

**PORT HAWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING**

**Minutes of Meeting
September 9, 2014**

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

Regrets

Director of Finance, Erin MacEachen

Guests

Deputy Warden Jim Mustard, Municipality of the County of Inverness

1. Call to Order

A Public Meeting of the Port Hawkesbury Town Council was held in the Shannon Studio, PHCC, Tuesday, September 9, 2014 and was called to order by Mayor MacLean at 7:00 p.m. Mayor MacLean welcomed Council back from summer recess.

2. Gallery Presentations

Strait Area Transit (SAT)

Deputy Warden Jim Mustard's presentation of the Richmond County Transit Operating Proposal included SAT's new double route system of fixed and dial-a-ride service and a breakdown of the total annual cost of for the Richmond County transit service (\$186,941.76). The total funding cost which includes CTAP funding for both Richmond and Inverness Counties is \$372,308.16. Revenues will be separated between the two counties to reflect municipal financing. There will be a reduction in fares and an increase in wages with staff stepping in as drivers when needed. Council was asked to consider an in kind partnership as a contribution from Port Hawkesbury. A question and answer period followed regarding funding, sustainability and a request for usership statistics. The SAT Board was commended on the challenges in providing a transit service to a population in a large geographical area requiring access to health care, education and commercial services.

3. Additions to / Approval of Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

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

4. Minutes

a) Planning Advisory Committee	June 3, 2014	There were no errors or omissions.
b) Regular Town Council	June 3, 2014	There were no errors or omissions.
c) Special Public Meeting	June 16, 201	There were no errors or omissions.

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) Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Policy – Protocol for Residents' Complaints

CAO, M. Freimanis stated a policy for Dangerous and Unsightly Premises was adopted in 2008 but is not being applied as it was intended. The policy and the process to complete the form were reviewed. The Municipal Government Act (MGA) complaint form allows complainants to refer directly to the Administrator of Dangerous and Unsightly Premises (the Eastern District Planning Commission), to assist the administrator to focus on each complaint. The form and the policy will be provided on the Town Website. The names of complainants will be kept confidential pending no legal action ensues from a valid complaint. Discussion included the need for a structured process to deal with complaints, accountability of, and the encouragement for residents to be responsible and part of this process, and the definition and process to address immediate dangerous premises.

b) Utility and Review Board (UARB) Application – Size of Council

The MGA requires the Town to conduct a study respecting the number of councilors to be elected in the Town and to file an application to the UARB prior to December 31, 2014. The recommendation of CAO, M. Freimanis is to task the CAO and Town Solicitor with holding a public consultation to reflect the MGA regulations as presented. Council is invited to attend but not to take part in the process. The results of the public consultation will be provided to Council for deliberation.

MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton and SECONDED by Councilor J. Janega "To accept the recommendation of CAO M. Freimanis to hold a public consultation on the UARB Application to Confirm or Alter the Number of Councilors". The results of the Public Consultation will be provided to Council for deliberation." MOTION CARRIED.

c) Reeves Street Traffic Study Update

CAO, M. Freimanis stated the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure and Renewal is engaged to complete a traffic study of Reeves Street. To date, the consultant has completed traffic counts at all intersections from NSCC to Route 4 at a.m. and p.m. peak hours. Levels of service for each of these intersections and truck traffic to/from Port Hawkesbury Paper have been identified. The concerns identified are sight lines at some intersections, sidewalk gaps, school zone issues, access management, grade differentials, and accident tallies which will be included in the report. The consultant will provide some recommendations for consideration regarding the above concerns.

Discussion included the accuracy of the timing and period of traffic counts. CAO, M. Freimanis will contact the consultant to have a second traffic count to reflect peak traffic and include school zone traffic to ensure an accurate traffic study. The safety of the Port Hastings Rotary which affects the Town was also discussed. The draft report is expected late September to be reviewed by the committee then presented to Council for their review.

d) Embree Island Land Subdivision – Renaming Request

Mrs. Nur Huq requested Council's consideration to rename a street formerly part of a subdivision her family once owned to "Nur Huq Crescent". Town Solicitor L. Evans provided Council with clarification that the street Mrs. Huq referred to is Tupper Court, not MacLean Crescent. Discussion included investigation of this request and a protocol or policy to deal with street or road renaming requests.

MOVED by Councilor B. Lewis to table the Embree Island Land Subdivision Renaming Request item.

e) Community Health Centre – Update

The Town and GASHA have not received a response to their proposal for a Community Health Centre. Council was in agreement with Mayor MacLean and Councilor Janega meeting Associate Deputy Minister Frances Martin to discuss the status on the proposal.

f) Port Hawkesbury Airport – Acknowledgement of Mayor and CAO

Mayor MacLean provided an update to Council on the August 25th meeting of the Strait Area Mayors and Wardens. Council was in support of the efforts of Mayor MacLean and CAO, M. Freimanis regarding the Port Hawkesbury Airport.

MOVED by Councilor B. Lewis and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor Dr. T. Boudreau "To support the efforts of Mayor MacLean and CAO, M. Freimanis regarding the Port Hawkesbury Airport". MOTION CARRIED.

g) 125th Town Anniversary – Acknowledgement of Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton and Committee

On behalf of the Town of Port Hawkesbury, Mayor MacLean thanked and commended Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton and the 125th Town Anniversary Committee for their efforts in making the 125th Anniversary of the Town a great success.

10. Approved Additions

There were no additions to the agenda.

MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton "To recess In Camera at 8:10 p.m. to discuss the a) Provincial Building Site Lands – Letter from Minister Geoff MacLellan; b) Dog By-Law Enforcement; and, c) Strait Area Chamber of Commerce MOU".

The Public Meeting of Town Council reconvened at 9:55 p.m.

a) Provincial Building Site Lands

**MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton and SECONDED by Councilor J. Janega "To authorize Mayor MacLean and CAO, M. Freimanis to proceed with negotiations as presented In Camera".
MOTION CARRIED.**

b) Dog By-Law Enforcement

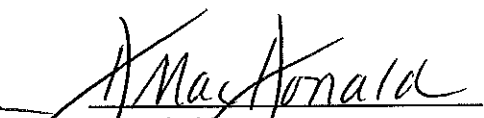
MOVED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton and SECONDED by Councilor J. Janega "To accept the recommendation of CAO, M. Freimanis as discussed in Camera". MOTION CARRIED.

11. Adjournment

MOVED by Councilor J. Janega, and SECONDED by Councilor B. Chisholm-Beaton "To adjourn the Regular Town Council Meeting at 10:00 p.m." MOTION CARRIED.

Oct 14 / 2014
Date


Approved by:
Maris Freimanis, CAO


Recorded by:
Dawna MacDonald