

Minutes of a Town of Pictou Committee of Council meeting convened 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
Derek Bjorklund, RCMP
Wayne Robinson, Fire Department
Iain MacIsaac, Public Works
Sally O'Neill, Recreation
David Nicholson, Finance

Regrets: Michelle Young, Community Development
Nicole MacDonald, Deputy Clerk

1. 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.

2. Changes/Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda as circulated.
Moved, Seconded and Carried

COC-10-05-26-001

3. Proclamations and Acknowledgement

a. Mi'kmaq History Month

The Chair recognized October as Mi'kmaq History Month – a time to commemorate the rich history, proud culture and important contributions of the Mi'kmaq people. The theme this year is Nepisulti'k or “We Are Healing”. The people who participated in the Truth of Reconciliation Event in Pictou were also thanked.

b. National Disability Employee Awareness Month

The Chair recognized October as National Disability Employee Awareness month.

4. Presentations

5. Departmental Reports

a. Fire Department

- Report was included in Council package
- Fire Truck Parade for Fire Prevention Week went well

b. RCMP

- Report was included in Council package
- Staff Sergeant Derek Bjorklund was welcomed to Pictou County
- There are concerns of underage drinking and illegal drugs behind the soccer building

c. Community Development

- Report was included in Council package

d. Public Works

- Report was included in Council package
- Will there be vertical boarding around the marina?
- Streetlight on West River Road across from EHS seems to be acting like a strobe light – staff will see who owns it and see about repairs
- Has the salt shed been started?

e. Parks & Recreation

- Report was included in Council package
- Awarded \$42,000 through the Green Municipal Fund Rapid Action Program for permanent shade structures at the Broidy Park Splash Pad
- Terry Fox Run had a great turnout; thanks to all the volunteers
- Provincial Volunteer Awards in Halifax – Dawn Westhaver was recognized

f. Variance

- Report was included in Council package.
- Two significant budget variances have emerged this year – Curbside recycling collection (\$64,000 lower than anticipated) and RCMP costs paid to the Province (budgeted \$120,000, has been reduced by 25%, resulting in \$30,000 savings)
- Question on general government deficit – being offset by a grant
- Does the 25% RCMP reduction change if the Town changes to the Provincial Policing model?
- Solid Waste savings – are these due to the budget being based on last year's actual spending, before it was known that the Town would not be paying for recycling this year?

6. Appointment Committeesa. Pictou Lobster Carnival – Councillor LeBlanc

- AGM was held – Philip Harpell-Chair; Clare Steele-Vice Chair; Dianna Veenhuis-Secretary
- A volunteer event will be held at the Pictou Legion on October 23 at 7 pm; anyone that helped throughout the year is welcome to attend
- Lobster Carnival dates for 2027 are July 9-11

b. Northumberland Fisheries Museum – Councillor LeBlanc

- Had four great summer students
- Closed for the season, open for rentals

- c. Pictou Business – Councillor Fulton
 - Planning for October HarvFEST taking place October 24
- d. deCoste Centre – Councillor Fulton
 - Summer was a success
 - The Board decided to mix it up this summer with several types of entertainment; ticket sales were up 40%
 - Dream Vacation Draw tickets are on sale now
 - AGM will be held in October
- e. McCulloch Heritage and Genealogy Society – Councillor Dunbrack
 - Fundraiser – moving forward with building a walkway
 - NS Museum in process of creating a new sign for the property
 - Escape Room is up and running
 - Fall hours are Monday-Friday 10 am-4:30 pm
- f. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library – Deputy Mayor Fry
 - Staff can help seniors complete the Seniors Care Grant and the Home Heating Rebate
 - NS Library Conference was held in Pictou September 19 and 20
 - Set up for tap to receive donations at the library
- g. Ship Hector – Deputy Mayor Fry
 - Stepping of the Masts event was held on September 26
 - Diesel engines are on order
 - Fundraising meeting to be held to brainstorm ideas
- h. Hector Arena – Deputy Mayor Fry
 - Started up ice plant on September 28; will be opening soon

7. Recommendations

- a. Business Advisory Committee Member – Appointment

Motion: For Council at their next Regular Meeting to appoint Jim Proudfoot to the Business Advisory Committee.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

COC-10-05-26-002

8. Discussions

- a. Pictou County Transit

The Town is participating in a three-year pilot program with Pictou County Transit, along with the Towns of Trenton and Westville and Pictou Landing First Nation. The pilot ends in summer 2027. Ridership has increased by 100% year over year since the pilot began. Once an updated proposal is received, Council will need to decide whether to become a full member of Pictou County Transit. Initial estimates indicate that the cost of full membership would be similar to the Town's current pilot cost.

9. Correspondence

10. Public Comments/Questions

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Approved

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO