

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING**

**Minutes of Meeting
March 4, 2014**

Present

Mayor, Billy Joe MacLean
Councillor, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Councillor, Joe Janega
Councillor, Bert Lewis
Chief Administrative Officer, Maris Freimanis
Director Marketing, Recreation, Tourism & Culture, Paula Davis
Town Solicitor, Patrick Lamey (Alternate)

Regrets

Deputy Mayor, Dr. Trevor Boudreau
Director of Finance, Erin MacEachen
Town Solicitor, Larry Evans

Guests

Kevin McCormack, Efficiency Nova Scotia

1. Call to Order

A Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in the Shannon Studio, PHCC, Tuesday, March 4, 2014 and was called to order by Mayor MacLean at 7:00 p.m.

2. Gallery Presentations

Efficiency Nova Scotia – Kevin McCormack

Mr. McCormack's presentation to Council introduced a low income homeowner program to assist Nova Scotia homeowners in reducing the amount of energy needed to heat their homes. To be eligible for the program the applicant must own their own home, occupy the home year-round, not have more than one unit in the home, and meet specified low income qualification cut-offs. Mr. McCormack discussed the application, inspection, audit process, and impact to homeowners. He asked Council's assistance in getting the word out to people who qualify for the program which is paid by Efficiency Nova Scotia with no cost to the homeowner. A question and answer period followed. Mayor MacLean thanked Mr. McCormack for his presentation.

3. Additions to / Approval of Agenda

There was one addition to the agenda.

- In Camera Item – 2014 Volunteer of the Year

MOVED by Councillor B. Chisholm-Beaton and SECONDED by Councillor B. Lewis "To approve the agenda as amended". MOTION CARRIED.

4. Minutes

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| a) Audit Committee Meeting | February 4, 2014 |
| b) Regular Town Council Meeting | February 4, 2014 |
| c) Public Hearing | February 17, 2014 |
| d) Special Public Meeting | February 17, 2014 |

There were no errors or omissions with the above listed meetings.

e) Committee of the Whole February 17, 2014

MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton and SECONDED by Councilor B. Lewis "To approve the February 17, 2014 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

Nova Scotia Aphasia Association – Aphasia Awareness Month – June 1-30, 2014

MOVED by Councilor J. Janega and SECONDED by Councilor B. Lewis "To proclaim the month of June 2014, to be Aphasia Awareness Month in the Town of Port Hawkesbury". MOTION CARRIED.

7. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8. Resolutions

There were no resolutions.

9. Other Business

a) Anti Train Whistle

Town Council received a resident's request to consider eliminating the train whistle at the train crossing at the bottom of Philpott Street. CAO, M. Freimanis provided Council with the regulations, requirements and the process to eliminate whistling at regional railway crossings. To meet the requirements or implement anti-whistling at both Philpott and MacSween Streets, flagging, flashing lights and a bell, or possibly gates and signals (at the municipality's responsibility and expense of approximately \$170,000) are required. Council was asked to consider the request or leave this issue a status quo. Council agreed to review the issue and to send a letter to Transport Canada to confirm safety and legal issues, the type of service required and the potential for gates, barricades or closing this crossing permanently. A survey of residents in that area may follow pending Transport Canada's findings.

b) Strategic Plan Update and Renewal

CAO, M. Freimanis asked Council's direction to continue with the same strategic priorities or make adjustments or reassignments of work that was discussed and established one year ago. Council agreed to meet and have an in-depth discussion on the Strategic Plan and Imagine 2030 and provide a report on their assigned task(s). Feedback will be provided from the Mayor, CAO, and Directors on a go forward plan. Mayor MacLean agreed with meeting to discuss and reflect on what has been done, and what can be added or changed in the best interest of the taxpayer. CAO, M. Freimanis will revitalize the material that was submitted to Council that summed up the identified activities in the ICSP and the Strategic Priorities for the meeting. Costs associated with any new priorities or changes to existing priorities will also be discussed at this meeting.

c) Municipal Boundary Review

Council discussed Section 369 of the MGA which requires studies to be completed from councils of every town and municipality with subsequent applications to the NS UARB to confirm or to alter the number and boundaries of polling districts, their fairness, and the number of councilors. As part of the recommended two-step process for the study, an in-depth discussion on the public consultation process and format took place. Mayor MacLean suggested and Council agreed to compile a series of questions and

recommendations from the material provided by CAO, M. Freimanis for the next Council meeting. The recommendations from Council are to provide options to the public for their input and to assist in the decision-making process. In addition, Town Solicitors L. Evans and P. Lamey will review the material and contact the UARB regarding the parameters of potentially reducing the number of councilors.

d) Update – Mayor MacLean’s Meeting with Chief Terry Paul, Membertou
Mayor MacLean briefed Council on the proposed highway which would bypass St. Peters, continue to Sydney, and include a bridge and toll highway. The toll revenue would be sufficient to move forward with this project.

e) Financial Requests

- i. Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia – Sponsorship Request
- ii. Destination Cape Breton Association – Sponsorship Request

Mayor MacLean recommended and Council agreed to defer the above financial requests. CAO, M. Freimanis will provide Council with a list of the donations from 2013 and current list from 2014 for review at the next Committee of the Whole meeting. Council will make a determination on the parameters of future donations at budget deliberations.

MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton and SECONDED by Councilor J. Janega “To accept the recommendation to defer the financial requests of the Genealogical Association of NS and Destination Cape Breton Association. Council will review the donations from 2013 and 2014 and make a determination of the parameters of future donations at budget deliberations”. MOTION CARRIED.

10. Approved Additions

- In Camera Item – 2014 Volunteer of the Year

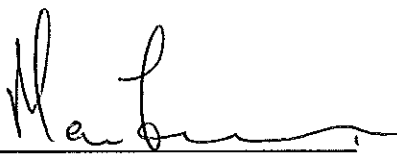
Mayor MacLean recessed the Regular Town Council Meeting at 8:20 p.m. to move In Camera to discuss the 2014 Volunteer of the Year. He reconvened the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

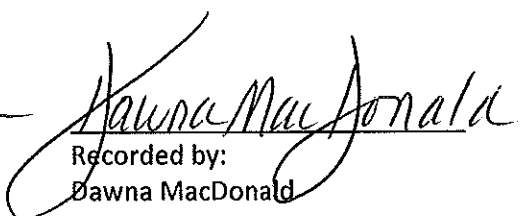
MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton, and SECONDED by Councilor B. Lewis, “To disclose the name of the 2014 Volunteer of the Year at a later date”. MOTION CARRIED.

11. Adjournment

MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton, and SECONDED by Councilor to J. Janega “To adjourn the Regular Town Council Meeting at 8:30 p.m.” MOTION CARRIED.

April 17, 2014
Date


Approved by:
Maris Freimanis, CAO


Recorded by:
Dawna MacDonald