

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Shannon Studio
May 20, 2025
Minutes of Meeting**

Present

Mayor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Deputy Mayor, Iaian Langley
Councillor, Todd Barrett
Councillor, Paula Hart
Chief Administrative Officer, Terry Doyle
Director of Finance, E. MacEachen
Director, Marketing, Recreation, Tourism, & Culture, Michelle Farrow
Water Resource Development Manager, Jason MacMillan (virtually)
Manager, Facilities and Operations, Gordie Snook

Guests

Cape Breton University

President Cape Breton University David Dingwall
Development Manager - Steve Horne
Bill Vokey

Regrets

Councillor B, MacQuarrie

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held in the Shannon Studio, Tuesday, May 20, 2025, and called 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 Deputy Mayor, I Langley and SECONDED by Councillor, P. Hart “to approve the agenda as presented.” MOTION CARRIED.

4. Presentations

Cape Breton University – President, David Dingwall and Vice President of Development, Steve Horne

President David Dingwall acknowledged the passing of past Mayor Billy Joe Maclean. He provided Council with a presentation focused on the Forever CBU Campaign. The presentation started with a short video that included the history of Cape Breton University. President Dingwall’s presentation included updates and information on the Cape Breton Medical School, former NSCC Marconi Campus, the newly constructed Kehoe Forum, Nancy Dingwall Health and Counselling Centre, and the New Childcare Facility. He reviewed the cutbacks that Universities have been dealing with since the new federal policies have been put in place around immigration. He reviewed the new CBU Cape

Breton Medical Campus and Centre for Discovery and Innovation. The ask of Council is for a contribution towards the FOREVER CBU Campaign with a contribution of \$20,000 that will equal approximately \$5 per town resident.

Councillor, T. Barrett asked how close is the Medical campus to opening. Mr. Dingwall noted the first medical class begins at CBU in the Fall and they are hoping to have the center open by the end of October.

Councillor, P. Hart asked how students applied. Mr. Dingwall noted that there was advertising around the new programs with the focus being around rural medicine.

Deputy Mayor, I. Langley asked if the housing stock increased would help reverse the new immigration policy. Mr. Dingwall noted that more housing is needed.

Deputy Mayor, I. Langley also asked about the Rail study. Mr. Dingwall noted that he believes the rail is viable and that Federal Funding is needed for the study. Mr. Dingwall thanked the Mayor and Council and support for Economic Development across the Island.

Cape Breton Partnership – Rachelle Samson

Economic Development Officer, R. Samson provided Council with a presentation on the Q4 Activity Report. The report included the highlights and events that the Economic development officer had attended, as well as the various projects and initiatives of each department within the Cape Breton Partnership. There was a Q & A following the presentation. Mayor B. Chisholm- Beaton asked R. Samson to pass along information for the Immigration Department Contacts.

5. Council Reports on Assigned Committees

Councillor, T. Barrett

Growing Port Hawkesbury - A meeting was held on May 7.

Nova Scotia Health Association held an Alcohol Policy Forum on May 13.

Housing Association Steering Committee a meeting was held on May 15th. T. Gunn is heading the Housing Project for the Strait Area Chamber of Commerce.

Councillor, P. Hart

Community Development Committee - A meeting was held on May 3 .

Eastern District Planning Commission Board – A meeting was held on March 22nd.

Strait Area Transit – A meeting was held on May 9.

Nova Scotia Health Association held Alcohol Forum – a session was held on May 13th

Joint Police Advisory – a meeting was held on April 15th.

Budget Meeting was held on April 15th

A meeting was held on April 15th with the Strait Area Yacht Club.

Deputy Mayor, I. Langley

May 6 – Budget planning Meeting

May 8th – Martin T. Green Energy Meeting

May 9th – Industrial Development meeting

May 13 – Offshore Wind Task Force Meeting

May 14th – Attended a Letter for Transition for the member of Parliament

May 15 – Landrie Lake Water Utility

May 16th – Industrial Development meeting

Mayor B Chisholm-Beaton

Mayor B. Chisholm- Beaton provided Council with a brief overview of the events/ meetings she had attended the past month:

April 10th – Allan J. MacEachen Regional Airport Committee Meeting

April 11 – NSCC Techsploration Event

IDEA Committee Meetings – Many over the past couple of months – to finalize the IDEA Plan. Total of 80 hours with SAERC student Miley Hanley – she’s planning to have a tour and roundtable discussion with the Sociology Report on how to get more youth engaged with municipal government.

6. CAO REPORTS

CAO T. Doyle noted that the reports were included in the agenda packages, and he highlighted a few items from each department:

- Granville Green Lineup to be announced by May 30th, 2025
- Dan Willie MacDonald project update
- Occupational Health and Safety Policy will be reviewed at the next Bylaw and Policy Meeting
- Tamarac Active Transportation Trail has been awarded Norvon Construction
- Public Works Building update is included in the report submitted
- Pine Ridge Drive Deficiencies work is now being completed
- Water System Upgrade Project progressing well

Pine Ridge deficiency work is happening, and more work is happening to complete and a drainage issue. Deputy Mayor, I. Langley asked about the timeline of the project work. CAO, T. Doyle noted that it should be completed within two weeks.

Wanted to acknowledge the Strait Area Filipino Society for their community cleanup efforts over the past weekend. Council asked to send a Letter of acknowledgement to the community for their efforts

The Consensus of Council was to send a letter the Strait Area Filipino Society for their efforts to Community Clean Up.

7. Other Business

i. Budget 2025/2026

Director, E. MacEachen presented Council with the budget for 2025/2026. She reviewed the Assessment Trends, Revenues and Expenses, the tax rate remaining stable at 1.80, Capital Highlights and Project Highlights.

The consensus of Council was to move the 2025-2026 Operating Budget at the June Public Meeting for approval.

- ii. Community Development Terms of Reference –
Councillor, P. Hart reviewed the changes to the Community Development Terms of Reference. The amendment revolves around section 3. Membership.

The consensus of Council is to move item forward to the June Public Meeting.

- iii. IDEA Plan – Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton

Manager of Facilities, Parks and Operations provided Council with an overview of IDEA Plan for the Town of Port Hawkesbury for 2025-2028 that the IDEA committee has been working on over the past few months. He reviewed each item of the acronym Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility. He reviewed each component of the plan such as the accessibility report cards, IDEA research and community consultation, Truth and reconciliation/action, and the IDEA portal.

Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton noted that the IDEA Plan is a more in-depth document of the presentation from tonight. The plan will be circulated to Council once the IDEA committee has been able to review.

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

- iv. Library Funding

The consensus of Council is to defer this item forward to the June Public Meeting.

- v. Point Tupper Public Property Issue – Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton

Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton noted that this item was added as it was discussed at the Municipality of the County of Richmond table around the parcels of property that are owned by Invest Nova Scotia. She noted that our most recent infrastructure study from WESI consulting group and that the parcel of property has been excluded as well as other studies.

The consensus of Council is for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to conduct a bit more research on the item and report back to Council.

8. Approved Additions

There were no additions to the agenda.

9. Future Meetings

- Public Meeting of Council June 3, 2025
- Committee of the Whole June 17, 2025

10. Adjournment

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor, I. Langley and SECONDED by Councillor, T. Barrett that
“the Committee of the Whole be adjourned at 8:30p.m.” MOTION CARRIED.**

June 3, 2025

Date



Approved
CAO, Terry Doyle
Chief Administrative Officer



Recorded by:
Melissa Warner
Communications and
Administrative Officer