

PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, December 15, 2011

PRESENT

Mayor, Billy Joe MacLean
Chief Administrative Officer, Maris Freimanis
Director of Finance, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Erin MacEachen
Deputy Mayor, Ken Anderson
Councilor, Jim King
Councilor, Hugh MacDougall
Councilor, Mark MacIver
Director of Marketing, Tourism, Culture and Recreation, Paula Davis
Director of Public Works, Jim MacNeil
Director of Parks and Facilities, Jim Pyke
Town Solicitor, Patrick Lamey (Alternate)

GUESTS

- Amanda Mombourquette, Senior Innovation and Skills Facilitator, Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency
- Shelby Miller, Sergeant, Operations NCO, Inverness County District, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

REGRETS

Town Solicitor, Larry Evans

1. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held in the Shannon Studio, Thursday, December 15, 2011. The meeting was called to order by Mayor MacLean at 6:45 p.m.

2. ADDITIONS to /APPROVAL of AGENDA

There were five additions to the agenda:

- a) Strait Apartments
- b) Security
- c) Nova Scotia Power – Reeves Street power poles
- d) In Camera – RCMP response to vehicle break and enters and all terrain vehicle complaints
- e) In Camera – NewPage update

MOVED by Councilor M. MacIver, and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor K. Anderson “That Town Council approves the additions to the agenda”. MOTION CARRIED.

3. PRESENTATIONS

a) MacQuarrie Drive Extension Park Development

Mayor MacLean welcomed Amanda Mombourquette to the Committee of the Whole meeting. Councilor H. MacDougall provided a brief overview of the MacQuarrie Drive Extension Park Development stating the potential for a community garden and dog park, and that road access had to be addressed. Amanda Mombourquette and Paula Davis provided an in-depth presentation of the development which included a splash park. Town Council was asked if investigation in a collaborative manner should continue on the viability of this development. Mayor MacLean stated that the Town of Port Hawkesbury is facing serious financial issues. He asked that a business plan be provided to Council. Deputy Mayor K. Anderson added that Town Council could not make a decision at this time and agreed that a business plan is needed for any further discussions. Mayor MacLean thanked Amanda Mombourquette for attending the meeting.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor K. Anderson, and **SECONDED** by Councilor J. King “That Council endorses continued work on the feasibility of the MacQuarrie Drive Extension Park Development and that the Chair of Parks and Recreation and the committee provide a business plan to Council before proceeding with further discussions”. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. DIRECTORS’ REPORTS

a) Finance – Erin MacEachen

E. MacEachen presented her Finance Report and provided updates on the IT system implementation, preparation of the new chart of accounts; PVSC (anticipated increase in 2012 assessments); budget; and the sewer plant.

MOVED by Councilor H. MacDougall, and **SECONDED** by Councilor J. King “That Town Council receives the Finance Report presented by E. MacEachen”. **MOTION CARRIED.**

b) Park and Facilities – Jim Pyke

J. Pyke presented his Parks and Facilities Report and provided updates on the Civic Centre side entrance road drainage; facilities proposals; 32nd Annual Strait Richmond Minor Hockey Tournament (NuStar Terminals Canada Partnership as a new major sponsor); Port Hawkesbury Tall Ships 2012 (December 1st meeting minutes provided); and updates on the PHCC. He also thanked J. MacNeil and the public works department for their cooperation moving the Centennial building and advice received on drainage of the PHCC.

Councilor J. King raised the issue of taxpayer dollars used for tie up fees at the marina wharf. He believed it should be the responsibility of those individuals using the wharf to cover these expenses. M. Freimanis stated the purpose was to do an assessment and determine liabilities and the cost to bring these facilities up to present day standards. The deposition of these facilities will be entertained by Council at budget discussions. Deputy Mayor K. Anderson acknowledged the green energy article written by G. Snook for the PHCC.

MOVED by Councilor H. MacDougall, and **SECONDED** by Deputy Mayor K. Anderson “That Town Council receives the Parks and Facilities Report presented by J. Pyke”. **MOTION CARRIED.**

c) Public Works – Jim MacNeil

J. MacNeil presented his Public Works Department Report (Nov.1-30, 2011) and provided updates on the fall hydrant flushing and hydrant servicing and winterizing; two major water breaks resulting in damage on MacDonald St. and the intersection of Prince St. and MacLaughlin Dr.; snow removal and salting equipment servicing; the salt hauling tender awarded to Kilkare Transport Ltd.; and the LED Street Light Conversion Subcommittee meeting (Nov 30th) with attached report.

MOVED by Councilor M. MacIver, and **SECONDED** by Councilor J. King “That Town Council receives the Public Works Department Report presented by J. MacNeil”. **MOTION CARRIED.**

d) Marketing, Tourism, Culture and Recreation – Paula Davis

P. Davis presented her Marketing, Tourism, Culture and Recreation Report and provided updates on Health Promotions; Wall of Fame (highlighting committee structure); Christmas Tree Lighting; Special Events; Canada Day and Queens Jubilee; YMCA; Winter Registration for aquatic and dryland programs; Destination Cape Breton; Storm Day Cancellations (SAERC storm cancellation policy included with report); Events Committee; Veterans Memorial Arena re signage; and Splash Park and Play Structures.

**MOVED by Councilor H. MacDougall, and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor K. Anderson "That Town Council receives the Marketing, Tourism, Culture and Recreation Report presented by P. Davis".
MOTION CARRIED.**

5. ADDITIONS

a) Strait Apartments

Councilor M. MacIver discussed the excessive amount of garbage around the Strait Apartments and asked if M. Freimanis could contact the proprietor requesting that the garbage (and vacant furniture) be removed from the premises; or, have the Public Works Department clean the premises and submit an invoice to the proprietor. Mayor MacLean stated he received calls requesting the health inspector be contacted because of the condition of the buildings. He requested that staff contact the Department of Health, the building inspector, the Fire Marshall and any other appropriate resources to facilitate an environmental assessment and inspection including testing for mould contamination for their report back to Council. Staff was asked to write a letter to the Fire Marshall and appropriate authorities regarding the above concerns.

MOVED by Councilor M. MacIver, and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor K. Anderson "That the garbage be removed from the Strait Apartments and surrounding lot and that all necessary authorities be contacted to assess and make recommendations to Council for the improvement of the premises (inside and outside) of the Strait Apartments". MOTION CARRIED.

b) Security

Councilor H. MacDougall stated he would like a congratulatory letter sent to Jason Boudreau, PHCC (Impact Security) guard regarding his efforts to extinguish and prevent further damage from the fire at the former Port Hawkesbury Lion's Den, December 14th.

MOVED by Councilor H. MacDougall, and SECONDED by Councilor M. MacIver "That Town Council approves a congratulatory letter be sent to Jason Boudreau regarding his efforts to extinguish the fire at the former Lion's Den". MOTION CARRIED.

c) Nova Scotia Power – Reeves Street Power Poles

Deputy Mayor K. Anderson inquired if costs could be recovered from NSP regarding lost revenue to the PHCC on December 8th as a result of servicing the power poles on Reeves Street. This inquiry is in follow-up to correspondence and photographs sent to NSP last year regarding the condition of these poles. M. Freimanis stated he will make these views known to NSP but noted that NSP confirmed last year that the power poles were structurally sound. He added it was incumbent upon the Town to meet with the NSP area superintendent; communicate Council's views in writing; and, addresses the issue of lost revenue which resulted in the closure of the PHCC on December 8th.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor K. Anderson, and SECONDED by Councilor J. King "That Town Council approves meeting with the NSP area superintendent; communicating Council's views in writing; and, addressing the issue of lost revenue at the PHCC on December 8th as a result of servicing the power poles on Reeves Street". MOTION CARRIED.

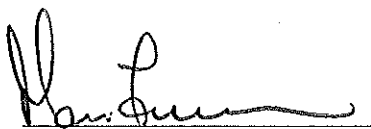
MOVED by Deputy Mayor K. Anderson to recess and move in camera at 7:35 p.m. The in camera meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m.

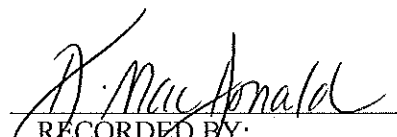
MOVED by Deputy Mayor K. Anderson to reconvene the Committee of the Whole meeting at 8:11 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Deputy Mayor K. Anderson, and **SECONDED** by Councilor M. MacIver "That Town Council adjourns the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 8:12 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Feb 13, 2012
DATE


APPROVED BY:


RECORDED BY:
D. MacDonald