

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 Robert Fry; Councillors Terry Dunbrack and Krista Fulton and Nadine LeBlanc

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 – Contract, Acquisition and Sale of Municipal Property Matters (5:00 pm)

2. 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.

3. Changes/Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda with two additions:
4d. Santa Claus Mail Collection
10a. Eastern Star Lodge Request

Moved, Seconded and Carried

COC-12-01-25-001

4. Proclamations and Acknowledgement

a. Employee Recognition

Council adopted an Employee Recognition Policy this past spring. At tonight’s meeting, Council acknowledged employees of the Town in recognition of their service.

- 5 years - Chris Hale
- 10 years - Steven Bowen, Sean Knowles and Sally O’Neill
- 15 years - Kevin Crews, Kyle Slaunwhite, Michelle Young
- 20 years - Nicole MacDonald
- 25 years - Mike MacKenzie
- 45 years - Jo-Anne McNamara

b. International Day of Persons with Disabilities

The Chair declared December 3 as International Day of Person with Disabilities.

c. National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
The Chair declared December 6 as National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

d. Santa Claus Mail Collection
The Chair announced that the Town of Pictou has been officially named by North Pole Headquarters as a Santa Mail Collection Site. Santa's team installed the red mailbox today at the steps of Town Hall.

5. Presentations

6. Departmental Reports

a. Fire Department

- Report was included in Council package
- Comment made that Santa's arrival by firetruck was a highlight of the Tree Lighting Ceremony, and thanks were extended to the members who helped make this possible

b. RCMP

- Report was included in Council package
- Visibility at Hector Arena is appreciated

c. Community Development

- Report was included in Council package
- Is there a rain date for the Christmas Market?
- Question about the marina marketing working group

d. Public Works

- Report was included in Council package
- Will Caladh Avenue be one or two way when it opens?
- Question on Caladh Avenue completion date
- Question on percentage of completion and money spent on wharf project
- Question raised about signage and whether boulders can be placed to block ATVs at the new connector trail
- Comment noted that if boulders are installed, ATVs may drive around them and enter the graveyard

e. Parks & Recreation

- Report was included in Council package
- No questions

f. Variance

- Report was included in Council package
- Question about auditing fees

7. Appointment Committees

- a. Hector Arena – Deputy Mayor Fry
 - Deputy Mayor Fry was elected Chair and Donnie Parker Vice Chair
 - Senior hockey is seeing good crowds
 - Four recent sewer backups which has cost approximately \$5,000
- b. Ship Hector – Deputy Mayor Fry
 - Board planning to review their goals
 - Looking at boat building school
 - Preparing ship to sail
- c. Business Advisory – Councillor Fulton
 - Plans for another Business Mixer in January/February
- d. Climate Advisory Committee – Councillor Fulton
 - Introduced to new town and county Climate Specialist Emily Hodgson
 - Discussed raising of Caladh Avenue
 - Discussed the Jitney Trail Adaptation Study
- e. deCoste Centre – Councillor Fulton
 - Christmas at the deCoste was a tremendous success
 - Dream Vacation and Membership sales are going well
 - Reviewed HR policies
- f. Northumberland Fisheries Museum – Councillor LeBlanc
 - Working on student grants
- g. Pictou Lobster Carnival – Councillor LeBlanc
 - Volunteers always welcome
 - Selling tickets on Christmas basket
 - New Year’s Eve Skate and Fireworks – December 31 at 6pm, Fireworks at 8pm
- h. Source Water – Councillor LeBlanc
 - New wells are being explored
- i. McCulloch House Museum & Genealogy Committee – Councillor Dunbrack
 - Stop Motion Film Premier was a great success
 - 23 applications received for the Museum Assistant job: successful candidate Amos Shelley
- j. Construction Engineering Flight – Councillor Dunbrack
 - Received updates on active projects
- k. Parks & Recreation – Councillor Dunbrack
 - New members always welcome
 - Thanks were extended to Chair Melinda MacKenzie, who is stepping down from the Committee

8. Reports/Recommendations from Private Session

A Contract Matter was discussed with nothing public to report.

9. Recommendations

a. IT Policy

Motion: That the following serves as the required seven (7) day advance Notice of Intent to consider the Policy titled "IT".

Moved, Seconded and Carried

COC-12-01-25-002

b. Water Street/Church Street/West River Road Realignment

The Public Works Superintendent provided a brief report on the background of the retaining wall and street alignment at Water and Church Streets and reviewed the design for a possible roundabout.

Questions:

- If Haliburton Street were closed, would all access be through High Street?
- What is the total cost of the project?
- Would the Town apply for grants for the retaining wall and roundabout??
- Is the proposed roundabout comparable in size to the one near McDonald's?
- How would this affect trucking?
- Concern about the timing of the projects

Direction was given to staff to consult with residents on Atlantic Avenue and Haliburton Street to gather input and feedback.

10. Discussions

a. Eastern Star Lodge Request

Following Council's response to their request for a tax exemption, the Eastern Star Lodge expressed interest in presenting to Council about their contributions to the community. An email was received confirming they are willing to attend the next meeting if Council wishes. The Deputy Mayor proposed inviting the group to make a presentation about their organization and activities.

The Chair noted that several years ago, a comprehensive review was completed on organizations regarding partial and full tax exemptions. This review included considerations for the type of organization and whether they were membership-based. Organizations that have exemptions may lose it if they rent space in their facilities to organization that do not hold the same exemption status. Based on this review, the Eastern Star Lodge is being charged appropriately and in line with similar organizations. The Chair also mentioned that they could apply for grants to help offset costs.

11. Correspondence

12. Public Comments/Questions

13. Private Session

Council moved to private session at 7:45 pm.

14. Public Session

Council returned to public session at 8:24pm.

15. Reports/Recommendations from Private Session

Direction was given to the CAO on three matters related to Sale and Acquisition of Municipal Property, and a contract matter.

16. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Approved

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO