

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
Shannon Studio
Minutes of Meeting
March 5, 2024**

Present

Mayor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Deputy Mayor, Mark MacIver
Councillor, Hughie MacDougall
Councilor, Blaine MacQuarrie
Councillor, Jason Aucoin
Chief Administrative Officer, Terry Doyle
Director of Finance, Erin MacEachen (Virtually)

1. Call to Order

A Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in the Shannon Studio and virtually on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, and called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton

2. Additions to Agenda

There are no additions to the agenda.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Councillor, M. MacIver and SECONDED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie “THAT the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves March 5, 2024, Public Meeting Agenda as presented/ amended”. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Gallery Presentations

There were no gallery presentations. Staff Sargent D. Morin has been asked to attend a meeting in the future.

5. Acknowledgements

Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton made the following acknowledgements for the month of March:

- March is Epilepsy Awareness Month
- March 3rd is World Hearing Day
- March 8th is International Women’s Day
- March 18th is Global Recycling Day
- March 21st International Elimination of Day of Discrimination
- March 13th International Transgender Day of Visibility

Councillor, J. Aucoin congratulated Mr. Adam Cooke on being selected for Canada’s Got Talent. He also sent along condolences to the family of long time Town of Port Hawkesbury’s seasonal employee, Mr. Lauchlin Armstrong on his recent passing.

6. Approval of Council Minutes

- i. Joint Public Meeting of Council – February 20, 2024
There were no errors or omissions.

7. Business Arising from Minutes

Councillor, J. Aucoin asked if there has been any communication sent to Municipal Affairs and Housing with respect to the request to meet with the Minister. CAO, T. Doyle indicated that a letter has been sent from the Mayor to the Minister's office requesting an in-person meeting and all correspondence regarding Inclusion of Tax Incentives for High Density Residential Properties in Development Zones was attached with the letter.

8. Motions from In-Camera Session

There was no In Camera Session.

9. Correspondence

CAO, T. Doyle noted that the correspondence was circulated in the agenda package from the Eastern District Planning Commission revised staff appointments.

MOVED by M. MacIver and SECONDED, J. Aucoin "That the Town of Port Hawkesbury approve the Eastern District Planning Commission staff appointments effective April 1, 2024". MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton indicated that there was a letter from the Department of Municipal Affairs regarding the Coastal Protection act and there is a Mayors and Wardens call with Municipal Affairs on Wednesday, March 6th regarding this item and she will not be able to be in attendance, but she has asked that the Deputy Mayor attend the meeting in her absence.

10. Proclamations/Resolutions

Fibromyalgia Request

MOVED by Councillor, J. Aucoin and SECONDED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie "That the Town of Port Hawkesbury Support Fibromyalgia Day on May 12, 2024." MOTION CARRIED.

Epilepsy Request

MOVED by Councillor, J. Aucoin and SECONDED by Councillor, H. MacDougall "That the Town of Port Hawkesbury proclaim March 24th as epilepsy awareness day in the Town of Port Hawkesbury." MOTION CARRIED.

11. Other Business

i. Council Expenses, CAO, T. Doyle

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

ii. Strait Area Pool – Councillor, J. Aucoin

Councillor, J. Aucoin indicated that he read the minutes from the Municipality of the County of Richmond's Council meeting where the Warden states that they will not be

adding the Strait Area Pool on the agenda for the meeting with Joint Council's. He is asking staff to come up with a formula for out-of-Town Users fees of the Strait Area Pool. He expressed that he does not think the meeting of Joint Councils should be to discuss the items Councils are doing well at.

MOVED by Councillor, J. Aucoin and SECONDED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie "That the Town staff provide Council with rate options for out-of-town pool users along with considerations for the next Committee of the Whole meeting." MOTION CARRIED.

Deputy Mayor, M. MacIver doesn't see any problem with meeting with Richmond County. He would like to discuss the pool and possibly have a joint committee to operate the pool and share the expenses.

Councillor, H. MacDougall expressed that many surveys were done in the past and that the Town of Port Hawkesbury shows up as a 1/3rd of the usage. He stated that he is sure those results are on file. He agrees that this is something that has to be looked at as it is costing the Town of Port Hawkesbury residents too much money each year. He also indicated that this is not the first time an out of town rate was considered by Town Council.

Councillor, B. MacQuarrie indicated this item has been brought up a number of years. He thinks that we are fortunate to have good standing relationships with our neighboring councils. He stated that it bothers him that Richmond County doesn't want to discuss the important item such as the Strait Area Pool. The Town covers the deficit every year and this is an invaluable service. When it comes to funding; The Town of Port Hawkesbury has a population of 3,200 The Municipality of the County of Richmond has a population of over 9,000. We are evenly matched 100% for funding the Cape Breton South Recruitment South Recruitment for Health organization.

Councillor, J. Aucoin noted that he met with staff and asked some questions. He wanted to make it clear that it isn't to punish anybody or to close the pool. He expressed that his goal is to sustain the pool's operation. He noted that it is a very important asset across our region. He talked about the importance of the pool and hopefully both municipalities will reach out in the near future to discuss.

Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton asked Director, E. MacEachen if there was another rate offered in the past to municipalities even to the municipalities that do not contribute.

Director, E. MacEachen stated that she believes there was before her time. She can get that information and provide it back to Council at the Committee of the Whole.

CAO, T. Doyle has all the information we need for usage and contributions. Can provide options at the Committee of the Whole.

- iii. Reeves Street Pilot Project Update – CAO, T. Doyle

CAO, T. Doyle March 1st Nova Scotia Public Works Department met with Town staff for an in-person meeting. They spent several hours where they discussed the Reeves Street Pilot Project Issues Summary that Manager, J. MacMillan had provided in past correspondence. They provided a list of items that they want to complete in the Spring. West End issues; possible crossings and lane markings and safety concerns. The reduction of the two bridges to one has been asked to happen this, Summer. Staff have asked for Mark Brace and Dwayne Cross Engineers from Nova Scotia Department of Public Works to come to present to Council when they are prepared to complete the study.

Councillor, B. MacQuarrie expressed his gratitude that the meeting has happened and looks forward to the Presentation and meeting.

Councillor, H. MacDougall asked if they are going to bring back the final reports. CAO, T. Doyle noted that the Province now has staff in place that have committee to complete the report as there have been a number of issues.

Councillor, M. MacIver, asked about MacSween Street Extension and Pitt Street and who will be covering the costs of that.

Councillor, J. Aucoin asked that this meeting with the Province not happen on April 16th as he won't be able to attend, and he was on the Pilot Project Committee.

12. Approved Additions

There were no approved additions.

13. Future Meetings

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

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| i. Committee of the Whole | Tuesday, March 19, 2024 |
| ii. Public Meeting of Council | Tuesday, April 2, 2024 |

14. Public Question Period

There were no questions from the gallery.

15. Adjournment

MOVED by Councillor, J. Aucoin and SECONDED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie That the Town of Port Hawkesbury adjourns March 5, 2024, Public Meeting at 7:33p.m." MOTION CARRIED.

April 3, 2024

Date



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



Recorded by:
Melissa Warner
Communications and
Administration Officer

