

**TOWN OF PORT REXTON
Minutes
Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, August 12, 2026
6:30pm**

Meeting held in the Recreation Room:

Present at the meeting were:

**Mayor Chris Kelly
Councillor Eldon Bannister
Councillor Christine Hiscock**

**Councillor Janice Hayward
Councillor Madelyn Jill White**

Councillor Janice Hayward (via Facetime)

Staff Present: Town Clerk/Manager: Cathy Piercey

**Regrets: Deputy Mayor Colette Churchill-White
Assistant Town Clerk: Tina Toope**

Visitors: Patricia Connolly, Alicia MacDonald, John Vivian

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

MOTION #47 – 2026 – Bannister/White; resolved that the agenda for this meeting shall be adopted as presented. All five 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 July 8, 2026.

MOTION #48 - 2026 – Hiscock/Vivian-Penney; resolved the adoption of the minutes of the regular council meeting held on July 8, 2026. All five members present in favour, one member via Facetime in favour, resolution carried.

REPORTS AND BUSINESS ARISING

Fire Department

Mayor Kelly reported himself and the town clerk attended Aug.10/26 meeting. Helmets have finally arrived. To date over \$6,000 in donations in memory of Len Barry (more to come). Will send out a big thank-you when final numbers are ready. Going ahead with quote from HiTech Communications for new pagers (around \$14,000.00). Checking with Recreation Committee on possible dates for fireworks. Toll gate to take place September 7/26 (Labour Day weekend).

Waste Site

Mayor Kelly reported we received \$2,000.00 for scrap metal that was picked up at the waste site by Newco Metals. Currently no issues at the dump. Anticipating a fall cleanup. Looking into ordering a tool to take the rims off the tires as the recycling people will not take tires with rims.

Heritage Society

Mayor Kelly reported the 2nd Annual Maureen Howard Kitchen Party was held August 8, 2026 with approximately 50 people in attendance. Raised over \$700.00.

Recreation Commission

Councillor Vivian-Penney reported they are having a meeting next week. Port Rexton Weekend was a great success. Will install the netting around the rink. With busy times for everyone this summer the moving of the volleyball court and the signage committee activity are on hold until the fall.

Hike Discovery

Mayor Kelly invited John Vivian to report. Still in the process of reorganizing the committee. They had a unexpected event on a section of the Skerwink Trail with a washout in the Sam White's Cove area which they fixed right away.

Otter House

No available report.

Multi-Use Trail Committee

Mayor Kelly reported there were 2 meetings in July. At the July 14th meeting there were 7 people in attendance. Sarah has been in contact with NL Power with regards to proposed route and funding available through ActiveNL. John found a portion of old road in the PR area that could be used plus recommended more signage in certain areas. Other discussions were Skerwink Trail importance, prior available funding and alternate route. July 27th meeting had 3 people in attendance. They are finalizing the details and gathering information from NL Power and government departments in preparation to present their proposal to council.

Delegate

Mayor Kelly invited Alicia MacDonald to speak (5 minute time limit). MacDonald has some major concerns regarding the current state of the road conditions in our area and what council has done or are going to do about it. She has done some research and has been reaching out to the council office for any documentation that has been done. She has already done an ATIPP request to the Department of Transportation. She found information from previous council dated back over 5 years ago with concerns then that nothing has been done about and not followed up. She expressed 2 major safety concerns with traffic on top of the hill by Bishop White School and in Devils Cove around the PR Brewery area. Also need more guard rails in place. Councillor Hayward thanked Alicia for her remarks and valid concerns. Agreed that more needs to be done and council are willing to step up to the plate. Suggested a committee be formed and a town hall gathering needs to take place. Discussed the town even take over the road maintenance/upkeep if we can get to the point of getting some much need road work done and paving. John Vivian added with Route 230 getting sections of new pavement done and they will be coming through our area in the distant future now is the time to schedule a meeting with government officials to get this long overdue matter resolved. Also added that it would be a good idea to post on our social media sites our elected government officials email addresses so people can contact their office as well. There is strength in numbers!

CORRESPONDENCE

- Email received from Discovery Trail Ground Search and Rescue looking for a donation towards an ATV rescue trailer. Council had a brief discussion regarding the value this piece of equipment would benefit the whole Bonavista Peninsula and approved the request.

MOTION #49 - 2026 – Bannister/Hiscock; resolved that council approved a \$200.00 donation to DTGSR towards the purchase of an ATV rescue trailer. All five members present in favour, one member via Facetime in favour, resolution carried.

- Email received from Mansfield Piercey regarding his property on 31 Batson's Road. Has concerns of not being notified of road work taking place in the area and present conditions his property has been left. Council had a brief discussion and will need to look into the matter some more. Will follow up later with a letter to him.

FINANCES

The financial summary for July 1 - 31, 2026 that was included in Council member's meeting documents was briefly discussed.

Expenses

July Invoices Paid:	\$15,676.22
Pre-Authorized Payments/Payroll:	<u>\$15,678.44</u>
	\$31,354.66

Revenue

July 1 - 31, 2026 Income:	Total	\$42,880.84
Property/Business Tax, Permits, Miscellaneous Fees		

General Account Bank Balance July 31, 2026: \$117,065.69

The **July 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 #50 – 2026 – Hayward/Bannister; 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 five members present in favour, one member via Facetime in favour, resolution carried.

ONGOING BUSINESS

- Our auditor, Jody Cooper had an office visit July 14/26 for final questions and documents to complete the 2025 audit.

- Councillor White/Town Clerk sat in on a Teams Meeting July 15/26 with Emergency Solutions International based in NB. Councillor White reported this business offers assistance in setting up an emergency response program which includes risk assessments, road maps, evacuation routes, etc. They can create a

Wildfire Resiliency Plan (some funding available). Been talking to the Town of Trinity which they already have a \$25,000.00 grant approved. Would be expensive to come to our area (approximately \$90,000.00) so they will be reaching out to the other towns/municipalities on the Bonavista Peninsula to see if they would be interested in joining to bring the price down. Jill to also discuss with BEDA.

- Mayor Kelly reported that Tract Consulting-Ayla Perry did a site visit on July 17/26. There were 4 people in attendance at an office meeting first (Ayla, Chris, Cathy and Lois). Ayla is collecting data for certain levels of infrastructure and climate risk areas. Areas of concern are our water supply, roads, buildings/facilities and natural assets. This is a project in conjunction with the Town of Trinity that we were approved for last spring (no cost to the town). Project is in the start up stages with completion date of late spring 2027.

GENERAL/NEW BUSINESS

- Emergency Management Plan is now fully completed with a big thank-you to Councillor White for all the hours/time she spent getting this project completed. Way to go Jill! Council need to approve and adopt to finalize the project.

MOTION #51 – 2026 – Vivian-Penney/Hiscock; resolved the approval and adoption of the Emergency Management Plan. All five members present in favour, one member via Facetime in favour, resolution carried.

- Mayor Kelly reported that we received an email from Hike Discovery (Jim Miller) that he is still trying to get a copy of the LTO's that were suppose to of been issued 18 months ago for various trails in our area. Update to follow.

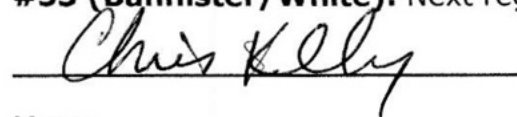
- Councillor Hayward attended the MNL Summer Session in Clarendville. Found it very informative. There were 3 keynote speakers touching on topics such as housing shortages, aging population, retaining younger people in our towns, ways to increase development in regions and applying for funding/programs.

- Fire Department has requested they need the Starlink satellite system installed in the Fire Hall plus a mobile unit for their fire truck so they can communicate no matter where they are located. Council discussed briefly and approved this system to be installed.

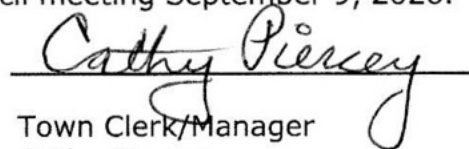
MOTION #52 – 2026 – Hiscock/Hayward; resolved the approval of the Starlink satellite system to be installed in the town hall plus mobile unit in Fire Department vehicle. All five members present in favour, one member via Facetime in favour, resolution carried.

- Councillor White applied to MNL Tree Planting program and got approved for a birch tree. Suggested it be planted down by the outdoor rink area and invite people, especially volunteers where we never did anything in June for Volunteer Week. Also, discussed again about doing something for older prominent people in our town.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm on a motion, **2026 - #53 (Bannister/White)**. Next regular council meeting September 9, 2026.



Mayor
Chris Kelly



Town Clerk/Manager
Cathy Piercey