

SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting
July 14, 2011

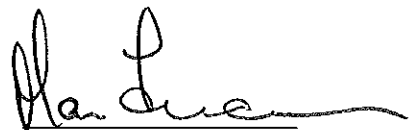
1. Special meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in the Shannon Studio, Port Hawkesbury Civic Center on Thursday, July 14, 2011 at the hour of 7:00 p.m.
2. Present were Mayor W.J. MacLean; Deputy Mayor J. King; Councillors K. Anderson, H. MacDougall and M. MacIver; CAO Maris Freimanis; Director of Finance E. MacEachern and Town Solicitor L.K. Evans.
3. Mayor MacLean called the meeting to order and the following items of business were attended to:
4. The Director of Finance and CAO presented to Council a report on the financial challenges the Town is facing in the upcoming years along with projected liabilities and opportunities.
5. Councillor Anderson requested clarification of the projected \$660,000 future increase in expenses regarding the inclusion of increased education, housing and correction costs. Response was that these costs were not included.
6. Councillor MacDougall requested the amount of assessment increase. Response was residential- \$1.5 million, commercial - \$1.3 million.
7. Councillor MacDougall noted the increase in budget from the 2004 level of \$5 million to 2011 level of \$7.9 million. He also noted the transfer to operating reserve of \$200,000.
8. Director of Finance presented an overview of the proposed budget clarifying questions on new monies of \$205,000 grant in lieu and increase in assessments of 9.4%.
9. **Moved by Councillor Anderson, seconded by Councillor MacIver that the tax rates be set to a residential tax rate of \$1.62/\$100 of assessment and a commercial tax rate of \$4.25/\$100 of assessment and that staff bring to Council for approval a detailed work plan and budget reflecting these rates by mid September. On the question, Councillor Anderson indicated he allowed for a 2% inflationary adjustment plus allowance for new assessments. He noted that 3.6% of the budget could be trimmed by increasing revenue and creating efficiency in cost. Councillor Anderson stated we have capable and competent staff that should be able to make this work. Deputy Mayor King asked what this reduction means in dollars and was advised \$277,000. Mayor MacLean wanted it noted for the record that significant increase in costs will be facing the municipality. Motion carried. Mayor Maclean and Deputy Mayor King voted nay.**
10. On motion by Councillor MacDougall, seconded by Councillor Anderson, the meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Feb 13, 2012

Date



Approved by



Recorded by Maris Freimanis