

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Minutes of Meeting
December 16, 2013**

Present

Mayor, Billy Joe MacLean
Deputy Mayor, Dr. Trevor Boudreau
Councilor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Councilor, Joe Janega
Councilor, Bert Lewis
Chief Administrative Officer, Maris Freimanis
Director of Finance, Erin MacEachen
Town Solicitor, Patrick Lamey (Designate)

Regrets

Town Solicitor, Larry Evans
Director Marketing, Recreation, Tourism & Culture, Paula Davis

1. Call to Order

A Committee of the Whole Meeting was held in the Bear Head Room, PHCC, Monday, December 16, 2013. It was called to order by Mayor MacLean at 7:00 p.m.

2. Additions to / Approval of Agenda

There was one addition to the agenda:

- Tribute to Hector MacInnis – Councilor J. Janega

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Dr. T. Boudreau and SECONDED by Councilor B. Lewis "To approve the agenda as amended". MOTION CARRIED.

3. Gallery Presentations

Strait Pirates – Eastern Canadian Junior B Hockey Championships
Mayor MacLean welcomed Warden Russell Boucher and thanked the Strait Pirates Executive and volunteers for their service to the Town. Warden Boucher's presentation addressed the Eastern Canadian Junior B Hockey Championship hosted by the Strait Pirates at the PHCC, April 22-28, 2014. The presentation included the host's financial responsibilities and the financial and additional benefits including marking the 50th anniversary of the Strait Pirates and the 125th anniversary of the Town. On behalf of the organizing committee, Warden Boucher requested financial assistance and PHCC in kind support to assist the Strait Pirates in successfully hosting the event. Director of Finance E. MacEachen will provide Council with detailed projections for deliberation for the next Town Council meeting. Mayor MacLean and Council discussed preparing questions for Deputy Mayor Dr. T. Boudreau's submission to the organizing committee and meeting with E. MacEachen in advance of the Council meeting to discuss the request.

4. Approved Additions

This agenda item was deferred.

5. Other Business

- a) By-Law – Minimum Maintenance and Occupancy Standards
CAO, M. Freimanis's memo and report for Council addressed the current Minimum Housing Standards By-

Law that dates back to 1977 and requires revision to meet today's expectations. Council was asked to set some goals and expectations for CAO, M. Freimanis and legal counsel's assembling for Council's review to revise the Minimum Maintenance and Occupancy Standards By-Law. A copy of the 1977 Minimum Housing Standards By-Law will be provided to Council. Discussion included:

- Regional cooperation with other units with similar by-laws
- Proceeding slowly and determining Council's expectations on what can be achieved for our taxpayers
- Researching assistance with the EDPC to help us administer and enforce the Minimum Maintenance and Occupancy Standards By-Law
- Researching and consideration of factors of various communities with similar circumstances which successfully raised their standards of living

b) Port Hawkesbury Seasonal Services Project

MOVED by Councilor J. Janega, and SECONDED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton to allot a budget of \$1000, if needed, to cover any costs incurred with the Port Hawkesbury Seasonal Services Project that are not funded by donations". MOTION CARRIED.

A letter of thanks will be sent to Jo-anne MacDonald, Seasonal Services Coordinator, thanking her and the Port Hawkesbury Community Services Department for their contributions to the community.

c) Strait Area Transit (SAT) - Update

CAO, M. Freimanis sought Council direction to process payment for a SAT invoice for the second and third quarter funding to December 31, 2013.

MOVED by Councilor J. Janega, and SECONDED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton that the SAT invoice will not be paid and to further discuss the motion". MOTION CARRIED. One naye was recorded from Councilor B. Lewis.

On the question, Councilor B. Lewis discussed the Committee of the Whole Meeting motion, April 15, 2013. He suggested Council's consideration to pay the second quarter funding portion only to assist passengers, and that further research is required regarding our obligations to SAT passengers and payment of this invoice. He inquired when the final CAOs' report can be expected regarding the future of SAT. CAO, M. Freimanis stated we are under no obligation to pay this invoice and that recommendations to respective councils will be provided once the final report is revised with new figures. Council discussed the budget and future of the SAT. Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton inquired if payment on the invoice can be deferred until after the final report is received and the CAOs provide their recommendations. CAO, M. Freimanis suggested not to pay this invoice, wait for the final report and CAO recommendations, and look at the expenditures to date before making a final determination.

d) Tender – Water Treatment Repairs

A. B. Mechanical Limited submitted the lowest tender price and agreed to complete this work within 8 weeks if successful in its bid. Council discussion included the needs in the water utility and waste water plant requiring immediate repair. These needs will be detailed for Council during budget deliberations.

MOVED by Councilor B. Lewis and SECONDED by Councilor J. Janega to accept the CAOs recommendation to award the tender to A. B. Mechanical Limited for the amount of \$129,330.00 plus applicable taxes. The anticipated total cost for this work is \$160,000 which includes the contract, engineering and contingency and will be allocated from the Water Utility Depreciation Reserve". MOTION CARRIED.

e) Virtual Attendance - Update

CAO, M. Freimanis provided Council with correspondence and asked for direction regarding virtual attendance at meetings. Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton was in favour of virtual attendance but raised the issue of the lack of authority regarding member voting. Deputy Mayor Dr. T. Boudreau is supportive of technology but raised concerns regarding in camera sessions and server security. He added it is important for people to be present when important decisions are made and would like clarification from the MGA on this issue. Mayor MacLean will send a personal letter to the UNSM supporting a resolution for virtual attendance. Town Solicitor P. Lamey raised the issue of legislation and stated that if it is not permitted or enabled in the MGA then it is not possible. He also discussed the integrity of voting and public perception and expectation when a Council member(s) attends a meeting through virtual attendance.

f) Topics of Discussion – January Tour of Hon. Mark Furey, Minister of Service NS and Municipal Relations
Mayor MacLean asked Council to prepare a list of topics for discussion during the January tour of Hon. Mark Furey. Suggested topics included:

- Consideration of reinstating a former agreement to phase out the cost of justice, housing and education with the Province taking full responsibility of these costs
- Virtual Attendance
- Annex and amalgamation of Point Tupper
- Towns Task Force Issues

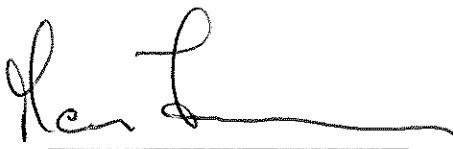
6. Approved Additions

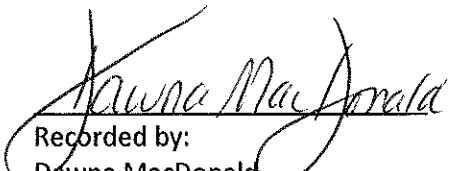
Councilor J. Janega suggested that a donation be made in memory of Hector MacInnis who was a long standing member of Council and former Deputy Mayor in the Town of Port Hawkesbury. Mayor MacLean paid tribute to Mr. MacInnis stating he was an honorable man, a veteran, and made many contributions to the Town. A donation will be made in his memory on behalf of Mayor and Council.

7. Adjournment

MOVED by Councilor J. Janega, and SECONDED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton "to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 8:48 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Jan 15, 2014
Date


Approved by:
Maris Freimanis, CAO


Recorded by:
Dawna MacDonald