

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
Ken Parsons, RCMP
Michelle Young, Community Development
Iain MacIsaac, Public Works
Sally O’Neill, Recreation
David Nicholson, Finance
Nicole MacDonald, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

1. Public Session – Planning Advisory Committee (6:00 pm)

2. Public Session – Call to Order (6:35 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 as presented.
Moved, Seconded and Carried

COC-10-06-25-001

4. Proclamations and Acknowledgement

a. Mi’kmaq History Month

The Chair declared October as Mi’kmaq History Month in Pictou.

b. National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The Chair acknowledged October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

5. Presentations

a. Marketing Levy – Coastal NS, Accommodations Group

A presentation was made by Cindy MacKinnon from Coastal Nova Scotia and Allayna Munroe, General Manager of the New Glasgow Comfort Inn, regarding the proposed Marketing Levy. The presentation outlined the purpose of the levy, its potential benefits for regional tourism promotion, and how funds would be allocated.

Following that presentation, Doug Des Barres and Elizabeth Cunningham, representing the Accommodations sector, shared their perspectives on the levy. They discussed how the implementation of the levy might affect their businesses negatively.

All information will be taken into account and Council will make a decision on whether to adopt a Marketing Levy at an upcoming meeting.

6. Departmental Reports

a. Fire Department

- Report was included in Council package
- Comment about false alarms and considering a bylaw if it ends up being an ongoing problem

b. RCMP

- Report was included in Council package
- When does Winter Parking Ban start? – December 15

c. Community Development

- Report was included in Council package
- Will there be an unveiling of the Victory Heights Park? – stay tuned

d. Public Works

- Report was included in Council package
- Question on two repairs on Water Street
- Question on safety meetings for Public Works staff
- Question on order of planned paving projects

e. Parks & Recreation

- Report was included in Council package
- Question on new ballfield update

f. Variance

- Report was included in Council package

7. Appointment Committees

a. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library – Councillor Fry

- Receiving a one-time funded increase of \$67,000
- Renovations at the New Glasgow Library continue
- Applied for a Library Development Fund
- Aberdeen Hospital Foundation will be entering into an agreement with the library

b. Hector Arena – Councillor Fry

- Concern raised about potential long-term damage to the facility floor due to annual placement of 10 inches of topsoil and use of heavy equipment
- Senior Hockey new this year

c. Parks and Recreation – Councillor Fry

- Upcoming event HarvFEST

- Christmas Event planning started
- d. Ship Hector – Councillor Fry
 - Wharf is complete and Ship Hector will be towed back to the Quay on October 11
 - Wes Surrett is stepping down as Board chair
 - AGM on October 21 at the deCoste Centre
- e. Business Advisory – Councillor Fulton
 - Business Mixer held on October 2 – great attendance and lots of networking
- f. deCoste Centre – Councillor Fulton
 - AGM on September 23
 - Joel Sellers is the new chair
- g. Pictou County Partnership – Deputy Mayor Leblanc
 - Scott Ferguson is the new Executive Director
 - Worked on updating and reviewing the strategic plan
- h. Northumberland Fisheries Museum – Deputy Mayor LeBlanc
 - Have entered into an agreement with PICCOLA to rent space
- i. Fire Department – Councillor Dunbrack
 - Open House during Fire Prevention Week on October 8
- j. McCulloch Heritage and Genealogy Society – Councillor Dunbrack
 - Over 1000 visitors this summer
 - Regular hours will end on October 10
 - Amos Shelley has been working on a stop motion film depicting Pictou Academy, McCulloch and Reverend MacGregor’s arrival to Pictou

8. Reports/Recommendations from Private Session

9. Recommendations

a. Rescinding Partial Exemption – Curbside Collection Charge Policy

Motion: That the following serves as the required seven (7) day advance Notice of Intent to rescind the Policy titled “Partial Exemption – Curbside Collection Charge”.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

COC-10-06-25-002

b. Public Sewer By-Law

At the last meeting, a discussion was held regarding three key aspects of the sewer system:

1. the method of charging the sewer operating tax was reviewed, with consideration given to shifting from a model based on the number of services to one based on water consumption;
2. from a capital planning perspective, the possibility of introducing a tax dedicated to a capital reserve for future sewer infrastructure updates; and

3. the idea of enabling the Town to carry out sewer repairs if a property owner fails to do so within a specified timeframe, with the cost of repairs being charged back to the property.

The CAO also presented a proposed modification to the bylaw, suggesting a shift from using service equivalents to a capacity ratio model, which would assess sewage production based on the size of a property's water line.

A decision regarding the bylaw will be made at the next meeting while the capital component decision will be made during the upcoming budget deliberations.

c. Notice of First Reading – Development Agreement for 12 Units on 85 Union Street

A proposal has been submitted to the Town for the construction of a three-storey, twelve unit apartment building at 85 Union Street. This type of development requires approval through a Development Agreement. Due to the ongoing postal strike, the required notification letters were hand-delivered on Friday to property owners within 100 feet of the proposed site. These letters outlined the proposal and the requested variances.

The Planning Advisory Committee met earlier this evening and recommended approval of the Development Agreement. Before Council makes a final decision, a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, October 20 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Motion: That this serves as notice of Council's intent to consider a Development Agreement for a 3 storey 12-unit building located at 85 Union Street.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

COC-10-06-25-003

10. Discussions

a. RCMP Building and Town Administration Office

The CAO was directed to list both properties to gauge potential development interest and determine what value could be obtained for each. This step is intended to explore opportunities and inform future decisions regarding the properties.

11. Correspondence

12. Public Comments/Questions

- Comment that Council should ask which accommodation owners are in favour of a marketing levy
- Comment that accommodations presentation was good
- Excellent idea to list the RCMP and Town Administration Buildings

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:15 pm.

Approved

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO