

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Minutes of Meeting
March 16, 2015**

Present

Mayor, Billy Joe MacLean
Deputy Mayor, Joe Janega
Councilor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
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

Deputy Mayor, Dr. Trevor Boudreau

Guests

Angie MacEachern, Agency Director, Inverness County Home Support Society

1. Call to Order

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held in the Shannon Studio, PHCC, Monday, March 16, 2015 and called to order by Mayor MacLean at 7:20 p.m.

2. Additions to / Approval of Agenda

- Harbour Bottom and Harbour Authority – Mayor MacLean

MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton and SECONDED by Councilor B. Lewis “To approve the agenda as amended”. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Gallery Presentations

- Inverness County Home Support Society (ICHSS)

Ms. MacEachern’s presentation included the services provided by the ICHSS, Administration and Board of Directors’ structure, staffing, client numbers by region, and service delivery by service type. Funding, budget concerns, staffing shortages, greater distances for staff to travel within our region, and client waitlists are challenges facing the ICHSS. The Department of Health and Wellness has been exploring a possible tender process to ensure quality and create more consistent, efficient and flexible home care services for Nova Scotians. Ms. MacEachern stated a representative from Port Hawkesbury is needed for the Board of Directors and requested a letter of support from the Town.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor J. Janega and SECONDED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton “To provide a letter of support for the Inverness County Home Support Society to send to The Honourable Leo Glavine, Minister of Health and Wellness”. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Other Business

a) Disposal of Assets

The Town policy requires a public tender to take place to dispose of assets the Town no longer requires. The current inventory includes kitchen equipment stored at the Creamery, a 2005 Ford F250 pick-up truck, a 2006 Ford Ranger, and a variety of miscellaneous material and small equipment.

Councilors B. Chisholm-Beaton and B. Lewis inquired if the Fire Department or the PHCC would have need for any items. Mayor MacLean stated his concerns for assets stored in the Creamery which is not heated and that we have an obligation to taxpayers to achieve the best price possible from a tender process.

MOVED by Councilor B. Lewis and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor J. Janega “To approve Administration’s request to use other public means to sell assets that the Town no longer requires should the expected value or reserve amount not be achieved through a tender process”. MOTION CARRIED.

b) Creamery

CAO, M. Freimanis asked Council to consider a time frame of the end of June for a response from the Province for a Community Health Centre and that Council considers other opportunities for the Creamery should the Province’s response be unfavorable. He noted the negative impact of leaving a building vacant for an extended period of time. Deputy Mayor J. Janega and Councilor Lewis stated the Creamery is the best option for a health centre as there is no funding available to build a facility. Councilor Lewis asked Staff and Council to consider the potential loss of tax revenue with private sector occupancy in the Creamery and that a contingency plan must be in place for the recruitment of doctors. Mayor MacLean, Council and CAO, Freimanis agreed that a decision is urgently needed from the Province regarding the Creamery and to invite Minister Michel Samson to a Council meeting to address the doctor shortage in the area and the Creamery as the central location for a community health centre.

MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton and SECONDED by Councilor B. Lewis “To extend the timeline to September 1, 2015 for a response from the Province for the Creamery as a Community Health Centre and to reevaluate other opportunities for the Creamery should the Province’s response be unfavorable”. MOTION CARRIED.

MOVED by Councilor B. Lewis and SECONDED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton “To invite The Hon. Michel Samson to a Council Meeting to address the doctor shortage in the area, the Creamery as the location for a Community Health Centre and other Council issues”. MOTION CARRIED.

c) Council Meetings

CAO, M. Freimanis’s memo addressed the schedule, format, and additional meetings of Council. He asked Council’s consideration to:

- Replace the Committee of the Whole meeting which currently reflects agenda items typical of a public meeting, with a second Regular Public Meeting to be held the first and third Monday of each month.
- Schedule a planning meeting with staff to address strategic direction, planning, and economic issues to follow the Regular Public Meeting on the third Monday.
- Have updates from Mayor MacLean, Council and the CAO on their activities and files
- Have Council consider a general public session communicating priorities to residents and the business community allowing for engagement with the public, elected officials, and staff.

Town Solicitor L. Evans stated the current structure operates under a Town By-Law and any changes would involve repealing and replacing the current By-law with a policy. Council agreed to take time to consider the implications in replacing the Committee of the Whole with a second Regular Public Meeting and to discuss this issue at a future meeting. Mayor MacLean recommended reviewing the strategic planning for the Town, highlighting some priorities and recommendations, and bringing it into a monthly report to discuss ongoing issues. Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton suggested using the Imagine 2030 document as a launch pad for strategic priorities for the Town. The MGA's regulations on meeting formats were also discussed.

4. Approved Additions

Harbour Bottom and Harbour Authority

The Strait Area Mayors and Wardens will meet to discuss divestiture issues surrounding the Strait of Canso harbour bottom and harbour authority.

The Committee of the Whole meeting recessed In Camera at 9:00 p.m. to discuss:

- a) Sale of the Incubator Mall, 15 Paint Street
- b) Lease vs. Sale of the former Credential Building, 305 Granville Street
- c) YMCA Lease Update

The Committee of the Whole meeting reconvened at 10:15 p.m.

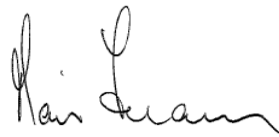
Council was in support of the staff recommendations for a) Incubator Mall, b) 305 Granville Street, and c) YMCA Lease, and provided direction to staff according to In Camera discussions.

4. Adjournment

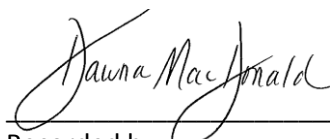
The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

March 31, 2015

Date



Approved by:
Maris Freimanis, CAO



Recorded by:
Dawna MacDonald