

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING**

**Minutes of Meeting
Monday, June 16, 2014**

Present

Mayor, Billy Joe MacLean
Councillor, Joe Janega
Councillor, Bert Lewis
Chief Administrative Officer, Maris Freimanis
Town Solicitor, Larry Evans

Regrets

Deputy Mayor, Dr. Trevor Boudreau
Councillor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Director of Finance, Erin MacEachen

Guests

Gerry Isenor, G.A. Isenor Consulting Limited
Blaine S. Rooney, Blaine S. Rooney Consulting Limited

1. Call to Order

A Special Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in the Shannon Studio, PHCC, Monday, June 16, 2014. It was called to order by Mayor MacLean at 1:00 p.m.

2. Water Rate Study

G.A. Isenor Consulting Limited in association with Blaine S. Rooney Consulting Limited undertook a Water Utility Water Rate Study for the Town of Port Hawkesbury. Council approved the Water Rate Study and endorsed an application the consulting firms will submit to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NS UARB) for approval of amendments to its Schedule of Rates for Water Services and to its Schedule of Rules and Regulations.

MOVED by Councillor J. Janega and SECONDED by Councillor B. Lewis "That the Town of Port Hawkesbury Water Utility apply to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board for changes in its rates for water and water service, fire protection to the Town of Port Hawkesbury and changes to its rules and regulations for customers served by the Utility, as set out in the water rate study prepared by G. A. Isenor Consulting Limited in association with Blaine S. Rooney Consulting Limited". MOTION CARRIED.

3. Dog Control Officer – Reinstatement Consideration

Mayor MacLean stated calls have been received from the SPCA in Antigonish and the RCMP in Port Hawkesbury regarding dog related issues. Council was asked to consider reinstatement of the Dog Control Officer which was cut from the 2014-15 budget. The Town has a process in place to deal with dog related issues on a Monday to Friday basis. Discussion included:

- Dog Control Officer reinstatement costs would include a base rate; weekday call outs; weekend call outs; and personal vehicle use
- Request for Proposal responses for a Dog Control Officer exceeded the Town's budget for this position. The costs associated to provide service on a 24 hours basis is approximately \$50,000

- per annum. The approximate cost to reinstate the level of service from last year is \$12,000
- The Town would incur additional costs for Town employees responding to weekend or after hours calls
 - As part of the Municipal Shared Services Agreement, the Town approached other municipalities to share in the costs associated with a Dog Control Officer. There was no interest in sharing this service with the Town.

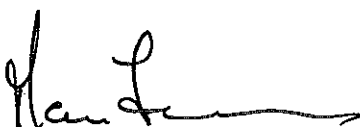
The gallery was invited to address this issue. A resident requested clarification on the two dog by-laws currently on the website. Additionally, she suggested the website provide residents with more information including the name and contact information of the person to call on dog related issues.

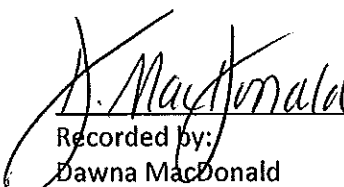
Town Solicitor L. Evans will review the Dog By-law and the Town's current approach to residents' calls on dog related issues. Mayor MacLean stated that in the interim, information should be provided on the website to assist residents.

4. Adjournment

MOVED by Councilor J. Janega and SECONDED by Councilor B. Lewis "To adjourn the Special Public Meeting at 2:10 p.m". MOTION CARRIED.

Sept 17 2014
Date


Approved by:
Maris Freimanis, CAO


Recorded by:
Dawna MacDonald