

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING**

**Minutes of Meeting
September 6, 2016**

Present

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

1. Call to Order

A Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in Shannon Studio, PHCC, Tuesday, September 6, 2016 and called to order by Mayor MacLean at 7:00 p.m.

2. Gallery Presentations

The ROC Society Presentation was deferred to a later date.

3. Additions to / Approval of Agenda

- a) Access to the Community Park – Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton
- b) Meghan Trainor Concert – Deputy Mayor B. Lewis

MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton and SECONDED by Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau “to approve the agenda with two additions”. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Minutes

- Public Meeting June 7, 2016
There were no errors or omissions.
- Special Public Meeting June 21, 2016
There were no errors or omissions.
- Special Public Meeting June 30, 2016
There were no errors or omissions.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

- a) Funding Request – Strait Area Ground Search and Rescue Association (Strait Area GSAR)
Public Meeting – January 12, 2016

The original request from the Strait Area GSAR was \$10,500 each from all four counties, three towns and one district to purchase a building and renovate an existing building to house equipment and supplies and serve as a home base. Additionally, a \$3000 per year tax levy for maintenance and operation of the building to be disbursed monthly or in biannual payment was requested. E MacEachen discussed contributions from the other counties, towns and district. Council supported her decision to make a contribution based on a population funding formula.

MOVED by Councilor J. Janega and SECONDED by Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau “to approve a contribution of \$4300 to the Strait Area Ground Search and Rescue Association. The additional request for a \$3000 per year tax levy will be revisited in the 2017-2018 budget year”. MOTION CARRIED.

- b) Property I.D – former CRVS property – Public Meeting January 12, 2016
CAO M. Freimanis confirmed to Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton that he and Mayor MacLean met with Bruce Fitzner, NS TIR. A purchase/sale agreement is forthcoming.
- c) Unsightly Premises – Repeat Offenders – Public Meeting, June 7, 2016
CAO M. Freimanis stated to Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton that options to deal with repeat offenders of the Unsightly Premises By-Law can be addressed through resolutions at the 2017 UNSM Spring Conference.

6. Proclamations

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month – September 2016

MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton and SECONDED by Councilor J. Janega “to proclaim September 2016 as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in Port Hawkesbury”. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8. Resolutions

There were no resolutions.

9. Other Business

- a) Vending By-Law – First Reading

Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton declared a conflict of interest and vacated her seat. A committee was formed to address the current Licenses and Permits By-Law in the following areas: 1) new title: Vending By-Law; 2) clarity around regulations on the process and operation of mobile canteens, stands, peddle carts, flea markets; and, 3) the application of reasonable permit fees to vendors which will be fair and equitable to Town businesses. Safety issues around traffic flow at flea market locations were also discussed.

MOVED by Councilor J. Janega and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor B. Lewis “to approve the First Reading of the Vending By-Law to replace the current Licenses and Permits By-Law”. MOTION CARRIED.

- b) Date Approval for Optional Advance Polls: October 6 or October 8

MOVED by Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau and SECONDED by Councilor J. Janega “to approve Thursday, October 6 as the date for the Optional Advance Polls. The date of the mandatory Advance Polls is Tuesday, October 11, 2016”. MOTION CARRIED.

- c) Donation Request – Because You Care Cup

MOVED by Councilor J. Janega and SECONDED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton “to approve a donation of \$1000 to the Second Annual Because You Care Cup”. MOTION CARRIED.

d) Low Income Tax Exemption Policy

The current policy provides assessed and qualified residential property owners whose total taxable family income is less than \$23,000 per year and upon application, a tax exemption of \$200. Mayor MacLean asked Council to consider raising the threshold to \$24,000. If approved, Council will provide notice to amend the policy at the October 4, 2016 Public Meeting.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor B. Lewis and SECONDED by Councilor J. Janega “to approve increasing the current threshold of the Low Income Tax Exemption from \$23,000 to \$24,000. Staff will provide the amended policy for the current 2016-2017 tax year for review at the October 4 Public Meeting”.
MOTION CARRIED.

e) Expense Reports – Mayor and CAO (June and July)

June Expense Report

CAO, M. Freimanis discussed the June and July 2016 Expense Reports for the Mayor and CAO. The total expenses incurred by the Town for June were \$4,255.31. The Mayor discussed his participation as a panelist at a C.U.P.E. Workshop regarding the benefits and cost savings of last year’s snow removal and the potential to reduce spending in other areas by providing in house delivery of services as opposed to contracting services externally.

July Expense Report

There were no expenses incurred for the month of July. Expense reports are posted on the Town website.

10. Approved Additions

a) Community Park Access – Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton

Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton received calls regarding mobility challenges for some residents wanting to access the park from the Nursing Home. The conditions of the sidewalks, accessibility from the road to the park and other options for improvement to address mobility challenges will be explored.

b) Meghan Trainor Concert – Deputy Mayor B. Lewis

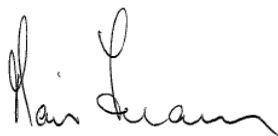
Deputy Mayor B. Lewis thanked P. Davis and staff for their efforts in making the Meghan Trainor concert a success and putting Port Hawkesbury on the national map. P. Davis thanked residents, guests to the area, the RCMP, EMO, EHS, Port Hawkesbury Volunteer Fire Department, The Hawk, The Junior B Strait Pirates, Air Miles, and Live Nation for their contributions to the event.

11. Adjournment

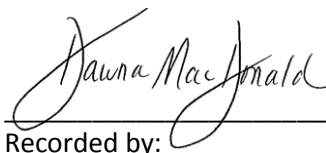
MOVED by Councilor J. Janega and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor B. Lewis “to adjourn the Public Meeting at 8:00 p.m.” MOTION CARRIED.

October 5, 2016

Date



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



Recorded by:
Dawna MacDonald