

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: Councillors Robert Fry, Krista Fulton, Matt Harris and Nadine LeBlanc

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

1. Private Session – Sale of Municipal Property 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 with one addition:
4c. Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Moved, Seconded and Carried

COC-11-12-24-001

4. Proclamations and Acknowledgements

a. Veterans Week

The Chair recognized November 5-11, 2024 as Veterans Week.

b. Municipal Awareness Week

The Chair recognized November 11-17, 2024 as Municipal Awareness Week.

c. Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The Chair recognized November as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

5. Presentations

6. Departmental Reports

a. Fire Department

- Report shared in Council package

- Question on how often SCBA packs are purchased/replaced
 - 7 new recruits
 - The number of fire fighters at the Remembrance Day service was acknowledged
- 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
 - No questions
- d. Public Works
- Report shared in Council package
 - Question on when Coleraine Street project will be complete – end of November
 - Question on Constitution Street project start date – pushed to next construction season
 - Question on Cottage Street construction – communication has been an issue with that contractor
- e. Parks and Recreation
- Report shared in Council package
 - Question on whether marina washroom pipes burst before – 2020
 - Comment that YMCA members have used the Pictou Pool when the Y is closed but not vice versa – the YMCA paid for this service
 - Question on whether organizations can book Pictou Pool when the YMCA is closed – yes
 - Question on Jitney Trail signage
- f. Variance
- Report shared in Council package
 - Question on Environmental Oil Spill expenses
- 7. Appointment Committees**
- a. Fisheries Museum – Councillor LeBlanc
- NS Arm Wrestling Fundraiser will be held at the Pictou Legion on November 30; fun arm wrestle for Fisher Folks later the same day
- b. Lobster Carnival – Councillor LeBlanc
- Several fundraisers upcoming: Christmas Basket Tickets and Gift Card Bingo
 - 2025 dates are July 4-6
- 8. Reports/Recommendations from Private Session**

Direction was given to the CAO to proceed with a purchase and sale agreement on two town owned properties.

9. Recommendations

a. New Horizons Financial Request

Motion: For Council at their next Regular Meeting to recommend a pre-commitment of \$5,000 out of next year's 2025-26 Grants to Organizations to the New Horizons 55+ Club toward the replacement of their roof.

Moved, Seconded and Carried *COC-11-12-24-002*

b. Code of Conduct – Acceptance

Motion: For Council at their next Regular Meeting to accept the Code of Conduct Regulations as presented by the Province of Nova Scotia.

Moved, Seconded and Carried *COC-11-12-24-003*

Questions/comments:

- Question on Town Code of Conduct – the regulations supersede town code of conduct, but very similar
- Question on what happens if some municipalities do not agree to follow these regulations – they will not receive ongoing provincial funding

c. Code of Conduct – Appointment of Investigator

Motion: For Council at their next Regular Meeting to appoint Craig Clarke, Town Solicitor as the Town of Pictou's Code of Conduct Investigator.

Moved, Seconded and Carried *COC-11-12-24-004*

d. Deputy Mayor Appointment

Motion: For Council at their next Regular Meeting to appoint Councillor Nadine LeBlanc as Deputy Mayor for the first year of this Council's four-year term.

Moved, Seconded and Carried *COC-11-12-24-005*

e. Signing Officer Update

Motion: For Council at their next Regular Meeting to approve that Nadine LeBlanc be granted signing authority.

Moved, Seconded and Carried *COC-11-12-24-006*

10. Discussions

a. Trucking Route Report

CAO Slaunwhite reviewed a Briefing Note circulated to Council that provided more information about a proposed new trucking route to the waterfront area, as well as the Englobe Report and Modeling. Staff recommend that a public meeting be held on December 16. People can register to speak at the meeting or provide written feedback in advance of the meeting. A recommendation report will then be tabled in January with a final recommendation, in time for consideration of the capital budget.

The Englobe Report and Modeling has determined there are two possible routes that can accommodate moving 300-foot-long loads. Both routes will be considered.

Questions/Comments from Council:

- Will the present route be reviewed?
- Do we get financial benefit from loads coming through town?
- Is the port up to code?
- Was Feasibility Study done solely to see if windmill blades can go through Town?
- Who is the previous owner of Pier C?
- Is there a promise of sale of Pier C?
- Is there confirmation that CME is going to buy the shipyard?
- Did Englobe do a slope stability investigation on the proposed Wellington Street route?
- Has it been confirmed that the windmill blades will be coming through Town?
- Question on turn by Underwoods on Division Road
- Is it possible for Council to decide not to invest the suggested \$200,000 investment on one of the routes?
- Would the Town require more liability insurance if there was an incident?
- Question about acquiring two properties for the Wellington Street route

a. Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program

The Province announced a new provincial funding program for any project that supports housing, climate change initiatives or accessibility. Funding is considered for shovel ready projects and studies. Several Town projects could be considered, including:

- Stormwater separation – to build capacity for our sanitary system
- Southern part of Union Street for storm water separation
- West End of Water Street
- West River Road – stormwater separation coming into Town
- Grange Street – separation along with an upsize of the existing services
- Welsford Street – bottom part – storm separation

Staff would like feedback on Council’s preferred projects. Council narrowed down their preferences to three projects – the retaining wall, Grange Street and Welsford Street.

Direction was given to staff to put together a rough budget and scope for each option for the next meeting.

b. Committee Appointments

The Chair shared the list of Councillor appointments for assigned committees.

11. Correspondence

12. Public Comments/Questions

Questions were asked related to the proposed truck route.

- Question on slope of roads
- Question on taxes at Pier C
- Question on property expropriation
- Question on restricting certain vehicles and having certain restrictions in town

- Question on project RMS needs this route for and whether they can use other routes to Dalhousie Mountain
- Comment on children's safety along the route
- Interest in a waterfront commons developed in the same space
- Why isn't industry here this evening?
- What are the two options considered?
- Would the long road only be used for long loads?
- Would the shipyard use this route?
- What mechanism does the Town have to control usage?
- Has one of the interested companies completed any previous work for the Town?

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Approved

Jim Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO