

COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 26, 2013

#13-13

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 26, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Deputy Mayor Lisa Ward presiding.

PRESENT: Councillor Robert Fancy
Councillor David Harrison
Councillor Ron Shaw
J. Raymond Hickey, CAO
Kevin Yorke, Secretary

REGRETS: Mayor Lois Smith

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Deputy Mayor Ward welcomed those in attendance noting that it was nice to see a large turn out for the upcoming presentation, and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Deputy Mayor advised that Mayor Smith was absent as she was on her way to Halifax to attend the investiture ceremony at Government House the following morning when Eldon George will be invested into the Order of Nova Scotia. She noted that the Town Council is so pleased that this honour is being bestowed upon Eldon who has done so much through his ongoing work in promoting Parrsboro and area, and on behalf of the Town of Parrsboro she congratulated him.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Councillor Harrison, seconded by Councillor Fancy that the Agenda be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

3. **PRESENTATION RE: POLLUTION ABATEMENT**

Prior to the presentation the Deputy Mayor read the following on behalf of Mayor Smith:

“The Mayor would like to thank Courtney, Hanna and their fellow students in advance for their presentation this evening and expect they will be rewarded with a good mark on their course.” At this point Deputy Mayor Ward invited the students to make their presentation and reminded those in the gallery that they would have an opportunity to ask questions during the Citizens’ Forum at the end of the meeting.

Mount Allison students Hanna Doyle, Courtney Gilbert, Heather Shilton, Morgan Trenholm and Ryan Ferdinand presented their project (copy attached) entitled “Parrsboro: An Examination into Sewage Treatment” through a narrative slideshow noting that the three main objectives were:

1. Help Parrsboro implement a wastewater treatment facility as soon as possible.
2. Raise awareness about the environmental and social impacts of untreated wastewater.
3. Decrease Parrsboro’s contribution to the Nation’s largest source of water pollution.

In the presentation the students focused on Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations, Research Findings, Environmental Impacts, Social Impacts, Economic Impacts and Wastewater Treatment Facility Options. In conclusion, the students advised that they had spoken to different levels of government and gained their support including our MP, Scott Armstrong and our MLA, Jamie Baillie as well as local citizens. Local environmentalist, Harriet McCready, was also quoted as stating that “Parrsboro has a special obligation to minimize contamination of the waters which are so vital to our area. While the installation of an effective sewage treatment plant will be a costly initiative, it is necessary to be done as soon as possible. Delaying will mean increased costs in future in every aspect previously discussed.” The students also thanked everyone for coming out this evening and noted that an in-depth report of all the research and detail will be made available to those who would like a copy. At this point Deputy Mayor Ward thanked the students for their presentation and reminded everyone about the Citizens’ Forum at the end of the meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Deputy Mayor Ward asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the minutes of October 22, 2013 (#13-12). Hearing none the minutes were declared approved as presented.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2013

Report given by Deputy Mayor Ward

Scott Property Tenders – The CAO noted that three tenders had been received for preliminary landscaping work at the former Scott property.

After reviewing the tenders individually the Committee recommended accepting the lowest tender which was submitted by Doug Willigar.

Procurement Officer – Deputy Mayor Ward proposed looking into sharing the services of the Town of Amherst Procurement Officer to assist the Town with the tendering process for major purchases.

After a discussion the Committee supported the idea and recommend that the CAO make the necessary contacts and report back.

Aboiteau – The CAO noted a request for payment from the Province for part of the work that was done at the Aboiteau last summer. In the discussion the responsibility of the Town to cover the cost of this work was questioned and the CAO noted that he would make inquiries and research cost sharing agreements to clarify this point.

Iron Sculptures – The Committee considered a proposal from Doris Soley that the iron sculptures that she crafted remain on Main Street for the enjoyment of local citizens and visitors and that they be removed only upon being purchased.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that this generous offer be accepted.

CJSMA Organizational Review – The CAO noted that CJSMA is proposing an organizational review and the board is looking for the approval of participating municipalities.

After a discussion the Committee supported the review as proposed by the Authority.

REN Proposal – The Committee was advised that the group spearheading the Regional Economic Network is looking for the Town of Parrsboro to express its desire to continue participating in the process of setting up the new agency and for the CAO to meet with the other staff to continue discussions in this regard.

After a discussion the Committee shared the opinion that the financial commitment required to participate in the new REN could be directed to other economic initiatives that would directly benefit the Town and recommended that REN be advised that we are not interested at this time.

Christmas Holidays – The Committee looked at opening and closing dates for the Christmas Holidays and recommended that the Town Office and Public Works Department be closed the week of December 23rd to 27th and that they reopen on December 30th. During this period the Public Works Department will be on-call for emergencies and snow clearing as required by the weather conditions.

Water Puddle at Elementary School – Deputy Mayor Ward proposed a solution to the water puddle in front of the Elementary School that interferes with the routine drop-off and pick-up of students.

After a discussion the Committee recommended implementing this solution on a trial basis.

Sewage Treatment Options – The CAO recommended proceeding to request proposals for pre-design work to look at options and potential solutions for sewage treatment and that funds from the Town’s Gas Tax reserve be used to finance this work.

After a discussion the Committee recommended accepting the CAO’s recommendation.

Strategic Plan – The Committee agreed that where the majority of objectives in the current strategic plan have been accomplished they should be looking at updating the document. To begin this process it was recommended that between now and the next Committee meeting each member think of what they would like to see accomplished over the next two or three years.

Parrsboro Band Association – Correspondence from the Parrsboro Band Association requested the assistance of Public Works again this year in clearing snow from the end of the Band Hall driveway when plowing snow on King Street.

