Question about drilling a new well
- Question about street sweeper rentals
- Comment that propane tank at Court House is not town-owned
- Question about Cottage Street asphalt depression

e. Parks & Recreation (Active Pictou County)

- Report was in Council package
- New building will have a kitchen
- Disappointment with the pool being closed all summer
- Question on rental fee increase for swim team with the YMCA this year
- Park program staff did well during this hot summer – what training do staff get for youth on the spectrum?

f. Variance

- Report was in Council package
- Question regarding \$30,000 Marketing Grant

8. Appointment Committees

a. Ship Hector – Councillor Fry

- Wharf is almost complete; ship will move back once it is done
- Identified work that needs to be done in the Interpretative Centre over the winter
- Gift Shop sales are up 45% over previous years
- Estimated cost of Ship Hector Launch \$50,000
- Several installments on money from Dave Sobey and Sobey's Inc have been received

- b. Hector Arena – Councillor Fry
 - Held a pre-walk before the soil was put in for exhibition
 - Mixed Martial Arts event will be held on September 20
 - Ice will go in around the end of the month
- c. Business Advisory – Councillor Fulton
 - Discussed an Octoberfest event – date TBA
 - Will have a business mixer – date TBA
- d. Police Advisory – Councillor Fulton
 - Would like to focus on three projects and initiatives relating to Public Safety:
 - enhance street lighting, particularly in the downtown area
 - speed suppression on problem streets
 - develop a plan to reinstate a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre in Pictou
- e. deCoste Centre – Councillor Fulton
 - feedback received from businesses that visitor numbers have been up all summer
 - kicked off summer with a Canada Day Show which was a great success
 - fall program published and distributed
- f. Pictou Lobster Carnival – Deputy Mayor Leblanc
 - AGM will be held September 9 at the CN Station – looking for new members and executive
 - Volunteer reception on September 27 at the Pictou Legion at 6:30 pm for all carnival volunteers
- g. Northumberland Fisheries Museum – Deputy Mayor LeBlanc
 - Opened 7 days a week this year and had over 6,000 visitors
 - Several fundraisers were held – a draw on a fire pit and bingo under the tent
 - Closed for the season
 - Accessible space available for rental at the Fisheries Museum
- h. Fire Department – Councillor Dunbrack
 - Fire Chief gave his report earlier during the meeting

9. Reports/Recommendations from Private Session

Council gave direction to the CAO and Town Solicitor on two land-related matters.

10. Recommendations

a. Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV)

Staff was tasked with exploring the feasibility of expanding street access or implementing an Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) permit system for town residents.

Council reached a consensus to pause any consideration of expansion until the spring. This decision allows for a full year of the current trial period to be completed and evaluated before deciding on next steps.

11. Discussions

a. Sewer Operating By-law Updates

Discussion regarding the potential shift to a usage-based sewer model, which would operate on the principle that water usage is directly proportional to sewer output ("water in equals water out"). Three key areas were addressed, including Operating Costs, Capital Costs and Sewer Lateral Repairs.

Council directed staff to prepare comparative financial data and draft by-law language for future consideration.

b. RCMP Building

The RCMP has advised the Town that it will not be renewing its lease agreement, as County and Provincial RCMP members will be relocating to the new Stellarton Detachment upon its completion. Town RCMP members will continue to operate from 38 Caladh Avenue, with space provided by the Town at no cost, as per the policing agreement.

Council engaged in a preliminary discussion regarding the potential relocation of the Town Administration Office to the RCMP Building and the possible sale of the current office at 40 Water Street.

Council agreed to defer a decision and revisit the matter at a future date.

12. Correspondence

13. Public Comments/Questions

- Comment on relocating Town Office
- Why aren't RCMP using side-by-sides to patrol?
- What percentage of times are RCMP physically present in town when calls for service occur?

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.

Approved

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO