

**Notice of Town of Pictou
Committee of Council Meeting
Council Chambers – CN Station
71 Front Street, Pictou
Monday, February 2, 2026**

The public can access the meeting via the Town of Pictou Facebook Page beginning at 6:30 pm or attend in person.

Agenda

1. Public Session – Public Input Session: Integrated Community Sustainably Plan (ICSP) (5:30 pm)
2. Public Session – Call to Order (6:30 pm)
3. Changes/Approval of Agenda
4. Proclamations & Acknowledgements
 - a. African Heritage Month
5. Presentations
6. Departmental Reports
 - a. Fire Department
 - b. RCMP
 - c. Community Development
 - d. Public Works
 - e. Parks & Recreation
 - f. Variance
7. Appointment Committees
8. Reports/Recommendations from Private Session
9. Recommendations
 - a. Capital Budget 2026-27
 - b. YMCA Taxes
 - c. Business Advisory Board – New Member Appointment
10. Discussions
11. Correspondence
12. Public Comments/Questions
13. Adjournment

Kyle Slaunwhite
Chief Administrative Officer

Overview of Town of Pictou Meetings

(A General Description of Council and Committee Meetings)

Committee of Council

- Council meets in committee to raise, discuss and debate matters of interest to the Town.
- Members of Council request review and debate staff reports during committee meetings.
- Committee meetings are often viewed as “working sessions”.
- Committee members make motions of recommendation to Council (committee does not approve Town business).
- Agendas can be changed during a Committee Meeting.

Regular Council

- Convened to address standing agenda items such as the approval of minutes.
- Council entertains recommendations made by Council Committees.
- Agendas can be changed during a regular Council meeting.

Special Council

- Convened for Council to address specific items of business.
- The publicized agenda for a Special Council meeting cannot be changed.

Public Hearings

- Convened for members of Council to hear reports and opinions of the general public, related parties and staff on specifically identified agenda items.
- Public Hearing agendas cannot be changed.
- Council does not debate matters before them during a public hearing.

Closed/Private Sessions of All Meetings

- Council or Committee members are only permitted to retire to private session to consider: acquisition, sale, lease and security of municipal property; setting minimum price at a tax sale; personnel matters; labour relations; contract negotiations; litigation or potential litigation; legal advice eligible for solicitor – client privilege, or public security.
- Council or Committee is to make a public record noting the reason for a private session, and excluding a procedural matter, Council or Committee is not permitted to make a decision in closed/private session.

PICTOU FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Fire Chief Wayne Robinson

Council Report Monday February 2nd, 2026

Fire Report For – January 2026

Calls for the Period

- At the time of this report, the department responded to 8 calls for service during the month of January, including 3 commercial fire alarm activation (all three involved broken/ruptured sprinkler pipes), 1 residential fire alarm, 1 appliance fire, 2 MVAs, and 1 call for a residential CO alarm.

Training

- The Department has now moved to a committee approach to training. For the month of January we focused on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), search and rescue, hoisting equipment, hydrant connections, pumper connections and hose lays. For our last training night, we are focusing on ladders and roof operations.
- On January 31 and February 1, we will be hosting ice rescue training along with Caribou and District Fire Department.
- On February 7,8,14 and 15, we will be taking part in an Advanced Medical First Responder course.

Fire Fighting Equipment & Apparatus

- SCBA maintenance: Weekly checks continue, and all units are operating well.
- We have moved to a Saturday morning maintenance session occurring twice a month; this leaves us with three training sessions per month as opposed to two.
- Crews are keeping the equipment and gear clean and making sure it is ready to use.
- Truck 11 has had the leak fixed, as well as the batteries replaced.

Department News

- We have been in meetings with a representative from NFL (Northumberland Ferries) to conduct emergency planning for events that could occur on their ships, both at Pier C and while in operations. Officers from our department as well as Caribou, have participated in three meetings so far. Both sides are looking to make this a continuing partnership which will include emergency planning, training and exercises on a regular or recurring basis. With one of the ferries docked at Pier C again, I expect these talks to continue.
- The Department has a new Facebook page – Pictou Fire and Rescue – please check it out and follow us. Site will include Pictou Fire events, public service messages and pictures of our Department.

Building Maintenance

- We are currently doing inspections under health and safety regulations and are compiling a list of things that need to be addressed. Ongoing.



MONTHLY REPORT: January 2026





RCMP MONTHLY REPORT

January/2026

Pictou District RCMP's Primary focus during this fiscal year is Maintaining Public Confidence, Road Safety & Crime Reduction. Strategic initiatives & goals are part of our Annual Performance Plan (APP)



ROAD SAFETY

Summary Offence Tickets:

- 1 MVA 184 (4) Driving motor vehicle with obstruction on window or windshield (specify)
- 1 MVA 200 (3) Violating regulations respecting vehicle equipment standards (specify)
- 1 MVA 230 (1) Driving motor vehicle without motor vehicle liability policy
- 2 MVA 37 (1)(a) Operating unregistered vehicle
- 1 VIR 26 (2)(b) Operating vehicle without valid inspection sticker or valid inspection certificate for vehicle in possession

Total Charges: 6

Warnings

Charge Section Wording

- 1 MVA 106A (b) Driving at speed that exceeds posted speed limit or other maximum speed limit in Act by 16 to 30 km/h, inclusive, other than in a temporary work area
- 1 MVA 133 (1) Failing to stop at stop sign

Total Warnings: 2

CRIME REDUCTION

The Pictou County Integrated Street Crime Enforcement Unit (PCISCEU) has charged a Thorburn man for drug trafficking and weapons offences after executing a search warrant as part of an ongoing investigation.

On January 8, the PCISCEU executed a search warrant at a residence on Marsh Rd, Thorburn. During the search, officers safely arrested two people and located and seized weapons, including a sword and a baton, a quantity of cocaine, and cash.

Christopher Coleman, 61, is charged with Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking, Possession of Property Obtained by Crime, and Possession of Weapon for Dangerous Purpose (three counts). He was released on conditions pending a scheduled first court appearance on March 30 at Pictou Provincial Court.

The second person arrested was released without charges.

Antigonish-Guysborough Street Crime Enforcement Unit, Pictou County District RCMP, Stellarton Police Service, and Westville Police Service also supported this search warrant execution.

Pictou District RCMP responded to a total of 62 calls for service as compared to the same time period in 2025 which recorded 67 calls for service.

Type of Occurrence	# 2025	# 2026	Remarks
911 Act	3	4	
Animal Calls	0	1	
Assault	3	2	
Assistance to General Public	0	2	
Assistance to Other Agencies	2	4	
Break & Enter	1	2	
Checkpoints	1	0	
Child Welfare/Family Relations	0	0	
Controlled Drugs and Substances Act	0	0	
Crime Prevention	0	0	
Disturbing the Peace	2	1	
Fail to Comply	2	1	
False Alarms	1	3	
Fraud	2	0	
Harassment	3	2	
Impaired	0	2	
Liquor Act	1	1	
Lost and Found	0	1	
Mental Health Act	0	2	
Mischief	4	5	
Moving/Non Moving Traffic	15	5	
Municipal By-Laws	0	1	
Offender Management Checks	1	1	
Other Criminal Code	5	3	
Parking Offences	2	1	
Suspicious Person/Vehicle	0	1	
Theft	7	1	
Theft from motor vehicle	0	0	
Traffic Collisions	1	3	
Uttering Threats	3	4	
Wellbeing Checks	4	2	
Information	0	4	
Coroner's Act – Sudden Death	0	0	
Trespass	0	1	
Other Files	4	2	
Total	67	62	



Community Development

MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY 2026

Community Infrastructure and Neighborhood Revitalization *Developing and improving community facilities and spaces for social interaction, leisure activities and environmental conservation; fostering commercial and neighborhood revitalization initiatives.*

Waterfront, Marina & Placemaking:

- Released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for professional design services for branding, naming and visual identity development for the marina. Deadline for submissions is February 13, 2026.
- Released Expression of Interest for kiosk rental spaces at the Love Local Vendors Village for this coming season.
- Released an Expression of Interest for seasonal leasing opportunity for two locations on the Pictou Waterfront: 1. Food Truck at the Love Local Vendors Village and 2. Property at the end of the Curling Rink (street side off Caladh Avenue).

Economic Development *Advancing the implementation strategy for Pictou's Waterfront Development Plan and other strategic business initiatives; supporting entrepreneurship and innovation.*

- Developing a Progress Report for the Pictou Waterfront Development Plan, summarizing key accomplishments to date and highlighting progress made on the plan's recommendations.
- Completed the final draft of a business survey designed to gather information on the impacts of Off-Highway Vehicle access to Town-designated streets (OHV). Survey has been sent out to businesses which would be directly affected by this market.
- Working with Pictou Farmers Market operators on sustainability plans for 2026.

Social Inclusion and Cultural Enrichment *Encouraging diversity and social inclusion; preserving and promoting cultural heritage and artistic expression through cultural events and initiatives.*

- Assisting with plans and promotions for Pictou FrostFest taking place in February.

Marketing & Communications *Identify opportunities to profile the Town externally; develop and review internal communications ensuring consistent messaging.*

- Cruise – There are 4 cruise ship visits for 2026. Two are new companies visiting the Port of Pictou. Additionally, there are 2 scheduled visits for 2027 and 8 scheduled visits for 2028.
- Social Media: high post engagement this past month with posts reaching 70,000 views
- Website: continuous updating of the Town of Pictou website
- Discover Pictou Facebook page: winter campaign running for 8 weeks; high engagement
- Met with travel media influencers (Roving Maple Tales); focus on outdoor experiences and events
- Marina media coverage: Direction Canada (French Magazine; travel), Marina World (leading global publication dedicated to marina development, operations and investment, Netherlands), The Cat Ferry (social media shout out), and Boating Nova Scotia (social media spotlight)

Community Engagement and Participation *Engaging the community in decision-making processes; ensuring transparency and accountability in delivery of services and initiatives; foster creativity and a sense of identity within the community*

- Grants for organizations are being received for 2026-27 fiscal year; due by March 31. Met with multiple organizations who are interested in submitting this year.

Organizational and Professional Development

- Submitted grant application to the Co-op Education Incentive Program, working with the five provincial universities on student placement.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Young, Community Development Officer

Superintendent of Public Works – February 2026

Capital:

- Broidy Park, Dwyer Construction taken over as new contractor; completion expected in March
- Splash Pad Tender awarded to Dirt Road Contracting; project started in October; May completion; work completed for season; will resume in spring 2026
- Market Wharf ongoing

Utilities:

- Well 19 pump test complete; will be submitting test results to Nova Scotia Environment in January 2026
- Hydrant replacement remaining – Creighton (spring 2026) and Strathcona Place (on hold at NSHA request)

Roads and Sidewalk:

- Salting/plowing streets as needed
- West River Road streets lights to be installed week of February 2

Public Works:

- Working on a digitization program for old Public Works files/drawings
- Working on continuing with existing GIS database and creating an asset assessment program
- Infrastructure report to be updated as needed



RECREATION AND PARKS MONTHLY REPORT

January 2026

Facilities and Parks: Improve the quality of facilities

- Trails
 - Submitting application to restore trailhead connection and update signage for Fitness Trails
 - Met with Clean Foundation to explore funding to revitalize Fitness Trails and other town-owned forest lands impacted by Hurricane Fiona; site visit planned for spring
- Pool: Assisted staff to improve water temperature in changing area and complete minor plumbing repairs
- Financial: Developing 2026-27 capital budget for facilities, parks and green spaces

Volunteer Development: Facilitate effectiveness of volunteer groups

- Recreation Committee: finalizing FrostFest details, volunteer responsibilities and ongoing strategic planning
- Request for nominations distributed to organizations for Volunteer of the Year 2026

Participation for All: Increase participation, accessibility, decrease financial barriers.

- FrostFest 2026 details:
 - February 13th – Partnering with Pictou Fire Department for Valentine's Dance
 - February 14th – working with McCulloch House Museum, for a sledding party, horse and wagon rides and mystery adventure
 - February 15th – Afternoon adventure on the Fitness Trails (Cross Country Skis and Snowshoes)
 - February 16th – All Ages Movie at the deCoste Centre
- Targeted Promotions: Go Play Winter Equipment Loan and Fund; drop-in option for yoga and chair yoga

Municipal Physical Activity Leader (MPAL)

Active Transportation and Trails:

- 8 trail counters have been purchased to collect trail usage data to strengthen future funding applications and inform trails priorities; to be used on Town and rural trails
- MPAL Guided Hike Series has launched the Pictou County Hike Club with a dedicated Facebook group to share information and communicate hike schedules
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1424681206334941>

Active After School Program:

- \$10,000 received from Community Use of Schools Fund to support an Active After School Program; currently in hiring phase; one program leader has been hired to date; please share

GoPlay / Active Pictou County Equipment & Bike Trailer:

- The GoPlay / Active Pictou County equipment and bike trailer has been delivered; Autotrim will be completing a fun and eye-catching wrap design that will promote GoPlay, Active Pictou County, the Town of Pictou and the Municipality of Pictou County.

**Professional Development**

- Participated in a Recreation Nova Scotia focus group contributing to the development of provincial resources to support skill development for summer recreation and project staff
- Served as a sector panellist for the Therapeutic Recreation class at NSCC Sydney
- Attended Municipal Recreation Coordinators of Pictou County meeting in Trenton

Committee of Council - Finance Update Feb 2nd, 2026

Operations – Town

This variance report shows forecasted revenues and expenses. This is based on 9 months of actual results (Apr-Dec). We lag a month behind to allow for invoices to be received and processed from the preceding month.

