

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Shannon Studio
Minutes of Meeting
May 16, 2023**

Present

Mayor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Deputy Mayor, Hughie MacDougall
Councillor, Mark MacIver
Councillor, Blaine MacQuarrie
Councillor, Jason Aucoin
Chief Administrative Officer, Terry Doyle
Director of Finance, Erin MacEachen
Manager, Corene Gillis - Dorey
Manager, Engineering and Public Works, Jason MacMillan

Regrets

Manager, Facilities and Operations, Gordie Snook

Guests

Donny Boudreau – Art Convention

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held virtually and in the Shannon Studio, Tuesday, May 16, 2023, and called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton.

2. Additions to Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Councillor, M. MacIver and SECONDED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie “to approve the agenda as presented”. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Presentations

Art Convention – Donny Boudreau

Award Winning Tattoo Artist and local business owner Donny Boudreau provided Council with a presentation on an upcoming art convention that he would like to bring to Port Hawkesbury. The Art Convention would be a gathering of Tattoo Artists from all over the world including celebrity tattoo artists with all different styles. Booths will be open to art of all types of and world class entertainment would be included in the price of admission. Entertainment would go all day for each day. There would be opportunities for art classes. He provided Council with a package that included the budget and projections of the event. The ask of Council is for support with the cost of the venue by providing the venue at a discount rate for the first year. There was a Q&A following the presentation. Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton asked what time of year and when. D. Boudreau

stated that he is planning for July or August of 2024. Councillor, J. Aucoin asked what the daily average cost is for conventions is put on average cost of venue. D. Boudreau reported that Centre 200 is an estimate of \$5500/day. Booth prices for artists range from \$400-1000 depending on the location of the event. Councillor, B. MacQuarrie asked when Centre 2000 hosted the last event. D. Boudreau stated that Maiden Cape Breton shut down when the pandemic started in 2020 and has not happened since. Halifax Body Arts Convention date has been confirmed for May 2024 and booths have been on sale. D. Boudreau has contacted all local accommodations to make them aware.

5. Council Reports on Assigned Committees

Councillor B. MacQuarrie

Port Hawkesbury Development – A meeting was held on April 25th.

Nova Scotia Main Streets – hosted by Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities on April 27th and he circulated to Council a few documents that were utilized at that session

Cape Breton South Recruitment for Health – A meeting was held on April 27th.

Strait of Canso Offshore Wind Task Force – A meeting was held on May 9th.

Strait Area Transit – A board meeting was held on May 11, 2023.

Port Hawkesbury Development discussion with New Dawn Enterprise – A meeting was held on May 11th.

Eastern Counties Regional Library – Meetings were held on May 12th and 13th.

Community Housing Transformation Session – A session was held on May 16th.

Festival of the Strait – A meeting was held on March 29th the next meeting is scheduled for April 19th.

Councillor M. MacIver

Police Advisory – A meeting was held on April 11th.

Waterfront – A meeting was held on April 17th.

Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall

Strait Area Transit – A meeting was held on May 11th.

Festival of the Strait – A number of meetings have been held.

Waterfront Advisory Committee – A meeting was held April 17th and the next meeting is scheduled for the third Monday in May.

Port Hawkesbury Development – A meeting was held on April 25th.

Councillor, J. Aucoin

Parks and Recreation – A number of attempts were made to hold a Parks and Recreation meeting but were unsuccessful to obtain a quorum.

Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Spring Conference – was in attendance on May 3rd until the 5th.

Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton

Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton's report was included in the agenda package.

The numbers are looking like 200-220 attendings for the Mawi'omi Friendship Gala. Thanks G. Snook for his assistance with the 30 Indigenous Art pieces that will be hung this week and that the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre can keep. Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton would like to send a Thank you letter to Rolf Bowman for providing artwork for the Civic Center and 10 silent auction pieces. She provided Council with overview of the flag raising and gala event.

