

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 Melinda MacKenzie; Councillors Dan Currie, Nadine LeBlanc and Shawn McNamara

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

1. PRIVATE SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTERS (5:30 pm)

2. PUBLIC SESSION – PUBLIC HEARING (6:00 pm)

3. PUBLIC SESSION – CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

4. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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.

5. CHANGES/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda with the following changes:
6d. Add Pictou 2023
9e. Change Temporary Borrowing Resolution Debenture to Pre-approval of Debenture Issuance
9l. Add RCMP Retroactive Pay Resolution

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

RTC-04-17-23-2640

6. PROCLAMATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

a. Provincial Volunteer Week

The Chair declared April 16-22 Provincial Volunteer Week in Pictou. The Town will host the local Volunteer Reception on Tuesday, April 18 at the Pictou Legion.

b. Earth Day

The Chair declared April 22 as Earth Day, with “Invest in our Planet” being this year’s theme. Go Clean Get Green will begin at Market Square on April 22 at 9 am.

c. Nova Scotia Mass Shooting Anniversary

The Chair recognized the third anniversary of the Nova Scotia Mass Shooting. A moment of silence was held during the meeting and the Town will lower flags to half-mast on April 18 and 19, the days of the anniversary.

d. Pictou 2023

The Chair mentioned the Town’s 150th incorporation anniversary event which will be held at the CN Station on Sunday, April 30 at 1:00 pm.

7. PRESENTATIONS

a. Healthy Pictou County

Murray Hill and Nicole LeBlanc presented an overview of the work completed over the last five years to address the shortage of medical professionals in our community. The purpose of this local group is to assist Nova Scotia Health with supporting the attraction and retention of medical staff and students to Pictou County. The model has been replicated in 8 communities.

Questions/Comments:

- Are there efforts to allow qualified people to work in any province with less paperwork?
- What do we need to do to retain young physicians? They seem to be interested in completing hospital rounds with a family practice, and want social events
- Housing is an issue but there are options

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Hearing – March 20, 2023

There being no corrections, the Chair approved the circulated Public Hearing minutes of March 20, 2023.

b. Regular Council – March 20, 2023

The Chair approved the amended Regular Council minutes of March 20, 2023, with one request – that under “Item 11: Reports”, the questions be moved to the corresponding sub-sections, rather than being grouped together.

c. Committee of Council – April 3, 2023

The Chair approved the amended Committee of Council Minutes of April 3, 2023, with two corrections – Change 8c from Temporary Borrowing Resolution Debenture to Pre-approval of Debenture Issuance; and change 7a from beautification planning to beautification discussion.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Consideration to Demolish – 103 Elm Street

MOTION: To order the Owner to provide a structural engineering report that verifies the dwelling is structurally sound within 30 days, and agree to a schedule of repairs for the dwelling to be completed within 90 days; and if one or more deadlines is not met, to order the demolition of the existing residential building, remove the foundation, fill in the foundation areas to grade level, dispose of all debris and building material at a Provincial approved landfill site, and obtain a demolition permit; if not completed by the property owner in a timely manner, staff to complete the work per Municipal Government Act.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

RTC-04-17-23-2641

MOTION: To order a 14-day order of property cleanup and removal of travel trailer.
MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED **RTC-04-17-23-2642**

b. Consideration to Demolish – 97 St. Andrews Street

MOTION: To order the demolition of the existing dilapidated accessory building (Civic #97), within 30 days, remove the foundation, fill in the foundation areas to grade level, dispose of all debris and building material at a Provincial approved landfill site, and obtain a demolition permit; if not completed by the property owner in a timely manner, staff to complete the work per Municipal Government Act.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED **RTC-04-17-23-2643**

MOTION: To order the Owner to provide a structural engineering report that verifies the dwelling at Civic #101 is structurally sound within 30 days, and agree to a schedule of repairs for the dwelling; and if one or more deadlines is not met, to order the demolition of the existing residential building, remove the foundation, fill in the foundation areas to grade level, dispose of all debris and building material at a Provincial approved landfill site, and obtain a demolition permit; if not completed by the property owner in a timely manner, staff to complete the work per Municipal Government Act.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED **RTC-04-17-23-2644**

c. Town Operating Budget 2023-24

MOTION: To approve the 2023-24 Operating Budget with the following rate structure:

Residential / \$100 of assessed value	\$ 1.69
Commercial / \$100 of assessed value	\$ 4.34
BID Area Rate / \$100 of assessment	\$ -
Sewer Operating Flat Tax	\$ 225.44
Sewer Capital Flat Tax	\$ 96.74
Hydrant Rental Area Rate / \$100 of assessed value	\$ 0.154
Curbside Collection Flat Tax	\$ 159.12
Recycling Flat Tax	\$ 50.38

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED **RTC-04-17-23-2645**

Highlights of this budget include:

- No change to property or commercial tax
- Business Improvement District Tax removed
- Sewer Capital Tax decreased because interest is getting smaller
- Hydrant Rental Rate lowered – generated by Water Rate Study and pre-approved by NS Utility and Review Board
- Curbside Flat Tax increase and Recycling Tax – due to inflation with GFL collection contract
- About one-third of the budget is spent on Provincial Education

d. Tax Certificate Fee

MOTION: To approve an increase to the Tax Certificate fee from \$25 to \$40, effective June 1, 2023.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

RTC-04-17-23-2646

e. Pre-approval of Debenture Issuance

MOTION: To approve the following:

Whereas clause 66 (1) of the Municipal Government Act (the “Act”) provides that a municipality may borrow to carry out an authority to expend funds for capital purposes conferred by the Act or another Act of the Legislature;

And whereas clause 91(1)(a) of the Act provides that where a municipality is authorized to borrow money, subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (the “Minister”), that the sum shall be borrowed by the issue and sale of debentures, in one sum or by installments, as determined by the council;

And whereas clause 91(1)(b) of the *Municipal Government Act* authorizes the council to determine the amount and term of, and the rate of interest, on each debenture, when the interest on a debenture is to be paid, and where the principal and interest on a debenture are to be paid;

And whereas clause 91(2) of the *Municipal Government Act* states, that in accordance with the *Finance Act*, the Mayor and CAO, shall sell and deliver the debentures on behalf of the municipality at the price, in the sums and in the manner deemed proper;

And whereas the resolution of council to borrow for was approved by the municipal council on October 24, 2022.

Be it therefore resolved

That under the authority of Section 91 of the Municipal Government Act, the Town of Pictou borrow by the issue and sale of debentures a sum or sums not exceeding \$626,479, for a period not to exceed 20 years, subject to the approval of the Minister;

That the sum be borrowed by the issue and sale of debentures of the Town of Pictou in the amount that the Mayor and CAO deems proper, provided the average interest rate of the debenture does not exceed the rate of 6.0%;

That the debenture be arranged with the Province of Nova Scotia with interest to be paid semi-annually and principal payments made annually;

That this resolution remains in force for a period not exceeding twelve months from the passing of this resolution.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

RTC-04-17-23-2647

f. Approval – Public Engagement Policy

MOTION: To adopt a new Town Policy titled “Public Engagement”.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

RTC-04-17-23-2648

g. Street Sweeper Budget

MOTION: To approve the use of \$40,000 from the Heavy Equipment Budget to cover the additional \$32,155 cost of a street sweeper.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

RTC-04-17-23-2649

h. Pictou County Age Friendly Request

MOTION: To accept the Pictou County Age Friendly Plan, but not contribute financial or staffing resources to the project going forward.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

RTC-04-17-23-2650

i. Spring Cleanup

Pictou County Solid Waste is looking into holding a heavy item pickup beginning in 2025; therefore, staff are proposing a status quo Town Cleanup until this is decided.

MOTION: To continue with the Town Bulky Item Cleanup.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

RTC-04-17-23-2651

j. Scammell Garden Project

MOTION: To demolish and remove the lighthouse and electrical components at Scammell Garden; and to give the Pictou Garden Club permission to beautify the space with a pergola.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

RTC-04-17-23-2652

This project will have some in-kind expenses, but there is no financial request.

k. Electric Vehicle Chargers

MOTION: To approve a rate of \$2 per hour for the Electric Vehicle Chargers.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

RTC-04-17-23-2653

l. RCMP Retroactive Pay

MOTION: To approve the following:

Whereas, the Government of Canada has made the decision in Budget 2023 to make municipalities responsible for all retroactive costs stemming from the latest RCMP collective bargaining agreement; and

Whereas, local governments will now be forced to make difficult decisions that will impact residents, such as cutting essential services, reducing policing levels, raising property taxes significantly, and/or cancelling work on local infrastructure, at a time when Canadians' concerns about community safety and the cost of living are already rising; and

Be it resolved, that the Town of Pictou joins the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in calling on the federal government to commit to ensuring that local governments are meaningfully consulted, fully informed, and at the table on issues related to policing costs given the municipal role in keeping our communities safe.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

RTC-04-17-23-2654

10. DISCUSSION

11. REPORTS

a. Municipal Corporation Reports

- i) Pictou County Shared Services Authority
No meetings
- ii) Pictou County Wellness Centre
No meetings
- iii) Riverview Home
Circulated electronically

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

APPROVED

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO