

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING**

**Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, August 21, 2012**

Present

Mayor, Billy Joe MacLean
Chief Administrative Officer, Maris Freimanis
Director of Finance, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Erin MacEachen
Acting Director of Finance, David Gray
Deputy Mayor, Ken Anderson
Councilor, Jim King
Councilor, Hugh MacDougall
Councilor, Mark MacIver
Director of Marketing, Tourism, Culture and Recreation, Paula Davis
Town Solicitor, Larry Evans
Chief, Port Hawkesbury Volunteer Fire Department, Dale Sellars

Guests

Sr. Executive Advisor, Cape Breton Development Opportunities, Cecil Clark
Chief Executive Officer, Strait Highlands Regional Development Agency, Blaine Gillis
Chief Executive Officer, Cape Breton County Economic Development Authority, Eileen Lannon Oldford

1. Call to Order

A Special Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in the Bearhead Room, Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre, Tuesday, August 21, 2012. It was called to order by Mayor MacLean at 6:00 p.m. Mayor MacLean introduced David Gray as the Acting Director of Finance and conveyed best wishes to Erin MacEachen during her maternity leave. Mayor MacLean welcomed Cecil Clark, Blaine Gillis, and Eileen Lannon Oldford to the meeting.

2. Presentation – Strait Highlands Regional Development Agency

The presentation by Mr. Clark, Mr. Gillis, and Ms. Lannon Oldford addressed the May 22, 2012, ACOA announcement that it will cease to provide core funding to regional economic development agencies in Atlantic Canada as of next year. The presentation focused on the development of a plan for a new Island-wide Regional Development Organization. The key points of the transition planning were: mandate and mission; governance; partnerships; organization; human resources; physical space; and, financial go-forward. Ms. Lannon Oldford provided Council with information for consideration when developing the resolution for the transitional organization. Mr. Clark's comments included the importance of RDA's to maintain community based delivery and leveraging opportunities. He added that one economic development council would delineate specific activities; with other activities redirected to the Cape Breton Partnership or other delivery agencies.

The request of Council was consideration of support in principle for the direction taken of the transition planning. The transition team will come back with a draft copy for endorsement or changes.

Deputy Mayor K. Anderson inquired why the Town of Mulgrave was not included in this new entity; whether there was formal S-H RDA Board approval of the plan; the status of Victoria Co.; and, the amount of the present annual budget. He added that it was important to explore all options; engage in dialogue with representatives from the counties of Antigonish and Guysborough; and, to discuss these issues in depth with Council.

In response to Deputy Mayor K. Anderson, B. Gillis stated that he had discussions with the Town of Mulgrave and exploration may take place to bring them into this new entity. He added that once a final plan is in place, formal Board approval will be brought before the SHRDA Board.

E. Lannon Oldford addressed Deputy Mayor K. Anderson's questions about Victoria Co., and the present annual budget. She stated Victoria Co. was a member of the SHRDA, left, and has not been a member for two years. Victoria Co. wanted individual RDA status but it was denied by the Province. An MOU was offered and CBCEDA is presently working with them with hopes that they will become part of this new entity – which Victoria Co. has endorsed in principle. The present budget of \$620k consists of \$250k from CBRM; \$185k from ECBC; and \$185k from the Province.

Councilor H. MacDougall inquired if the entire transition plan was approved in principle and stated his concern for Board membership complements. E. Lannon Oldford stated ACOA/ECBC approved the plan July 21st. She was required to submit a proposal plan according to the contract process identifying the direction the RDA would take by April 1, 2013. After meeting with her Board, approval was granted to put a team together to prepare the transition plan. The transition plan is the actual direction being sought for an Island-wide RDA.

Councilor J. King inquired how many jobs in Port Hawkesbury would be lost with one RDA. E. Lannon Oldford stated the goal is to incorporate all staff from Port Hawkesbury. She added there may be a blending of processes. Savings would result from marketing the program collectively.

Mayor MacLean discussed the magnitude for growth of our harbour and that it required more ECBC presence. He commented that the Quad Counties' historic synergies have been separated. Pending Council' decision, he added that the decrease in the Port Hawkesbury population and budget constraints must be recognized regarding potential contributions. C. Clark stated this Island-wide entity would be within ECBC's mandate and it is not ECBC's intent to exclude the Quad Counties. He added that the budget formula would be adjusted accordingly among municipalities.

E. Lannon Oldford stated she presently has the support, in principle, of three municipalities and will move forward with the draft transitional process to bring back to those municipalities. The door 'will be left open' for other municipalities to join at a later date.

Mayor MacLean noted more time was required to research and explore all options regarding the financial and political implications before making a decision on the transition plan. Meetings with agencies in Antigonish and Guysborough counties must also take place. Council will discuss all options and report back once a decision is reached. Mayor MacLean commended C. Clark, B. Gillis, and E. Lannon Oldford for their efforts and thanked them for attending the meeting.

3. First reading – Municipal Land Transfer Tax Bylaw

MOVED by Councilor M. MacIver, and **SECONDED** by Councilor J. King to approve the "First reading of the Municipal Land Transfer Tax Bylaw". **MOTION CARRIED**. One naye was recorded from Deputy Mayor K. Anderson.

4. Burning Bylaw

In response to Councilor's King's request to revise the Town's Burning Bylaw, Council agreed to the revisions to the bylaw that would strengthen the permissible use, improve definitions, better define permitting requirements, and, deal with nuisance concerns.

MOVED by Councilor J. King, and SECONDED by Councilor H. MacDougall to "approve the revisions to the Burning Bylaw as outlined in the memo of August 17, 2012. The motion includes Deputy Mayor K. Anderson's request to have the first reading at the Regular Town Council Meeting, September 4, 2012". MOTION CARRIED.

CAO, M. Freimanis asked Council to communicate their wishes to him to incorporate into a final draft bylaw.

5. Strait Area Transit (SAT) – Funding

MOVED by Councilor J. King, and SECONDED by Councilor H. MacDougall to approve the additional funding level increase of \$5627 to the SAT from the gas tax fund pending approval from the Province". MOTION CARRIED.

Councilors J. King and M. MacIver announced they would not be re-offering their nominations for Council in the Municipal Election, October 20, 2012. Mayor MacLean thanked them for their contributions and dedication to their community. Mayor MacLean confirmed that he will re-offer his nomination as Mayor.

6. In Camera Session

Deputy Mayor K. Anderson moved to recess In Camera at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the Strait Highlands Regional Development Agency and the Richmond County Fire Protection Services Agreement agenda items.

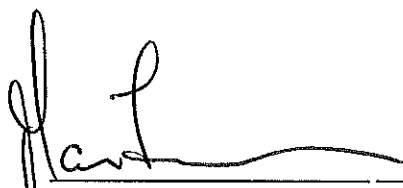
The Special Public Meeting reconvened at 8:25 p.m.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor K. Anderson, and SECONDED by Councilor J. King to "accept the recommendation of CAO, M. Freimanis to extend the Fire Protection Services Agreement with Richmond County to October 30, 2012, and to follow the directions of Council as outlined in the In Camera session". MOTION CARRIED.

7. Adjournment

Mayor MacLean adjourned the Special Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council at 8:30 p.m.

Sept 6, 2012
Date


Approved by:
Maris Freimanis, CAO


Recorded by:
Dawna MacDonald