

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

**PRESENT:** Deputy Mayor Dan Currie; Councillors Nadine LeBlanc, Melinda MacKenzie and Shawn McNamara

**ALSO PRESENT:** Kyle Slaunwhite, CAO  
Michelle Young, Community Development  
Curtis MacKinnon, RCMP  
Wayne Robinson, Fire Chief  
Iain MacIsaac, Public Works  
Sally O’Neill, Recreation  
David Nicholson, Finance  
Nicole MacDonald, Deputy Clerk

**1. PRIVATE SESSION – SALE OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY AND CONTRACT MATTERS (5:30 pm)**

**2. PUBLIC SESSION – CALL TO ORDER**

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

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 circulated.  
MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

*COC-03-04-24-2751*

**4. PROCLAMATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**5. PRESENTATIONS**

a. Pictou Youth & Family Center

Lester MacLean made a presentation on the Pictou Youth and Family Center plans. The group would like to access the old tourist bureau building when it is moved to Broidy Park. They would like to offer youth programming in the building under the umbrella of the Recreation Department.

Questions/Comments:

- Is the intent for the centre to be only used as a youth centre? – no
- Can the space be used in winter months? – not currently insulated
- How involved have students been with planning? – youth representatives are on the Board

- Suggestion to approach the County Recreation Department and the RCMP to see if they have any supports

Council directed staff to prepare a Briefing Note for the next Council meeting commenting on all things to be considered for the youth group to exist as part of the recreation department.

**6. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

a. Fire Department

- Report was included in the Council package
- Sutherland Harris Foundation Grant of \$30,000 received for two new SAVs and medical bags for the truck

b. RCMP

- Report was included in the Council package
- Testing the new body cams as another pilot within Pictou County
- Question on mental health call increases – do officers go with more than one officer and does it take a long time? – it depends, but there is no alternative
- Are health professionals involved in mental health calls? – it depends on the nature of the call but is possible
- Are all Mounties wearing the body cams now? – yes, when on an active call

c. Community Development

- Report was included in the Council package
- 4 Expression of Interests for Commercial Spaces for Lease issued – CN Station, Kiosks and Food Truck
- Accepting applications for the Town Grant program until March 31 – information is on town website
- Volunteer of the Year and Youth Volunteer nominations are open until March 20 – information is available on town website

d. Public Works

- Report was included in the Council package
- Residents should notify the Town if they had property damage due to plows during the recent snowstorm; Public Works will be working on repairing the damage in April, May and June
- Thanks to Public Works crew for efforts during the recent rainstorm
- Question on suction truck in Town – there were 3 sewer issues that arose from the storm
- Question on whether new salt truck was ordered – yes, delivery expected in the first quarter of 2025
- The CAO reported that the Province in conjunction with the Federal Government will be issuing financial relief for the major snowstorm event

e. Parks and Recreation

- Report was included in Council package
- Successful Winter Carnival – lots of people were out participating in events

- Working on March Break activities and will post when completed
- Comment that Camilla Thompson will do a book reading at the Hector Arena on March 14 from 10-11:30 am at a free skate
- Question on how much the skate park owes for fundraising

f. Variance

- \$311,000 surplus projection
- Tax Sale: 30-40 people in attendance; 8 properties were available; 2 had no bids; the Town vested these and will resell when the redemption period is over

**7. APPOINTMENT COMMITTEES**

a. Fisheries Museum – Councillor LeBlanc

- Developing a newsletter which will be mailed out to fisher people and on website
- Quotes for accessible doors for both entrances in process

b. Police Advisory Board – Councillor LeBlanc

- Businesses were invited to attend a meeting at the CN Station which was very well attended; the RCMP gave a presentation and answered questions

c. Habitat for Humanity – Councillor McNamara

- Land donated by the Town of New Glasgow on Louise Road
- Hope to start building in early May
- Looking for applications for homeowners
- Working on getting one rep from each Town/Municipality in the County

d. Hector Arena – Councillor McNamara

- Working on an operations grant application
- Would like to present financial plan to Council

e. Ship Hector – Councillor McNamara

- Spring construction has begun with 3 new hires
- Working on a 5-year marketing and business plan
- Planning on getting ship in water and operational by August

f. Regional Library, McCulloch Genealogy Centre, Pictou County Partnership, Accessibility – Deputy Mayor Currie

- Report included in package
- Regional Library – selecting artists and artisans to be represented on inside walls of Hub
- McCulloch Genealogy Centre – vacancies on the board
- Pictou County Partnership – appointed auditor for next 3 years

**8. RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORTS FROM PRIVATE SESSION**

Direction was given to the CAO on a land matter.

2024-25 Capital Budget

MOTION: For Council at their next regular meeting to approve the addition of \$3,990,926 in funds to the current approved Capital Budget for Coleraine Street and Caladh Avenue; \$1,995,463 to come from both debt and grants, with the understanding that these projects will take place as part of both the 24/25 and 25/26 fiscal years.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED *COC-03-04-24-2752*

- Question as to why we cannot use this money for other streets – very specific projects related to environment and climate change
- Comment that these projects are in addition to what was approved last month
- Comment that receiving half of the funding from other levels of government is a good investment for the Town taxpayer

**9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

a. ATV Rally Request

For the public’s information, the Town has an Off-Highway Vehicle By-law which allows the CAO to approve rallies if various conditions are met. There is a request from the Sunrise Trail ATV Club to use the trail this spring for a rally. The CAO will be working with the group to determine the details and publicly advertise the date and location of the event on the trail.

b. Committee of Council Appointments

MOTION: For Council at their next regular meeting to appoint the following people to the Business Advisory Committee – Tabitha Coleman, Kevin Nooks, Peter Fraser, Helen Buchan, David Craig and Derek Forsyth.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED *COC-03-04-24-2753*

MOTION: For Council at their next regular meeting to appoint the following people to the Parks and Recreation Committee – Matt Harris and Jason Rankin.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED *COC-03-04-24-2754*

MOTION: For Council at their next regular meeting to appoint Jason Rankin to sit on the Audit Committee.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED *COC-03-04-24-2755*

c. Hector Heritage Society Partial Tax Exemption Policy

MOTION: For Council at their next regular meeting to approve the tax reduction from Commercial to Residential during the months the Ship Hector Gift Store is in operations.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED *COC-03-04-24-2756*

The Ship Hector Society is to be encouraged to make application to the Town Grant Program.

**10. DISCUSSIONS**

**11. CORRESPONDENCE**

**12. COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

- Question about using the lane next to Consulate for ATVs and whether it would cause concern for current walkers

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

APPROVED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Ryan  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kyle Slaunwhite  
CAO