

PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Held Virtually
Minutes of Meeting
February 15, 2022

Present

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

Regrets

Councillor, Hughie MacDougall

Guests

Strait Area Transit's, Executive Director, Amber Carrigan
Owner, Red Tribe Boxing, Barry Bernard

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held virtually Tuesday, February 15, 2022, and called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton.

2. Additions to Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Deputy Mayor, J. Aucoin and SECONDED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie "to approve the agenda as presented". MOTION CARRIED.

4. Presentations

Strait Area Transit – Executive Director, A. Carrigan

Executive Director Amber Carrigan had provided Council with an overview of the Strait Area Transit organization. The presentation had included SAT's vision, mission, description of what services are offered along with travel options, and 2021 ridership data. There was a Q&A following the presentation.

Mayor Chisholm-Beaton had asked if the Accessibility Advisory Committee would be able to use some of the photos/slides for the Accessibility file.

Councillor, M. Maclver had requested that ED, A. Carrigan email a breakdown of the Town of Port Hawkesbury Resident ridership to Councillors.

Deputy Mayor, J. Aucoin had asked for clarification around the services offered within the Town of Port Hawkesbury. ED. A. Carrigan has stated that only accessible transportation is provided within the Town of Port Hawkesbury.

Red Tribe Boxing Club – Barry Bernard

Barry had given a verbal presentation about the Red Tribe Boxing Club; a non-profit boxing club in Eskasoni. The presentation had included a brief history of the boxing club, who the club services, and past events. Barry has stated that all events are alcohol-free. There is a boxing card booked in the Veteran's Memorial Arena on May 14th, 2022. Barry had asked for Council to consider donating half of the venue rental cost.

The consensus of Council is to move the item forward to March 1st Public Meeting for discussion.

5. Council Reports on Assigned Committees

Councillor B. MacQuarrie

Councillor, B. MacQuarrie had stated that he will forward a written report to Melissa.

Strait Area Transit – Held a meeting on January 19th.

Housing Advisory Committee – A meeting was scheduled for January 19th but didn't have a quorum.

Strait Richmond Housing Coalition – There was a meeting held on January 20th.

Joint Industrial Park Commission - There was a meeting held on January 27th.

Eastern Counties Regional Library – A meeting was held on February 10th.

Accessibility Advisory Committee - Weekly meetings have been held every Monday at 5 p.m.

Councillor M. MacIver

Joint Industrial Park Commission – A meeting was held on January 27th. This was the first meeting that has been held. The commission had selected a Chair and a Vice-Chair reviewed the agreement between the Municipality of the County of Richmond and the Town of Port Hawkesbury as well as the Act. Staff had also provided the Commission with a review of the properties. The next meeting is scheduled for February 24th at 5 p.m.

Waterfront Advisory Committee – The meeting that was scheduled for January 18th was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for February 28th.

Deputy Mayor J. Aucoin

Housing Advisory Committee – A meeting was scheduled for January 19th.

Didn't have a quorum. There were discussions about the housing consultant and their roles. There was a discussion around recruiting new members.

Allan J. MacEachen Regional Airport Committee – A meeting was held on January 25th.

The focus of the meeting was around the Regional Strategic Planning Session that is being held on February 25th.

Parks Recreation and Active Living Committee – A meeting was held on January 25th.

There was a discussion about membership commitment. There was also a discussion around the boxing event that is being held on May 14th at the Civic Centre. The committee also discussed potential fundraising for different projects as well as the lighting on the soccer/ball field.

Strait Richmond Housing Matters Coalition - There was a meeting held a meeting on February 9th.

Cape Breton Local Immigration Pilot – There was a meeting held on February 13th.

The working group had met and discussed what the next steps are. There was a brainstorming discussion around how to promote the group.

Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton

Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton had circulated her report to Council prior to the meeting.

6. CAO REPORTS

i. MARKETING, RECREATION, TOURISM & CULTURE

The following report was presented by Director, M. Farrow for Recreation, Marketing, and Tourism & Culture. The report included:

- Recreation Programming,
- Upcoming Events,
- Shows,
- Grants,
- and Marketing and Communications

Director, M. Farrow gave a detailed overview of the Recreation department. Recreation programming has begun for the winter session. Swimming lessons have begun and most lessons are at capacity. She had confirmed that all Granville Green headliners have been booked. All Public Skates have resumed. She had circulated the new Granville Green sponsorship package in her report and has been in contact with potential sponsors.

ii. FINANCE

The following finance report was presented by Director, E. MacEachen:

- Medical and Dental Benefits for Councillors,
- Shared IT Project,
- Budget Planning,
- and Snow Removal Costs

Director, E. MacEachen had provided Council with a detailed overview of the Finance Department's current initiatives. She had reviewed her findings for the Medical and Dental benefits for Councillors that was also circulated in the Council agenda packages. She had also provided Council with a snow removal cost report as of February.

Deputy Mayor, J. Aucoin had asked if medical and dental benefits would be mandatory unless other coverage had been provided. Director, E. MacEachen had confirmed that benefits would be mandatory.

ENGINEERING and PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

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

- Traffic Sign Report,
- TOPH 202106 WTP Process Control Upgrades,
- Sunset Park,
- Pothole Repairs,
- Solid Waste Diversion Rate Update,
- MacQuarrie Drive Extension AT Design,
- and a Public Works Department Activity Summary

Manager, J. MacMillan provided an overview of activities in the Public Works Department that took place in January. He had noted that the speed sign has been moved to the Sobeys Plaza facing northbound traffic. The fencing has been installed along Sunset Park. MacQuarrie Drive Extension preliminary design has begun with WSP consultants. An RFP will be ready to go out later in March. Councillor, B. MacQuarrie had asked if benches would be included in the preliminary design.

iii. FACILITIES, OPERATIONS AND PARKS

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

- Civic Centre,
- Fields and Parks,
- Food Bank,
- Strait Area Pools,
- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations,
- Summer Students,
- and Accessibility

General Manager G. Snook had notified Council that the walking track has reopened to users. He has received some quotes on soccer field/ballfield lighting and will send them along to Council. An application is being prepared for three Electric Vehicle Charging Stations and the closing is March 18th. The renovations are set to begin on the Food Bank. Councillor, M MacIver had asked if there will be more private access to the building. Manager, G. Snook had confirmed there will be.

By-Law and Policies

CAO, T. Doyle had stated that there was no new bylaw and policies to review this evening.

Other Business

i. Medical for Council – Deputy Mayor, J. Aucoin

The consensus of Council was to defer item until all of Council is present and add to the March Committee of the Whole Meeting.

ii. **Water Account Adjustment – Director, E. MacEachen**

The consensus of Council was to move the item forward to the March 1st Public Meeting.

iii. **Micro Homes - Deputy Mayor, J. Aucoin**

The consensus of Council was to defer item until the item has been reviewed by the Planning Advisory Committee.

8. **Approved Additions**

There were no additions to the agenda.

9. **Future Meetings**

- Public Meeting March 1, 2022
- Committee of the Whole March 15, 2022

10. **Adjournment**

MOVED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie and **SECONDED** by Deputy Mayor, J. Aucoin to adjourn the February 15, 2022 meeting of the Committee of the Whole at 8:38.p.m. **MOTION CARRIED.**

March 2 2022
Date

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

Melissa Warner
Recorded by:
Melissa Warner
Communications and
Administrative Officer