

PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
Shannon Studio
Minutes of Meeting
October 3, 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

1. Call to Order

A Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in the Shannon Studio and virtually on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, and called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton

2. Additions to Agenda

- i. Halloween Restrictions – CAO, T. Doyle
- ii. Reeves Street – Councillor, B. MacQuarrie

3. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Councillor, M. MacIver and SECONDED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie “THAT the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves October 3, 2023, Public Meeting Agenda as amended”. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Gallery Presentations

Sports Wall of Fame – Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall

On Behalf of the Sports Wall of Fame Committee he thanked Council for putting their confidence in the committee. The 2023 Candidates will be inducted with the same ceremony as in previous years. He reviewed the factors that the Wall of Fame Committee took into consideration for each nomination. The committee has added a Strait Pirate Volunteer Appreciation night that will be held on November 24th during the Pirate home game. The evening will be for any persons that have been involved with the Pirate organization throughout the years. He congratulated and commended the committee for all their work over the past months– Michelle Farrow, Secretary, John Davis, Roy Dobson, Terry MacDonald, and Paula Davis.

2023 Sports Wall of Fame Inductees are:

Youth (New): Sara Pluta – Multisport athlete excelling in volleyball, softball, and soccer.

Youth (New): Blake Marchand – Multisport athlete excelling in track & field, and basketball.

Athlete: Frank MacInnis - Track & field, basketball, and an avid horseman.

Builder: Michael Ryan - Baseball & softball

Team: 1975 Strait Esso Flyers – John David Keith will be representing the team

Team: 1909 Port Hawkesbury Hockey Club

MOVED by Councillor, J. Aucoin and SECONDED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie – “ That the Town of Port Hawkesbury will approve the 2023 Sports Wall of Fame nominees and the 2023 ceremony.” MOTION CARRIED.

Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall thanked Annie Beaton for contacting the past Strait Pirate members.

5. Acknowledgements

Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton made the following acknowledgements:

- September 30th was National Day of Truth & Reconciliation
- October is Women's History Month
- October 1st is Seniors Day
- October 5th - Teachers Day in Nova Scotia
- International day of the girl child
- October 18th is Person's Day

6. Approval of Council Minutes

i. Special Public Meeting of Council – August 14, 2023

There were no errors or omissions.

ii. Public Hearing – September 5, 2023

There were no errors or omissions.

iii. Public Meeting of Council – September 5, 2023

There were no errors or omissions.

iv. Bylaw & Policy Meeting – September 19, 2023

There were no errors or omissions.

7. Business Arising from Minutes

Councillor, M. MacIver asked about the Special Public Meeting on agenda item number 4 - Maintenance and Grass cutting. He asked if there was any following up on the original motions. CAO, T. Doyle mentioned that staff have looked in to purchase options and had provided that detail to Council in an email that has been circulated. Staff have also visited Pictou County to review similar equipment. The cost is over \$50,000 he stated that he thought that would be brought back to the Committee of the Whole or the next budgetary process with the direction of Council. Councillor, M. MacIver thought that Director of Finance would be making a recommendation to purchase this piece of equipment and wanted to know where the money will come from. CAO T. Doyle reread the amended motion asking for clarification on what the direction of Council is. Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall reread his understanding of the motions from the Special Public Meeting on August 14th and that he expects that Council already made the decision to purchase the equipment. Director of Finance, E. MacEachen expressed her concern with purchasing items outside of the budgetary process as there are other items that may have been of higher priority for Council that were not included in this fiscal year budget.

Councillor, J. Aucoin doesn't agree with paying outside contractors, when we can pay our own employees to do this work and is supportive of buying the flail mower attachment. There was a conversation around another tractor with a deck for mowing grass. Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall stated that there is a motion that has already been made.

Councillor, B. MacQuarrie asked if Jason provided the cost of the flail mower. CAO, T. Doyle mentioned that there is a close to deficit budget this year. He mentioned that there was an amendment to the motion and stated that there needs to be another motion made with the direction from Council.

MOVED by Councillor, M. MacIver and SECONDED by Councillor, J. Aucoin "to purchase the boom flail mower attachment for the trackless." MOTION CARRIED.

8. Council Committee Reports

i. Report from Committee of the Whole

Preliminary Tax Notice

MOVED by Councillor, J. Aucoin and SECONDED by Councillor, M. MacIver "THAT the Town of Port Hawkesbury extends the Tax Sale Preliminary Notice period from 14 to 30 days." MOTION CARRIED.

Letter of Support

MOVED by Councillor, J. Aucoin and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall "THAT the Town of Port Hawkesbury send a letter of support to Pitu'paq in support of the Youth Leadership Forum". MOTION CARRIED.

ii. Report from Committee of the Whole

MOVED by Councillor, M. MacIver and SECONDED by Councillor, J. Aucoin "THAT the Town of Port Hawkesbury Approved the Committee of the Whole Minutes as presented." MOTION CARRIED.

9. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising.

10. Motions from In-Camera Session

There was no In Camera Session.

11. Correspondence

There was no correspondence for the October 3rd Public Meeting of Council.

12. Proclamations/Resolutions

There were no proclamations or resolutions for the October 3rd Public Meeting.

13. Other Business

i. Council Expenses, CAO, T. Doyle

CAO, T. Doyle, gave an update on Council Expenses for the month of September. He reminded the gallery that Council expenses are posted on the Town of Port Hawkesbury website.

ii. Request for Support – CAO, T. Doyle

CAO, T. Doyle read the request that came from town resident, Morgan Beaton looking for support for an upcoming international horse barrel racing championship in Perry, Georgia. Looking at the Town's current policy, there is no category for individual funding within the policy. CAO, T. Doyle mentioned that the policy's intent is for team sponsorships. His recommendation would be to donate \$200. There was a discussion around the high costs to travel south with the horse. Councillor, M. MacIver asked that some Town promotional items be given to Morgan so she can take with her.

MOVED by Councillor, M. MacIver and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall "THAT the Town of Port Hawkesbury donates \$500 to Morgan Beaton for the National Barrel Horse Association World Championships in Perry Georgia, USA." MOTION CARRIED.

- iii. Seasonal Services – Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton
MOVED by Councillor, J. Aucoin and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury approve the request to provide funds necessary to cover any shortfall incurred with the 2023 Seasonal Services Port Hawkesbury project which is not funded by donations, as well as provide the donation of postage on the sponsorship letters that will be mailed out.” MOTION CARRIED.
- iv. Strait of Canso Energy Sector Development Funding – CAO, T. Doyle
Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton mentioned that this item will be tabled until a Special Public Meeting that will be announced in the coming days.

14. Approved Additions

- i. Halloween Restrictions – CAO, T. Doyle
MOVED by Councillor, J. Aucoin and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury will permit ‘trick or treating’ until 8 pm on Tuesday, October 31st. Halloween masks will not be permitted to be worn on Town streets after 8pm, and a 10pm curfew will be in effect for ages 16 years and under.” MOTION CARRIED.

Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall asked to have all the lights at the parks and ballfields on that evening.

- ii. Reeves Street - Councillor, B. MacQuarrie
Councillor, B. MacQuarrie mentioned that over a year ago in May that the Department of Public Works provided a presentation with Don Mills of Narrative Research. He reviewed a number of items that were brought forward as concerns of Council. He mentioned that the Reeves Street Pilot project started in 2019. He is asking for CAO, T. Doyle to make contact with the Department of Public Works for a follow up on the concerns that were brought forward from Council from that meeting. He noted that staff have moved around but Mark Brace is the current staff member with this file.
CAO, T. Doyle reviewed the motion that Council had made at the May Public Meeting and reread the motion which was directing staff to write a letter to the Minister of Public Works expressing the concerns of council and asking for an update of those concerns. He reviewed the staff that had been assigned to the file has since moved on to another role. Since that time and he reached out to the new staff member he has not heard back. Councillor, J. Aucoin mentioned that he was very frustrated with this process. Thinks that it is time for the elected officials to go to the Minister’s office. He reiterated that Reeves Street is owned by the Province.
CAO, T. Doyle mentioned that the letter that was sent in June was addressed to the Minster was from the Mayor and Council. He has also reached out to the Deputy Minister.

MOVED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Councillor, J. Aucoin “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury reach out to Department of Public Works more particular Mark Brace to request that they meet with a Council to provide an update on the Reeves Street project based on conversations of June 2022.”

AMENDMENT

MOVED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie SECONDED by Councillor, J. Aucoin “That Town Council to send correspondence to the Minister and copy Council.” The AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

ORIGINAL MOTION AS AMENDED

THAT THE ORIGINAL MOTION BE APPROVED AS AMENDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. Future Meetings

The future meetings of the Town Council are scheduled as follows:

- i. Committee of the Whole Tuesday, October 17, 2023
- ii. ~~Public Meeting of Council~~ ~~Tuesday, November 7, 2023~~

There was consensus to combine the November Committee of the Whole and November Public Meeting and will be held on November 21.

16. Public Question Period

There were no questions from the gallery.

17. Adjournment

MOVED by Councillor, M. MacIver and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor, H. MacDougall "That the Town of Port Hawkesbury adjourns October 3, 2023, Public Meeting at 8:15p.m." MOTION CARRIED.

November 23/2023

Date

TDO
Approved by:
Terry Doyle, P. Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

Melissa Warner
Recorded by:
Melissa Warner
Communications and
Administration Officer