

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

Present: Deputy Mayor Robert Fry; Councillors Terry Dunbrack, Nadine LeBlanc and Krista Fulton

Also Present: Kyle Slaunwhite, CAO
Nicole MacDonald, Deputy Clerk/Minute Recorder

1. Call to Order

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

2. Land Acknowledgement

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:
11a Pictou Antigonish Regional Library Board
11b. Communications to the Honorable Dave Ritcey – Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
13. Private Session – Contract Matter
14. Adjournment

Moved, Seconded and Carried

RTC-03-16-26-001

4. Proclamations & Acknowledgements

5. Presentations

6. Reports/Recommendations from Private Session

7. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular Council – February 17, 2026

The Chair accepted the circulated Regular Council minutes of February 17, 2026.

b. Tax Sale – February 18, 2026

The Chair accepted the circulated Tax Sale minutes of February 18, 2026.

c. Committee of Council – March 2, 2026

The Chair accepted the circulated Committee of Council minutes of March 2, 2026 with one amendment – under 9a, that the motion read “For Council at their next regular meeting to approve the Temporary Borrowing Resolution...”

8. Recommendations

a. McCulloch House Museum & Genealogy Centre – Letter

At the Committee of Council meeting, it was recommended that Council, at their next regular meeting, approve sending a letter to the Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, MLA Marco MacLeod, and MP Sean Fraser expressing concern regarding the potential loss of McCulloch House. Due to the urgency of the matter, Mayor Ryan proceeded to send the letter, taking this as direction from Council.

b. Additional Capital Budget Allocation

Motion: To approve an additional \$1.1 million to the 2026-27 Capital Budget, funded and conditional upon receiving the required federal and provincial grants.

Moved, Seconded and Carried

RTC-03-16-26-002

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

Motion: To approve the following Temporary Borrowing Resolution (TBR):

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 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 official signed resolution);

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 Seven Million Eight Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$7,856,00) 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 Seven Million Eight Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$7,856,00) 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

RTC-03-16-26-003

d. Joint Police Advisory Board Committee

A request was received from the Town of Trenton concerning the formation of a joint Police Advisory Board as they are switching to RCMP effective April 1 for police protection. Pictou Town staff have also reached out to the County of Pictou to see if they would like to combine boards. It was noted that Council approval and subsequent correspondence from the CAO to the Minister of Justice would be required should Council choose to proceed.

Direction was given to the CAO to advise the Town of Trenton and the County that Council has expressed interest in a joint Police Advisory Board and is open to further discussions regarding structure, meeting arrangements, and chairing.

9. Discussion

a. Sale of Lot 1 – Elliott Street

The CAO announced that the Town has sold Lot 1 on Elliott Street to B&L Home Designs for \$25,000, with a condition requiring the construction of a single-family dwelling within three years. Should this condition not be met, the Town may repurchase the property for 70% of the original purchase price.

10. Municipal Corporation Reports

i) Pictou County Shared Services Authority

- No meeting

ii) Pictou County Wellness Centre

- No meeting

iii) Riverview Homes

- As Remedy deadlines are approaching there is concern regarding the lack of appropriate community-based housing options in Pictou County
- Waiting for final confirmation from the Department of Opportunities and Social Development for approval as a service provider under the individualized funding model of support for persons with disabilities

iv) Mayor and Wardens

- No meeting

11. Correspondence

a. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

A letter was received from Eric Stackhouse, Chief Librarian, advising Council that library services will be impacted due to provincial funding cuts. While core funding has not been reduced, the Library will experience a funding shortfall for the current year. The Library Board has approved several measures to balance the budget and protect core services, and it was noted that no request for an increased municipal grant will be made. As part of these measures, the Antigonish and New Glasgow branches will be closed on Sundays, effective April.

b. Communications to the Honourable Dave Ritcey – Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

Mayor Ryan briefly reviewed the letter sent to the Honourable Dave Ritcey regarding the significant reduction in provincial funding to his department. The letter requests that the Government of Nova Scotia reconsider the long-term impacts of complete defunding and potential closure of the McCulloch House and Genealogy Centre, on both the local community and the province.

12. Public Comments/Questions

13. Private Session – Personnel Matter

Council moved to Private Session at 7:00 pm.

14. Adjournment

Council moved back into Public Session at 7:10 pm. There was nothing to report.

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:11 pm.

Approved

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Kyle Slaunwhite
CAO