

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 with two additions:
9b. Front Street Extension – Penny’s Lane
13. Closing Comments

Moved, Seconded and Carried

RTC-10-21-24-001

4. Proclamations & Acknowledgements

5. Presentations

6. Approval of Minutes

a. Source Water Protection – April 4, 2024

The Chair accepted the circulated Source Water Protection Minutes of April 4, 2024.

b. Public Hearing Minutes – September 23, 2024

There being no corrections, the Chair approved the circulated Public Hearing Minutes of September 23, 2024.

c. Regular Council Minutes – September 23, 2024

There being no corrections, the Chair approved the circulated Regular Council Minutes of September 23, 2024.

d. Committee of Council Minutes – October 7, 2024

There being no corrections, the Chair approved the circulated Committee of Council Minutes of October 7, 2024.

7. Reports/Recommendations from Private Session

8. Recommendations

a. Parks and Recreation Committee Member Appointment

Motion: To appoint David Porter as a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Moved, Seconded and Carried ***RTC-10-21-24-002***

b. Write-off – Doubtful Accounts

Motion: To approve the write-off of 12 doubtful accounts receivables per staff report, totaling \$28,634.79.

Moved, Seconded and Carried ***RTC-10-21-24-003***

c. Temporary Borrowing Resolution (TBR) – Various Capital Projects

Motion: To approve the following motion:

Whereas Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act provides that the Council of 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 as authorized by statute;

Whereas the Council of 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 purposes as identified in their capital budget; and

Whereas the specific amounts and descriptions of the projects are contained in Schedule “A” (per staff attachment);

Be it therefore resolved

That under the authority of Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the Town of Pictou borrow a sum or sums not exceeding Six Million Five Hundred and Seventy-Seven Thousand Fifty-Four Dollars (\$6,577,054) for the purpose set out above, subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;

That the sum be borrowed by the issue and sale of debentures of the Council of the Town of Pictou to such an amount as the Council deems necessary;

That the issue of debentures be postponed pursuant to Section 92 of the Municipal Government Act and that a sum or sums not exceeding Six Million Five Hundred and Seventy-Seven Thousand Fifty-Four Dollars (\$ 6,577,054) in total be borrowed from time to time from any chartered bank or trust company doing business in Nova Scotia;

That the sum be borrowed for a period not exceeding Twelve (12) Months from the date of approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of this resolution;

That the interest payable on the borrowing be paid at a rate to be agreed upon; and

That the amount borrowed be repaid from the proceeds of the debentures when sold.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

RTC-10-21-24-004

9. Discussion

a. Caladh Avenue – Development Concept

The CAO provided a summary of public input received prior to this meeting:

- There were a few questions in regard to the boardwalk – It is not included unless the project comes in under budget
- Active Transportation Route should only be one way – Engineers have commented that the route can facilitate AT traffic in both directions
- More time should be allotted for business consultation – Talks were held with businesses during the waterfront development consultations; the CAO also spoke directly to businesses that will be impacted by construction who had no issues and were excited about the improvements; this timeline has been chosen to attempt to have the street back in service by next summer and to meet government spending deadlines per grant approvals

Questions/Comments from Council:

- Question on street raising – The street will be raised two feet in front of the Marina Bar and Grill and will be less as the work moves to the east and west
- Should Market Street only be one way? – For now, it is suggested that it be kept two-way so that people can have access to the deCoste Parking lot
- Suggestion to consider no parking on the west side of Market Street to provide more room for bus turns
- Adequate signage will be needed indicating that Caladh Avenue is one way
- Bump out may interfere with buses
- When is the release of tender anticipated? – The suggested changes will be modified by the design team; once they are modified the construction tender can be issued; target date is within the next month

b. Front Street Extension – Penny’s Lane

Last winter, staff shared that there was no record of the Town owning Front Street extension (Penny’s Lane), however they have been maintaining it in the form of snow removal. Council directed staff to eliminate the section of road and reconnect driveways to Front Street. After investigating, it was discovered that the buried infrastructure was too shallow to allow for the driveways to be dug down to blend with Front Street. The residents were advised that the Town will not be following through on this approach as it is cost-prohibitive but will maintain service levels to the property lines. Residents are satisfied with this solution.

10. Reports

a. Municipal Corporation Reports

- i) Pictou County Shared Services Authority
No meetings

- ii) Pictou County Wellness Centre
 - AGM October 17
 - Report and financial statement ending March 31, 2024 was presented
 - Energy Cost increased – savings were not realized as the energy project was not completed until late in the fiscal year

- iii) Riverview Home
 - Closure date for the Adult Residential Centre as a result of the Remedy Report has been set for November 20, 2026
 - Closure plan is currently being developed
 - Discussions continue with government on possible uses for the current facility

- iv) Mayors and Warden
No meetings

11. Correspondence

12. Public Comments/Questions

13. Closing Comments

The Chair congratulated those who were elected this past Saturday in the municipal election – Robert Fry, Krista Fulton, Matt Harris and Nadine LeBlanc. He thanked those residents who exercised their right to vote and reminded residents that there are several vacancies on town committees if anyone would like to get more involved in the community. He also thanked outgoing councillors Deputy Mayor Currie, Councillor MacKenzie and Councillor McNamara for their dedicated service.

He went on to individually reflect on the impact of each outgoing council member.

Councillor Melinda MacKenzie

- Brought much welcomed new perspectives and energy to her role
- Used her strong communication skills to keep the community informed
- Demonstrated a desire to create and willingness to participate in town activities
- She fostered a special connection with our indigenous neighbors and friends
- She has enhanced our ability to begin to understand the true meaning of Truth and Reconciliation

Councillor Shawn McNamara

- Extensive knowledge of the issues facing our town and overall commitment to his community
- Residents felt comfortable contacting him with their questions and concerns

- His outstanding work and many years of leadership with the Lobster Carnival has been nothing short of incredible

Deputy Mayor Currie

- Decades of service to his hometown as Mayor and Councillor
- Served as Mayor during the first Waterfront Development in the 1990s, which remains the foundation on which today's successes lie
- A key role in the new library, serving as the Town's representative, Chair of the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library and co-chair of the community fundraising effort
- Extensive experience in providing a sense of direction and logic to complicated discussions

Councillors MacKenzie, McNamara and Currie reflected on their term as councillors and wished the new council the best of luck.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Approved

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO