

Town of Port Rexton

Priveleged Meeting

Sunday, December 14, 2025

1:30 PM

Meeting held in the Recreation Hall;

Present at the meeting were:

Mayor Chris Kelly

Councillor Penny Vivian-Penney

Councillor Eldon Bannister

Councillor Christine Hiscock

Deputy Mayor Colette Churchill-White

Councillor Janice Hayward

Councillor Madelyn Jill White

Staff Present: **Town Clerk/Manager: Cathy Piercey, Assistant Town Clerk: Tina Toope, (Former) Town Clerk/Manager: Lois Long**

Visitor: John Vivian

Topics: Hike Discovery Request for Funds / Budget 2026 for Approval

Mayor Kelly called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Since the last Council meeting new information has been obtained regarding the request from Hike Discovery for the funds in the Skerwink Trail Committee Bank account. Mayor Kelly had a discussion with Jim Miller (Director-Hike Discovery) where he has confirmed that Hike Discovery has no change in banking information or signing officers. Mayor Kelly invited John Vivian (Chair-Hike Discovery) to the conversation and opened up the floor to the councillors for any questions they would have. After a brief discussion Council were in agreement to release the funds in the amount of \$23,659.66 (\$25.00 left in the bank account to cover bank fees/close the account).

Motion #112-2025–Bannister/Hiscock; resolved that Council will release the funds in the Skerwink Trail Committee Bank Account in the amount of \$23,659.66 to Hike Discovery. All seven council members present and in favour, resolution carried.

A short break took place and John Vivian left the building.

Next order of business was to finalize the 2026 budget figures for approval/submittal to MACE. Lois Long (former Town Clerk/Manager) also joined Council at the table. After a review/discussion of last years budget figures Council members agreed that some increases had to be imposed this year in order to keep up with rising costs.

Council did not make this decision hastily as they are quite aware of the present economy and challenges already facing our tax payers and municipality. Council agreed to keep the property tax mil rate the same but increases are needed to the business taxes, business mil rates, commercial water rates and building permits. Minimum Business Tax Rate will increase from \$400 to \$500 per year, Business Mill Rates for B & B's, Housekeeping Units, Restaurants, Hotel/Motel, Licensed Accommodations will increase from 4.75 mils to 5.0 mils, Garages will increase from 6.5 mils to 6.75 mils, Retail/Convenience will increase from 9.75 mils to 10.0 mils, Contractors/Home Based Business will increase from 32 mils to 40 mils and Direct Seller/No Fixed Address will be \$50 monthly, Residential Permit (value under \$99,999) will increase from \$50 to \$100, Residential Permit (value over \$100,000) will increase from \$100 to \$200, Commercial Permit will increase from \$50 to \$100, Shed/Private Garage/ Extension/Renovations will increase from \$25 to \$50 and Commercial Water Rates will increase from \$320 to \$500 per year.

Motion #113-2025-Hayward/White; resolved the 2026 Budget shall be adopted on the changes as listed above. Minimum Business Tax Rate will increase to \$500 per year, Business Mill Rates for B & B's, Housekeeping Units, Restaurants, Hotel/Motel, Licensed Accommodations will increase to 5.0 mils, Garages will increase to 6.75 mils, Retail/Convenience will increase to 10.0 mils, Contractors/Home Based Business will to 40 mils and Direct Seller/No Fixed Address will be \$50 monthly, Residential Permit (value under \$99,999) will increase to \$100, Residential Permit (value over \$100,000) will increase to \$200, Commercial Permit will increase to \$100, Shed/Private Garage/Extension/Renovations will increase to \$50 and Commercial Water Rates will increase to \$500 per year. All seven council members present and in favour, resolution carried.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm, on a Motion **2025 - #114** by Councillor Bannister and seconded by Councillor Hayward.



Mayor
Chris Kelly



Town Clerk/Manager
Cathy Piercey