

**TOWN OF PORT REXTON**  
**Minutes**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 14, 2026**  
**6:30pm**

**Meeting held in the Recreation Room:**

Present at the meeting were:

<b>Mayor Chris Kelly</b>	<b>Deputy Mayor Colette Churchill-White</b>
<b>Councillor Penny Vivian-Penney</b>	<b>Councillor Janice Hayward</b>
<b>Councillor Eldon Bannister</b>	<b>Councillor Christine Hiscock</b>

**Councillor Madelyn Jill White (via Facetime)**

**Staff Present:      Town Clerk/Manager: Cathy Piercey**  
**Office Assistant: Tina Toope**

**Visitors:      Nick Stead, Sarah Agnew, Carol Osmond, John Vivian, Patricia Connolly, Judy Lander, Roland Taylor, Alicia McDonald**

**Delegates: Judy Lander**  
**Patricia Conolly**

Mayor Kelly called the council meeting to order at 6:30 pm and asked for the adoption of the agenda for this meeting.

**MOTION #01 – 2026 – Hiscock/Churchill-White; resolved that the agenda for this meeting shall be adopted as presented. All six members present in favour, one member via Facetime in favour, resolution carried.**

Mayor Kelly then asked if there are no errors or omissions, for a motion to adopt the minutes of the regular council meeting held on December 10, 2025.

**MOTION #02- 2026 – Bannister/Vivian-Penney; resolved the adoption of the minutes of the regular council meeting held on December 10, 2025. All six members present in favour, one member via Facetime in favour, resolution carried.**

Mayor Kelly then asked if there are no errors or omissions, for a motion to adopt the minutes of the special council meeting held on December 14, 2025.

**MOTION #03- 2026 – Hiscock/Hayward; resolved the adoption of the minutes of the regular council meeting held on December 14, 2025. All six members present in favour, one member via Facetime in favour, resolution carried.**

Prior to the delegations beginning, Mayor Kelly informs the Council, the gallery and the delegates that Paul Greene from Bell is connecting via telephone to hear and comment on any concerns arising about the proposed Bell Telecommunications Tower on 11 Middle Brook Road.

Judy Lander is invited to speak to her concerns for ten minutes. Lander spoke in depth concerning the site selection process, proximity to the conservation area (SAM) and water ways, and public consultation procedures followed by Bell and the Town Council. Deputy Mayor Churchill-White thanked Lander for bringing attention to the environmental impact of the development and offering a new perspective. Churchill-White explained that during discussions about the proposed tower and the lack of cell phone service we presently have, the safety of the residents in Trinity Bight and visitors on the Skerwink Trail were at the top of the list. Paul Greene felt confident that any reasonable and relevant concerns of Lander had been answered via email from Bell during the consultation process.

Patricia Connolly is invited to speak to her concerns for ten minutes. Connolly spoke briefly about her concerns for the site selection, cell coverage distance, environment and future cell phone infrastructure. She finished speaking early and Council allowed Lander to use her remaining time to continue speaking. Lander spoke more on federal policy concerning public consultation and the recent agreement between the Town Council and SAM for Port Rexton's conservation area.

When concluded, Mayor Kelly thanked Paul Greene for joining via phone and thanked the delegates for sharing their concerns. Council agreed to look into their concerns and will update on their decisions as they're made.

## **REPORTS AND BUSINESS ARISING**

### **Fire Department**

Mayor Kelly reported the fire department have ordered new helmets for all members. Estimated price \$10,000.00. AED (defibrillator) is outdated and a new one is needed. Fire Chief to look into purchasing a new one. Their Annual Meeting was held December 13, 2025 with present executive/officers to remain the same. Will be recruiting for new members in the new year.

### **Heritage Society**

Deputy Mayor Churchill-White reported no meeting and nothing has happened.

