

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: Wayne Robinson, Fire Department
Michelle Young, Community Development
Curtis MacKinnon, RCMP
Iain MacIsaac, Public Works
Sally O’Neill, Recreation
David Nicholson, Finance
Kyle Slaunwhite, CAO
Nicole MacDonald, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

1. 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.

2. Changes/Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda with one addition:
3e. Hearing and Speech Month

Moved, Seconded and Carried

COC-05-04-26-001

3. Proclamations and Acknowledgement

a. Lyme Disease Awareness Month

The Chair declared May as Lyme Disease Awareness Month.

b. Gaelic Awareness Month

The Chair declared May as Gaelic Awareness Month.

c. Red Dress Day

May 5 is Red Dress Day in Canada. It honours Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People, supports families, and raises awareness about ending violence.

d. Emergency Preparedness Week

The week of May 3-9 is declared Emergency Preparedness Week in the Town of Pictou. Residents are encouraged to attend Emergency Preparedness Day on May 5 from 6 to 8 pm at the Municipality of Pictou County Administration Building.

e. Hearing and Speech Month

The Chair declared May as Speech and Hearing month. It was also shared that assistive listening devices are now available in the Council Chambers during meetings.

4. Presentations

5. Departmental Reports

a. Fire Department

Report was included in Council package

- Happy International Fire Fighters Day to the members

b. RCMP

Report was included in Council package

- Observation that youth on street bikes or small 4-wheelers may not be street legal – Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) statistics from the past year of the pilot were shared
- Question: Have the occurrences increased since the Town opened OHV access to certain streets? – no
- Question: What determines whether a vehicle is classified as car or OHV? – determined at registration
- Question: Can vehicles pass an OHV travelling at a maximum speed of 25 km/h on town streets? – if the OHV is travelling on the shoulder and it is safe to do so, vehicles may pass using appropriate caution
- Comment that you can register a 2-wheeled OHV as well

c. Community Development

Report was included in Council package

- Question: Are we able to have a tourism presence on the ferries? – there is currently no grab-and-go material anywhere in Nova Scotia; however, Town of Pictou displays are still there, though they are dated
- Question: When are cruise ships visits? – fall
- It was noted that focusing on capturing local tourists is beneficial this year, particularly given the rising cost of fuel
- Update provided on the mural being designed in partnership with Proudfoots and their new building

d. Public Works

Report was included in Council package

- Question: Were businesses and organizations communicated with regarding work timelines for Caladh Avenue? – yes
- Question on when we might see hot patching occur

e. Parks & Recreation

Report was included in Council package

- Comment that if anyone sees an illegal dump, they can report it to Pictou County Solid Waste who will send someone to investigate

f. Variance

Report was included in Council package

- Question on how we will handle anticipated deficit – use surplus funds from previous years

6. Appointment Committees

a. deCoste Centre – Councillor Fulton

- financials are at a surplus
- summer booklet has been printed

b. Pictou Lobster Carnival – Councillor LeBlanc

- Ham & Potato Salad Takeout was a success
- Last fundraiser before the Carnival is a Pancake Breakfast on May 9 at the New Horizons Club
- Summer Student has been hired
- Always looking for volunteers, if interested contact a committee member

c. Fisheries Museum – Councillor LeBlanc

- 4 summer students have been hired, opening the end of June
- The Hatchery has been rented for the summer, watch for announcements

d. Police Advisory Committee – Councillor Fulton

- Discussed issues/concerns with sidewalk and side street infrastructure
- Discussed having chats with Pictou Academy students about youth interested in Crime Prevention

e. Source Water Protection Committee – Councillor Fulton

- Received update on Caladh Avenue Project
- Discussed Jitney Trail Coastal Adaptation Project
- Jitney Trail signage will be developed to explain the project and outline its purpose
- Details of an upcoming Climate Summit to be held at the Wellness Centre at the end of May were shared

f. Business Advisory Committee – Councillor Fulton

- Associate from Advocate discussed the town partnering with the business sector to participate in their Explore Next Door program
- Talked about the Façade Program
- Next business mixer around the end of June

g. Ship Hector – Deputy Mayor Fry

- Heidi Sponagle was hired as a Tourism Marketing person
- Plans for the Boat Building School have been approved
- Work on the riggings and upper and lower masts will take place this summer
- 5-6 summer students will be hired
- \$25,000 donation received from Maple Leaf Foods
- Always looking for board members

- h. Construction Engineering Flight (CEF) – Councillor Dunbrack
 - A recruitment presentation will be held at the North Nova and Northumberland Schools
 - New recruitments are up 13%

- i. McCulloch House Museum & Genealogy Centre – Councillor Dunbrack
 - \$50,000 grant was received from CMAP
 - McCulloch House will be open from June 1 to August 30
 - Hector Centre is now open and will be until December
 - Tartan Day was a great success

7. Reports/Recommendations from Private Session

8. Recommendations

a. Vendors By-Law – Required Resolution

Per Section 18 of the Vendors By-Law, vending at the Harbourview Market and the Vendors Village Market does not contravene the bylaw when designated as a market by Council.

Motion: For Council at their next Regular meeting to designate the Harbourview Market and Vendors Village as farmers’ markets, in accordance with Section 18 of the Vendors By-Law.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

COC-05-04-26-002

b. Municipal Climate Change Adaptation Plan

The Municipal Climate Change Adaptation Plan has been in place since 2013. Similar to the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP), it was intended to be a living document that can be updated over time to reflect changing priorities, conditions and community needs. The final step is for Council to formally accept the document.

Motion: For Council at their next Regular meeting to accept the Municipal Climate Change Adaptation Plan as a guiding document for the Town

Moved, Seconded and Carried

COC-04-07-26-003

9. Discussions

a. Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Pilot Recap

Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) were approved to travel within the downtown area as part of a pilot project beginning in April 2025. Council discussed the pros and cons of the pilot project based on the past year’s experience. A draft by-law to expand OHV access to include all streets and roads within the Town was also reviewed.

Motion: For Council at their next Regular meeting to pass First Reading of amendments to the OHV By-law to expand OHV access to all streets and roads within the Town.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

COC-04-07-26-004

It was noted that the bylaw would still exclude certain portions of trails.

b. Grants to Organizations

The application deadline for the Community Groups Program has passed. A total of 38 applications were received, requesting \$210,067 in funding, which exceeds the available budget. Staff have provided recommendations for Council's consideration, and Council will review the proposal over the next two weeks in advance of the next Regular Council meeting.

In addition, pre-approved grants have been allocated to the deCoste Centre, CHAD Transit, Pictou County Partnership and Healthy Pictou County.

c. Summer Meeting Schedule

- July 6 and 20
- No meetings in August unless necessary
- September 8

10. Correspondence

11. Public Comments/Questions

- Question about noise and 4-wheelers

12. Adjournment

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

Approved

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO