

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 Robert Fry; Councillors Terry Dunbrack, Krista Fulton and Nadine LeBlanc

Also Present: Kyle Slaunwhite, CAO
Nicole MacDonald, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

1. Private Session – Property Matters (5:30 pm)

2. Public Session – Call to Order (6:30 pm)

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 with the following additions:
10a Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Pilot Project – Update
10b. Go Clean Get Green
12a. Request from Pictou County Partnership – Letter of Support

Moved, Seconded and Carried

RTC-04-20-26-001

5. Proclamations & Acknowledgements

a. Provincial Volunteer Week

Provincial Volunteer Week runs April 19-25. The Town’s Volunteer of the Year and Youth Volunteer will be announced Wednesday at the Local Volunteer Reception.

b. Earth Day

Earth Day 2026 takes place this Wednesday. Earth Day focuses on moving from pledges to direct action, encouraging individual participation, and advocating for renewable energy solutions. In recognition of Earth Day, the Town will be hosting the annual Go Clean, Get Green Litter Campaign on April 25.

c. Nova Scotia Mass Shooting

April 18 and 19 is the 6th anniversary of the Nova Scotia mass shooting that occurred in Portapique and other areas of the province. Today, we recognize this occasion and remember the lives affected.

6. Presentations

7. Reports/Recommendations from Private Session

The Chair reported that four ongoing property matters were discussed and that there was nothing to report publicly.

8. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular Council – March 16, 2026

The Chair accepted the circulated Regular Council minutes of March 16, 2026 with one correction – “Ritcey” to be spelled correctly throughout the document.

b. Audit – April 7, 2026

The Chair accepted the circulated Audit minutes of April 7, 2026.

c. Committee of Council – April 7, 2026

The Chair accepted the circulated Committee of Council minutes of April 7, 2026 with two points of clarification under 11a, Viola’s Place – add “as the conditions for petition presentation were not met” following reference to the formal petition, and to clarify responsibility for “ensuring” the continuation of operations.

9. Recommendations

a. Operating Budget

The Chair reviewed proposed changes to the revenue and expenses for the 2026-27 Operating Budget.

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
Hydrant Rental Area Rate / \$100 of assessed value	\$	0.152
Curbside Collection Flat Tax	\$	185.63
Recycling Flat Tax	\$	62.32

And further, Sewer Charges to be included on the quarterly water bills at the following rates:

- Sewer operating charge \$1.82/m³.
- Sewer capital charge based upon meter size:

Meter Size	Quarterly
5/8"	\$32.19
3/4"	\$48.29
1"	\$80.49
1.5"	\$160.97
2"	\$257.56
3"	\$515.12
6"	\$1,609.74

Moved, Seconded and Carried

RTC-04-20-26-002

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 March 16, 2026;

Be it therefore resolved,

That under the authority of section 91 of the *Municipal Government Act*, the Town of Pictou (*Name of Unit*) borrow by the issue and sale of debentures a sum or sums not exceeding \$1,438,455 , 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 clerk deems proper, provided the average interest rate of the debenture does not exceed the rate of 7.0%;

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

Moved, Seconded and Carried

RTC-04-20-26-003

c. Parks and Recreation Committee – Appointment

Motion: To appoint Devin O’Brien to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

RTC-04-20-26-004

d. Business Advisory Committee

Motion: To appoint Chris Smith to the Business Advisory Committee.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

RTC-04-20-26-005

e. Business Advisory Committee – Façade Program

Motion: To reinstatement the Façade Improvement Program as a micro-grant initiative, funded through remaining funds of the former Pictou Business and Marketing Society, with the following parameters:

- Grants to support exterior, street-facing façade improvements
- Cost-shared model at 50% of eligible project costs
- Maximum grant of \$500 per applicant

Moved, Seconded and Carried

RTC-04-20-26-006

10. Discussion

a. Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) – Pilot Project

Now that a year has passed since the OHV bylaw was introduced, Council discussed the idea of opening additional town streets to allow residents to access trail systems directly from their homes.

Council directed staff to prepare a report for a future meeting evaluating the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) pilot project over the past year and to provide commentary on the potential expansion of the pilot to include this approach.

b. Go Clean Get Green

The Town is organizing a “Go Green, Get Clean” community cleanup event on April 25, from 9 to 11 am at Market Square.

Council discussed providing flexibility for residents who are unable to participate on the scheduled date, including the availability of garbage bags and gloves for pickup at the Town Office.

Staff advised that this approach has been used in the past and indicated that bags and gloves could likely be available for pickup by the end of the next business day. Participants would be asked to inform staff where collected waste has been left so that Public Works staff can arrange for pickup.

11. Municipal Corporation Reports

i) Pictou County Shared Services Authority

- Shared electronically

ii) Pictou County Wellness Centre

- Shared electronically

iii) Riverview Homes

- Shared electronically

- iv) Mayor and Wardens
 - Shared electronically

12. Correspondence

a. Request from Pictou County Partnership – Letter of Support

A letter was received from the Pictou County Partnership requesting the Town’s support for an initiative to hire a Business Navigator. The request does not involve any financial contribution from the Town.

Council consensus was to submit a letter of support for the Regional Economic Partnership Program initiative.

13. Public Comments/Questions

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Approved

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO