

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING**

**Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, December 4, 2012**

Present

Mayor, Billy Joe MacLean
Chief Administrative Officer, Maris Freimanis
Acting Director of Finance, David Gray
Councilor, Dr. Trevor Boudreau
Councilor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Councilor, Joe Janega
Councilor, Bert Lewis
Director Marketing, Recreation, Tourism & Culture, Paula Davis
Town Solicitor, Larry Evans

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in the Shannon Studio, Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre, Tuesday, December 4, 2012. It was called to order by Mayor MacLean at 7:00 p.m.

2. Gallery Presentations

a) Friends of the Pool

Councilors Dr. Trevor Boudreau and Brenda Chisholm-Beaton declared a conflict of interest and excused themselves from the presentation. Ms. Barbara Cameron thanked Council for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Friends of the Pool. Through various funding initiatives, the Friends of the Pool presented a cheque to Town Council in the amount of \$21,485 to assist with the pool funding deficit. Ms. Cameron stated this was an excellent start on a long term goal to keep the pool open. On behalf of Town Council, Mayor MacLean thanked the Friends of the Pool for their efforts and their donation.

b) Prosperity Framework for Cape Breton Island

Mayor MacLean welcomed Jody MacArthur and Keith MacDonald who provided a presentation on the Prosperity Framework. Mr. MacDonald asked Council to consider a future meeting to discuss recommendations and the role of Council, CAO's and Staff. The ask of Council was for the Town to further strengthen its connection to the Prosperity Framework; to join the Cape Breton Partnership at the Investor Level membership; and to work with the Cape Breton Partnership to host a diversification roundtable. On behalf of Town Council, Mayor MacLean thanked Ms. MacArthur and Mr. MacDonald for their presentation.

c) Finance

Erin MacEachen was welcomed to the meeting and provided Council with a brief financial overview of the current fiscal year and an outlook on upcoming financial items and initiatives. She addressed the operating budget, revenues, expenditures and budget cuts. She stated that other municipalities are facing similar challenges. In the upcoming budget year, general operating items as well as capital and infrastructure items will be reviewed. CAO, M. Freimanis stated that a proactive Council, citizen education and engagement, transparency, and a proactive approach are needed to ensure future viability. Council discussion included gas tax funding, prioritizing and planning budget issues, and assessment values.

3. Additions to / Approval of Agenda

NewPage Pensioners – Letter of Support

MOVED by Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau, and SECONDED by Councilor J. Janega “to approve the agenda as amended”. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Minutes

a) Swearing In Ceremony – November 5, 2012

There were no errors or omissions.

b) Committee of the Whole – November 19, 2012

There were no errors or omissions.

MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton, and SECONDED by Councilor B. Lewis “to approve the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting, November 19, 2012”. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

6. Proclamations

There were no proclamations.

7. Correspondence – Nova Scotia Chamber of Commerce

CAO, M. Freimanis presented Council with correspondence from the Nova Scotia Chamber of Commerce which asked all municipalities to consider an improvement in the ratio of a 1.5% difference between residential and commercial taxes. This item will be considered during budget deliberations.

8. Resolutions

There were no resolutions.

9. Other Business

a) Appointment of Deputy Mayor

MOVED by Councilor J. Janega, and SECONDED by Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau “to approve the appointment of Brenda Chisholm-Beaton as Deputy Mayor of the Town of Port Hawkesbury”. MOTION CARRIED.

b) Appointment of Committee Members

MOVED by Councilor Dr. T Boudreau, and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton “to approve the Appointment of Committee Members as presented at the Committee of the Whole Meeting, November 19, 2012”. MOTION CARRIED.

c) Pool Funding

Deputy Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton and Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau declared a conflict of interest and excused themselves from this discussion.

MOVED by Councilor J. Janega, and SECONDED by Councilor B. Lewis “to approve CAO, M. Freimanis’ recommendation that the pool closure be cancelled and the funds derived be allocated to replace the budget reduction as approved by Council. Dialogue will continue with all parties using the pool to secure a more permanent solution to funding and operating requirements”. MOTION CARRIED.

d) Active Living Opportunities

CAO, M. Freimans presented Council with a draft program description for Active Living Opportunities allowing 100 hours of ice, pool, and dance studio time to the community free of charge. He asked Council's approval on the program. Discussion included reformatting the program and reevaluating the 100 free hours and its allocation.

