

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
PUBLIC MEETING**

**Minutes of Meeting  
May 3, 2016**

**Present**

Deputy Mayor, Bert Lewis  
Councilor, Dr. Trevor Boudreau  
Councilor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton  
Chief Administrative Officer, Maris Freimanis  
Director of Finance, Erin MacEachen  
Director of Marketing, Recreation, Tourism & Culture, Paula Davis  
Town Solicitor, Larry Evans

**Regrets**

Mayor, Billy Joe MacLean  
Councilor, Joe Janega

**Guests**

John Beaton – Eastern Strait Regional Enterprise Network

**1. Call to Order**

A Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in Shannon Studio, PHCC, Tuesday, May 3, 2016 and called to order by Deputy Mayor Lewis at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Gallery Presentations**

a) Eastern Strait Regional Enterprise Network (ESREN)

The ESREN was formed in 2015 and represents the Municipalities of the County of Antigonish, St. Mary's, Guysborough and the Towns of Antigonish and Port Hawkesbury. John Beaton provided an update on logistics and the strategic planning process. Hiring will include an in-house accountant in the main office in Antigonish and two economic development officers in Port Hawkesbury and Guysborough/St. Mary's. A two day session with sectoral focus is scheduled June 3-4 for potential stakeholders to address economic development priorities, innovations and challenges in the region. A report will be generated and provided to councils and the Strait Area Chamber of Commerce. The ESREN goals include improved economic situations, collaboration, reports on partnerships and spin-offs from job creation. Discussion included board membership, Town representatives and office space in Port Hawkesbury.

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

There were no additions to the agenda.

**MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton and SECONDED by Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau "to approve the agenda". MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. Minutes**

a) Public Meeting – April 5, 2016

There were no errors or omissions.

b) Committee of the Whole – April 18, 2016

**MOVED by Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau and SECONDED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton "to approve the April 18, 2016 minutes of the Committee of the Whole". MOTION CARRIED.**

- c) Public Hearing – April 25, 2016  
There were no errors or omissions.
- d) Special Public Meeting – April 25, 2016  
There were no errors or omissions.

**5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**6. Proclamations**

There were no proclamations.

**7. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**8. Resolutions**

There were no resolutions.

**9. Other Business**

a) Low Income Tax Exemption Policy

The existing Low Income Tax Exemption Policy provides assessed and qualified residential property owners whose family income is less than \$18,000 per year and upon application, a tax exemption of \$200. E. MacEachen asked Council to consider revising the current policy as per the outlined conditions which include increasing the annual family income amount from \$18,000 to \$23,000. The level of exemption may be reduced based on the number of applications received and not to exceed the Town's budgeted amount for exemptions. The policy will be tabled for ratification at the May 16 Committee of the Whole.

b) Mayor and CAO Updates

CAO M. Freimanis provided the following updates:

Mayor's Update

Mayors and Wardens Committee

- i. Strait of Canso Port Governance was tabled at the December meeting of the Mayors and Wardens. The committee is the lead group in a two-step process involving facilitated meetings between members of a selection committee and stakeholders to develop a framework for a business model and Terms of Reference for port governance.

CAO Update

- i. YMCA – Ongoing discussions continue on a partnership between the Town and the YMCA
- ii. Landrie Lake – A joint partnership has been identified between the Town and Richmond County regarding Landrie Lake. Infrastructure assessments must be conducted by the Province. Recommendations from the respective councils and staff will be needed for an application to the UARB. Employee(s) and cost sharing of the operation were discussed.
- iii. Joint Industrial Park – An application will be made to ACOA regarding street planning in the park to determine appropriate users, operation of the park, investment readiness and zoning issues.
- iv. Destination Reeves Street – Information Sessions – There will be an Expression of Interest regarding subdivision estimates. Funding partners must be confirmed with a goal to submit a proposal to ACOA by the end of summer.

- v. Records Management – The inter-municipal units are determining pricing for licensing and hosting options. A Records Management Policy will be provided to Council for review and ratification at the June Public Meeting.

c) Port Hawkesbury Wharf Update

Deputy Mayor Lewis spoke with Tim Gilfoy, Strait of Canso Superport Corporation regarding lighting issues and the status of the *Dutch Runner*. An electrician has been contracted to address and correct lighting on the wharf. The owner of the *Dutch Runner* anticipates work to be completed and the ship's departure in June. All accounts are in good standing with Strait of Canso Superport Corporation.

d) April Travel Expense Report – Mayor and CAO

CAO, M. Freimanis reviewed the April 2016 Travel Report and Expenses for the Mayor and CAO. The report will be posted on the Town website.

**10. Approved Additions**

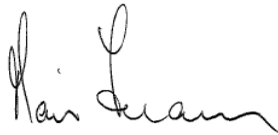
There were no additions to the agenda.

**11. Adjournment**

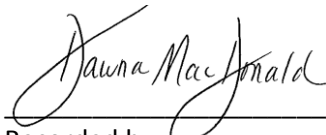
**MOVED by Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau and SECONDED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton “to adjourn the Public Meeting at 7:50 p.m.” MOTION CARRIED.**

June 8, 2016

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Date



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



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Recorded by:  
Dawna MacDonald