

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

Also Present: Kyle Slaunwhite, CAO
Nicole MacDonald, Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order

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

2. 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.

3. Changes/Approval of Agenda

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.
MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

RTC-04-22-24-2777

4. Proclamations & Acknowledgements

a. Provincial Volunteer Week

The Chair acknowledged April 14-20 as Provincial Volunteer Week. The Town of Pictou’s Volunteer of the Year is Heather Mattie who was nominated by the Pictou and Area Garden Club. The Youth Volunteer is Chloe MacEachern who was nominated by Pictou Academy.

b. Earth Day

The Chair recognized today, April 22 as Earth Day. The theme this year is Planet vs Plastics.

c. Nova Scotia Mass Shooting Anniversary

The Chair acknowledged April 18 and 19 as the 4th Anniversary of the Nova Scotia Mass Shooting in Portapique and other areas in Nova Scotia. A moment of silence was held in recognition of the losses.

5. Presentations

a. Pictou County Partnership

CEO Wade Tibbo from Pictou County Partnership made a presentation to Council. He covered 2023-24 highlights, economic development realities, current partnerships, a breakdown of their funding sources, and where their efforts are being directed by supporting business growth and sustainability, strengthening sectors for investment and attraction, supporting the workforce and population growth, partnerships, communications and ensuring a sustainable organization.

Questions:

- is housing hindering attracting new employees to the area? Housing, transportation and childcare are the top three challenges
- Are you assisting with succession planning of mom-and-pop shops? yes

6. Approval of Minutes

a. Source Water Protection – November 16, 2023

The Chair accepted the circulated Source Water Protection minutes of November 16, 2023.

b. Regular Council Minutes – March 18, 2024

There being no corrections, the Chair approved the circulated Regular Council minutes of March 18, 2024.

c. Committee of Council – April 8, 2024

There being no corrections, the Chair approved the circulated Committee of Council minutes of April 8, 2024.

7. Reports/Recommendations from Private Session

8. Recommendations

a. 2024-25 Operating Budget

Highlights:

- Residential and commercial property taxes are unchanged
- Spring Cleanup included as part of the budget

MOTION: To approve the 2024-25 Operating Budget with the following rate structure:

Residential / \$100 of assessed value	\$ 1.69
Commercial / \$100 of assessed value	\$ 4.34
Sewer Operating Flat Tax	\$ 274.03
Sewer Capital Flat Tax	\$ 93.26
Hydrant Rental Area Rate / \$100 of assessed value	\$ 0.146
Curbside Collection Flat Tax	\$ 167.20
Recycling Flat Tax	\$ 52.31

Moved, Seconded and Carried

RTC-04-22-24-2778

Motion: To approve a 3% increase in pay for non-unionized staff and Town Council.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

RTC-04-22-24-2779

b. 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 or warden and clerk or the person designated by the council, by policy, 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 16, 2023.

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 \$1,165,627, 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 or warden and clerk or the person designated by the council deems proper, provided the average interest rate of the debenture does not exceed the rate of 6.5%.

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-04-22-24-2780

c. Municipal Elections – Returning Officer, E-voting Appointments, Election Period, Advanced Poles

Motion:

To approve the following related to the 2024 Municipal Election:

- Appoint Josephine MacDonald as Returning Officer
- Engage Intellivote as the electronic voting system
- Set election from October 6 (12 am) to October 19 (7 pm)
- Set advance poles as October 12 and October 15 (12pm-8pm both days)

Moved, Seconded and Carried

RTC-04-22-24-2781

d. Engage NS Financial Request

Motion: To approve a one-time financial contribution of 50 cents per resident to support the ongoing work of Engage Nova Scotia’s Quality of Life Survey.

Moved, Seconded and Carried **RTC-04-22-24-2782**

e. Pictou County Transit – Funding Model

The provincial government has provided additional funding for the project. Pictou County Transit made the decision to pass this on to the consumer and offer a daily flat rate of \$5. The Town will also play a flat rate to participate in the pilot.

Motion: To approve spending \$43,300 per year for three years towards a pilot program beginning fiscal year 2024-25 for the purpose of providing transportation by Pictou County Transit between Pictou and other communities in Pictou County.

Moved, Seconded and Carried **RTC-04-22-24-2783**

f. Pictou County Transit – Location Stops

The Chair shared that there will be three bus stop locations spaced out throughout the Town- in the west end, downtown and east end. There can also be flag down areas if they are safe for the bus and passengers. The route will be made public once it is discussed with Pictou County Transit Authorities.

- Can the flag down areas be identified? – yes, will use the same signage style in New Glasgow and Stellarton

g. Pictou County Partnership – Funding

Motion: For Council at their next Regular Meeting to approve entering into a five year extended Intermunicipal Service Agreement with Pictou County Partnership and to commit to a 2% increase in each of the five years beginning in 2025-26.

Moved, Seconded and Carried **RTC-04-22-24-2784**

h. Business Advisory Committee – Council Representative

Motion: To appoint Mayor Ryan as the Council representative on the Business Advisory Committee.

Moved, Seconded and Carried **RTC-04-22-24-2785**

i. Hector Heritage Society Partial Tax Exemption Policy – Approval to Amendments

Motion: To approve Amendments to the Policy titled “Hector Heritage Society Partial Tax Exemption”.

Moved, Seconded and Carried **RTC-04-22-24-2786**

j. Pictou West Food Bank Partial Tax Exemption Policy – Approval

Motion: To approve the Policy titled “Pictou West Food Bank Partial Tax Exemption”.

Moved, Seconded and Carried **RTC-04-22-24-2787**

k. New Caledonian Curling Club Partial Tax Exemption Policy – Approval to Amendments

Deputy Mayor Currie declared a conflict and excused himself from the discussion.

Motion: To approve Amendments to the Policy titled “New Caledonian Curling Club Partial Exemption”.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

RTC-04-22-24-2788

Deputy Mayor Currie returned to the meeting.

1. **Pictou West Foodbank 23-24 Tax Bill**

The invoice for the past year is roughly \$6000. The Partial Tax Exemption Policy for this property takes effect in the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Motion: To write off the 2023-24 Property Taxes for the Pictou West Foodbank.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

RTC-04-22-24-2789

9. Discussion

10. Reports

a. **Municipal Corporation Reports**

i) **Pictou County Shared Services Authority**

- No meeting

ii) **Pictou County Wellness Centre**

- No meeting

iii) **Riverview Home**

- Distributed electronically

iv) **Mayors and Warden**

- No meeting

11. Correspondence

12. Public Comments/Questions

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Approved

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO