

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Shannon Studio
January 21, 2025
Minutes of Meeting**

Present

Mayor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Deputy Mayor, Iaian Langley
Councillor, Todd Barrett
Councillor, Paula Hart
Councillor, Blaine MacQuarrie
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, E. MacEachen
Acting Manager, Engineering and Public Works, Sajin John
Director, Marketing, Recreation, Tourism, & Culture, Michelle Farrow
Manager, Facilities and Operations, Gordie Snook
Water Resource Development Manager, Jason MacMillan

Regrets

Chief Administrative Officer, Terry Doyle

Guests

Waterford Energy Services Inc (WESI) – Phil Nash
Waterford Energy Services Inc (WESI) – Blair MacDougall
Manager of Energy Sector Development Municipality of the County of Richmond / Town of Port Hawkesbury – Martin Thomsen

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held in the Shannon Studio, Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 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, B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Councillor, T. Barrett
“to approve the agenda as presented.” MOTION CARRIED.**

4. Presentations

Strait Of Canso Sustainable Infrastructure Strategy – Martin Thomsen & Phil Nash

M. Thomsen presented to Council and provided an overview of the Port Infrastructure Strategy. He reviewed his role as the Manager of Energy Sector Development for the Municipality of the County of Richmond and the Town of Port Hawkesbury. This work is meant to increase the understanding of the assets surrounding the Strait of Canso. An RFP was developed in 2024, and a contractor was hired to carry out the scope of the work.

P. Nash, went through the objectives of the project as well as the background, Stakeholder engagement, Onshore Wind, Power to X projects, Offshore Wind Requirements - fixed, Offshore Wind Requirements – Floating, Strait of Canso Port Specifications, Common User Port Concepts, Cass Cove location, Melford Atlantic Gateway Terminal, Port Capability Scorecard, and he provided Council with the conclusion and recommendations for the Strait Area.

M. Thomsen reviewed some next steps, and he noted that the Strategy will be published in a couple of weeks and some implementation plans will be developed. The Strait of Canso.ca website will be launched and utilized as a development attraction tool.

There was a Q&A following the presentation including examples of successful common user ports. WESI President, Blair MacDougall noted that good examples to look at were within the state of Massachusetts in New Bedford and Salem.

5. **Council Reports on Assigned Committees**

Councillor, T. Barrett

Joint Police Advisory - a meeting was held on January 14th. Some of the issues discussed were the speeding in Town, Jake Brakes, E-Bike speeds, and capacity of the detachment with growth in the Town. Front line officers will be equipped with body cams beginning in February.

Cape Breton South Recruitment for Health – a meeting was held on Saturday, January 18th.

Councillor, P. Hart

Eastern District Planning Commission Board – there was a meeting held in January. Nominations took place for the role of Chair and Treasurer. Mayor Chisholm-Beaton has accepted the role of Chair and CAO Terry Doyle has accepted the role of Treasurer.

There was a Code of Conduct training session held on January 17th by Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities.

Councillor B. MacQuarrie

Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health - a meeting was held on Saturday January 18th. The purpose of the meeting was to review the goals and what has progressed since 2020.

Eastern County Regional Library – A meeting was held on January 16th. There was new membership from St. Mary's, Inverness and Guysborough.

Deputy Mayor, I. Langley

Joint Police Advisory – a meeting was held on January 14th and the new members were sworn in for the term.

Strait of Canso Offshore Wind Task Force – a meeting was held on January 14th.

Attended multiple sessions of the AMANS Finance for Elected Officials Training Sessions.

Preparations were underway for a meeting with a developer on Friday, January 24, 2025.

Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton

Strait of Canso of Offshore Wind Task Force. – a whole membership meeting was held on January 14th. An Executive meeting was also held on January 8th

NSFM Board meetings were held on December 13th, January 13th, and 20th.

The Mayor's Holiday Skate was held on December 18th.

MLA Kyle MacQuarrie meeting was held on December 19th

An Eastern District Planning Commission Board Meeting was held on January 9th – Mayor was Elected as Chair.

AMANS meeting on January 10th.

CEPI Board Meeting was held on January 15th.

Cape Breton Regional Enterprise liaison meeting was held on January 16th.

On January 17th there was an Urban Mayors Meeting that she was in attendance to discuss Urban Mayors common issues and a plan for the term.

An upcoming meeting on January 31st with the new Lt Governor Mike Savage.

6. CAO REPORTS

Marketing, Recreation, Tourism & Culture

Director, M. Farrow reviewed her report as circulated and reviewed some upcoming events for the Winter and Spring.

Engineering & Public Works

Acting Manager, S. John. He reviewed his report as circulated.

Questions were raised about the frequency of water main breaks. The Manager of Water Resources, J. MacMillan, noted that the number of water main repairs is typical for this time of year due to fluctuating temperatures.

One of the main priorities raised within the Public Works report was replacing the 2010 tandem Peterbilt dump truck. Following a tender for the replacement of the truck that closed on January 16th with 4 bid submissions, pricing received was over budget.

Director E. MacEachen noted that based on the range of pricing received through tender, another \$30,000 would be required to continue with procurement. The initial budget set was \$390,000, and Council was asked to consider increasing the Tandem Truck procurement by \$30,000 to \$420,000, to be financed through the Operating Reserve.

J. MacMillan noted that the existing tandem would be traded or sold off for surplus.

Consensus of Council was to move forward to February Public Meeting of Council.

Finance

Deputy CAO, E. MacEachen reviewed her report as circulated, and presented the 2025 assessment roll changes in detail. She also noted that the network upgrades that took place over the weekend were successful.

Facilities, Operations & Parks

Manager of Facilities, Operations and Parks, G. Snook reviewed his report as circulated, and updated Council on projects including the Comfort Centre, Food bank and the Dan Willie Field.

7. Other Business

i. 2025 Female U15AAA Whitecaps Funding Request– Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton

Deputy CAO, E. MacEachen, reviewed the request for the tournament that is being hosted here at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre. She reviewed the Assistance policy and historical contributions.

The consensus of Council would be to move item forward to the February Public Meeting.

ii. Request Girl Guides of Canada Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton

The Mayor reviewed the request from the Girl Guides. February 22nd is World Thinking Day, and the Girl Guides requested the Wave art piece be lit blue for the day. Council agreed to provide lighting at either the PHCC or the Wave art piece, pending timing of installation of the light fixtures at the Wave.

The consensus of Council would be to move item forward to the February Public Meeting.

iii. 2025 Flag Raising Schedule – Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton

The consensus of Council would be to move item forward to the February Public Meeting.

iv. Council Committee Assignments – Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton

Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton noted that she would connect with Council to hear about their preference for committee assignments. She will bring forward some recommendations at the next meeting.

8. Approved Additions

There were no additions to the agenda.

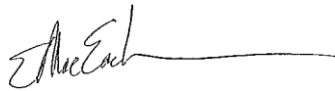
9. Future Meetings

- Open House February 4, 2025
- Joint Public Meeting/Committee of the Whole February 18, 2025

10. Adjournment

MOVED by Councillor, T. Barrett. and SECONDED by Councillor, P. Hart that “the Committee of the Whole be adjourned at 8:59p.m.” MOTION CARRIED.

February 18, 2025



Date

Approved
Erin MacEachen, CPA, CA
Deputy Chief Administrative
Officer

Recorded by:
Melissa Warner
Communications and
Administrative Officer