

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**Shannon Studio**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**November 15, 2022**

**Present**

Mayor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton  
Deputy Mayor, Hughie MacDougall  
Councillor, Blaine MacQuarrie  
Councillor, Mark MacIver  
Councillor, Jason Aucoin  
Acting CAO, Director of Finance, Erin MacEachen  
Director of Marketing, Recreation, Tourism & Culture, Michelle Farrow - Virtually  
Manager, Engineering and Public Works, Jason MacMillan

**Regrets**

Manager, Facilities and Operations, Gordie Snook  
Chief Administrative Officer, Terry Doyle

**Guests**

Rodney Chaisson, Iona Highland Village  
M.A. MacPherson, Iona Highland Village

**1. Call to Order**

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held virtually and in the Shannon Studio Tuesday, November 15, 2022, 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, J. Aucoin and SECONDED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie “to approve the agenda as presented”. MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. Presentations**

Iona Highland Village – Rodney Chaisson

The presentation included the vision of the Highland village which focuses on the founding values of Gaelic Nova Scotia language, culture and kinship. He talked about each of the twelve buildings which covers 4 eras. The Highland Village offers authentic “sensorial” & immersive visitor experience. In 2015 The Highland Village developed a multiyear site development strategy in partnership with the Province of Nova Scotia, Atlantic Canadian Opportunities Agency, Canadian Heritage, and the Municipality of the County of Victoria with a budget of 6.8 million dollars. He gave an overview of each of the buildings, the enhanced exhibits, and programs to make the Highland Village a Year-round facility. Rodney reviewed the project costs and the visitor number information, with 80% of visitors coming from cruise ship tourists. He mentioned to Council there

Director, M. Farrow notified Council that the Town's bid for the IIHFA 2022 World Juniors was not successful due to proximity of the main events.

**ii. Facilities, Operations and Parks**

Acting CAO, E. MacEachen gave a brief presentation of the projects and initiatives in the Facilities, Operations and Parks department including:

- Civic Centre,
- Fields and Parks,
- Food Bank,
- Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station,
- And Accessibility.

**iii. 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,
- Funding Applications,
- Project Updates,
- Public Works Highlights,
- And Public Works Activity Summary

Manager, J. MacMillan had updated Council on some Public Works highlights and provided Council with a brief update on the Public Works garage loss from the fire. He thanked the Port Hawkesbury Volunteer Fire Department for their fast response to the Fire the evening of October 30<sup>th</sup>. He also thanked local businesses, vendors and contractors that have reached out to assist in supporting the Public Works department in remaining operational. A temporary office trailer is set to be delivered on November 16. Two sea cans have been delivered for supplies storage.

**Other Business**

**i. Basic Income Now, Atlantic Canada – Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton**

Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton mentioned that there was a session regarding the Basic Income Now movement held on November 9<sup>th</sup>. She will see if there is a recording of the session and share with Council.

**ii. 2022 Holiday Schedule – Acting CAO, E. MacEachen**

**The consensus of Council was to move item forward to Public Meeting of Council on December 13<sup>th</sup>.**

Acting CAO, E. MacEachen, had mentioned discussing the dates of January 2023 meetings discussion at the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

iii. Thank you/Welcome Event Planning for Council Committee Members

There was discussion around planning a welcome event/orientation for new members of advisory committees to have some conversation around vision for the committees and new members. Council agreed that the Terms of Reference should be discussed/reviewed at the first meetings with each individual committee. A date would be set at a later date.

iv. Accessibility Plan – Accommodations for Gas Service

Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton had brought up a short-term goal of the Accessibility Plan to send a letter to the local gas stations asking for accommodations for gas services within the Town of Port Hawkesbury. Council agreed to send a letter asking the two gas stations in town if they would work with Council on coming up with an accommodation to assist residents and visitors with gas services.

8. Approved Additions

There were no additions to the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

9. Future Meetings

- Joint Public/Committee of the Whole Meeting      December 13, 2022
- Public Meeting of Council      January 3, 2023

10. Adjournment

**MOVED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Councillor, M. MacIver to adjourn the October 18, 2022 meeting of the Committee of the Whole at 8:27p.m. MOTION CARRIED.**

December 13 2022  
Date

Erin MacEachen  
Approved  
Erin MacEachen CPA, CA  
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Melissa Warner  
Recorded by:  
Melissa Warner  
Communications and  
Administrative Officer