

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

**Minutes of Meeting
Monday, December 17, 2012**

Present

Mayor, Billy Joe MacLean
Chief Administrative Officer, Maris Freimanis
Acting Director of Finance, David Gray
Deputy Mayor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Councilor, Dr. Trevor Boudreau
Councilor, Joe Janega
Councilor, Bert Lewis
Director of Marketing, Tourism, Culture and Recreation, Paula Davis
Director of Parks and Facilities, Jim Pyke
Town Solicitor, Patrick Lamey (Alternate)

Regrets

Town Solicitor, Larry Evans

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held in the Shannon Studio, Monday, December 17, 2012. It was called to order by Mayor MacLean at 6:00 p.m.

2. Additions to/Approval of Agenda

Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau asked that a moment of silence be observed regarding the tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut. Council observed a moment of silence in memory of those affected by this tragedy.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton, and SECONDED by Councilor J. Janega "to approve the agenda as amended". MOTION CARRIED.

3. a) RCMP Report and Request

Sgt. Shelby Miller stated that the RCMP are asking for a part time detachment assistant that will be cost shared with both the Town of Port Hawkesbury and the County of Inverness at a cost of between \$12,000 – \$13,000 per municipal unit. The duties would include administrative work and data input of incidents for the district. Mayor MacLean stated he has received the information which will be considered and part of budget discussions for the New Year. Sgt. Miller will provide more details on the actual associated costs.

Cst. Deepak Prasad provided an update on the Port Hawkesbury detachment for the period January 1, 2012 to December 17, 2012 which included road safety; controlling drug substance abuse; and break and enters. RCMP priorities include domestic violence, crime reduction (prolific offenders), and road safety (impaired driving, distracted drivers, school zones). A Town Hall meeting will take place in April. The amount of calls was reduced during the 2012 Tall Ships event, Granville Green series and the Festival of the Strait. Community policing was also discussed. Council discussion included improvements that have taken place, concern over the school zone, large truck traffic concerns on Reeves Street, report comparison from last year, student solicitation in certain areas of Town, changes to and the effects of traffic services which will include a transfer of three officers to Antigonish and North Sydney, RCMP visibility and reporting frequency to Council.

b) Fire Chief Report

Fire Chief Dale Sellars provided his report to Council for follow up discussion and questions. Chief Sellars stated he will be staying on for another few years. Mayor MacLean noted it might be fitting that the Fire Department begins discussions on the topic of amalgamation. Chief Sellars stated he could see amalgamation of the two communities being beneficial and that it would work well as it is difficult to get new members for the Port Hawkesbury Fire Department. Councilor J. Janega asked if West Bay Road might be in that discussion and stated that cities have as large an area and we will probably be forced into this in the near future. Chief Sellars stated that the response time is critical, Port Hastings and Port Hawkesbury are very logical but the West Bay Road and Aulds Cove area may be too far. Councilor B. Lewis noted that repairs are needed for the fire station. It was noted that the Port Hawkesbury Fire Department is down by three members which affects response times but that to date, it has not impacted insurance rates. Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau stated the age of the fire truck is a concern, but that Chief Sellars has been keeping the truck in good repair and that perhaps a used truck would be the answer.

4. Appointments

a) Cape Breton Island Housing Authority

MOVED by Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau, and SECONDED by Councilor J. Janega "to appoint Hughie MacEachen to the Board of the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority". MOTION CARRIED.

b) Inverness County Home Support Society

MOVED by Councilor B. Lewis, and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton "that Councilor J. Janega will fill the opening of the Board of the Inverness County Home Support Society and seek further information on the requirements from CAO, M. Freimanis". MOTION CARRIED.

5. Regional Economic Development

CAO, M. Freimanis presented a recap of the proposed new realignment of the RDA. Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau stated his concerns of this new alignment and inquired if it will better serve the area. Mayor MacLean noted he has made it clear to the Provincial representatives that there is a great synergy with the quad counties however Guysborough County is interested in going alone. CAO, M. Freimanis asked that the 'brakes be put on' until the new structure is looked at to provide a better connection with Council. Councilor J. Janega stated it would be easier if we knew what the return on investment was with the RDA; what have we lost and what has been done about it. Presently the Town invests approximately \$36,000.00 per year. Mayor MacLean suggested that we 'put the brakes on', meet with the Province, and then decide which way to proceed, and where to invest our money. Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau stated he understands the need to keep ECBC in a partnership situation. Councilor B. Lewis asked how affective the situation has been and that perhaps there is a new plan to get a different result. Councilor J. Janega commented that we should never underestimate the talent around the table.

MOVED by Councilor J. Janega, and SECONDED by Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau "to cease all future directions for the Strait Highland RDA to join with Sydney until Council has had discussions with the Province, Inverness County and Richmond County to determine the best direction to take". MOTION CARRIED.

6. Joint Meeting of Cape Breton Municipalities

CAO, M. Freimanis provided an overview of this potential meeting that will be held in Baddeck. If Council would like items to be put on the agenda for discussion, CAO, M. Freimanis will forward it to Victoria County. Council discussed the following agenda items for consideration: economic development, transportation (both road and rail), regional facilities and cost sharing, cost saving in purchasing power; a concise marketing strategy that could be used to promote the Island; and the airport. Councilor B. Lewis stated it is important

that this meeting be an information sharing and not a decision-making meeting and that is a time for collaboration and clarity found at their respective Councils. Mayor MacLean stated French translation funds are available.

7. Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage Programs

CAO, M. Freimanis asked Council to consider any areas they would like to investigate and direction will be taken in that area. Councilor B. Lewis asked P. Lamey to update Council on the Playground project. He stated the committee is onwards to the third interview which includes a youth interview.

8. Council Meetings

CAO, M. Freimanis stated that the Committee of the Whole meeting could be moved to 7:00 p.m. to alleviate scheduling conflicts. Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau Trevor stated he would appreciate the change to 7:00 p.m.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton, and SECONDED by Councilor B. Lewis "to accept 7:00 p.m. as the new time for Committee of the Whole meetings". MOTION CARRIED.

9. Approved Additions

A moment of silence was observed for those affected by the tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut.

10. Adjournment

The Committee of the Whole Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Jan 9, 2013
Date


Approved by:
Maris Freimanis, CAO


Recorded by:
Paula Davis