

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING**

**Minutes of Meeting
January 12, 2016**

Present

Mayor, Billy Joe MacLean
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

Regrets

Deputy Mayor, Bert Lewis

Guests

Curtis Doucet, Fire Chief, Port Hawkesbury Volunteer Fire Department
Tanya McChesney, Strait Area Ground and Rescue Association

1. Call to Order

A Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in Shannon Studio, PHCC, Tuesday, January 12, 2016 and called to order by Mayor MacLean at 7:00 p.m. Mayor MacLean extended thanks to Council, Staff and Larry Evans for their service in 2015 and conveyed best wishes for 2016.

2. Gallery Presentations

a) Port Hawkesbury Volunteer Fire Department (PHVFD)

Fire Chief, Curtis Doucet briefed Council on the breakdown of 2014-2015 calls. The 65 emergency calls received were in keeping with the average in past years. Currently, there are 37 members on the roster and new members are needed. He thanked members for their time and commitment to the PHVFD. Discussion included concerns or reports of any derelict properties in Port Hawkesbury. Mayor MacLean extended his thanks to Mr. Doucet and the PHVFD.

b) Strait Area Ground and Rescue Association (SAGSAR)

Ms. McChesney stated the Strait Area Ground and Rescue Association covers the largest search area in Nova Scotia. The Association is approaching municipalities and towns covered by their service for \$10,500 by June 2016 to purchase and renovate a building to house their equipment and supplies and serve as a home base for meetings. Additionally, an annual request of a \$3000 tax levy was made for maintenance and operation of the building. The Province provides \$3000 annually. Ms. McChesney's request will be considered during the upcoming budget deliberations.

3. Additions to / Approval of Agenda

- a) Syrian Refugee Committee – Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau
- b) St. Martha's Hospital – Fundraising Campaign Support – Mayor MacLean
- c) Cst. Deepak Prasad – Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton
- d) In Camera Session – Personnel Issue – CAO, M. Freimanis

MOVED by Councilor J. Janega and SECONDED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton "to approve the additions to the agenda". MOTION CARRIED.

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

4. Minutes

Public Meeting – December 1, 2015
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

a) Active Transportation – UNSM Support

MOVED by Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau and SECONDED by Councilor J. Janega “to provide a letter of support to Honourable Leo Glavine, Minister, Department of Health and Wellness to move forward the Provincial Active Transportation Policy Framework”. MOTION CARRIED.

b) MGA Review – Update

The MGA is being reviewed by the Department of Municipal Affairs in collaboration with the UNSM, AMANS, the Association of NS Villages, municipalities and villages. CAO, M. Freimanis stated all issues regarding suggestions for changes have been submitted, reviewed and have been organized into governance; fiscal responsibility; business and economic growth/planning and development; programs and services; and, public safety. The MGA Review Committee will provide CAOs with reports and presentations on draft recommendations at regular public meetings for Council review and comments.

8. Resolutions

There were no resolutions.

9. Other Business

a) Updates

i. Amalgamation/Shared Services

Correspondence was sent to the Province and the Strait Area towns and municipalities to begin dialogue on amalgamation and shared services. At the December 14 Strait Area Mayors and Wardens meeting, members were not interested in amalgamation but did have interest in shared services. CAO, M. Freimanis stated a meeting is scheduled with the Municipal Advisor regarding her department’s support with shared services. Additionally, a joint meeting of the CAOs and financial directors will take place and reports from both meetings will be provided to Council. Mayor MacLean noted the growing trend of amalgamation in NS, the importance of collaboration, and the cost savings involved with shared services. Council and L. Evans’ discussion included a town’s dissolution process, maintaining dialogue on shared services, promotion of the Strait of Canso Port, rail line, the airport and other Strait area assets.

ii. Strait of Canso Port

CAO, M. Freimanis requested Council’s endorsement to move forward with discussions on the Strait of Canso Port Governance Initiative as outlined. Discussion included facilitator services to assist with an inclusive stakeholder consultation process to achieve a unified voice to meet with Transport Canada.

MOVED by Councilor J. Janega and SECONDED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton “to endorse the efforts of Mayor MacLean and CAO, M. Freimanis for further discussion on the Strait of Canso Port Governance initiative.” MOTION CARRIED.

iii. Transfer of Provincial Lands/Reeves Street Safety Study

Mayor MacLean and CAO Freimanis met with Bruce Fitzner, Chief Engineer, Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal to discuss the issues relating to the transfer of Provincial lands (former CRVS property) and the Department’s recommendations on the Reeves Street Traffic Study which included suggested activity in the next five years, Active Transportation and the link to the NSCC, the gateway roundabout, Pitt Street extension, and access management and recommendations.

iv. Development Prospectus

A final draft of the Port Hawkesbury Development Prospectus was provided to Council. The prospectus was developed as a tool to promote Port Hawkesbury to prospective developers. P. Davis stated that as a final draft, recommendations and/or editorial comments may still be incorporated. Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau suggested having a link on our website to the prospectus and asset mapping. Council commended P. Davis for her work on the prospectus.

b) Taxi Bylaw

Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton stated that in addition to the many positive comments she has received about the taxi drivers in Town, she has received complaints about smoking, dangerous driving, and profanity. Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau suggested that the current bylaw be reviewed and updated. Council agreed to the recommendations on complaints and inspections as provided in the January 7 memo from CAO, M. Freimanis.

c) Electronic Voting

Benefits to the Town must be demonstrated to incur the costs of electronic voting. Currently, this cost is not supported by the UNSM, is based on population, and is not proven to increase voter numbers. Costs will be provided to Council during budget deliberations as well as the system involved and the integrity of electronic voting. Councilor J. Janega saw advantages in provincial and federal elections but not in small towns such as Port Hawkesbury with its current population and geographic size.

10. Approved Additions

a) Syrian Refugee Committee

Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau asked for support from Council, Staff and the media to promote interest in forming a committee to assist with the Syrian refugee crisis. Ms. Julie Marchand is the contact for information and support on forming a Syrian Refugee Committee.

b) St. Martha’s Hospital – Fundraising Campaign Support – Mayor MacLean

Mayor MacLean asked for Council’s support to volunteer to sit on or assist with the fundraising board for St. Martha’s Hospital. He also asked the media to lend their support with a message to the community to promote the fundraising campaign.

c) Cst. Deepak Prasad

A letter of thanks will be sent to Cst. Deepak Prasad for his commitment to community service which includes MADD and the Port Hawkesbury Cinema. Cst. Prasad was reassigned to the Antigonish detachment.

d) In Camera Session – Personnel Issue

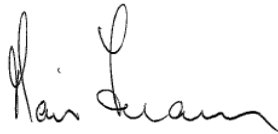
CAO, M. Freimanis requested that this item and the In Camera session be stricken from the Public Meeting agenda.

12. Adjournment

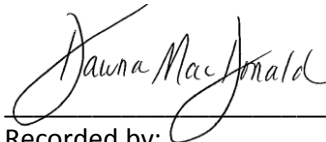
MOVED by Councilor J. Janega and SECONDED by Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau “to adjourn the Public Meeting at 8:30 p.m.” MOTION CARRIED.

February 3, 2016

Date



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



Recorded by:
Dawna MacDonald