

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Shannon Studio
Minutes of Meeting
September 19, 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 (virtually)
Director of Marketing, Recreation, Tourism & Culture, Michelle Farrow (virtually)
Manager, Facilities and Operations, Gordie Snook

Regrets

Manager, Engineering and Public Works, Jason MacMillan

Guests

Stan Johnson & Ronald Newcomb – CEPI

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held virtually and in the Shannon Studio Tuesday, September 19, 2023, and called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton.

2. Additions to Agenda

There are no additions to the agenda.

3. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall
“to approve the agenda as amended”. MOTION CARRIED.**

4. Presentations

CEPI – Stan Johnson & Ronald Newcomb

Ronald Newcomb provided Council with a presentation. The presentation described the CEPI organization and who the members were. He provided a very brief history of CEPI and the success of the Bras d’Or Lakes eco system. He read a quote from the CEPI terms of reference and reviewed the community leaders around the region which form the senior council. He noted that you can find their website at BrasdorCepi.ca. He discussed two-eyed seeing and letting everyone have a voice for true success. He reviewed the budget for CEPI. He mentioned the upcoming conference that is taking place in Membertou on November 13-15 and noted the highlights over the three days. He will be circulating the sponsorship packages to Council following the meeting.

Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall asked who was entitled to go to the conference from Council. Mr. Newcomb stated that anyone that wants to go may attend but the conference is currently filling up. Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton mentioned that two-eyed seeing vision. CEPI is a wonderful contributor to for the Strait of Canso Offshore Wind Task Force and she will be attending the upcoming conference in Membertou.

Councillor, B. MacQuarrie asked what the financial contribution of each municipality was. R. New Combe mentioned that most communities

5. Council Reports on Assigned Committees

Councillor, J. Aucoin

Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting was held on September 18th.

Allan J. MacEachen Regional Committee meeting was held on September 6.

Councillor B. MacQuarrie

Nothing to report this meeting.

Councillor M. MacIver

Police Advisory – A meeting was held on September 12th.

Waterfront – A meeting was held on September 18th Manager G. Snook has an update as part of his report.

Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall

Attended an Inverness Home Support Meeting.

Police Advisory Committee Meeting – Was held on September 12th. A number of questions were asked regarding ATVs at the Police Advisory meeting.

Waterfront Advisory Committee – A meeting was held September 18

Port Hawkesbury Development – A meeting is scheduled for September 26th.

Wall of Fame Committee – There have been several meetings recently and the inductees have been selected and all of Council and the CAO are invited to attend. On November 24th the Wall of Fame Committee is holding an event for the for all past volunteers of the Pirate organization. The Sports Wall of Fame Inductees Ceremony will be held on November 25th.

Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton

Circulated her report prior to the meeting. She offered to provide Council with a presentation of the Germany trip if Council wished.

6. CAO REPORTS

i. ENGINEERING and PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

CAO, T. Doyle presented in the absence of the Manager of Engineering and Public Works, and provided a key update in the department including:

- Traffic Sign Report,
- Flash Flooding Events,
- Public Works,
- ICIP AT Project Design Update,
- ICIP Water System Upgrades,

CAO, T. Doyle reviewed the flooding events that occurred over the summer that had many floods for Town residents. He reviewed a Port Hawkesbury Homeowners Guide to Flood Prevention and Safety which will be made available to residents soon.

Councillor, J. Aucoin expressed thanks to the Public Works staff on getting things done quickly after the first rain event.

ii. Facilities, Operations and Parks

Manager, Facilities Operations and Parks, G. Snook gave a brief presentation of the projects and initiatives in the Facilities, Operations and Parks department including:

- Civic Centre,
- Fields and Parks,
- Food Bank,
- Summer Students,
- And Accessibility

Manager of Facilities, G. Snook updated Council that the ice has been back in service and in the full swing of hockey. The weather has been challenging. The public skates will begin in early October. He reviewed some of the work around town and complimented Catherine Warner on her work spearheading the beatification on parks and green spaces. He mentioned the Trails Association and volunteers such as Paula Davis and Cyril Gillis around town that have spent a significant amount of time on updating our parks areas. He noted the Waterfront Artwork & new signage for the waterfront that are scheduled to be installed in October. He noted that the food bank work is held up until they can receive clearance on some boreholes.

Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall – mentioned that he was happy to be able to see the Causeway along Granville Street from Philpott to Sunset Park.

Councillor, M. MacIver thanked to Maintenance and for the work on the green spaces.

MARKETING, RECREATION, TOURISM AND CULTURE

The following report was presented by 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

Director, M. Farrow mentioned the amazing work that the Strait Area Trails team have been doing. The Strait Area Pool will open on September 26th and will also be the first day of registration. Celtic Colours opening show is happening October 6th and there is a show on October 9th. The Granville Green Concert Series will be awarded the Municipal Event Award through Recreation Nova Scotia and Staff member Annie Beaton will be travelling to accept that award on behalf of the Town. Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall mentioned that Collie was looking for workers to assist with the Celtic Colours set up and tear down.

Finance

Director, E. MacEachen updated Council on the initiatives in the Finance Department:

- Tax Sale Process
- NSFM Health and Benefits Committee
- Water Arrears
- Audit 2023
- Allan J. MacEachen Regional Airport Meeting
- Service Exchange Agreement Consultations
- Landrie Lake

She noted that the audit will be delayed until late Fall. She also mentioned that the new Tax and Water Utility Clerk has been sending out water disconnection notices as well as notices on the upcoming Tax Sale. She is asking Council to consider changing the timeline for Tax Sale Preliminary Notice period from 14 to 30 days.

Consensus of Council to move forward to the Public Meeting of Council.

Other Business

i. Youth Leadership Forum Letter of Support – Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton

Consensus of council is to move forward to the Public Meeting for ratification.

8. Approved Additions

There are no approved additions.

9. Future Meetings

- Public Meeting of Council October 3, 2023
- Committee of the Whole October 17, 2023

10. Adjournment

MOVED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie and **SECONDED** by Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall to adjourn the September 19, 2023, meeting of the Committee of the Whole at 7:59p.m. **MOTION CARRIED.**

October 5 2023
Date

T.D.
Approved
Terry Doyle, P. Eng
Chief Administrative Officer

Melissa Warner
Recorded by:
Melissa Warner
Communications and
Administrative Officer