### **Recreation Commission**

Councillor Hayward reported they held their annual Pumpkin Carving and Christmas Cookie Decorating for the children at the Port Rexton Brewery (special underage event) with a fair number in attendance. Looking into getting some better signage around the town showing where our popular sites are. Will form a committee in the new year with council members. Also, looking into getting some funding through a Wellness Grant. Possibly looking to host a winter event at the rink in February or downhill sliding. More info to follow. Planning stages are finally underway for a retirement event for Lois Long, former Town Clerk/Manager who spent over 47 years with our town - quite an accomplishment! She is still consulted on occasion for her wonderful wealth of knowledge. Looking at sometime in June 2026. Update to come

### **Waste Site**

Mayor Kelly reported dump road is very slippery and motorists need to proceed with caution. Sign is now posted at the waste site that they are no longer accepting tires with rims on them.

## Hike Discovery

Mayor Kelly invited John Vivian to speak on behalf of Hike Discovery. He informed us not much is happening and they are waiting for the new board to get elected.

## Otter House

Mayor Kelly/Councillor White reported the final building plans are still be completed. Design is still underway, but they now have a Class 'C' estimate which will be helpful to apply for construction funding. Test holes are done and approved. Brought up again about having another access route out in case of an emergency. Follow up and update later.

## Ongoing Business

- Budget 2026 has been approved and ready to submit to MACE. Deadline to submit was extended to January 31, 2026 (usually December 31) as there was a Municipal Election last fall.
- The 2026 Tax Structure is finalized and ready for approval. Council decided no increases to the property tax (residential or commercial), residential water rates remain the same but commercial water rates are increased. There will also be an increase to the Business Tax and various permits. Council did not make these decisions lightly but felt increases were need in certain areas even though the present economy is a cause for all.

## CORRESPONDENCE

- Email received from CLB regarding the Community Garden behind Bishop White School. Land Use Agreement expires April 18, 2026. Requesting a longer renewal period (3+ years) as they would like to apply for some larger grants which need a longer time frame. Council had a brief discussion and would like an update from the CLB if the longer renewal period is necessary. Update later.
- Circular from MNL for Council information. Filed.

## FINANCES

The financial summary for December 1 - 31, 2025 that was included in Council member's meeting documents was briefly discussed.

### Expenses

December Invoices Paid:		<b>\$6,710.51</b>
Pre-Authorized Payments/Payroll:		<b><u>\$14,329.53</u></b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,040.04</b>

### Revenue

December 1 - 31 , 2025 Income:	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$31,539.72</b>
Property Tax, Business Tax, MTF, GST Rebate		

**General Account Bank Balance December 31/2025: \$82,209.25**

The **December Budget Revenue/Expense Summaries** distributed to Council was discussed at some length and questions asked/answered on various parts of

these reports. Regarding these reports and the foregoing financial report a motion was made.

**MOTION #04 – 2026 – Hiscock/White; resolved the acceptance of all monthly financial reports, the approval for payment of all regular monthly bills, and confirms payment of related invoices as submitted that have been paid to date. All six members present in favour, one member via Facetime in favour, resolution carried.**

**GENERAL/NEW BUSINESS**

- Recreation posted on their Facebook page looking for volunteers for rink maintenance but unfortunately no response. Council have now posted a part time Rink Maintenance position with a closing date of January 16, 2026. Applicants will be reviewed after that and interviews will be set up. Looking to get someone in place right away as our window of opportunity is very short. Trinity Bight Homes have reached out to the Council office looking to see if we can share the successful applicant with them for extra hours for snow shovelling.

- There have been several ongoing concerns over the town council maintained wells the last few years and more especially after last summer's dry weather. Council have decided to set up a public meeting on January 22, 2026 at 6:30pm for all well users and concerned citizens to attend and voice their concerns.

- Councillor White is making progress on updating the towns Emergency Management Plan. Had a brief discussion looking for committee members with councillors coming forward to offer to help. Will keep us posted as she continues on with the project.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm on a motion, **2026 - #05 (Bannister/White)**. Next regular council meeting February 11, 2026.



Mayor  
Chris Kelly



Town Clerk/Manager  
Cathy Piercey