

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Minutes of Meeting
Monday, February 20, 2012**

PRESENT

Mayor, Billy Joe MacLean
Chief Administrative Officer, Maris Freimanis
Director of Finance, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Erin MacEachen
Deputy Mayor, Ken Anderson
Councilor, Hugh MacDougall
Councilor, Mark MacIver
Director of Marketing, Tourism, Culture and Recreation, Paula Davis
Director of Public Works, Jim MacNeil
Director of Parks and Facilities, Jim Pyke
Town Solicitor, Larry Evans

GUEST

Constable D. Prasad, RCMP, Inverness County District

REGRETS

Councilor, Jim King

1. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held in the Shannon Studio, Monday, February 20, 2012. The meeting was called to order by Mayor MacLean at 6:05 p.m.

2. ADDITIONS to /APPROVAL of AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor K. Anderson, and **SECONDED** by Councilor M. MacIver "That Town Council approves the agenda." **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. a) DIRECTORS' REPORTS

i. Finance – Erin MacEachen

E. MacEachen presented her Finance Report and provided updates and cost analyses on the Silica Sand Project and the Leachate Arbitration. There remains a \$30,000 net deficit on the Silica Sand project and a \$20,000 net deficit on the Leachate Arbitration settlement (with a potential for more) that is underfunded. She asked Council to allow the Town to use \$50,000 of the anticipated transfer to reserve earmarked for capital programs to cover the underfunded portion of these items. Deputy Mayor K. Anderson inquired why Council was not notified once the original expenditure amount was exceeded; the status of the investigation of the silica sand project; and, the potential for recovery through an insurance claim.

M. Freimanis stated that after soil testing and delineation took place, a second excavation uncovered more silica sand and that it was difficult to halt the project at that time. This is the first opportunity to report to Council.

A non waiver agreement more applicable to a third party claim has been sent back to the insurance company and the Town is making a claim with their insurance company for errors and omissions. The Town will ask the Department of Environment to include the reports from the contractors in their investigation. If not, the Town will conduct their own investigation of the contractors.

M. Freimanis suggested waiting until year end to see how things progress as there may be a possibility to reduce the \$50,000 deficit. If not, he is seeking Council's deposition to seize any opportunity in the operating budget and will subsequently report to Council on any shortage.

MOVED by Councilor H. MacDougall, and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor K. Anderson "That Town Council receives the Finance Report". MOTION CARRIED.

ii. Park and Facilities – Jim Pyke

MOVED by Councilor H. MacDougall, and SECONDED by Councilor M. MacIver "That Town Council receives the Parks and Facilities Report". MOTION CARRIED.

On the question, Councilor H. MacDougall inquired about the Tamarac Park equipment removal as a result of the Catholic Church selling the property. The property was sold to R. Setu.

iii. Public Works – Jim MacNeil

MOVED by Councilor M. MacIver, and SECONDED by Councilor H. MacDougall "That Town Council receives the Public Works Department Report". MOTION CARRIED.

iv. Marketing, Tourism, Culture and Recreation – Paula Davis

P. Davis provided her report which included updates on the Sports Summit, PHCC bid submission for the 2013/2014 Under 17 World Hockey Challenge; Performances, Kickstand Session; and, Winterfest 2012. Councilor H. MacDougall inquired about the timeframe for the bid submission of the Under 17 World Hockey Challenge. P Davis stated she should receive information by the third week of March.

MOVED by Councilor H. MacDougall, and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor K. Anderson "That Town Council receives the Marketing, Tourism, Culture and Recreation Report". MOTION CARRIED.

v. RCMP – Constable D. Prasad

Mayor MacLean welcomed Constable D. Prasad who provided an update on the RCMP statistics report from January – February, 2012. The report also included the detachment's points of interest and correspondence on the RCMP Port Hawkesbury Outstanding Youth Award. Constable Prasad confirmed to Councilor H. MacDougall that an RCMP escort can be provided for a medical emergency if the Canso Causeway is closed due to inclement weather. Mayor MacLean noted the increase in drugs is alarming to residents and suggested that if possible and with Council's assistance, a narcotics team comes to the area. Constable Prasad will pass this along to the district commander.

MOVED by Councillor H. MacDougall, and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor K. Anderson "That Town Council receives the RCMP Report". MOTION CARRIED.

3. b) COUNCIL / COMMITTEE CHAIRS – Expectations

M. Freimanis presented his memo outlining the CAO response and expectations of Council, Committee Chairs, and Managers. Councillor M. MacIver stated that there is not a lot that he disagrees with but as per the motion of the January 10, 2012, Town Council meeting, he would still like to have an informal meeting for questions and answers. Councillor H. MacDougall agreed that a meeting is necessary for everyone to have their say. Deputy Mayor K. Anderson stated this is a step in the right direction and that eventually he would like this worked into a policy format to be referred to at any time. He agrees with his fellow Councillors that a meeting should take place for people to ask questions and to clarify procedures and protocols.

M. Freimanis will schedule an informal meeting, not a Council meeting per se, as quickly as possible. There was no objection to have this meeting open to the public. Mayor MacLean stated it was important for Council to have an informal session to "nail down" a policy and to understand the roles of Council and staff.

c) EASTERN DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION (EDPC)

MOVED by Deputy Mayor K. Anderson, and SECONDED by Councillor M. MacIver "That Town Council accepts the EDPC Operating Estimates and the recommendations on the revised Building Permit Fees". MOTION CARRIED.

d) APPOINTMENTS

- i. Waterfront Committee
- ii. Wall of Fame Committee
- iii. Inverness County Home Support

M. Freimanis provided an update on the expression of interest for volunteers for the above committees. Since the report, S. MacDonald and R. Decoste expressed interest in the Waterfront Committee. One name was received for the wall of Fame Committee; there was no interest in the PHCC Events Committee or the Inverness County Home Support Society (ICHSS). G. Livingston indicated he would serve another term on the ICHSS if no applications were received. M. Freimanis will confirm this with Mr. Livingston and come back to Council for ratification.

Councillor M. MacIver stated he met with M. Freimanis to discuss the applicants for the Waterfront Development Committee. All applicants had something to offer to the committee however there were concerns with non-taxpaying applicants making decisions on financial issues. He asked if non-taxpaying members could assume a non-voting or ex officio role.

MOVED by Councillor M. MacIver and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor K. Anderson that "Town Council accepts all applicants for the Waterfront Committee and that non-taxpaying members will take an advisory role with no voting rights on financial matters". MOTION CARRIED.

MOVED by Councilor H. MacDougall, and **SECONDED** by Councilor M. MacIver that "Town Council accepts the one applicant for the Wall of Fame Committee". **MOTION CARRIED.**

e) TENDERS

- i. Banking Services
- ii. Legal
- iii. Audit

MOVED by Deputy Mayor K. Anderson, and **SECONDED** by Councilor H. MacDougall that "Town Council follows policy and prepares tenders for banking and legal services to be awarded at the start of the next fiscal year; and prepares a tender for audit services for the following year". **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. ADDITIONS

There were no additions to the agenda.

MOVED by Councilor H. MacDougall, and **SECONDED** by Deputy Mayor K. Anderson to recess In Camera at 7:11 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOVED by Deputy Mayor K. Anderson, and **SECONDED** by Councilor H. MacDougall to reconvene the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 7:50 p.m.

5. IN CAMERA SESSION

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Deputy Mayor K. Anderson, and **SECONDED** by Councilor H. MacDougall "That Town Council adjourns the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 7:52 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED.**

March 8/2012
DATE

[Signature]
APPROVED BY:
Maris Freimanis, CAO

[Signature]
RECORDED BY:
Dawna MacDonald