6. CAO REPORTS

i. Facilities, Operations

CAO, T. Doyle stated that the report was circulated prior to the meeting and that Manager, G. Snook would be able to answer any questions that Council had.

ii. MARKETING, RECREATION, TOURISM AND CULTURE

The following report was presented by Manager of Recreation and Active Living, C. Gillis-Dorey on behalf of Director, M. Farrow for Recreation, Marketing, and Tourism & Culture. The report included:

- Strait Area Trails,
- Recreation Programming,
- Upcoming Events,
- Shows,
- Grants,
- And Marketing and Communications

Manager, C. Gillis-Dorey notified Council that the Strait Area Pool Recreation classes are mostly full, and the Strait Area Pool was able to hold extra swimming sessions as some seasonal staff have returned since the end of the school semester. On April 16th the Swim team hosted a very successful swim meet. The Recreation Department will be running the day camp program again this summer. Three students have been hired to run the program. The Recreation Department is now accepting nominations for the volunteer representative for 2022/2023, the ceremony will be held Monday, September 25th. Festival of the Strait is hosting bi-weekly meetings and she mentioned the entire festival will take place at the Waterfront this year. Director, M. Farrow is

scheduled to go live on 1015 The Hawk on Friday May 26th to announce the Granville Green lineup for this Summer.

iii. Finance

Director, E. MacEachen notified Council of the draft that was provided in the agenda packages with respect to the Low-income Tax Exemption Policy amendments and will be discussed again at the June Committee of the Whole meeting in advance of the July 15th deadline for the low-income tax exceptions. She confirmed that there will be a hybrid Budget meeting held on May 23rd.

iv. 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,
- Public Works
- ICIP AT Project Design Update,
- ICIP Water System Upgrades,

Manager, J. MacMillan mentioned that Oaklees ballfield which is helping with drainage. Staff completed the new shoulder gravel. Public works staff have been installing benches and chairs along the waterfront. Have been cleaning up some damage from snow plowing work which took place over the winter months. The Tamarac tank demolition is almost complete. Utility project request to the UARB. Currently waiting for further information responses or approval to proceed. Public Works building design is ongoing. He provided a number of procurement updates to Council including TOPH202304, TOPH202305, TOPH202306. He mentioned that he was happy to see construction of a brand-new house on Aspen Close. GFL is underway with heavy garbage collection. The Leaf and Yard Waste site will be reopen for the season starting on May 20th and will be open on a bi-weekly basis. Councillor, J. Aucoin asked if the town will see a decrease in water supply with the water system upgrades and was concerned if the town have enough water to supply the fire dept. Manager, J. MacMillan stated that there will be a period of months where Pitt St tanks won't be in service while the new tanks are being constructed. He asked Strait Engineering Ltd, the consultant, to provide the Fire Chief a report with that info and he will send along to council once he receives it. Councillor, B. MacQuarrie asked if the traffic sign be moved further down MacQuarrie Drive.

Other Business

i. Wind Energy – Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton

Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton submitted a report to Council before the meeting and will present to Council at the June Committee of the Whole.

ii. Waterfront Development Project Update – Councillor, M. MacIver

Councillor, M. MacIver provided Council with a short update over the last few Waterfront Advisory Committee Meetings. He provided Council with the rendering of the design of the new signage. He mentioned that Paula Davis has worked many hours on this project for the signage and public art piece and he thanked her for her work. Loretta Gould will have some of her artwork showcased as it will be incorporated into the interpretive signage. He showed the designs of the Kiosks that will be installed between the buildings along the waterfront close to the train station. The kiosks will have a light grey steel roof and the Town will install brightly colored siding to make them stand out. He mentioned that the new chairs and benches have been installed along the waterfront. He mentioned that in the future he would like to ask Council if they would like to take a day this summer to paint the buildings that are down there now. There was discussion about the Hawk Park being refreshed and will have interpretive signage installed and there was a discussion with the local woodworking artist. Councillor, J. Aucoin asked if the kiosks would be accessible. Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall would like to Echo Councillor, M. MacIver that with the great work that staff have been doing with the committee and Paula Davis and Terry as well on all the work that is being done.

iii. Town of Port Hawkesbury Housing Development Pilot Package.

Councillor, B. MacQuarrie mentioned that the document is very well prepared by New Dawn and would like for Council to review and discuss at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

8. Approved Additions

There were no additions to the agenda.

9. Future Meetings

Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton mentioned that

- Public Meeting of Council June 6, 2023
- Committee of the Whole June 20, 2023

10. Adjournment

MOVED by Councillor, M. MacIver and SECONDED by Deputy, Mayor, H. MacDougall to adjourn the April 18, 2023, meeting of the Committee of the Whole at 8:20 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

June 21/2023
Date

TDO
Approved
Terry Doyle, P. Eng
Chief Administrative Officer

Melissa Warner
Recorded by:
Melissa Warner
Communications and
Administrative Officer