

Minutes of a Town of Pictou Regular Council meeting convened 6:30 pm in Council Chambers on the above date. Mayor James Ryan presiding.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Malcolm Houser; Councillors Eric Daley, Dan Currie and Nadine LeBlanc

ALSO PRESENT: Dan Troke, CAO
Kyle Slaunwhite, Public Works
Nicole Battist, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: DM Houser
SECONDED: D Currie

RTC-03-16-20-2382

MOTION: To approve the agenda as circulated.
MOTION CARRIED

3. PROCLAMATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

a. Purple Day Proclamation

Mayor Ryan declared that March 26, 2020 be proclaimed Epilepsy Day in Pictou.

4. PRESENTATIONS

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Council – February 24, 2020

MOVED: D Currie
SECONDED: N LeBlanc

RTC-03-16-20-2383

MOTION: That the Regular Council minutes of February 24, 2020 be approved.
MOTION CARRIED

b. Committee of Council – March 2, 2020

MOVED: DM Houser
SECONDED: E Daley

RTC-03-16-20-2384

MOTION: That the Committee of Council minutes of March 2, 2020 be approved.
MOTION CARRIED

c. Special Council – March 2, 2020

MOVED: N LeBlanc
SECONDED: E Daley

RTC-03-16-20-2385

MOTION: That the Special Council minutes of March 2, 2020 be approved.
MOTION CARRIED

d. Recreation and Parks – March 5, 2020

MOVED: N LeBlanc
SECONDED: E Daley

RTC-03-16-20-2386

MOTION: That the Recreation and Parks minutes of March 5, 2020 be approved.
MOTION CARRIED

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a. Non-Unionized Employees Cost-of-Living Increases COC-03-02-20-2380

MOVED: D Currie
SECONDED: N LeBlanc

RTC-03-16-20-2387

MOTION: To approve a salary increase for non-unionized employees of 1.5%, retroactive to April 1, 2019.
MOTION CARRIED

b. Town Operating Budget 2020-21

- Comment that Covid 19 may impact operations of certain volunteer organizations and that the Town may need to be flexible in assisting these organizations, even after the budget is passed
- Comment that staff may need to adjust the budget as Covid 19 expenditures become more concrete
- CAO Troke suggested monitoring the budget for the first three months; and holding off on certain purchases in the first quarter that are considered non-essential
- CAO Troke pointed out that the majority of revenue is related to commercial and residential taxes; there will be some impact on recreation revenue, however, it will have offset expenditures

MOVED: DM Houser
SECONDED: D Currie

RTC-03-16-20-2388

MOTION: That the final draft Town operating budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021 with expenditures totaling \$6,134,222 (\$5,042,641, plus \$595,581 in financing and transfers and \$496,000 in education) be approved with tax rates being set at \$1.64/100 of residential and resource assessments, \$4.34/100 of Commercial Assessments; and \$0.32/100 of Commercial Assessments contained within the Business Improvement District of the Town; and, that the Town Treasurer be authorized to release sewer capital charges at a flat rate of \$106.63 and sewer operating charges at a rate of \$167.43 based on the methodology described by by-law; and, that the rate of \$156.36 be charged per dwelling unit for Curbside Collection; and 14.3 cents per \$100 of assessment for Fire Protection (Hydrant Rental) and that tax bills be due and payable 60 days from date of issuance; and that amounts past due be charged interest at the rate of 18% per annum.

MOTION CARRIED

c. Town Representative Provincial Volunteer of the Year Criteria PRP-03-05-20-2384

MOVED: E Daley
SECONDED: N LeBlanc

RTC-03-16-20-2389

MOTION: To approve that previous nominations for the award be valid for a period of five years.

MOTION CARRIED

7. RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORTS FROM PRIVATE SESSION

8. REPORTS

a. Municipal Corporation Reports:

- i. Pictou County Wellness Centre
Report submitted for information purposes.
- ii. Pictou County Shared Services Authority
Report submitted for information purposes.
- iii. Pictou Volunteer Fire Society
Report submitted for information purposes.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Temporary Borrowing Resolution (TBR) Renewals – Water Utility and various capital projects

Capital projects are funded through short term financing with a registered bank and then converted into long-term financing through the Municipal Finance Corporation. In order to

participate, the Town must have a current TBR. The TBR for Water Utility and various capital projects which was originally approved by Council on January 21, 2019 expired on January 29, 2020. Since the projects took more than a year to complete, the TBR must be renewed. These projects were built into the current year budget.

Water Utility Upgrades Renewal

MOVED: DM Houser

RTC-03-16-20-2390

SECONDED: N LeBlanc

MOTION: For Council to pass the following:

WHEREAS Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act provides that 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 authorized by statute;

AND WHEREAS 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 purpose as identified in their capital budget;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to a resolution passed by the Municipal Council on the 19th day of June, 2017, the Council postponed the issue of debentures and with the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs dated the 11th day of January, 2018, borrowed from a chartered bank or trust company doing business in Nova Scotia a sum not exceeding Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000) for the purpose set out above for a period not exceeding twelve months;

AND WHEREAS it is deemed expedient that the period of borrowing be further extended;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED

THAT subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the authorized period of borrowing in the amount of Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000) be extended for a further period not exceeding Twelve (12) months from the date of the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

MOTION CARRIED

Various Capital Projects Renewal

MOVED: D Currie

RTC-03-16-20-2391

SECONDED: N LeBlanc

MOTION: For Council to pass the following:

WHEREAS Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act provides that 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 authorized by statute;

AND WHEREAS 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 purpose as identified in their capital budget;

AND WHEREAS the specific amounts and descriptions of the projects are contained in Schedule “A” (attached);

AND WHEREAS pursuant to a resolution passed by the Municipal Council on the 17th day of December, 2018, the Council postponed the issue of debentures and with the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs dated the 28th day of March, 2019, borrowed from a chartered bank or trust company doing business in Nova Scotia a sum not exceeding Four Hundred Four Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-Three Dollars (\$404,333) for the purpose set out above for a period not exceeding twelve months;

AND WHEREAS it is deemed expedient that the period of borrowing be further extended;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED

THAT subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the authorized period of borrowing in the amount of Four Hundred Four Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-Three Dollars (\$404,333) be extended for a further period not exceeding Twelve (12) months from the date of the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

MOTION CARRIED

b. Operations – COVID 19

CAO Troke provided some updates on the current operations as they relate to Covid 19:

- The Fisheries Training Pool has been closed, effective today
- Cleaning efforts have been increased per Department of Health recommended practices
- Public Works – essential and emergency services will continue; employees are being assigned their own vehicle and are traveling alone; work is being completed with separation and distance measures being enforced
- Fire Department is working to update their protocols and procedures
- Electronic payments will be encouraged and communicated to the public, should the Administration Office have to close

c. Future Council Meetings

The next meeting will be held on its regularly scheduled date – April 6. The meeting may need to be held virtually. Updates will be shared with Council and the public when they become available.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: D Currie
SECONDED: DM Houser

RTC-03-16-20-2392

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm.
MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVED

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Dan Troke
CAO