MOVED by Councilor J. Janega, and SECONDED by Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau "to approve the Active Living Opportunities Program". MOTION CARRIED.

e) Town of Port Hawkesbury Assistance Policy

A draft version of the Town Assistance Policy was presented by CAO, M. Freimanis for Council's approval which incorporated more uniformity and consistency enabling the Town to respond to requests for funding, sponsorship and assistance. Council discussion included the number of funding requests and multiple requests by one organization within one fiscal year, budget considerations, and reevaluation of the policy. Town Solicitor L. Evans stated the MGA is clear on its restrictions as to the types of things Council can spend with taxpayers' dollars.

MOVED by Councilor B. Lewis, and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton "to approve the Town Assistance Policy". MOTION CARRIED.

f) Civic Centre Usage Policy

CAO, M. Freimanis presented Council with a final draft of the amended Civic Centre Usage Policy for approval. He stated it is not a restrictive policy but will allow for adjustments to occur as needed. Council discussion included parameters for profit and non-profit groups, flexibility within the policy, ice rental rates, show rates, peak periods, revenue sourcing for the Centre, promoting awareness of the facility as a community centre, meeting room rental charges with high volume users, and staff discretion with event bookings.

MOVED by Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau, and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton "to approve the final draft of the Civic Centre Usage Policy". MOTION CARRIED.

g) Ratification of Personnel Item

MOVED by Councilor J. Janega, and SECONDED by Councilor B. Lewis "to approve the personnel item as discussed In Camera". MOTION CARRIED.

h) Senior Citizen Petition

CAO, M. Freimanis suggested the Town, through the Mayor's office, write a letter of support on behalf of the residents of Sunset Manor to the Nova Scotia Housing Commission requesting that a central air conditioning unit be installed in the Sunset Manor. Council discussion included consideration of the expense and wording of the letter of support.

MOVED by Councilor J. Janega, and SECONDED by Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau "to approve a letter of support to be written to the Nova Scotia Housing Commission on behalf of the residents of the Sunset Manor". MOTION CARRIED.

i) Christmas Closure

Council discussion included advertising the dates of the Christmas closure, garbage collection, and the rescheduling of the January Town Council Meeting. Past practice of Christmas closure was also discussed.

MOVED by Councilor B. Lewis, and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton to "accept the recommendations as outlined in the November 29 memo of CAO, M. Freimanis to close the Town Offices at the end of the work day on December 21, 2012 and reopen January 2, 2013. The Town Council meeting will be rescheduled to January 8, 2013". MOTION CARRIED.

10. Approved Additions

NewPage Pensioners – Letter of Support

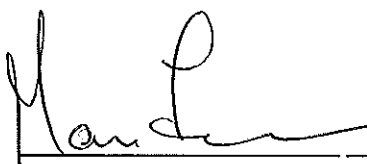
Councilor J. Janega asked the Town to write a letter of support to Minister More to review the NewPage pension issue closer. Council discussion included lending their support and requesting an update on the Ministers role on how she will proceed with this matter.

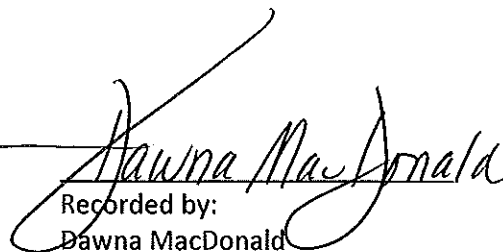
MOVED by Councilor J. Janega, and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton to "approve that a letter of support from the Town is written to Minister More on behalf of the NewPage Pensioners". MOTION CARRIED.

11. Adjournment

MOVED by Deputy Mayor B. Chisholm-Beaton, and SECONDED by Councilor Dr. T. Boudreau "to adjourn the Town Council Meeting at 9:25pm". MOTION CARRIED.

Jan 9, 2013
Date


Approved by:
Maris Freimanis, CAO


Recorded by:
Dawna MacDonald