

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
Shannon Studio
Minutes of Meeting
November 18, 2025**

Present

Mayor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Deputy Mayor, Iaian Langley (Outgoing Deputy Mayor)
Councillor, Todd Barrett (Incoming Deputy Mayor)
Councillor, Paula Hart
Councillor, Blaine MacQuarrie
Chief Administrative Officer, Terry Doyle
Director of Finance, Brian Luciano
Director of Marketing, Recreation, Tourism and Culture, Michelle Farrow (virtually)
Communications and Administrative Officer, Melissa Warner

Regrets

Acting Manager of Engineering and Public Works, Sajin John
Manager of Facilities, Operations, and Parks, Gordie Snook

Guests

Martin Thomsen – Manager of Energy
Cameron Martin – AECOM

1. Call to Order

A Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in the Shannon Studio and virtually on Tuesday, November 18, 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 Deputy Mayor, I. Langley and SECONDED by Councillor, T. Barrett
“That the Town of Port Hawkesbury approves, the November 18, 2025, Public Meeting Agenda as presented/”. MOTION CARRIED.**

4. Gallery Presentations

Offshore Wind Centre of Excellence – Martin Thomsen & Cameron Martin

M.Thomsen welcomed Cameron Martin, the Consultant that was in attendance virtually, whom worked on this project. M. Thomsen provided the background of the Offshore Wind Centre of Excellence. He noted that this is a province-wide development with focus on three areas of the project; Strait of Canso, CBRM and HRM. The project has been overseen by a steering committee. Cameron Martin, provided a summary of the report with the findings and recommendations and comprised of the work that was conducted and what it would look like in theory. Key messages included Innovation and Technology Readiness, and Stakeholder Engagement, which included key messages. He identified the problems that were noted along with the vision, mission and objectives. The Business & Operational models were throughout the study. The Relevance to Strait of Canso was

recognized. He provided Council with the key recommendations of the report. M. Thomsen provided the next steps. The final report was published on November 6, 2025, and the full report can be found on www.thestraitofcanso.ca

There was a Q&A following.

Deputy Mayor I. Langley thanked staff for the report. He noted that during the recent Marine Renewables Conference that was held in Halifax, this project was referred to as a Project of National Interest (PONY). He asked about the difference between having a designated testing and validation site versus not having one. C. Martin noted that while such sites are valuable components of a mature industry, they are not established immediately. Ongoing research and support will help attract additional developers and contribute to the growth of the sector.

Deputy Mayor Langley also referenced the first line of the Executive Summary, noting that it is encouraging to see the Town of Port Hawkesbury and the Municipality of the County of Richmond leading this national initiative. He asked how the project can continue to move forward with a rural lens and expressed hope that rural needs will not be overlooked.

M. Thomsen indicated that the NSCC Strait Area Campus is the only campus in the Province that is offering the Wind Turbine Technician in 2026.

Councillor, P. Hart asked about environmental and fisheries protection. Cameron indicated that a wide stakeholder group was consulted, representing many effected parties with consideration.

Councillor, B. MacQuarrie – Thanked for the presentation – consultations – asked about the fisheries industry and their general attitude on offshore wind – C. Martin noted that there was an appetite to be included to take part in the work in research an development (potential impacts).

Councillor, T. Barrett – indicated that there is a real opportunity there – with a pause south of the border does that widen the opportunities? M. Thomsen indicate that there is a mixture of results.

Mayor Chisholm-Beaton asked about the plans for Dalhousie to continue to pursue process. Funding opportunities when it makes sense to do so.

5. Acknowledgements

Mayor Chisholm-Beaton made the following acknowledgements:

- Hindu Heritage Month
- Lebanese Heritage Month
- November 5 – 11 -Veterans' Week
- November 8 -Indigenous Veterans Day
- November 11 - Remembrance Day
- November 20 - National Child Day & Transgender Day of Remembrance
- November 25 - December 10 -16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

LOCAL

- Thanked to Stephen Long for his work on the Austin Letcher Memorial Press Release
- Thanks the Legion Local Veterans Dinner held at the Legion – November 7th
- Restorative Justice Flag Raising – November 17th
- Sports Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony – November 22, 2025

6. Approval of Council Minutes

- i. Emergency Meeting of Council - October 3, 2025
There were no errors or omissions.
- ii. Public Meeting of Council – October 7, 2025
There were no errors or omissions.

7. Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

8. Council Committee Reports

Report from Committee of the Whole

Inverness County Asylum Project

MOVED by Councillor, T. Barrett and **SECONDED** by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury provide support in fiscal year 2026/2027, as determined through the budgetary process, for the Inverness County Asylum Project.” **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOVED by Deputy Mayor, I. Langley and **SECONDED** by Councillor, P. Hart “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury staff meet with the Municipality of the County of Inverness staff to review the organizational structure of all joint ventures including terms of reference, agreements and general compliance, and provide a staff report of the findings for Council’s review.” **MOTION CARRIED.**

Strait Area Yacht Club Project

MOVED by Councillor, P. Hart and **SECONDED** by Deputy Mayor, I. Langley “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury support the Strait Area Yacht Club Project by seeking funding opportunities for the project.” **MOTION CARRIED.**

Strait Area Soccer Turf Field

MOVED by Councillor, P. Hart and **SECONDED** by Councillor, T. Barrett “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury support the Strait Area Soccer Club Turf Field Initiative by seeking available funding opportunities to complete a feasibility study for the project.” **MOTION CARRIED.**

U13AAA Hockey Tournament

MOVED by Deputy Mayor, I. Langley and **SECONDED** by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury sponsor the Billy Joe MacLean U13 AAA Hockey Tournament to be held at the PHCC, January 2026 subject to formal confirmation of the event proceeding as planned.”

AMENDMENT

Moved by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie and **SECONDED** by Councillor, P. Hart “to add the \$1,000 Contribution to the motion.” **MOTION CARRIED**

AMENDED MOTION

MOVED by Deputy Mayor, I. Langley and **SECONDED** by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury sponsor the Billy Joe MacLean U13 AAA Hockey Tournament with a \$1,000 contribution to be held at the PHCC, January 2026 subject to formal confirmation of the event proceeding as planned.” **MOTION CARRIED.**

Port Hawkesbury Literacy Council

MOVED by Deputy Mayor, I. Langley and **SECONDED** by Councillor, P. Hart “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury support the Port Hawkesbury Literacy Council fundraiser for 2025 held on November 7.” **MOTION CARRIED.**

9. MOTIONS FROM IN CAMERA

There were no motions coming forward from the In Camera Session.

10. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

11. Council Reports on Assigned Committees

Councillor, P. Hart

Oct 21 – Committee of the Whole

Oct 24 - Strait Area Transit Board Meeting

Oct 25 – Was in attendance for meeting with Premier Houston and MLA Boudreau

Nov 5 - Community Development Committee Meeting

Nov 7 - Port Hawkesbury Literacy Council Yearly Fundraiser - Feis

Nov 11- Remembrance Day – Thanked staff for their work on the cenotaph and for moving the event in doors.

