

PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Held Virtually

Minutes of Meeting
September 15, 2020

Present

Mayor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Deputy Mayor, Blaine MacQuarrie
Councilor, Hughie MacDougall
Councilor, Mark MacIver
Chief Administrative Officer, Terry Doyle
Director of Finance, Erin MacEachen
Director of Marketing, Recreation, Tourism & Culture, Paula Davis
General Manager, Facilities and Operations, Gordie Snook
Manager, Engineering and Public Works, Jason MacMillan
Town Solicitor, Patrick Lamey

Guests

Terry Smith, Destination Cape Breton

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held virtually Tuesday, September 15, 2020 and called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton.

2. Additions to Agenda

No additions

3. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Councilor H. MacDougall “to approve the agenda as distributed”. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Presentations

i. Destination Cape Breton – Terry Smith

T. Smith provided an update on Destination Cape Breton’s initiatives created amidst the COVID-19 pandemic to support business and tourism.

Most festivals and events were cancelled, some operators didn’t open, and some had limited openings.

T. Smith was clear that the tourism industry needs additional government support to survive.

Council recommended a letter of support be provided to Destination Cape Breton to aid in their financial support initiatives.

5. Council Reports on Assigned Committees

Mayor Chisholm-Beaton provided a detailed written report on committees and other ongoing initiatives. The report is attached.

Deputy Mayor B. MacQuarrie provided an update on the waterfront photography contest. Results would be made available to following week.

6. CAO REPORTS

i. MARKETING, RECREATION, TOURISM & CULTURE

Director, Paula Davis provided an update. The areas that were addressed were:

- Fitness Centre,
- Strait Area Trails,
- Unsmoke Canada,
- Food Security,
- Bike Loan Program,
- Clean NS,
- Pool Reopening, and
- Summer Recap

Director P. Davis was going to look into the neighbours helping neighbours initiative to assist seniors with the green cart roll out, and stated that the provider would also do what they could to assist with the roll out. There are a small number of reduced size green bins available for residents with specific mobility issues.

ii. FINANCE

Director E. MacEachen provided an update on lost revenues anticipated due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other budget changes. The anticipated lost revenue is approximately 600k.

An update was also provided on the costs incurred to date on phase 2 of Destination Reeves Street. Total incurred and anticipated costs for the year are approximately 715k including signage, active transportation lane construction, consulting, and facades.

iii. ENGINEERING and PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Manager of Engineering and Public Works Jason MacMillan provided a detailed update on many of the projects and initiatives ongoing in his department including:

- Traffic Sign Report,
- Provincial Capital Assistance Applications,
- Reeves Street Upgrades Project,
- Beautification/Wayfinding Signage Project,
- Asphalt Patching & Reinstatement
- Leaf & Yard Waste Site, and
- Park Area Safety Improvements.

A general overview of public works staff monthly tasks was also provided.

J. MacMillan provided an update to Council on areas remaining for asphalt patching.

iv. FACILITIES, OPERATIONS AND PARKS

The General Manager, Facilities, Parks and Operations, Gordie Snook provided a report on the many initiatives ongoing in his department including;

- Civic Centre
- Oceans Innovation Centre retrofit (Creamery),
- Pools repair projects,
- Fields/Parks upgrades and maintenance,
- Fire Hall improvement,
- Allan J MacEachen Regional Airport generator upgrade, and
- Accessibility.

v. BY-LAWS and POLICIES

a. Delivery Trucks in Residential Areas

CAO T. Doyle indicated that three DRAFT by-laws were provided as an example of Truck Routes By-laws. These bylaws don't restrict deliveries on any street, but ensure the truck route is used until the delivery can no longer be made via truck routes.

It was agreed that additional review and consultation with other CAO's would occur reviewing potential other bylaws that exist or reasons why they are not in place, and have the item added to the November Committee of Whole Agenda for further discussion.

7. Other Business

i. Update on Strait Area Pool Reopening, Director, P. Davis

The Strait Regional Centre for Education provided information on hours available for pool operations the afternoon of September 1. There will only be 8 hours of operating time outside the 9-5pm schedule. The aquatics schedule and revenue opportunities will be reviewed and an update provided to Council following the meeting.

ii. 146 & 147 Elm Court; Includes Community Presentation, CAO, T. Doyle

CAO, T. Doyle stated 11 properties were advertised for sale in September, 2 of which were on Elm Court. Concerns were raised from the community that these were intended to be green space and not developed. Council had discussions on these properties in 2004/05, and reports from that time had been circulated to Council. For sale signs have been removed from the properties to allow Council to consider the land issue.

George MacDonald presented on behalf of the concerned citizens. Council in 2004 dropped the sale at the time due to concern in the community. A letter was read on behalf of the concerned citizens. Council were in agreement to bring forward the issue at the October Public Meeting.

Councilor MacQuarrie stated that the following two motions would be brought forward at the October Public Meeting.

"That Council remove lots 146 and 147 from a list of town properties listed for sale".

"That Council request EDPC begin the process to designate 141-149 Elm Court to O-1- Open Space from R-1 – Residential Single Unit"

iii. Tax Adjustment - 10 MacLeod Avenue, Director, E. MacEachen

Council was in agreement to move the tax adjustment for the property destroyed by fire forward to the October Public Council meeting for approval.

