

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING**

**Minutes of Meeting
September 15, 2015**

Present

Mayor, Billy Joe MacLean
Deputy Mayor, Joe Janega
Councilor, Dr. Trevor Boudreau
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

Guests:

Wanda MacLean
Sgt. Shelby Miller, RCMP

1. Call to Order

A Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in the Shannon Studio, PHCC, Tuesday, September 15, 2015 and called to order by Mayor MacLean at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor MacLean asked for a moment of silence in memory of Rod MacIsaac who passed away August 27, 2015.

2. Gallery Presentations – Reeves Street Façade & Streetscape Program

W. MacLean's presentation to Council addressed the project background and deliverables to date, current efforts, next steps and the desired outcomes which included a Reeves Street renewal program proposal with a target date of January 2016 and façade construction in the spring of 2016. The renewal and revitalization of Reeves Street plan will incorporate access alternatives with the NSCC. A question and answer period followed including issues relating to project costs, level of interest from businesses, challenges relating to businesses with landlords and tenants, and concerns with traffic flow on Reeves Street. Ms. MacLean stated the public can access the NS TIR Reeves St. Traffic Flow Study and Conceptual Plan on the Town website for more information.

3. Additions to / Approval of Agenda

- a) Seniors Housing and Doctor Shortages – Deputy Mayor J. Janega
- b) Amalgamation and Shared Services – Councilor Dr. T Boudreau

MOVED by Deputy Mayor J. Janega and SECONDED by Councilor B. Lewis “to approve the additions to the agenda”. MOTION CARRIED.

MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor J. Janega “to approve the agenda”. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Minutes

- Regular Town Council June 2, 2015
There were no errors or omissions.
- Committee of the Whole July 7, 2015

MOVED by Councilor B. Lewis and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor J. Janega “to approve the July 7, 2015 minutes of the Committee of the Whole”. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

Public Meeting – June 2, 2015 – Dog Park

Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau and Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton inquired about the status of the Dog Park and resulting action item from the June 2 meeting. CAO Freimanis stated there was not a lot of activity since the meeting. He will prepare an itemized list for discussion for the September 21 Committee of the Whole.

6. Proclamations

There were no proclamations.

7. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8. Resolutions

There were no resolutions.

9. Other Business

a) Municipal Organization – CAO M. Freimanis

CAO Freimanis explained the purpose of the Municipal Organization Review, the competitive RFP process involved, its findings and its outcomes. In his summary, he stated that change is never easy and the decisions affecting employees were difficult ones. Council was briefed with and unanimously endorsed the results, findings and implementation strategy. He stated that Council and staff have an obligation to tax payers to be proactive in taking the necessary steps to improve the Town's sustainability and strengthen its chances of facing the future challenges that lay ahead.

MOVED by Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau and SECONDED by Councilor B. Lewis "To approve the request of members of the gallery to address Council on the Municipal Organization". MOTION CARRIED.

Members of the gallery were invited to address Council. Individuals expressed their disappointment, concerns and anger for employees who were provided with a working notice. Questions included retraining opportunities for employees, their ability to apply for the new positions prior to a public posting, and, clarification on the staffing complement resulting from the review. Individuals noted that those affected were more than employees but the face of the Town and known for their friendly and helpful nature. Staff and Council were asked to consider the human element and the impact of their decisions with the number of job losses in a small Town.

Each member of Council addressed and thanked members of the gallery for their questions and comments and stated their compassion for those employees affected during this difficult process. After in depth meetings and discussion it was a unanimous decision by Council to accept the results and recommendations of the review in the best interests of taxpayers and for the future sustainability of the Town.

b) Asphalt Patching Program

The net cost to the Town including taxes to proceed with asphalt overlay and as quoted by Ocean Paving is \$79,485. This includes a number of utility cuts for a total of net of taxes of \$12,630 for designated streets currently funded by the Water Utility Budget.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor J. Janega and SECONDED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton “to approve the recommendation of CAO Freimanis to fund \$25,000 from the operating fund and the balance from the gas tax reserves for the asphalt overlay as detailed in the September 9, 2015 memo”. MOTION CARRIED.

On the question Councilor Dr. T Boudreau inquired about the Public Works staffing complement in fulfilling this work and early planning and scheduling for next year. Director of Finance E. MacEachen stated she has not yet heard back from the Province regarding the application to the Build Canada Fund for paving on Pitt and Napean Streets.

c) Smoke Free Outdoor Spaces Grant Fund

MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton and SECONDED by Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau “to approve the request of P. Davis, Director Marketing, Recreation, Tourism & Culture, to research and provide information to Council on the Town’s eligibility to receive funding under the Smoke Free Outdoor Spaces Grant Fund and to amend the current Smoke Free Open Space Policy by including a definition of ‘smoke’ which reflects the best practices in tobacco cessation and control as outlined in the AMANS/UNSM Wellness Program: Healthy Active employees and elected officials”. MOTION CARRIED.

d) Funding Request & Committee Member – Health Equity Action & Resource Team (HEART)

Mayor MacLean suggested that Council consider a formula to calculate future funding requests based on assessment and population.

MOVED by Councilor B. Lewis and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor J. Janega “to approve a funding request of \$1,000 for the HEART Seniors Take Action Conference October 24”. MOTION CARRIED.

e) UNSM 2015 Annual Fall Conference – November 3-6, 2015 – Halifax

Deputy Mayor J. Janega will not attend the UNSM Fall Conference. The remaining Council will advise staff of attendance accordingly.

f) RCMP Business Alarm Response

CAO Freimanis and Sgt. Shelby Miller clarified the process and the expectations for home and business owners when alarms are triggered.

When an alarm is triggered, the alarm company notifies the OCC in Truro. If it is a multi alarm (broken glass, intrusion, hold up, etc.), an officer is dispatched immediately. If it is a single contact, verification is requested that of the nature of the issue prior to an officer being dispatched. The RCMP does not want to put anyone at risk but requires verification regarding a single contact alarm. Residents and business owners should contact the RCMP regarding the alarm policy. In addition, alarm companies should notify clients about the process. The RCMP will release an updated communiqué to the public on this issue.

10. Approved Additions

a) Amalgamation and Shared Services – Councilor Dr. T Boudreau

Due to the declining population and economic challenges facing small towns, Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau discussed formally reaching out to municipalities and the Province to begin dialogue on shared services and amalgamation. He suggested a letter be drafted and sent to the Province and neighboring municipalities. CAO Freimanis stated that CAO's have been looking at opportunities to share services and maximize service delivery in order to reduce costs. He will be meeting with other CAO's on these issues with a focus of maximizing service delivery to receive the best value for our taxpayer. Council was in support of beginning dialogue with neighboring municipalities on shared services and amalgamation. Staff will draft a letter for Council's review prior to distribution to the Province and neighboring municipalities.

MOVED by Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor J. Janega "to have correspondence sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Strait Area Mayors and Wardens to begin dialogue on shared services and amalgamation. MOTION CARRIED.

b) Seniors Housing and Doctor Shortages – Deputy Mayor J. Janega

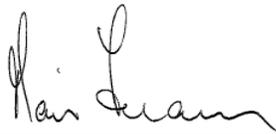
Deputy Mayor J. Janega received a petition from more than 350 people regarding the need for seniors housing and the concern for doctor shortages. He attended numerous meetings with Councilor Steve Sampson who is in consultation with Minister Michel Samson. There has been interest from several doctors and their decisions are pending. NS Housing will host a public presentation October 1 at the Evergreen Club regarding senior housing. The Community Health Centre Committee meetings will resume regarding the doctor shortage in the area.

11. Adjournment

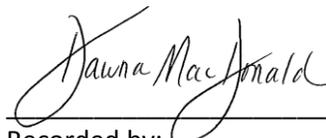
MOVED by Councilor B. Lewis and SECONDED by Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau "to adjourn the Public Meeting at 8:55 p.m." MOTION CARRIED.

October 7, 2015

Date



Approved by:
Maris Freimanis, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer



Recorded by:
Dawna MacDonald