

Municipality 2020 Councillors

THESE ARE THE SUBJECTS WHICH WERE DISCUSSED BETWEEN NEW AND OLD
COUNCILLORS OF EAST HANTS.

The question is,
WHAT DO YOU SEE IS NEEDED FOR THE GROWTH OF EAST HANTS?

- INDUSTRY
- AFFORDABLE HOUSING - DISTRICTS 3,4,5,6,8,9,11
- ENVIROMENT
- WATER BILLS
- ROADS
- AQUATIC CENTRE
- USE OF TRAIN STATION
- TOURISM – DISTRICTS 3,4,5,6,8,9,11
- PLANNING AND ADVISORY – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
- OFFICE

ALL WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF EAST HANTS

Municipality of East Hants
Planning & Development
Department

AUG 10 2021

Received

To whom it may concern,

As a tax payer, volunteer, developer, and business person who has been residing in East Hants for over 60 years, I have some unclarified concerns and am looking for answers, guidance and/or explanations. I have laid out the point I require clarification on below, in point form, for ease of reference:

1. Water Bills – why are they are so high? As a developer, I have been required to install pipes and develop streets, and sidewalks. There was no cost to East Hants for these developed areas and then my business has the capability of being charged a 10% annual interest rate on unpaid balances. Is this to cover the cost for wages, maintenance, or profit? Is there a budget available for the public to view?
2. Water taken out of Grand Lake – Millions of gallons of water are taken out each year, why is the water not piped to the residential pumping station? What would be the cost to maintain this?
3. Lawn Care for water station and other areas - Is the Municipality's cost to maintain this more than the cost of using an organization like the Earthkeepers? What is the budget for this?
4. Aquatic Centre – the decision on the location for the new pool, in many opinions, is a prime example of poor decision making and proves to not be very economical. Why was it not located in Lantz with the other sports complex?
5. Chamber of Commerce – what is the Municipality's relationship with this representative of East Hants? Is there a Chamber member on council or in-house helping make decisions for industrial businesses? As the voice of business in East Hants, this may help make decisions that would work best for all businesses in the park and East Hants.
6. Industrial Commission – how many business people from East Hants are on this committee? If none, shame on you. Maybe that is why taxes are so high and our industry is so poor. I am sure there are people who would volunteer their time, if not wasted, and ideas listened to. It may be worth taking a look at. Also, why do we have such a large turn over in this department? Consistency means a lot to businesses.
7. Youth, Volunteer or employed persons from East Hants – As an Earthkeeper board member, we have asked for a representative from East Hants join our meetings. We have

yet to see anyone. Is there someone who is involved and looks into the volunteer programs in the community? What is their job description, do they actually do work with the volunteer programs and does this person receive a wage from East Hants? It is being said there is no person for the Municipality that shows up at Provincial meetings. Is this true?

8. Municipality office and staff – what % of the staff actually live in East Hants? Similar to many business owners in the community people, I have concerns about people having the ability to make decisions which will affect my taxes and community and they live in other municipalities not being affected by these decisions. The job description should be if you work here, you live here. What % of Municipality office space is being rented to private individual and not government? What is the cost to operate the building? What does East Hants do for the business, volunteers? Who makes decisions for staff and/or council? It must be difficult with no input from local businesses and tax payers. I personally have never had a committee member from the municipality ask what I thought of an idea or what my input is. What does East Hants do to promote small business? My question is, “are the staff working to improve East Hants or working for a paycheck?”
9. Provincial Government – what is East Hants relation with the Province? Is there provincial funding? Who decides how the funding will be distributed?
10. Volunteer workers – without the Lions Club, Legions, and business donating time and money, we would not have the presence and buildings we have in East Hants. What does the municipality do to help? Elmsdale in Bloom, EarthKeepers, and many others have worked tirelessly to help promote East Hants. I am going to give an example:

Earthkeepers took over the Train Station which was an eye sore in the community. There has been an estimated investment between \$268,000 and \$275,000 +/- to bring the building to the glorious standard it is today. This money was raised by applying for Provincial Grants, businesses and volunteers. East Hants only contributed an estimated \$40,000- \$42,000 of the cost. It seems, now that it is well established again, the municipality is looking at repossessing the building. Is this due to those who are doing the maintaining not doing a great job at keeping the building and premises to the quality standards of the municipality? I only hope should this location fall back into the hands of the Municipality, it would never find itself in the state of disrepair the Earthkeepers found it in when they acquired it.

11. Low cost housing: We are in dire need of this to get industry to come to East Hants. What are you doing to make this happen? Developers look at their return on investments. We may need to develop more modular/mini home friendly parks.
12. Is the cost for East Hants in such a deficit they need to gain funding through developers? Ex, property taxes and water. We need more industry in order to keep taxes down. What is East Hants doing to encourage this?
13. Signage: business and industries need signage and advertising support to survive. What does East Hants do to help our people who are actually growing East Hants? Is there more you can do? If we want growth, we need to work together. Do we have a marketing committee to promote East Hants? "If not, why not?"
14. Doctors: What is East Hants doing to attract doctors to our community? Are we welcoming them with incentives or threatening them with taxes and high office rental rates. Does East Hants have a welcoming committee at all? Is there a working group convened to attract Doctors? These committees are the people who should be recruiting and encouraging physicians to establish in East Hants.
15. We all have to put our best foot forward to bring business and industry to East Hants. This means making sure East Hants is welcoming and helpful. We did, at one time, have a good run with industry and development, but none of those people are there now. There seems to be a trending tendency of the people who have notably made improvement in East Hants move on to other employment. Is this due to bureaucracy, or not fitting in with the other councillors and staff?

I can say there have been some great improvements over the years but we still have to strive to do better. As a councillor you are voted in to do the best job to your ability. Part of this is job is to make sure all information is brought to the table and to assist in making right decisions for East Hants.

This letter is purely constructive criticism and hope you all except it with understanding. We as a communitive team should be able to work together and bring back the best of East Hants.

In order to make awareness of these concerns, this letter has been distributed to other businesses, volunteers, industry developers, government, lawyers and general tax paying residents in East Hants.

The decisions the council makes on behalf of our community affect each and every one of us. The accountability of these decisions needs to be seen, recognized and understood by the people who are working hard growing and making East Hants great. Going forward, I would hope the councillors and staff will be making future decisions for businesses, industrial growth and tax payers and not just to make themselves look good. Councillors, you are in control and working together with everyone will make East Hants a better place to live, work, grow and enjoy.



Dear Councillor

What's Up East Hants is a proposed publication focusing on East Hants and all it has to offer. A committee is being organized to support the publication and is hoping to launch the first printed publication this August 1, 2021

The publication will be available in both print and online options. The print version is scheduled for quarterly distribution, reaching approximately 13,500 homes and businesses, while the online version will be maintained and updated weekly by the committee.

Understanding how important it is for each district in East Hants to be represented, the committee wants to ensure that all areas are being recognized regularly and we are asking for your help and support.

You are encouraged to submit an article for each printed publication detailing and highlighting what is going on in your area. This could include developments, sports, events, etc, and what you are working on to better your district. It would be welcomed to also have community involvement by allowing community members to submit articles, stories, pictures, etc to be published. This is a volunteer submission by all and can include professional writers, freelance, students, and anyone from the community who would like an opportunity to have something published.

At this time, we look forward to your comments, participation, and support. If you are aware of anyone who may be interested in participating, please have them contact Bob Bona at 902-456-6120

Yours truly,

Bob Bona