

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

**Minutes of Meeting
Monday, October 21, 2013**

Present

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

Regrets

Director of Finance, Erin MacEachen

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held in the Shannon Studio, PHCC, Monday, October 21, 2013. It was called to order by Mayor MacLean at 7:00 p.m. Mayor MacLean congratulated Councilors J. Janega and B. Lewis on their contributions as candidates to the Municipal Election.

2. Additions to /Approval of Agenda

There were three additions to the agenda:

1. Closure of Veterans Affairs Offices
2. Strait Area Elected Officials – Meeting and Reception
3. Investment Readiness – Mandate Update

MOVED by Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau, and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton, “To approve the agenda as amended”. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Gallery Presentations

There were no gallery presentations.

4. Approved Additions

The approved additions to the agenda followed Agenda Item #5.

5. Committee Updates

a) Airport Committee – Councilor J. Janega

- The airport is running well with increased traffic as a result of the Inverness golf course
- Tenders for a consultant study will include improvements to the safety and lighting of the runway. There will be no major advancements to the airport facility.
- Extension of the landing strip was discussed

b) Beautification – Deputy Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton

Deputy Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton provided a detailed report outlining short-term and long-term goals to improve Port Hawkesbury’s overall image and identified some challenges and issues facing the

Committee. Beautification projects this year included planting and pruning existing flower beds at both entrances to Town, at intersections, on Reeves Street and Granville Street, and on bridges near Grants Pond. The Committee hopes to expand on these projects pending funding availability especially in light of the 125th Anniversary of Port Hawkesbury.

- c) Community Health Care Centre – Councilor J. Janega
 - Upcoming meetings will include finalizing a formal committee
 - A new Strait area doctor is expected in January; the location of his practice is not finalized
 - GASHA is in favour of the Creamery/Waterfront location for a new medical clinic
 - Medical clinic building options and funding were discussed

- d) Eastern Counties Regional Library Board – Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau
 - The ECRL Board typically meets once a month
 - New furniture has been ordered; the 3-D Printer in the Port Hawkesbury Library is a success
 - A provincial study on the sustainability services of rural libraries resulted in 15 recommendations which included making changes to funding and the current population-based funding formula, municipal funding support, and introducing a one card system across the Province
 - Circulation has increased in all libraries. The Port Hawkesbury Library has increased by 31% from last year; programming is being promoted in schools.

- e) Eastern District Planning Commission – Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau
 - The EDPC meets generally every two months
 - The Board focuses on budget approvals, personnel issues, and updates from the director and staff on development in other counties
 - The EDPC Board is working with the Town on the Active Transportation file and their potential participation in the Façade Program
 - There will be a training seminar for Councils and planning advisory committees to include discussion on planning strategies, bylaws, and policies

- f) Park Development – Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau
 - The park sods have been laid and fencing has been erected
 - The committee plans to reach out to other users such as minor ball, soccer, and the RABA to develop and create a useable space to attract others as well as create a solid package to send to the provincial and federal governments for park promotion

- g) Regional Policing – Councilor J. Janega
 - The Board meets every two months
 - The RCMP provide updates on the county with the local RCMP providing updates on Port Hawkesbury

- h) Strait Area Transit – Councilor B. Lewis
 - The SAT is running at approximately 50% capacity
 - The YMCA programs are attracting Richmond County users
 - There is a vacancy for the Board Chair
 - A final report is expected soon on an RFP to determine the shape or form and sustainability of the SAT
 - Funding and long term viability were discussed

i) Reeves Street Business Association – Mayor MacLean

Mayor MacLean provided an update on the Reeves Street Business Association meeting, October 7.

- The group endorsed the formation of an association
- Recommendations from The NS Department of Infrastructure and Renewal study are expected in December
- The Façade Program was discussed and updates on several Reeves Street businesses were discussed
- An ECBC representative, Karen Malcolm, Erin MacEachen, and Paula Davis will be invited to the next meeting
- Mayor MacLean provided an update on the Cape Breton Partnership Investor Summit in Ingonish

Councilor J. Janega is also a member of the Inverness Housing Authority and the Regional Occupation Centre Committees. He stated that the Inverness Housing Authority meets monthly, has 79 full-time representatives on the project, and has an annual budget of \$3.5 - \$4 million. The Regional Occupation Centre is a passion of Councilor Janega and he works with many dedicated people.

6. Approved Additions

1. Closure of Veterans Affairs Offices

Mayor MacLean stated the Veterans Affairs Office in Sydney and offices across the country are closing. He requested Council's support to send a letter to the Minister of Veterans Affairs expressing disappointment with this decision. Council was in agreement with Mayor MacLean's request. A copy of this letter will be sent to the Veterans Affairs office in Sydney.

2. Strait Area Elected Officials

Mayor MacLean stated Mayor Carl Chisholm was meeting with Deputy Minister d'Entremont on the Formation of a REN. Mayor MacLean spoke with Minister MacKay's assistant about his attendance at a Mayors and Wardens meeting/reception in November or December to discuss future growth in NS. He provided an update on the Atlantic Mayors Congress Summit in Sydney.

3. Investment Readiness – Councilors B. Lewis and Dr. T. Boudreau

Councilors B. Lewis and Dr. T. Boudreau meet regularly with business people to discuss Investment Readiness and attracting new business to the area. Discussion included:

- Creating a welcoming delegation for potential investors to the Town
- The Regional Development Agency wind down is near completion. Victor David, Chair, RDA, would like to present before Councils of participating units to discuss the wind down and distribution of the remaining RDA funds among the three partners
- Determining our role in promoting development
- A Cape Breton proposal for an Investment Readiness strategy is on Premier designate McNeil's desk for consideration. The proposal is a broad-based plan with localized focus.

Councilor J. Janega inquired about the policy of the railway tanker cars in Port Hawkesbury and discussed his concerns around their safety and maintenance schedules. Town Solicitor, L. Evans stated the tanker cars should be outside the Town limits and that their storage is not permitted in the Town. Council agreed that a letter should be sent to Transport Canada and to Cape Breton and Central NS

Railway requesting the removal of the tanker cars, documentation on the rules and regulations governing their transport and storage, and to invite representatives to attend a Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss this issue.

7. Appointment of Deputy Mayor

MOVED by Deputy Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton, and SECONDED by Councilor J. Janega "To accept the recommendation to appoint Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau as the next Deputy Mayor as per Council practice to appoint the Deputy Mayor on a rotation based on votes cast at the municipal election". MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor MacLean congratulated incoming Deputy Mayor Dr. T. Boudreau and thanked and congratulated outgoing Deputy Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton for her contributions during the past year.

8. Appointment of Committee Members

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Dr. T. Boudreau, and SECONDED by Councilor J. Janega to maintain the current committee appointment structure for one year. After one year, Council will review the structure and consider rotation of committee member appointments. Mayor MacLean will act as Ex Officio on all committees". MOTION CARRIED.

9. Other Business

a) Dates for Future Council Meetings

Council agreed to reschedule the Public Meeting of November 5 to November 18 (followed by the Committee of the Whole Meeting) due to Council attendance at the UNSM Conference during the week of November 4.

b) Funding Request – Port Hawkesbury Literacy Council

MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton, and SECONDED by Councilor B. Lewis "To approve the purchase of 8 tickets at \$35 each for the FEIS event of October 25, and the contribution of \$900 to the Port Hawkesbury Literacy Council". MOTION CARRIED.

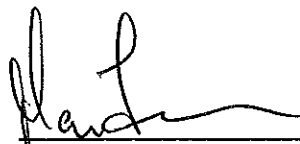
10. In Camera Session – Personnel Items

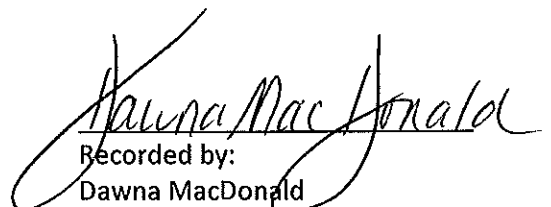
Council agreed to hold the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting after the Special Public Meeting.

10. Adjournment

MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton, and SECONDED by Councilor J. Janega "To adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 9:20 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Nov 22, 2013
Date


Approved by:
Maris Freimanis, CAO


Recorded by:
Dawna MacDonald