

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
PUBLIC MEETING  
Shannon Studio  
Minutes of Meeting  
January 17, 2023**

**Present**

Mayor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton  
Deputy Mayor, Hughie MacDougall  
Councillor, Mark MacIver  
Councilor, Blaine MacQuarrie  
Councillor, Jason Aucoin  
Chief Administrative Officer, Terry Doyle  
Director of Finance, Erin MacEachen  
Director of Marketing, Recreation, Tourism and Culture, Michelle Farrow  
Manager of Engineering and Public Works, Jason MacMillan  
Manager of Facilities, Operations, and Parks, Gordie Snook

**1. Call to Order**

A Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in the Shannon Studio and virtually on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, and called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton

**2. Additions to Agenda**

- i. Animals in the Civic Centre – Councillor, J. Aucoin
- ii. Municipal Budget Public Consultation – Councillor, B. MacQuarrie

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall and SECONDED by Councillor, J. Aucoin “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves January 17, 2023, Public Meeting Agenda as amended”. MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. Gallery Presentations**

There were no gallery presentations.

**5. Acknowledgements**

Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton made the following acknowledgements:  
She wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councillor, J. Aucoin extended condolences to the family of the late former employee Jimmy Hickey. There was a moment of silence in his honor.

**6. Approval of Council Minutes**

- i. Joint Public Meeting/Committee of the Whole – December 20, 2022  
There were no errors or omissions.

**7. Business Arising from Minutes**

Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall asked if the letter had been sent to Roy Sturmy. Communications & Administrative Officer, M. Warner confirmed the letter had been sent out in the mail.

**8. Council Committee Reports**

There was no report from the Committee of the Whole as the last meeting was a joint meeting.

**9. Motions from In-Camera Session**

There were no motions coming forward from the In Camera Session.

**10. Council Reports on Assigned Committees**

Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton had submitted her report electronically prior to the meeting.

Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall

Policy Advisory Committee – A meeting was held on January 10<sup>th</sup> Councillor, M. MacIver was also in attendance.

Landrie Lake Board Meeting – A meeting was held on January 17<sup>th</sup> Councillor, M. MacIver was also in attendance.

Councillor, B. MacQuarrie

Strait of Canso Offshore Wind Joint Task Force - A meeting was held on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Eastern District Planning Commission – A meeting was held on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

Strait Area Transit – A meeting was held on January 9<sup>th</sup>. A Provincial & Federal announcement was made on January 16<sup>th</sup> at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre with regards to the Transit receiving \$499, 812 for the purchase of three new accessible vehicles.

Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall asked to invite Staff Sargent D. Morin to a future meeting to present to council on the RCMP priorities, etc.

Councillor, J. Aucoin

Eastern District Planning Commission Meeting – A meeting was held on January 12<sup>th</sup> Councillor, M. MacIver was also in attendance.

Was in attendance for the funding announcement for Strait Area Transit on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Was in attendance for the funding announcement for Wastewater Upgrade Project held at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

**11. CAO Reports.**

CAO, T. Doyle gave a quick overview of the Departmental Reports including:

- Facilities, Operations, and Parks
- Marketing, Recreation, Tourism, and Culture,
- Finance, and
- Engineering and Public Works

He asked that Council reach out to department heads directly if there are any questions about the January reports. CAO, T. Doyle had notified Council that the new Zamboni has arrived and the old one has been sold and shipped out. He had reviewed the First Night Event Celebration that occurred over the holidays and notified Council that the Winter Recreation Flyer is now available and has a very robust selection of programs available.

Director of Finance, E. MacEachen talked about the 2023 assessment roll which will be reflected in the 2023 budget deliberations. She reviewed the assessment trends since 2014 with Council and she said that this is the first year that the Town has seen some significant growth in residential and commercial assessments. The new revenue earned on assessments is just under \$400,000. Residential is around \$240,000 and commercial is around \$150,000. She reminded Council that these numbers are based on 2021 sales values as Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) runs a year behind. Property sales were about 15% less in 2022 according to Multiple Listing Service (MLS). PVSC has an appeal process that will be completed by the end of February.

CAO, T. Doyle gave a brief update on the Engineering and Public Works Department. He mentioned the Funding Announcement for the Water System Upgrades that occurred on January 16<sup>th</sup> at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre. That project will improve the safe working environment for staff along with a new water tower, and demolition of the old towers. New F-550 truck is in now in the Town's possession.

Councillor, J. Aucoin gave and extended thanks to staff for the First Night Celebration.

**12. Correspondence**

CAO T. Doyle brought forward correspondence that was circulated in the agenda package from the office of Invest NS.

**13. Proclamations/Resolutions**

There were no proclamations or resolutions.

