

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, CONTRACT AND PERSONNEL 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 with the following additions:

- 4b. World Autism Acceptance Day
- 4c. National Dental Hygienist Week
- 4d. Trans Day of Visibility
- 4e. Female Hockey Provincials
- 4f. MLA Karla MacFarlane
- 9c. 2024 Municipal Election
- 9d. Engage NS – Financial Request
- 9e. Pictou County Transit – Update
- 9f. Pictou County Partnership – Funding

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED

COC-04-08-24-2765

4. PROCLAMATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

a. Tartan Day – April 6

The Chair acknowledged April 6 as Tartan Day in appreciation of the Scottish clans in Pictou.

b. World Autism Acceptance Day – April 2

The Chair recognized World Autism Acceptance Day on April 2 and April as World Autism Month.

c. National Dental Hygienist Week – April 4-10

The Chair recognized April 4-10 as National Dental Hygienist Week.

d. Trans Day of Visibility – March 31

The Chair recognized March 31 as Trans Day of Visibility.

e. Female Hockey Provincials

Ron Clarke, Hector Arena Manager, Arena Staff, and local organizers of the Under 13AAA Female Hockey Provincials were commended for their efforts and dedication to hosting a successful provincial event at the Hector Arena this past weekend.

The Fundy Highland Under 11A Female Hockey Team was congratulated on taking home the provincial title for their division.

f. MLA Karla MarFarlane

The Chair recognized MLA Karla MacFarlane who announced she will be leaving her seat representing Pictou West in the very near future. Ms. MacFarlane has worked hard for and on behalf of each of her constituents. She has had a significant influence on our ability to grow and celebrate as a community.

5. PRESENTATIONS

a. Construction Engineering Flight (CEF)

Roy Bryne, Chairman of the Community Advisory Board and Lieutenant Macheta made a presentation on the CEF. They spoke about the history of the flight coming to Pictou, the types of projects they are equipped to complete and training available to recruits.

6. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

a. Fire Department

- Report was included in the Council package

b. RCMP

- Report was included in the Council package
- Not included in the report was a break-in at the deCoste Centre site and vandalism at Broidy Park; both incidents are still under investigation
- This past month, 50 criminal records checks were completed for the Town and 73 for the County
- Shout out to Constable Riley who accepted a position with forensics identification in British Columbia and will be leaving her Pictou position in the near future
- Question on criminal record checks

c. Community Development

- Report was included in the Council package
- Received award for Visitor Services from Coastal NS
- Caladh Marquee happening again this year
- Question on Market Wharf tender timeline

d. Public Works

- Report was included in the Council package
- Question on ruts from winter plowing and choice of fill – temporary fill for safety reasons as topsoil is not available this time of year; this base fill will settle, then topsoil applied in spring
- Question on flashing sidewalks installation – sidewalk painting to take place first, then lights will be installed

e. Parks and Recreation

- Report was included in Council package
- Town Volunteer Reception will be held at the Legion on April 18
- Question on whether Volunteer of the Year has been selected – yes, will be announced at volunteer ceremony

f. Variance

- Due to the exceptionally large snowstorm in February the provincial government has committed to fund any incremental costs for contractors, overtime and equipment repairs
- \$310,000 surplus will grow the Town reserve – this is due to higher than expected interest rates and RCMP vacancies

7. APPOINTMENT COMMITTEES

a. Fisheries Museum – Councillor LeBlanc

- Held AGM; executive unchanged
- Preparing to hire summer students and opening for the summer

b. Lobster Carnival – Councillor LeBlanc

- Announced musical lineup; early bird tickets are sold out and just a few advance tickets left; contact the deCoste Centre for tickets
- Upcoming fundraisers – Lobster Ball Dance at the Legion – April 13; Ham and Salad Takeout Dinner – April 18
- Likely will qualify for the Guinness World Book Records for longest running Lobster Festival

c. Habitat for Humanity – Councillor McNamara

- Chairman Ed Kennedy is hoping to have groundbreaking ceremony May 27
- Plan to build a 3-bedroom home valued over \$300,000

d. Ship Hector – Councillor McNamara

- Progress on the ship is going well
- Launch date August 17

e. Hector Arena – Councillor MacKenzie

- Meeting tomorrow with the Agricultural Society to discuss rink usage
- Ice will be coming out for the season

f. deCoste Centre

- Virtual meeting with strategic planning consultant
- Staff are excited about the progress of the new building

g. Regional Library – Deputy Mayor Currie

- Libraries across the Province received extra funding to increase staff salaries and a pilot project to help people access online health care at local libraries

h. Source Water Meeting – Deputy Mayor Currie

- More water is available and better quality than it has been in years

8. RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORTS FROM PRIVATE SESSION

Discussion was held on four property matters and one personnel matter. Direction was given to the CAO to negotiate the sale of town-owned property.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

a. 2024-25 Operating Budget

MOTION: For Council at their next Regular Meeting 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 *COC-04-08-24-2766*

MOTION: For Council at their next Regular Meeting to approve a 3% increase in pay for non-unionized staff and Town Council.

MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED *COC-04-08-24-2767*

b. Pre-Approval of Debenture Issuance

MOTION: For Council at their next Regular Meeting 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

COC-04-08-24-2768

c. 2024 Municipal Election

MOTION: For Council at their next Regular Meeting 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

COC-04-08-24-2769

- d. Engage NS – Financial Request
MOTION: For Council at their next Regular Meeting 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 *COC-04-08-24-2770*

- e. Pictou County Transit – Update
The Chair shared that the provincial government has contributed additional funding to the project. This will allow a run from Pictou to New Glasgow six days a week, three times per day, compared to the previous proposal of three days per week. The cost to the user would remain the same at \$5.00 per day. The start date is anticipated to be mid to late May. More updates will be shared at the next Regular Council meeting.

- f. Pictou County Partnership – Funding
MOTION: For Council at their next Regular Meeting to commit to a five-year extension via a new Intermunicipal Service Agreement with Pictou County Partnership and to commit to a 2% increase in each of these five years.
MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED *COC-04-08-24-2771*

10. DISCUSSIONS

- a. Business Advisory Committee – Council Representative
MOTION: For Council at their next Regular Meeting to appoint Mayor Ryan as the Council representative on the Business Advisory Committee.
MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED *COC-04-08-24-2772*

- b. Marketing Levy By-Law
MOTION: For Council at their next Regular Meeting to recommend First Reading of the Marketing Levy By-Law.
MOVED, SECONDED AND REJECTED 0 for, 5 nay *COC-04-08-24-2773*

Once Coastal Nova Scotia representatives meet with Town of Pictou accommodations in Pictou, Council is willing to entertain the by-law again.

- c. Pictou North Colchester Exhibition Derbies
The Mayor will send a letter to the Exhibition Committee expressing noted safety concerns with the derby events and that the Fire Department is not available to be used as on-site public safety personnel during the derbies.

- d. Hector Heritage Society Partial Tax Exemption Policy – Amendments (7 days’ Notice of Intent to Consider)
MOTION: That the following serve as the required seven (7) day advance Notice of Intent to consider Amendments to the Policy titled “Hector Heritage Society Partial Tax Exemption”.
MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED *COC-04-08-24-2774*

- e. Pictou West Food Bank Partial Tax Exemption Policy (7 days' Notice of Intent to Consider)
MOTION: That the following serve as the required seven (7) day advance Notice of Intent to consider Amendments to the Policy titled "Pictou West Food Bank Partial Tax Exemption".
MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED *COC-04-08-24-2775*

- f. New Caledonian Curling Club Partial Tax Exemption Policy – Amendments (7 days' Notice of Intent to Consider)
Deputy Mayor Currie excused himself due to a conflict of interest.
MOTION: That the following serve as the required seven (7) day advance Notice of Intent to consider Amendments to the Policy titled "New Caledonian Curling Club Partial Exemption".
MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED *COC-04-08-24-2776*

Deputy Mayor Currie returned to the meeting.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

12. COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm.

APPROVED

Jim Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO