

Minutes of a Town of Pictou Regular Council meeting convened at the CN Station – Council Chambers on the above date. Mayor James Ryan presiding.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Shawn McNamara; Councillors Dan Currie, Nadine LeBlanc and Melinda MacKenzie

ALSO PRESENT: Kyle Slaunwhite, CAO
Nicole MacDonald, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

1. PRIVATE SESSION – CONTRACT, PROPERTY AND PERSONNEL MATTERS
(6:00 pm)

2. PUBLIC SESSION – CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It was acknowledged that Town Council was meeting on the ancestral lands of the Mi'kmaq and in the unceded territory of Mi'kma'ki.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda with two additions:
5c. Staff Acknowledgement
8b. Heating Oil Costs
10. Reports/Recommendations from Private Session

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

RTC-05-16-22-2550

5. PROCLAMATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

a. VON Week

The Chair proclaimed May 22-28, 2022 as VON Week.

b. Access Awareness Week

The Chair proclaimed May 29-June 4, 2022 as Access Awareness Week.

c. Staff Acknowledgement

It was acknowledged that Town Employee Debbie Smith was leaving her employ with the Town of Pictou. Council wished her all the best and she was thanked for her years of service.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Council – April 19, 2022

There being no corrections, the Chair approved the circulated Regular Council minutes of April 19, 2022.

b. Committee of Council – May 2, 2022

There being no corrections, the Chair approved the circulated Committee of Council minutes of May 2, 2022.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Approval – 2023 Town Operating Budget

To approve the Town Operating Budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023 with expenditures totaling \$6,560,194 (\$5,360,712, plus \$662,057 in financing and transfers and \$537,425 in education) with tax rates being set at \$1.69/100 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 \$100.14 and sewer operating charges at a rate of \$170.28 based on the methodology described in the by-law; and, that the rate of \$147.09 be charged per residential dwelling unit for Curbside Collection; and that the rate of \$61.53 be charged per multi-unit residential properties with more than 4 units for Curbside Recycling; and 15.7 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.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

RTC-05-16-22-2551

- Question on hydrant rate increase – this is based on the existing Water Utility Budget previously approved by the NS Utility and Review Board
- Question on financial impact of a 4-cent increase to a typical tax bill – \$50 average
- Question on last residential tax increase – flat rates were introduced 12 years ago; tax rate was longer than that

b. Purchase of Certain Land located at 123 Water Street

MOTION: To approve the purchase of a portion of land behind the building located at 123 Water Street for \$100,000 from Jonathan Nicholas Gauvin and Shoshauna Alexie Gauvin for the purposes of a parking lot.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

RTC-05-16-22-2552

c. Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) – Denoon Street

MOTION: To authorize the submission of a Provincial Capital Assistance Program application requesting funding assistance for the Denoon Street Storm Sewer Separation project for \$125,000.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

RTC-05-16-22-2553

- Question on when project will start – RFP closes May 27; submissions include dates

8. DISCUSSIONS

a. Summer Meeting Schedule

Council will have regular meetings in August; there will be no meetings in July unless one is required.

b. Heating Costs

MOTION: For Council to write a letter to the Province requesting they remove the provincial sales tax from furnace oil as this is a life necessity; with the rising costs in oil, it would lessen the burden of increased costs.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

RTC-05-16-22-2554

9. REPORTS

a. Municipal Corporation Reports

i. Pictou County Wellness Centre (PCWC)

No meeting

ii. Pictou County Shared Services Authority

Report was shared electronically

iii. Riverview Home

Report was shared electronically

10. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PRIVATE SESSION

One contract and 5 property matters were discussed, however there is nothing public to report at this time.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:05 pm.

APPROVED

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO