

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

Present: Deputy Mayor Nadine LeBlanc; Councillors Robert Fry and Krista Fulton

Also Present: Nicole MacDonald, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

Absent with Regrets: Kyle Slaunwhite, CAO

1. Public Input Session – Off-Highway Vehicles (6:00 pm)

2. 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 in the unceded territory of Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded land of the Mi'kmaq people.

4. Changes/Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented.
Moved, Seconded and Carried

RTC-04-22-25-001

5. Proclamations & Acknowledgements

a. Provincial Volunteer Week

Provincial Volunteer Week will be celebrated from April 27 to May 3 this year. The theme is Volunteers Make Waves. This week-long celebration recognizes and thanks volunteers for their contributions to the community. The Town of Pictou's Volunteer of the Year and Youth Volunteer will be announced next week at the Town's Local Volunteer Reception. This event will be held on April 30 at 7 pm at the Pictou Legion.

b. Earth Day

This year's global theme is Our Power, Our Planet, with an emphasis on harnessing renewable energy to build a healthy and resilient future for communities. Coinciding with Earth Day, the Town will be holding the annual Go Clean Get Green Litter Campaign. Anyone who wishes to participate can meet at Market Square on April 22 at 9 am.

c. Nova Scotia Mass Shooting Anniversary

The Chair acknowledged April 18 and 19 as the 5th Anniversary of the Nova Scotia Mass Shooting in Portapique and other areas in Nova Scotia.

6. Presentations

7. Approval of Minutes

a. Tax Sale Minutes – February 19, 2025

The Chair accepted the Tax Sale Minutes of February 19, 2025.

b. Regular Council – March 17, 2025

There being no corrections, the Chair approved the circulated Regular Council Minutes of March 17, 2025.

c. Tax Sale Minutes – March 27, 2025

The Chair accepted the Tax Sale Minutes of March 27, 2025.

d. Committee of Council – April 7, 2025

There being no corrections, the Chair approved the circulated Committee of Council Minutes of April 7, 2025.

e. Special Council – April 7, 2025

There being no corrections, the Chair approved the circulated Special Council Minutes of April 7, 2025.

8. Recommendations

a. 2025-26 Operating Budget

Since the budget was presented at the Committee of Council meeting, contracts were finalized on waste collection. This changes the required fee for the Curbside Collection flat rate from \$166.40 to \$181.13 and Recycling Flat Tax from \$54.96 to \$61.09.

Motion: To approve the 2025-26 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	\$ 286.03
Sewer Capital Flat Tax	\$ 89.70
Hydrant Rental Area Rate / \$100 of assessed value	\$ 0.156
Curbside Collection Flat Tax	\$ 181.13
Recycling Flat Tax	\$ 61.09

Moved, Seconded and Carried

RTC-04-22-25-002

- Request for a separate vote on the Foreman Position
- Question about water rates and connection to the Operating Budget

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

Moved, Seconded and Carried

RTC-04-22-25-003

b. Second/Final Reading – Off-Highway Vehicles By-Law Amendments

A Public Input Session was held prior to the Regular Council Meeting. The Chair reviewed the alternative route (instead of using the Jitney Trail) for OHVs to access the downtown area and listed the streets that Off-Highway Vehicles will have access to:

- Brown’s Point Road
- Weaver Road
- West River Road
- Haliburton Road
- Church Street
- Water Street
- Front Street
- Caladh Avenue
- Coleraine Street; and
- streets running north and south between Church Street and Caladh Avenue.

Patrol and enforcement would fall under RCMP jurisdiction. If approved, the NS Road Trails Act would be followed, limiting speeds to 25 km/hour, with a curfew from the hours of a half an hour after dusk to a half an hour before sunrise.

Motion: To approve Second/Final Reading of the Off-Highway Vehicles By-Law Amendments.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

RTC-04-22-25-004

- Comment about not permitting OHVs on paved portion of Jitney Trail; installing extra signage, creation of economic growth, and ATVs currently travelling illegally on town

c. Equity and Anti-Racism Plan

Motion: For Council to accept the Town of Pictou Equity and Anti-Racism Regional Plan.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

RTC-04-22-25-005

d. Pre-Approval of Debenture Issurance

Motion: For Council 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 21, 2024;

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 \$2,002,369 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-04-22-25-006

- Question on debenture borrowing rates

e. Planning Advisory Committee Appointment

Motion: To appoint Dan Currie to the Planning Advisory Committee.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

RTC-04-22-25-007

f. Resignation – Matt Harris

On March 18, the CAO received a letter of resignation from Councillor Harris.

Motion: To accept the resignation of Councillor Matt Harris.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

RTC-04-22-25-008

g. Municipal By-Election – Returning Officer, Voter List, Election Period, Advanced Poles

Motion: To appoint Josephine MacDonald as Returning Officer for the Town of Pictou By-Election to be held on June 21, 2025; and further

- Close nominations on May 27, 2025;
- Set Advanced Voting Days as June 14 and 17, 2025;
- Pay election workers \$300 per day and \$50 for training; and
- Use the Provincial Voters List as the Official Voter List.

Moves, Seconded and Carried

RTC-04-22-25-009

More information about the nomination process will be shared online and in the Advocate.

9. Discussion

10. Reports

a. Municipal Corporation Reports

i) Shared Services – PCSW

- Not moving forward with bulky item pickup option due to a number of Pictou County municipalities not being interested
- Tipping fees will increase

ii) Mayor & Wardens

- Presentation by Housing Nova Scotia
- Presentation by Department of Natural Resources

iii) Pictou County Wellness Centre

- Revenue for the first quarter is up
- New generator installed

iv) Riverview Homes

- Remedy Report main discussion

11. Correspondence

a. Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library

The Board is requesting an increase in grants from all Pictou County municipalities. The total request is \$25,000, with Pictou’s portion being \$1,453 on top of the current \$33,841 share.

The money has been included in the budget; the letter is simply being entered into public record.

12. Public Comments/Questions

- Question on signage costs for Off-Highway Vehicles
- Question on whether province needs to approve budget
- Question on current use of Off-Highway Vehicles along Jitney Trail

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Approved

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO