

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:** Sally O’Neill, Recreation  
Michelle Young, Community Development  
David Nicholson, Finance  
Iain MacIsaac, Public Works  
Curtis MacKinnon, RCMP  
Kyle Slaunwhite, CAO  
Nicole MacDonald, Deputy Clerk/Minute recorder

**Regrets:** Wayne Robinson, Fire Chief

**1. Private Session – Legal Matters (6:00 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 presented.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

*COC-10-07-24-001*

**4. Proclamations and Acknowledgements**

a. Mi’kmaq History Month

The Chair recognized that October is Mi’kmaq History Month.

b. National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The Chair recognized that October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The Town Administration Office will be lit up on October 17 as a commitment to disability-inclusive employment.

**5. Presentations**

**6. Departmental Reports**

a. Fire Department

- Report shared in Council package
- Thanks to members for participating in the parade on Saturday

- b. RCMP
  - Report shared in Council package
  - Thanks to the RCMP members for their participation in community events and support of fundraisers over the past month
  
- c. Community Development
  - Report shared in Council package
  - Special thanks to Councillor MacKenzie for coordinating student participation in Truth and Reconciliation Day on September 30
  
- d. Public Works
  - Report shared in Council package
  - Question on VIC building project
  - Question on whether brush dump is closed? – Yes, at capacity
  - Comment on seeing speed signs moved around town
  - Question on Gut Bridge gates and allowing side by sides, while preventing vehicles from accessing the trail
  
- e. Parks and Recreation
  - Report shared in Council package
  - Christmas Tree Lighting event is November 29
  
- f. Variance
  - Report shared in Council package
  - Question on disaster relief fund from the Province
  - Question on projected surplus
  
- 7. Appointment Committees**
  - a. Regional Library – Deputy Mayor Currie
    - Report shared in Council package
    - Comparison of wages for library staff with other public sector departments shows that librarian staff are paid 50% less
    - New library opened September 23
  
  - b. McCulloch House – Deputy Mayor Currie
    - 2024 audit report was presented and accepted
  
  - c. REN Committee – Deputy Mayor Currie
    - Highlights of activities in package
    - Cove organization setting up office, hopefully in Pictou – focused on opportunities for business and waterfront
    - Open house planned for December 4
    - Question: any plans for old library space – actively showing space to anyone interested
  
  - d. deCoste Centre – Councillor MacKenzie
    - exciting first meeting back in the new building

- new strategic plan set to go this year
  - Commend the Committee for their dedication to the Arts are for Everyone Program
- e. Policy Advisory Committee – Councillor LeBlanc
- Paula Beer is the new Committee chair
- f. Fisheries Museum – Councillor LeBlanc
- Working on updating their strategic plan
  - Two accessible doors have been installed as well as an elevator
  - Great spot for anyone looking to book space that is accessible
- g. Lobster Carnival – Councillor LeBlanc
- AGM was held; new executive for the 2025 Carnival was elected
  - A Pancake Breakfast will be held at the New Horizons Club on October 12
  - In conjunction with HarvFest, the Carnival Committee will be selling an Octoberfest-style sausage, hot apple cider and seasonally spiced coffee event
- h. Ship Hector – Councillor McNamara
- Completed major exterior components this year
  - Minor interior work will continue as required until the spring of 2025
- i. Habitat for Humanity Pictou County Chapter – Councillor McNamara
- New house build: outside near completion; inside to start next week; completion date is around the end of November

**8. Reports/Recommendations from Private Session**

a. Write Off – Doubtful Accounts

Motion: For Council at their next Regular meeting to approve the write-off of 12 doubtful accounts receivables per staff report, totaling \$28,634.79.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

***COC-10-07-24-002***

**9. Recommendations**

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

A TBR gives the Town the ability to borrow money from the bank while a capital project that has been previously approved is underway. Once complete, it goes to the Province as debenture approval for long-term borrowing. More money is not borrowed during this step.

Motion: For Council at their next regular meeting to pass the following motion:  
Amount: \$6,577,054 Capital Projects: Detailed in Schedule “A”

**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

*COC-10-07-24-003*

b. Caladh Avenue – Development Concept

Superintendent MacIsaac reviewed the drawings and development concept of the Caladh Avenue project.

Questions/comments:

- What area will be one way? – from Market Street to Coleraine Street
- We had bump outs on Water Street and they were all removed so why put them on this street? – more so to define parking spaces; if feedback is received that people do not want them they can be removed from the design

- Is the whole street going to be raised? – no, just from Market Street to roughly Kempt Street
- Estimated time period of Caladh Ave project – March-June 2025, will go to tender in fall and will start whenever weather permits in the spring
- Staff are asking for Council and public feedback over the next two weeks, then go to tender after Regular Council

**10. Discussions**

**11. Correspondence**

**12. Public Comments/Questions**

- Question on height elevation of Caladh Avenue project

**13. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.

Approved

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Jim Ryan  
Mayor

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Kyle Slaunwhite  
CAO