

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
PUBLIC MEETING**

**Minutes of Meeting  
February 3, 2015**

**Present**

Mayor, Billy Joe MacLean  
Deputy Mayor, Joe Janega  
Councilor, Bert Lewis  
Chief Administrative Officer, Maris Freimanis  
Director of Finance, Erin MacEachen  
Director Marketing, Recreation, Tourism & Culture, Paula Davis  
Town Solicitor, Larry Evans

**Regrets**

Councilor, Dr. Trevor Boudreau  
Councilor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton

**Guests**

Mary L. Delaney, Early Childhood Development Consultant, NS Education and Early Childhood Development  
Curtis Doucet, Fire Chief, Port Hawkesbury Volunteer Fire Department

**1. Call to Order**

A Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in the Shannon Studio, PHCC, Tuesday, February 3, 2015 and called to order by Mayor MacLean at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Gallery Presentations**

a) Regulated Child Care in Nova Scotia – Mary L. Delaney

Ms. Delaney provided an overview of child care options in Nova Scotia and those available in Port Hawkesbury, Victoria County and Whycomogagh. The main challenges facing families in the area are costs associated with child care and the lack of trained staff to address the gap in infant care and facilities from accepting more children. Ms. Delaney stated there is a need for a universal child care program in the province and that Council could assist by providing feedback and comments through a provincial child care review.

b) Introduction – Curtis Doucet, New Fire Chief, Port Hawkesbury Volunteer Fire Department

Mayor MacLean welcomed and introduced Curtis Doucet who was appointed the new Fire Chief in Port Hawkesbury during the Fire Department's General Meeting in December. Deputy Mayor Janega and Councilor Lewis extended congratulations and their support to Mr. Doucet. Mr. Doucet's report included the need to upgrade the utility vehicle, other equipment, and the limited capacity of the aerial truck. He commended the members and stated there were a minimal number of calls in January. Mr. Doucet was not opposed to the idea of amalgamation but recognized the separate identities of both departments. Mayor MacLean stated he looks forward to an invitation to a future meeting and thanked the former Fire Chief, Dale Sellars and outgoing members of the Executive for their many years of dedicated service.

**3. Additions to / Approval of Agenda**

There was one addition to the agenda:

- Tax Assessments – Deputy Mayor J. Janega

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor J. Janega and SECONDED by Councilor B. Lewis "To approve the agenda as amended". MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. Minutes**

- Regular Town Council January 12, 2015  
There were no errors or omissions.

**5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

January 12, 2015 – Agenda Item 3A – Strait of Canso Superport Corporation Limited – Board Appointment

CAO, M. Freimanis stated to Councilor Lewis that an expression of interest for a Citizen Nominee for the Board of Directors of the Strait of Canso Superport Corporation Limited was posted on the Town website and will be advertised in The Reporter, February 4 and 11. The deadline for applications is February 20.

**6. Proclamations**

There were no proclamations.

**7. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**8. Resolutions**

There were no resolutions.

**9. Other Business**

a) Borrowing Resolutions

**MOVED by Councilor B. Lewis and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor J. Janega "To approve the Borrowing Resolutions to access a \$1,000,000 overdraft on current bank accounts and \$25,000 for Visa Cards used for purchasing". MOTION CARRIED**

b) Gas Tax Utilization

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor J. Janega and SECONDED by Councilor B. Lewis "To approve E. MacEachen's request to use gas tax funds to finance current year paving in the amount of \$142,000, and to set aside the budgeted funds in a reserve account to offset the Build Canada Project on Pitt Street and Napean Street if approved". MOTION CARRIED.**

c) Cultural Mapping Project

The Province and the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage will develop a provincial cultural map to identify and record cultural resources to attract and support economic development within NS municipalities. Phase 1 of this project will partner the HRM with Port Hawkesbury.

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor J. Janega and SECONDED by Councilor B. Lewis "To approve the Cultural Mapping Project as presented by P. Davis". MOTION CARRIED.**

**10. Approved Additions**

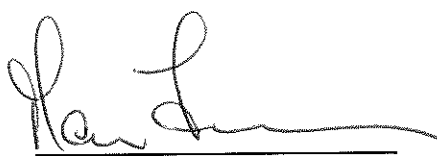
- Tax Assessments

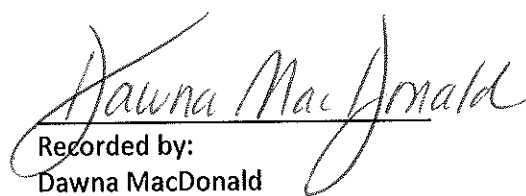
E. MacEachen addressed Deputy Mayor J. Janega's request to provide information on residential tax assessments, the Capped Assessment Program, payment options for residents, billing periods, rebates for eligible low income families, and the PVSC tax appeal process. Councilor B. Lewis suggested a breakdown of the allocation of tax dollars to inform residents. Deputy Mayor J. Janega stated the residents can be confident in the staff and Council's fiscal responsibility to its residents.

11. Adjournment

MOVED by Deputy Mayor J. Janega, and SECONDED by Councilor B. Lewis "To adjourn the Public Meeting of Council at 8:25p.m." MOTION CARRIED.

March 4, 2015  
Date

  
Approved by:  
Maris Freimanis, CAO

  
Recorded by:  
Dawna MacDonald