

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING  
Minutes of Meeting  
August 6,2024  
Shannon Studio**

**Present**

Mayor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton  
Deputy Mayor, Mark MacIver  
Councillor, Blaine MacQuarrie  
Councillor, Jason Aucoin  
Councillor, Hughie MacDougall  
Chief Administrative Officer, Terry Doyle

**1. Call to Order**

A Special Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in the Shannon Studio, Tuesday August 6, 2024, called to order by Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Additions to Agenda**

- i. In Camera Session – Mayor, B. Chisolm-Beaton

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**MOVED by Councillor, J. Aucoin and SECONDED by Councillor, H. MacDougall  
“That the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves the Special Public Meeting Agenda  
as amended.” MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. Low Income Tax Exemption Policy**

CAO, T. Doyle reviewed the recommended policy change on the Director of Finance’s behalf. He noted that there is a small gap in the policy where applicants that normally would apply haven’t since the rebate was amended in 2023. The staff recommendation is to increase the allowable limit to \$26,000 from \$24,000. Councillor, J. Aucoin, asked about the \$27,000 limit that was brought up at budget time. Councillor, H. MacDougall asked where the limit came from. CAO, T. Doyle noted that Director of Finance has been looking at the numbers and she would be able to speak to where the limit has come from. Deputy Mayor noted that when looking at low income the threshold is usually \$27,000. Councillor, B. MacQuarrie was in support of the \$27,000 threshold.

**5. Reeves Street – Councillor, H. MacDougall**

Councillor, H. MacDougall asked for an update on the Reeves Street Pilot Project. CAO, T. Doyle noted that there has been a meeting set up with the Deputy Minister of Public Works as Council has requested, and the date has been circulated and added to calendars. Councillor, H. MacDougall also asked about the public opinion survey and stated he didn’t understand the results of that survey.

CAO, T. Doyle noted that the public opinion survey was one portion of the final report. Staff are still waiting for the final report from Department of Public Works.

**MOVED by Councillor, H. MacDougall and Seconded by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie**  
**“That during the municipal elections of October 19th a plebiscite take place. The plebiscite is to ask the voters of Port Hawkesbury their preference if they would prefer three lanes or four lanes on Reeves Street. Also, that the Town administration (staff) create an action plan to be updated to Council, to ensure the plebiscite occurs.” MOTION CARRIED.**

Councillor, B. MacQuarrie noted that it is an opportunity for Council to get feedback from the Town Residents in a more formal manner. Councillor, H. MacDougall noted that this is not a binding motion as the Province still owns Reeves Street. He noted that the Council has 10 weeks to notify the public as part of the Municipal Government Act.

#### **6. Festival of the Strait – Councillor, H. MacDougall**

For information purposes Councillor, H, MacDougall noted that the Festival of the Strait has had to cancel their fireworks and there was a cost associated with the cancellation. The fireworks are scheduled again for this weekend, but the weather is not looking favorable.

#### **7. Update on Capital Projects – CAO, T. Doyle**

CAO, T. Doyle noted that Council has asked for some updates on the ballfield lighting as well as asphalt improvements. He provided updates on the following items:

- Water Systems Upgrades
- Construct New Public Works Building
- Asphalt Improvements
- Pine Ridge Drive Active Transportation Project
- Dan Willie MacDonald Ballfield Lighting Installation
- Port Hawkesbury and Beyond Active Transportation
- Federal Active Transportation Fund Project
- Landrie Lake Water Pumping and Distribution Construction
- Accessibility Sidewalk Improvements
- Emergency Management Generator Installation and PHCC modifications
- Pool Filtration and Controls Replacement
- Waterfront Beautification
- Allan J. MacEachen Regional Airport - Asphalt Rehabilitation
- Memorial Drive, Utility Commissioning and Road Construction

CAO, T. Doyle showed the areas of asphalt improvements. Councillor, J. Aucoin asked if the paving budget is under then he would like to pave in front of Angus MacRae’s property. Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton asked if there is money left in the budget then staff

can come back to Council to discuss other areas that could be explored for paving based on priority. Deputy Mayor, M. MacIver asked about the approach to MacSween Street.

**8. Approved Additions**

Council moved to an In Camera Session at 6:45pm.

**9. Adjournment**

**The Town of Port Hawkesbury adjourned the Special Public Meeting at 7p.m.”**

**September 4, 2024**



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Date

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

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Recorded by:  
Melissa Warner  
Communications