The Committee recommended providing the service as requested.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Ward, seconded by Councillor Fancy that the Finance Committee report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.

Motion carried.

TOURISM COMMITTEE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2013

Report given by Councillor Shaw

Doers and Dreamers Guide – Taylor Redmond presented a draft of a community ad for the Doers and Dreamers Guide for the Committee’s approval noting that there were two proposed catch phrases to choose from.

After a discussion the Committee approved the ad with the choice of the catch phrase left to Taylor’s discretion.

December Promotion – Taylor proposed a four day marketing initiative from December 4th to 8th to promote local businesses and attractions and that an advertisement be placed in an outside publication funded on a 50/50 basis between the Town and business community.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that the Town of Parrsboro assist the business community with this advertising by providing half the cost to a maximum of \$250.00.

Chair Project – Taylor proposed a chair project for next summer and requested the Committee to consider a financial commitment of \$1,000 toward materials which could be recouped from the sale of the artists' works and reinvested in another sculptural project.

After a discussion the Committee recommended a commitment of \$1,000 toward this project with funds to come from next year's budget.

Moved by Councillor Shaw, seconded by Councillor Fancy that the Tourism Committee report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.

Motion carried.

LIBRARY REPORT

NOVEMBER 2013

Report given by Deputy Mayor Ward

Chief Librarian – Denise Corey has been appointed as the new Chief Librarian by the Library Board starting in her new position at the end of October. As required her appointment was submitted to and approved by the Province.

Parrsboro Library Statistics – Total circulation for Parrsboro in September 2013 was 879; holds placed 218; information requests 110; and total hours open 108. There were 3 children's programs offered with 24 children in attendance. There was one adult program offered with 3 adults taking part. WiFi hours totaled 96.5 and computer hours totaled 209.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Ward, seconded by Councillor Harrison that the Library report be accepted.

Motion carried.

6. RESOLUTIONS RE: CANADA POST

For information the CAO advised that the Minister responsible for Canada Post is considering a review of postal service in Canada and the Town has been contacted by the Canadian Postal Workers Union requesting our support through the adoption of two resolutions to encourage the Minister to focus on increased revenue generation rather than cutting back on rural postal service.

Moved by Councillor Harrison, seconded by Councillor Fancy that the following resolutions be adopted:

**CANADIAN POSTAL SERVICE CHARTER REVIEW
SHOULD FOCUS ON REVENUE-GENERATION, NOT ADDITIONAL CUTS**

WHEREAS the federal government will look at how it handles public postal services with a review of the Canadian Postal Service Charter in 2014.

WHEREAS Canada Post is preparing for the review by campaigning for major service cuts.

WHEREAS Canada Post has already dramatically cut service by closing or downsizing public post offices, eliminating rural mailbox delivery and removing street letter collection boxes.

WHEREAS Canada Post and the federal government should do everything in its power to prevent additional cuts during the upcoming review, and instead deal with financial issues by adding revenue-generating services like many other post offices around the world, including lucrative financial services like bill payments, insurance and banking.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Parrsboro write a letter to the Minister responsible for Canada Post to request that the government consider innovative ways to generate postal revenue during the Charter review, including financial services like bill payments, insurance and banking.

IMPROVE THE CANADIAN POSTAL SERVICE CHARTER

WHEREAS the federal government will look at how it handles public postal services with a review of the Canadian Postal Service Charter in 2014.

WHEREAS the public has a right to have input on matters involving its publicly owned post office.

WHEREAS the current Charter has a number of serious problems that need fixing.

WHEREAS the government could use the Charter review to reduce our public post office's obligation to provide service (instead of improving the Charter) and even lay the groundwork for privatizing or deregulating Canada Post.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Parrsboro write a letter to the Minister responsible for Canada Post to request 1) that the upcoming review of the Canadian Postal Service Charter be open to public input and 2) that the Charter be improved by:

- Ensuring that the moratorium on post office closures in small and rural communities protects the public nature of post offices
- Eliminating the exceptions to the moratorium

- Extending the consultation process over possible closures and making the process and moratorium more transparent
- Establishing an independent Canada Post ombudsperson to report on Canada Post's performance in meeting the Charter expectations
- Establishing a reasonable, uniform and democratic process for making changes to the postal and delivery network (closures, downsizing, removal of rural mailboxes, etc.), but only after consultation with the public and other stakeholders.

Motion carried.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) **Town of Yarmouth to UNSM** – Deputy Mayor Ward presented a copy of a letter sent by the Town of Yarmouth to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities regarding a motion passed at their October 10th, 2013 meeting “that the Town of Yarmouth write to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities a letter, with copies to each town, rural and regional municipal unit, thanking all of our municipal partners for their support, encouragement and efforts in assisting our Town in our efforts to see the return of the Yarmouth-New England ferry service.”

(b) **Recreation Nova Scotia** – Correspondence from Recreation Nova Scotia was acknowledged advising Mayor Smith that the 40th Annual Provincial Volunteer Awards Ceremony will take place April 7th, 2014 at the Westin Nova Scotian, Halifax. Also, that the Town of Parrsboro could be an excellent candidate for the “Model Volunteer Community Award” which recognizes a community that has shown ongoing support for volunteers that have worked together as a community on a project(s) to enhance the lives of its members. A Model Volunteer Community nomination form was enclosed.

(c) **Communities in Bloom** – Deputy Mayor Ward noted that official notification has been received advising that the Town of Parrsboro has been awarded 5 out of 5 blooms by the Communities in Bloom judges and she congratulated all those involved in helping the Town achieve this status for a job well done.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Councillor Harrison, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

