

PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING
Minutes of Meeting
October 17, 2023
Shannon Studio

Present

Mayor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Councillor, Mark MacIver
Councillor, Blaine MacQuarrie
Councillor, Jason Aucoin
Chief Administrative Officer, Terry Doyle
Director of Finance, Erin MacEachen (virtually)

Regrets

Deputy Mayor, Hughie MacDougall

Guests

Strait Area Chamber President, John Ouellette

1. Call to Order

A Special Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in the Shannon Studio, Tuesday, October 17, 2023, called to order by Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton at 6:00 p.m.

2. Additions to Agenda

- Restorative Justice Proclamation – Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton

3. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Councillor, J. Aucoin and SECONDED by Councillor, M. MacIver “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves the Special Public Meeting Agenda as amended.” MOTION CARRIED.

4. Strait Of Canso Energy Sector Development Funding

CAO, T. Doyle stated that the Town of Port Hawkesbury has the opportunity to participate with the Municipality of the County of Richmond on a project in the Strait of Canso Energy Development Sector. There are three streams, one stream is the development of structure around the centre of excellence around offshore wind and energy sector. Another stream is strategic planning that is needed around the preparing the Strait of Canso for the opportunities with offshore wind, green hydrogen, and green ammonia, that are moving forward. The third stream will provide staffing for Port Development.

His recommendation is for a total contribution of \$75,000 spread over three years from the Town of Port Hawkesbury. He noted that the Municipality of the County of Richmond has committed to contributing \$75,000 with increments of \$25,000 over three years.

MOVED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Councillor, J. Aucoin “THAT the Town of Port Hawkesbury contribute \$75,000 over a three-year period, in support of the Building of an Offshore Wind Green Hydrogen HUB in the Strait Region project, for a total Federal, Provincial, and Municipal investment of \$950,000.” MOTION CARRIED.

5. STRAIT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – HOUSING NOT FOR PROFIT

Strait Area Chamber of Commerce President, John Ouelette provided Council with a presentation regarding the Housing Not for Profit in the Strait Region. He gave an overview of the Housing pilot since 2022. He mentioned that impact that the lack of housing is having on the Strait Area Region with the Strait Area Campus, Health care workers, local businesses. Leaside services a population of 60,000 people with only 5 rooms. He mentioned that there is a group that is working on housing around Strait Richmond and looking to install prefabricated homes and have applied for funding with the Nova Scotia Housing Trust. Leaside has been turned down on their secondary housing application. There was a meeting held last year to look at floating accommodations as a quick solution to the lack of student housing in the area. He noted that the Chamber has the support from two municipalities and is now looking for the Town's support. The Chamber is willing to be the not for profit until a fully formed governed not for profit is formed. He reviewed the first four projects that should be looked at:

1. Strait-Richmond Health Care Workers
2. Student housing for NSCC
3. Personal Care workers in St. Peters
4. Stage 2 housing for Leaside

The Chamber has been directed from the Chamber Board to make this a priority.

There was a question-and-answer period following the presentation.

Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton thanked the Chamber for stepping up and taking a leadership role in getting this initiative off the ground.

MOVED by Councillor J. Aucoin and SECONDED by Councillor, M. MacIver to support the not profit to be forward with leadership from the Strait Area Chamber.” MOTION CARRIED.

John mentioned that the Strait Area Chamber will apply for the initial funding and the housing not for profit will be a stand-alone entity once formed.

Councillor, B. MacQuarrie asked CAO, T. Doyle what his recollection was for the intention of New Dawn. CAO. T. Doyle stated that New Dawn was to work with the Town to establish a not for profit. New Dawn has a commitment to assist the Town through the process to establish a not for profit. CAO, T. Doyle mentioned that they (New Dawn) will meet with us with respect on another project.

6. Items from In Camera Session

There were no items from the In Camera Session.

7. Approved Additions

- i. Restorative Justice Proclamation

MOVED by Councillor, M. MacIver and SECONDED by Councillor, J. Aucoin “That Port Hawkesbury, proclaim the week of November 20th to 26th, 2023 as Restorative Justice Week in Town of Port Hawkesbury.” MOTION CARRIED.

8. Adjournment

That the Town of Port Hawkesbury adjourned the Special Public Meeting at 6:34 p.m.

November 23/2023
Date

TDO
Approved by:
Terry Doyle, P. Eng., CAO

Melissa Warner
Recorded by:
Melissa Warner,
Communications &
Administrative Officer