

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  
Iain MacIsaac, Public Works  
Sally O’Neill, Recreation  
David Nicholson, Finance  
Michelle Young, Community Development/Minute Recorder

**Absent with Regrets:** Nicole MacDonald, Deputy Clerk

**1. Private Session – Setting Minimum Price at Tax Sale, Sale and Acquisition of Land, Contract Matters (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 as circulated.  
Moved, Seconded and Carried

*COC-01-12-26-001*

**4. Proclamations and Acknowledgement**

**5. Presentations**

**6. Departmental Reports**

**a. Fire Department**

- Report was included in Council package
- Change in Training – previously had one training officer; there is now a Training Committee
- The Department held their annual Santa Run and participated in the annual food bank drive

The Chair thanked former Deputy Chief Jennifer Bell for her years of service to the department and welcomed new Deputy Chief Bill Landry. Bill brings extensive experience from his time with the department and the Armed Forces, which will be a great asset to the Town.

b. RCMP

- Report was included in Council package
- Checkpoints were held on National Impaired Driving Day (December 6) and New Year's Eve
- New Stellarton building may be completed by the end of September

c. Community Development

- Report was included in Council package
- Winter Newsletter was printed and is in the mail
- Now accepting applications for the Town Grant Program with a deadline of March 31
- In early stages of developing an operational and marketing strategy for the new marina

d. Public Works

- Report was included in Council package
- Caladh Avenue: Partial asphalt work is complete, and the north side sidewalk is finished; south side active trail extension and boardwalk will be completed in the spring; streetlights are scheduled to be installed tomorrow
- Marina: The marina project is on schedule to be completed in the fall
- Question about whether larger ships will be able to use the new marina

e. Parks & Recreation

- Report was included in Council package
- Recreation Committee Chair Melinda MacKenzie has resigned; her contributions to recreation have been huge and much appreciated; Committee is seeking a new chair
- Winter Carnival February 13-16

f. Variance

- Report was included in Council package
- Projection of a small surplus for 2025-26 – the 2 largest variances were capital project tenders came in much lower than expected and RCMP staffing costs were higher because there are more full-time employees than budgeted
- Property Valuation Services has mailed out the 2026 assessment, appeals will be accepted until February 12

7. Appointment Committees

a. Ship Hector – Deputy Mayor Fry

- Ship rigging stored at exhibition grounds
- 25 tons of ballast was placed on ship
- Electric motors are on order

b. Accessibility Committee – Deputy Mayor Fry

- Looking at equipment and accessibility at Broidy Park

c. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library – Deputy Mayor Fry

- Aberdeen Health Foundation has partnered with the Pictou portion of the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library
- Nova Scotia Library Conference will be held in Pictou from September 18-20
- Bonnie Allen is retiring and a reception will be held at the Library on January 17 from 11:00-12 noon

**8. Reports/Recommendations from Private Session**

Council gave direction to the CAO on the following items:

- Minimum bids and Town participation in the upcoming Tax Sale
- Proceeding with negotiations for the sale of a piece of Town-owned property
- Two contract matters

**9. Recommendations**

a. Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP)

The ICSP is the Town's five-year strategic plan. The CAO introduced and reviewed the first draft of the updated plan. The overview included:

- Purpose of the ICSP
- Goals and Actions for 2026
- Proposed Project List for 2026–2031
- Financial Review
- Preconditions Review

The CAO suggested posting the draft on the Town's website and inviting public input until February 6. Feedback can be sent by email to staff or councillors.

Questions raised by Council included:

- When the debt ratio reaches 2% and stays there, is there an opportunity for residential taxes to go down?
- Are the pillars in the plan designed by the Town or required by the MGA?
- In 2023, when the ICSP was presented, was there an opportunity for community input?

**10. Discussions**

**11. Correspondence**

**12. Public Comments/Questions**

**13. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Approved

---

James J. Ryan  
Mayor

---

Kyle Slaunwhite  
CAO