**14. Other Business**

i. Council Expenses, CAO, T. Doyle

CAO, T. Doyle, gave an update on Council Expenses for the month of December. He reminded the gallery that Council expenses are posted on the Town of Port Hawkesbury website. He noted that there was a revised version of the November Council expenses and it will be posted on the website.

ii. Flag Raising Approval – Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton

Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton reviewed the flag raising policy that was created based on past years. She noted that there are some dates that the Mi'kmaw flag is listed but that will be redundant once the 4<sup>th</sup> flagpole is ready to fly the Mi'kmaw flag permanently.

**MOVED by Councillor, J. Aucoin and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall "That the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves the flag raising policy that was presented to Council on January 17<sup>th</sup>."**  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

iii. Council Advisory Committees Citizen Appointments – CAO, T. Doyle

**MOVED by Councillor, J. Aucoin and SECONDED by Councillor, M. MacIver "THAT the Town of Port Hawkesbury approved the Council Advisory Citizen Appointments as presented to Council."**

Councillor, M. MacIver would like to review the terms of reference prior to the first committees' meetings.

**Two Nays were recorded by Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall and Councillor, B. MacQuarrie.**

**Three Yes votes were recorded by Councillor, M. MacIver, Councillor, J. Aucoin, and Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

iv. Service Re-Nest – Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton

Councillor, J. Aucoin had to declare a conflict on the vote as he sits on the Board.

**MOVED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Councillor, M. MacIver "That the Town of Port Hawkesbury will provide \$100 each month for six months for a total of \$600 contingent on Municipalities of the Counties of Inverness and Richmond's support."** MOTION CARRIED

Councillor, M. MacIver wanted clarification if the motion would be contingent on Inverness and Richmond's Support. Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton confirmed it would be.

v. Town of Port Hawkesbury 2022 Year in Review – Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton

Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton briefly reviewed the year in review document. She thanked senior staff and Council for their assistance in compiling the information to create the document. Councillor, B. MacQuarrie provided Council with an update on the Strait Area Transit. The 2022 year in review is available on the Town of Port Hawkesbury website.

vi. Quad County Whitecaps Funding – CAO, T. Doyle

CAO, T. Doyle reviewed the two requests that were received and provided Council with his recommendations.

Under 13AAA Atlantic Championships that Council considers purchasing a half page advertisement for \$500. 2023 Provincial U15AAA – Half Page advertising. \$250.

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall and SECONDED by Councillor, M. MacIver "That the Town of Port Hawkesbury purchase a full-page ad for the U13AAA Quad County Atlantic Championship that is being held at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre." MOTION CARRIED.**

Councillor, J. Aucoin recommends that we buy the game sponsorship package for the U15AAA Provincial tournament being held in Antigonish.

**MOVED by Councillor, J. Aucoin and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall "That the Town of Port Hawkesbury purchase the Game Sponsorship package for \$450 for the U15AAA Quad County Whitecaps Provincial tournament hosted in Antigonish." MOTION CARRIED.**

#### Amendment

**MOVED by Councillor, J. Aucoin and SECONDED by Councillor, M. MacIver to amend the original motion to "That the Town of Port Hawkesbury purchase the Game Sponsorship package for the U15AAA Quad County Whitecaps Provincial tournament hosted in Antigonish if a package is available. If not, we will revert to the \$250 ½ page advertisement." MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **15. Approved Additions**

- i. Animals in the Civic Centre – Councillor, J. Aucoin

**MOVED by Councillor, J. Aucoin That the only service and /or registered therapy animals are allowed in the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre along with Granville Green and the Community Park.**

There was no seconder to the motion put forward but there was a discussion around the motion.

Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton asked if staff could do some research and bring back to Council at a February Committee of Whole meeting.

Manager of Facilities and Operations, G. Snook proactively contacted other facilities and only one other facility allows animals other than service animals.

CAO, T. Doyle notified Council that there is a Service Animal Act, and the Act would supersede any policy that Council would have in place. Councillor, M. MacIver brought up the question on liability and would like to have a section on liability in the policy.

- ii. Municipal Budget Public Consultation – Councillor, B. MacQuarrie

**MOVED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie SECONDED by Councillor, M. MacIver "That the Town of Port Hawkesbury will host two public Municipal Budget Public Consultation sessions to give residents the opportunity to express their concerns."**

**The consensus of Council was to table the motion for discussion until February Committee of the Whole Meeting held on February 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**16. Future Meetings**

The future meetings of the Town Council are scheduled as follows:

- |                                      |                            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| i. Committee Round Table Discussions | Monday, January 30, 2023   |
| ii. Utility and Review Board Hearing | Tuesday, January 31, 2023  |
| iii. Public Meeting of Council       | Tuesday, February 7, 2023  |
| iv. Committee of the Whole           | Tuesday, February 21, 2023 |


**17. Public Question Period**


There were no questions from the gallery.

**18. Adjournment**

**MOVED by Councillor, J. Aucoin and SECONDED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie "That the Town of Port Hawkesbury adjourns January 17, 2023, Joint Meeting at 8:19. p.m." MOTION CARRIED.**

Feb 27/2023  
Date

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

  
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Recorded by:  
Melissa Warner  
Communications and  
Administration Officer