

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 and Land Matters (6:00 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 with 3 additions:  
10a. Upcoming Council Meetings  
10b. Sale of 40 Water Street  
11a. McCulloch House Provincial Funding

Moved, Seconded and Carried

*COC-03-02-26-001*

**4. Proclamations and Acknowledgement**

**5. Presentations**

**6. Departmental Reports**

a. Fire Department

- Report was included in Council package
- How many active members? – 26 plus 2 new recruits plus 2 additional possibilities

b. RCMP

- Report was included in Council package
- No questions

c. Community Development

- Report was included in Council package
- Comment that it is good to see St. Andrews Street barricades will be spruced up this year

d. Public Works

- Report was included in Council package
- Is there going to be a rock break wall at the Marina? – no, it will be a driven pile break wall
- How far are we along with the budget spending for the wharf? – roughly 50%

e. Parks & Recreation

- Report was included in Council package
- Comment that there were great reviews for Frost Fest

f. Variance

- Report was included in Council package
- The recent Tax Sale resulted in the successful sale of eight properties to recover outstanding taxes; each property received multiple bids, allowing us to fully recover the owed taxes as well as generate surplus funds on all properties.
- Main variances to budget are RCMP costs and snow removal

**7. Appointment Committees**

a. Business Advisory Committee – Councillor Fulton

- Business Mixer will be held on March 5 from 5:00-7:00 pm at the Waterview Restaurant

b. Pictou County Partnership – Councillor LeBlanc

- Reviewed strategic pillars for the group

c. Pictou Lobster Carnival – Councillor LeBlanc

- Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser during Frost Fest was a great success, sold out
- New members are always welcome, and people can volunteer for as little as a few hours during event

d. Fisheries Museum – Councillor LeBlanc

- The first Frost Fest Valentine's Tea was a success; hope to make it an annual event

e. Ship Hector – Deputy Mayor Fry

- Rigging failed the testing – exploring other options
- Fundraising campaign is winding down; \$3.8 million has been received or committed through the Sobey's Foundation and other contributors, with an additional \$200,000 currently in progress
- Working to hire marketing director

f. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

- Currently preparing next year's budget; no new funding; reductions are the result of the most recent provincial budget announcements

- g. Parks and Recreation – Councillor Dunbrack
  - Investigating the possibility of a ball program in Pictou for this year
- h. McCulloch House Museum & Genealogy Centre – Councillor Dunbrack
  - On the list of 12 museums in Nova Scotia to be closed; also; meeting with MLA Marco MacLeod on Saturday

Motion: For Council at their next Regular meeting to approve sending a letter to the Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, MLA Marco MacLeod, and MP Sean Fraser expressing concern about the potential loss of McCulloch House.

Moved, Seconded and Carried *COC-03-02-26-002*

Question: is the museum closed already? – no, further information regarding its status, what is occurring, and whether efforts to avoid closure are possible will be requested at upcoming meeting with MLA MacLeod

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

One contract and one land matter were discussed.

Additional Capital Budget Allocation (Contract Matter)

Motion: For Council at their next Regular Meeting to approve an additional \$1.1 million to the 2026-27 Capital Budget, funded and conditional upon receiving the required federal and provincial grants.

Moved, Seconded and Carried *COC-03-02-26-003*

The additional allocation would allow the Town to add the previously considered Union Street Project to the Capital Budget.

**9. Recommendations**

- a. Temporary Borrowing Resolution (TBR) – Various Capital Projects

Motion: That Council at their next regular meeting approve the Temporary Borrowing Resolution (TBR).

Whereas Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act provides that the Council of the Town of Pictou subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, may borrow to expend funds for a capital purpose as authorized by statute;

Whereas the Council of the Town of Pictou has adopted a capital budget for this fiscal year as required by Section 65 of the Municipal Government Act and are so authorized to expend funds for capital purposes as identified in their capital budget; and

Whereas the specific amounts and descriptions of the projects are contained in Schedule “A” (per official signed resolution);

Be It Therefore Resolved;

That under the authority of Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the Town of Pictou borrow a sum or sums not exceeding Seven Million Eight Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$7,856,00) for the purpose set out above, subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;

That the sum be borrowed by the issue and sale of debentures of the Council of the Town of Pictou to such an amount as the Council deems necessary;

That the issue of debentures be postponed pursuant to Section 92 of the Municipal Government Act and that a sum or sums not exceeding Seven Million Eight Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$7,856,00) in total be borrowed from time to time from any chartered bank or trust company doing business in Nova Scotia;

That the sum be borrowed for a period not exceeding Twelve (12) Months from the date of approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of this resolution;

That the interest payable on the borrowing be paid at a rate to be agreed upon; and

That the amount borrowed be repaid from the proceeds of the debentures when sold.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

*COC-03-02-26-004*

## **10. Discussions**

### a. Upcoming Meetings

April 2026 Committee of Council – Tuesday, April 7

April 2026 Regular Town Council – Tuesday, May 19

### b. Sale of 40 Water Street

The Town announced the sale of 40 Water Street to A4784905 NS Ltd for \$205,000.

- Question about low asking price – reflects future capital updates
- Question about rent – cheaper than operating costs

## **11. Correspondence**

### a. McCulloch House Provincial Funding

Addressed during Appointment Committees.

## **12. Public Comments/Questions**

Expression of gratitude for the community's support following the recent provincial announcement regarding the removal of funding and the closure of McCulloch House and Genealogy Centre.

**13. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Approved

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James J. Ryan  
Mayor

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Kyle Slaunwhite  
CAO