Revenue

Sales of Service (\$64k deficit)

- The YMCA taking over the pool will reduce revenue/expenses for the pool by \$130k
- Less Sweeping than expected in the fall -\$33k
- New contract with Westville to sell accounting services for \$25k

Other Transfers (\$65k surplus)

- \$42k Provincial grant to produce VR marketing material (Offsetting Expense)

Expenses

General Government (\$63k deficit)

- Unexpected \$42k in short term interest costs due to grant timing

Protective Services (\$161k deficit)

- \$85k adjustment to RCMP expenses for prior fiscal year.
- RCMP at 6.1 FTE compared to 5.5 budgeted.

Environmental Dev Services (\$162k deficit)

- \$35k Provincial grant to produce VR marketing material (Offsetting Expense)
- \$25k was spent expecting beautification grant but the program was canceled
- \$82k spent on entertainment for the waterfront that I missed budgeting

Recreation Cultural Services (\$45k surplus)

- The YMCA taking over the pool will reduce revenue/expenses for the pool by \$130k

Transfers

Transfers to own funds

- Capital from revenue is expected to be \$300k under budget due to favourable tenders.

Overall, I am expecting that we will be \$83k unfavourable to the operating budget this year. This is mainly due to reducing capital from operating; and higher RCMP costs than expected. Unbudgeted expenses programming the event site this summer.

There are 15 properties that will be sold at a tax sale on Feb 18th.

David Nicholson

*Manager of Finance
Town of Pictou*

TOWN OF PICTOU

Non-Consolidated Schedule of Operating Fund (Unaudited - Preliminary - Draft only)

31-Dec	9 Mos. 25-26		9 Mos. 25-26
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenues			
Taxes	\$ 6,437,915	\$ 6,425,915	\$ 12,000
Grants in lieu of taxes	147,324	147,324	-
Deed Transfer Tax	150,952	149,952	1,000
Sales of services	154,184	218,184	(64,000)
Revenue from own sources	441,665	452,665	(11,000)
Unconditional transfers from other governments	421,773	421,773	-
Other transfers	71,206	6,206	65,000
	7,825,019	7,822,019	3,000
Expenses			
General government services	1,068,751	1,005,751	(63,000)
Protective services	1,777,617	1,616,617	(161,000)
Transportation services	1,091,402	1,049,402	(42,000)
Environmental health services	662,236	694,236	32,000
Public health and welfare services	44,910	47,910	3,000
Environmental development services	306,802	144,802	(162,000)
Recreation, cultural services and education	669,177	714,177	45,000
Transfer to Deed Trf Trust	150,952	149,952	(1,000)
Education	506,493	506,493	-
	6,278,340	5,929,340	(349,000)
Excess of revenues over expenses before the following	1,546,679	1,892,679	(346,000)
Financing and Transfers			
Debenture and term loan principal installments	(396,249)	(396,249)	-
Transfer to own funds	(288,150)	(558,150)	270,000
Net financing and transfers	(684,399)	(954,399)	270,000
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	862,280	938,280	(76,000)

TOWN OF PICTOU

Non-Consolidated Schedule of Operating Fund (Unaudited - Preliminary - Draft only)

31-Dec	12 Mos. 25-26 Forecast	12 Mos. 25-26 Budget	12 Mos. 25-26 Variance
Revenues			
Taxes	\$ 6,493,894	\$ 6,481,894	\$ 12,000
Grants in lieu of taxes	425,827	425,827	-
Deed Transfer Tax	200,952	199,952	1,000
Sales of services	274,526	405,526	(131,000)
Revenue from own sources	538,501	576,501	(38,000)
Unconditional transfers from other governments	545,653	545,653	-
Other transfers	71,206	6,206	65,000
	8,550,559	8,641,559	(91,000)
Expenses			
General government services	1,268,891	1,198,891	(70,000)
Protective services	2,189,126	1,980,126	(209,000)
Transportation services	1,388,311	1,373,311	(15,000)
Environmental health services	842,359	890,359	48,000
Public health and welfare services	44,910	46,910	2,000
Environmental development services	333,427	172,427	(161,000)
Recreation, cultural services and education	778,591	892,591	114,000
Transfer to Deed Trf Trust	200,952	199,952	(1,000)
Education	675,131	675,131	-
	7,721,698	7,429,698	(292,000)
Excess of revenues over expenses before the following	828,861	1,211,861	(383,000)
Financing and Transfers			
Debenture and term loan principal installments	(418,394)	(418,394)	-
Transfer to own funds	(519,200)	(819,200)	300,000
Net financing and transfers	(937,594)	(1,237,594)	300,000
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	(108,733)	(25,733)	(83,000)