

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING**

**Minutes of Meeting
December 3, 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
Director Marketing, Recreation, Tourism & Culture, Paula Davis
Town Solicitor, Larry Evans

Guests

Wally Beck, President, Transit Consulting Network

1. Call to Order

A Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in the Shannon Studio, PHCC, Monday, December 3, 2013. It was called to order by Mayor MacLean at 7:00 p.m.

2. Gallery Presentations

a) Strait Pirates – The Strait Pirates presentation was postponed.

b) Strait Area Transit

Mayor MacLean welcomed Mr. Beck whose presentation provided a review and recommendations of the operational future of the Strait Area Transit (SAT) Study. The key objectives were how to revise the current SAT system and SAT's sustainability should the service continue. Discussion included budget, dial a ride service, routing options and population challenges. Recommendations included SAT community partnerships with the Department of Health (re ambulance services), the NSCC, the Province and seniors' groups, fare changes, and the municipal units working with the SAT Board of Directors to strengthen membership, negotiate services, and to revise the Board of Directors to determine the business model and governance structure. Mr. Beck addressed Council's questions stating the next steps would include statistics on ridership as opposed to user numbers and type and that the issue was not in service delivery but in under budgeting. SAT will come back with an updated report and the CAO's will provide Council with a budget for the new model to determine next steps.

3. Additions to / Approval of Agenda

There were two additions to the agenda:

- a) Letter of Support – LNG Project – Goldboro, Guysborough County – Councilor J. Janega
- b) Strait Apartments – Mayor MacLean

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

4. Minutes

- a) Regular Town Council – November 18, 2013
There were no errors or omissions.

b) Committee of the Whole – November 18, 2013

MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton, and SECONDED by Councilor B. Lewis “To approve the November 18, 2013 minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting”. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

6. Proclamations

There were no proclamations.

7. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8. Resolutions

There were no resolutions.

9. Other Business

a) Local Business Bidding Policy (Mechanical and Welding)

On behalf of several local contractors, Councilor J. Janega inquired about the policy on bidding for mechanical and welding jobs in the Town. CAO M. Freimanis stated the 2005 purchasing policy requires amendments to reflect current day intermunicipal procurement agreements and government purchasing agreements. These amendments will include incorporating trade agreements and will take place in the New Year. Town Council will also discuss local supplier preference. CAO, M. Freimanis stated the best solution for the Town is based on needs, budget availability and the timing of work to achieve the best value for money spent. The goal is to be fair and to share the work among qualified suppliers as best as we can with a preference based on service, competitive pricing, value for our money, and suppliers who have their businesses within the Town and pay property taxes. Procurement is based on quotations when possible and the Town will use a local qualified supplier given a variance of ten percent. In addition to RFPs, there are public tenders for jobs over \$100,000. Councilor J. Janega stated he would like the work to be spread evenly among local contractors. Mayor MacLean inquired if Council would prefer all contractors to bid on a job and stated contractors should be advised why they did not get the work. All suppliers must comply with WCB coverage, be insured, and have license certification.

a) Attendance – FCM 2014 Annual Conference – May 30 to June 2, 2014 – Niagara Falls

Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton stated she plans to attend the FCM 2014 Annual Conference. Councilor J. Janega will attend but does not require hotel accommodations. Deputy Mayor Dr. T. Boudreau, Councilor B. Lewis, and CAO M. Freimanis will not attend the conference. Councilor B. Lewis referenced the 2012 FCM motion in which Council agreed that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor would attend the FCM annual conference and that their expenses would be covered. Mayor MacLean will attend the conference and will cover his expenses.

b) Christmas Holidays

- Mayor’s Reception
- Staff Celebration

Director of Finance, E. MacEachen provided Council with an update on the Mayor’s Reception, December 17th and the Staff Celebration and dinner on December 20th at the Strait Area Curling Club.

10. Approved Additions

a) Letter of Support – LNG Project – Goldboro Guysborough County

Councilor J. Janega suggested and Council agreed that a letter of support be sent to the Municipality of the District of Guysborough regarding the proposed LNG natural gas liquefaction plant and marine terminal.

MOVED by Councilor J. Janega, and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor Dr. T. Boudreau "To send a letter of support to Guysborough County regarding the LNG Project". MOTION CARRIED.

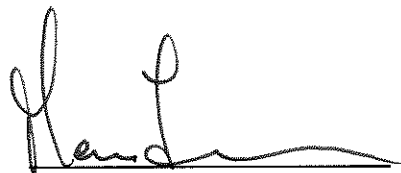
b) Strait Apartments

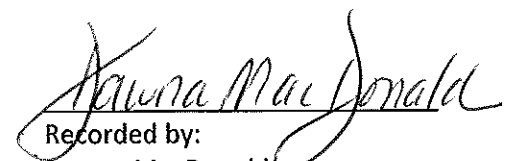
Mayor MacLean would like to meet with Cory Richardson, Compass Commercial Realty Limited and CIBC, mortgage holder, for clarity on the status of the Strait apartments. In the event the apartments are purchased, Mayor MacLean would like to confirm that the expenditures to rebuild or renovate meet the standards of the EDPC. Council agreed that Mayor MacLean proceed with a meeting with Compass Commercial Realty Limited and CIBC.

11. Adjournment

MOVED by Councilor J. Janega, and SECONDED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton "To adjourn the Regular Town Council Meeting at 8:15 p.m." MOTION CARRIED.

Jan 15, 2014
Date


Approved by:
Maris Freimanis, CAO


Recorded by:
Dawna MacDonald