

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING**

**Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, March 3, 2020**

Present

Mayor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Deputy Mayor, Blaine MacQuarrie
Councilor, Trevor Boudreau
Councilor, Hughie MacDougall
Councilor, Mark MacIver
Chief Administrative Officer, Terry Doyle
Director, Finance, Erin MacEachen
Director, Marketing, Recreation, Tourism & Culture, Paula Davis
Town Solicitor, Patrick Lamey

1. Call to order

A Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in Shannon Studio, PHCC, Tuesday, March 3, 2020 and called to order by Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton at 7:00 p.m.

2. Additions to the agenda

- International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Women's Hockey Tournament – Councilor H. MacDougall

3. Approval of the agenda

MOVED by Councilor M. MacIver and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie “that the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves the agenda with one addition”. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Gallery Presentations

There were no gallery presentations.

5. Acknowledgements

- Epilepsy Awareness Month – March and Purple Day – March 26, 2020 – Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton (*Town Council gathered for a photograph prior to the Public Meeting displaying purple ribbons in recognition of Purple Day*)
- International Women's Day – March 8, 2020
On behalf of Unifor, Councilor H. MacDougall read a statement in acknowledgement of International Women's Day 2020.

6. Approval of Council Minutes

- Public Hearing February 4, 2020
There were no errors or omissions.
- Public Meeting February 4, 2020
There were no errors or omissions.

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

8. Council Committee Reports

i. Report from the Committee of the Whole – February 26, 2020

a) Temporary Borrowing Resolution

MOVED by Councilor M. MacIver and SECONDED by Councilor H. MacDougall “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves a Temporary Borrowing Resolution in the amount of \$287,500 to be refinanced under the same repayment schedule as the existing debenture in the amount of \$57,000 annually over a 5 year period.” MOTION CARRIED.

ii. Port Hawkesbury Branding

Councilor H. MacDougall did not approve of the adjustments to the Town’s branding because options were not provided for consideration. Director P. Davis provided background on the process and committees’ comments to tweak the current logo to make it more legible (font and colour) and user friendly in different applications including the Town’s wayfinding signage. The tagline, *Opportunities Await* and the wave emblem were retained.

MOVED by Councilor T. Boudreau and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves the adjustments to the Town branding package as presented in the February meeting of the Committee of the Whole.” MOTION CARRIED.

One nay was recorded from Councilor H. MacDougall.

iii. Leadership School for Women

MOVED by Councilor T. Boudreau and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves a contribution of \$500 for two women to attend the Leadership School for Women Event May 1-2, 2020.” MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton provided background on the Leadership School for Women, its focus as a broader project for gender equity in eastern Nova Scotia, and its partnerships comprised of the six First Nations communities and the ten Municipalities. The federal and provincial governments will contribute to the funding for this project in addition to community partners. Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton and Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie personally contributed \$250 each to this project.

iv. Eastern District Planning Commission - Revised Appointments

MOVED by Councilor M. MacIver and SECONDED by Councilor H. MacDougall “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves the revised appointments, as presented, of District Planning staff to various Municipal positions effective April 1, 2020”. MOTION CARRIED.

v. Port Hawkesbury Paper Hockey Tournament

MOVED by Councilor T. Boudreau and SECONDED by Councilor H. MacDougall “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves a donation of \$2000 for the 40th Annual Port Hawkesbury Paper Tournament.” MOTION CARRIED.

vi. Voting at Committee of the Whole Meetings

Point of Order called by Councilor H. MacDougall regarding an inquiry whether or not to call for an approval or errors or omissions for the minutes.

Town Solicitor P. Lamey reviewed sections of the MGA addressing voting and the ability for Council to make decisions or pass resolutions at meetings of the Committee of the Whole. The MGA is silent on the subject of making substantive decisions at committee meetings. Motions can occur in areas of procedural issues and

directing staff but not on substantive issues. Council has the capacity to make policy allowing Council decision making and passing resolutions at committee meetings. This issue to make policy will be moved forward to the March meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

vii. Commercial Truck Driving Regulations

The Town of Port Hawkesbury Public Works and utility employees are in compliance with the Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Compliance Department to drive emergency vehicles in adverse driving conditions for more than 12 hours in their duties of snow removal, ice control or work in utility vehicles. A meeting will be held with NS Motor Vehicle Compliance officers to discuss this and other requirements under this act.

viii. Reeves Street Changes

Point of Order was called by Councilor H. MacDougall regarding an amendment to his statements on the Reeves Street Changes discussion not reflected in the minutes.

CAO T. Doyle stated Reeves Street is a provincial road network owned, operated, and maintained by the Province through the NS TIR who has authority for capital improvements. A review study period would take place on the road dieting and changes after a three month period where adjustments could be made. A one year/four season period would look at the road and traffic volumes. At that time, NS TIR would make decisions on improvements to be made, another type of reconfiguration, or go back to the original design. Unless there is a dramatic issue with the road NS TIR indicated they would implement changes when road surfacing commences within a two year period. Councilor H. MacDougall wanted a final date for this evaluation. CAO, T. Doyle stated that an advisory committee comprised of NS TIR representatives, staff, and emergency/community representatives will determine the effectiveness of the road diet and that we are early in the one year study period.

Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie stated it was his understanding the community would have an opportunity to voice their opinion and that NS TIR would take this into consideration. CAO T. Doyle stated we are in a study period and we are collecting data. The data that could have been measured has been measured to compare and to proceed. NS TIR is the lead in this process but is open to establish measureable criteria.

ix. Housing

MOVED by Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Councilor H. MacDougall “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves a letter to Nancy MacLellan, President and CAO, Housing NS Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the deficiencies observed at Sunset Manor.” MOTION CARRIED.

The letter will be sent on behalf of the residents of Sunset Manor and will request a strategy, a timeline to implement this strategy, or a response addressing why they will not resolve these issues. Members of Council visited the Sunset Manor and identified issues brought forward by residents. Photographs of these deficiencies will be included in the correspondence sent to Deputy Minister N. MacLellan.

8.2 Motions from In Camera Discussion – February 26, 2020

There was no In Camera Session.

8.3 Approval of Committee of the Whole Minutes – February 26, 2020

The minutes will be amended on Page 7, Section 8.ix – Reeves Street Changes as:

Councilor H. MacDougall inquired about the start and end dates determined as the evaluation period for the road diet portion of the DRS Project and who makes the decision to continue or not to continue with that portion of the project.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Councilor H. MacDougall “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves the February 26, 2020 minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting with one amendment.” MOTION CARRIED.

9. Motions from In Camera Session – March 3, 2020

There were no motions resulting from the March 3, 2020 In Camera Session.

10. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

11. Proclamations/Resolutions

There were no proclamations or resolutions.

12. Other Business

i. Fit Pass (Fitness Centre Update)

A successful open house was held with positive feedback. There are approximately 150 memberships at this point. There will be a two week period of evaluation for adjustments for improvements, staffing and other issues. Town staff have volunteered to staff the gym. A competition for additional staffing is being implemented with another follow up evaluation.

ii. Waterfront

- Letter to Cape Breton Central NS Railway

MOVED by Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Councilor T. Boudreau “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury send a letter to John Burke, General Manager, Cape Breton Central NS Railway, expressing concerns about the noise and pollution emissions resulting from idling diesel engines on the waterfront.” MOTION CARRIED.

CAO, T. Doyle provided information on past meetings and communications on this issue. He will draft a letter expressing the concerns that remain about the emissions and the disruption to residents and the tourist traffic due to the idling diesel engines.

- Strategic Plan for Waterfront

MOVED by Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Councilor H. MacDougall “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves a contribution of \$5000 for a RFP to develop a strategic plan for the Waterfront”. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilor H. MacDougall inquired if this could be deferred to the upcoming budget meeting. CAO, T. Doyle provided an overview of the Strait Area Marine Innovation Centre. An RFP will be advertised regarding a marine innovation centre to retain a consultant to develop the concept of marine innovation at the Creamery. Also within the same RFP is development of a high level waterfront development plan. Funding for both streams of this RFP is through the Cape Breton Partnership, ACOA and Develop NS. A contribution from the Town would fit within this budget but could also fit within next year’s budget.

iii. Health Care Recruitment

Councilor T. Boudreau provided a history of Council’s decision to make health care and physician recruitment a priority. A multi-purpose video was developed and a regional committee was comprised who meet regularly to develop a strategy for health care recruitment. Priorities included physician recruitment and retention and citizens without a family physician registering with the Health Authority for a true evaluation of our health care needs. There is a role for Council and the business community to advocate on behalf of our communities to determine our needs to maintain and grow our healthcare.

Collaborative Health Care Centre

MOVED by Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Councilor T. Boudreau “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury send a letter to Minister Randy Delorey, Health and Wellness requesting more information on the new collaborative health care centre currently under construction in Port Hawkesbury”.
MOTION CARRIED.

iv. Royal Canadian Mounted Police

S/Sgt. Morin will provide an update at the May Public Meeting. Moving forward, a schedule will be prepared for regular updates from the RCMP.

viii. Expense Report – February 2020

CAO, T. Doyle reviewed the February Expense Report for the Mayor, Council and CAO. The total expenses for the month of February was \$1094.12. Expense reports are posted on the Town website.

13. Approved Additions

IIHF Women’s Hockey Tournament

P. Davis stated Hockey Canada will make a final decision on the weekend on the status of the IIHF Womens Hockey Tournament Hockey regarding travel concerns around the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic.

14. Future Meetings

The future meetings of Town Council are scheduled as follows:

- Committee of the Whole Tuesday, March 17, 2020
- Public Meeting Tuesday, April 7, 2020
- Committee of the Whole Tuesday, April 21, 2020

15. Public Question Period

Drew MacQuarrie

Mr. MacQuarrie inquired if information was available providing meaningful changes to safety and if economic benefits have resulted from the road diet. In addition, is there data showing the lane reconfiguration has worked to achieve the goals that were put forward. J. MacMillan stated traffic data has been captured to show speed reduction and NS TIR has reached out to the emergency response groups and staff to gather data prior to the road diet to gauge parameters. Data will be requested from the façade program participants regarding impact and economic benefits.

16. Adjournment

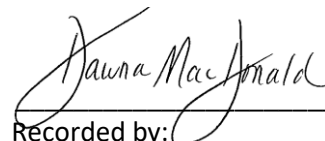
MOVED by Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Councilor T. Boudreau “that the Town of Port Hawkesbury adjourns the March 3, 2020 Public Meeting at 8:35 p.m.” MOTION CARRIED.

April 8, 2020

Date



Approved by:
Terry Doyle, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer



Recorded by:
Dawna MacDonald