Councillor, T. Barrett

October 23 –Cape Breton Partnership Investors Summit held in Baddeck

Oct 28 – Community Energy Workshop

Nov 4-7 – Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Fall Conference

Nov-12 Sports Wall of Fame Committee Meeting

Nov 12 – Growing Port Hawkesbury Meeting

Nov 13 - At Home Housing Steering Committee

Councillor, B. MacQuarrie

Nov – 5 Community Development Meeting

Nov -7 Royal Canadian Legion Branch 43 - Veteran's Dinner

Deputy Mayor, I. Langley

- Mon-Oct-27/2025 -14:00-15:30 – Attended sub-committee of Strait Area Mayors & Wardens re: MOU with Port of ANTWERP
- Tue-Oct-28/2025-09:00-14:30 – Attended in-person QUEST Canada – Community Energy & Emissions Workshop
- Wed-Oct-29-15:30-16:30 – VIRTUAL with TOPH STAFF and LEGAL re: SPM
- Mon-Nov-03-11:00-12:30-In-Person with TOPH Staff and LEAGAL re: SPM
- Wed-Nov-05-18:00-19:30-In-Person with TOPH Staff KOC/CWL. Spoke at Appreciation Dinner for Port Hawkesbury Volunteer Fire Department and Por Hastings Volunteer Fire Department
- Thur-Nov-06-08:30-10:00 Gave Address TEC REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY
- Wed-Nov-12-18:00-20:00 GROW Port Hawkesbury
- Wed Nov-12 to FRI NOV-14 MARINE RENEWABLES CANADA CONFERENCE
- Tue Nov-18 15:00- Meet with Board Member for STRAIT of CANSO Superport Corp

Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton

Mayor, B. Chisholm-Beaton indicated that she submitted her report to Council and will be posted on the Town of Port Hawkesbury website. Councillor, B. MacQuarrie, thanked the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the comprehensive report following the Marine Renewables Conference.

12. CAO Reports

The Department Reports were circulated in the agenda package. The Reports included in the package were:

- Finance
- Engineering and Public Works
- Marketing, Recreation, Tourism, and Culture,
- And Facilities, Operations, and Parks

CAO, T. Doyle, noted that detailed reports have been circulated in the agenda packages and that Council may reach out to each department head should they have any questions.

Director, B. Luciano provided Council with a detailed financial report in their agenda package. He reviewed the Town's financial status to date. He indicated that revenue is tracking slightly under budget for the year but is confident that it will adjust with 5 months left of this fiscal year. He noted that deed transfer tax and invoices to large customers still have to be entered and should clear up the variance. He indicated that grants in lieu have been submitted but not received and leachate treatment services for 5 months would still be outstanding. He identified that expenditures are matching revenue to date with about

55% of the way through the budget there was nothing of concern. Tracking on budget on each of the expenditures.

Councillor, B. MacQuarrie asked for a copy of what is presented during the meeting.

13. Correspondence

Mayor Chisholm-Beaton noted that the items in the package were for information purposes.

- i. Municipal Affairs and Housing- New Minister Appointment

14. Proclamations/Resolutions

Mayor Chisholm-Beaton reviewed the request of council that was included in the agenda package.

- i. Transition House Association of Nova Scotia (THANS) - Illuminations for the Purple Ribbon Campaign

MOVED by Councillor, B. MacQuarrie and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor, I. Langley “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury support the Illumination for the Purple Ribbon Campaign from November 25 – December 10th, 2025.” MOTION CARRIED.

15. Other Business

- i. Deputy Mayor Appointment – Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton
The Mayor provided the history of the rotating deputy mayor position based on standings/number of voters in the most recent election. She thanked the outgoing Deputy Mayor Iaian Langley for a job well done.

MOVED by Councillor, I. Langley and SECONDED by Councillor, P. Hart “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury approved the appointment of Councillor Todd Barrett as Deputy Mayor for the next year.” MOTION CARRIED.

- ii. **Holiday Hours**

CAO, T. Doyle reviewed the draft holiday hours for Council’s review. He indicated that during the holiday season staff would be entitled to four holidays and would require to use three vacation days during the office closure. Staff are also permitted to work should they choose but the municipal office and box office would be closed.

MOVED by Councillor, P. Hart and SECONDED By Deputy Mayor, T. Barrett “That the Town of Port Hawkesbury approve the 2025 Holiday Hours as presented.” MOTION CARRIED.

- iii. Strait Area Minor Hockey Association - Coastal Clash Hockey Request – CAO, T. Doyle
CAO, T. Doyle, reviewed the request from Strait Richmond Minor Hockey for the Coastal Clash Minor Hockey Tournament. The Tournament Committee is seeking \$1,000 sponsorship for the upcoming tournament.

