

COUNCIL

MAY 27, 2014

#14-05

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 27th, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Lois Smith presiding.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Lisa Ward
Councillor Robert Fancy
Councillor Ron Shaw
J. Raymond Hickey, CAO
Kevin Yorke, Secretary

REGRETS: Councillor David Harrison

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Smith welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Ward, seconded by Councillor Fancy that the Agenda be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

3. **PRESENTATION RE: HYDRAULIC FRACKING**

The Council received a presentation from Jennifer Matthews, Health Safety Environment Analyst, Atlantic Canada and Sheri Somerville, Natural Gas Advisor (NB) of CAPP, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, which is a national organization representing approximately 100 companies that explore for, develop and produce natural gas, natural gas liquids, crude oil and oil sands throughout Canada and produce 90 percent of Canada's natural gas and crude oil. After reviewing offshore oil and natural gas exploration and production in Atlantic Canada, the focus turned to the Onshore Industry, unconventional resource development and hydraulic fracking. Ms. Somerville noted that both the onshore and offshore oil and natural gas industry bring major benefits to the economy and the potential exists for further industry growth. She reviewed Nova Scotia Onshore Resource Agreements, proven and potential resources in New Brunswick, stages of exploration and production for unconventional resources, and geophysical exploration (seismic). She explained how technology makes hydraulic fracturing work and covered the rules of the industry for New Brunswick noting that CAPP supports strong regulations to ensure a consistent and stable operating environment by following five guiding principles of hydraulic fracturing: to safeguard the quality and quantity of regional surface and groundwater resources; measure and disclose their water use;

support the development of fracturing fluid additives with the least environmental risks; support the disclosure of fracturing fluid additives; and continue to advance, collaborate on and communicate technologies and best practices that reduce the environmental risks of hydraulic fracturing. In conclusion, Ms. Matthews noted that there is no rush at the moment for hydraulic fracturing anywhere in Nova Scotia. The Nova Scotia Department of Energy has instituted a moratorium and is preparing an onshore petroleum resource report expected to be drafted in 2015. This report will point to where there is the greatest onshore petroleum potential and will give communities across the province a better sense of where there may be resource potential and at that point they may consider undertaking independent studies. Ms. Somerville added that New Brunswick is a bit further ahead with natural gas production already established. She noted that those who are trying to attract new business to the New Brunswick area are hearing that companies considering locating there want and need a supply of natural gas to power their operations and business leaders are questioning whether it makes better sense to develop a domestic supply or pay additional dollars to ship it in from elsewhere.

Following a brief question and answer session Mayor Smith thanked the presenters for coming and noted that the Council would be remiss if they did not hear both sides of the story and that both they and the citizens of the town have to be educated on the topic.

4. APPROVAL OF BUDGET AND TAX RATES

Moved by Councillor Shaw, seconded by Councillor Fancy that the Town Council approve an Operating Budget for the Town of Parrsboro in the amount of \$2,379,366. for the fiscal year April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015 and that the Residential Tax Rate be set at \$1.80 per \$100 of assessment and that the Commercial Tax Rate be set at \$3.99 per \$100 of assessment. Also, that the taxes be accepted at par until August 12, 2014 and that interest be charge and calculated at a rate of 2% per month on all accounts after August 12, 2014.

Motion carried.

At this point Mayor Smith presented the following 2014-15 Town of Parrsboro Budget Summary.

Total budget for the 2014-15 fiscal year: **\$2,379,365.88**

Tax rates

- Residential: \$1.80 (a reduction of 0.20 from previous year)
- Commercial: \$3.99 (a reduction of 0.14 from previous year)

New area rate fees applied to all accounts

- Residential Fire Protection fee: \$125 per account
- Residential Street Lighting fee: \$50 per account
- Commercial Fire Protection fee: \$150 per account
- Commercial Street Lighting fee: \$55 per account

Budget Highlights

Taxation

The Town of Parrsboro has adopted a slight change in its taxation method, bringing it more in line with many regional and rural municipalities throughout the Province. The cost of Fire Protection and Street Lighting are now billed separately to all accounts from the general tax rates. This allows for a significant reduction in both the residential and commercial tax rates, and a consistent billing to all accounts for these services. The general revenue collected remains similar to past years, and should keep the Town of Parrsboro's average residential tax bill as one of the five lowest among Towns in Nova Scotia. The change should, however, provide a modest tax break to new home constructions and businesses in the Town, helping to encourage growth.

Economic Development

The 2014-15 fiscal year sees the Town of Parrsboro significantly increase spending on economic development. The Council has moved to continue supporting the Special Projects Coordinator and budgeted additional funds for such initiatives. There are also specific funds allocated for increased promotion of the Town, including attending major trade shows.

Parks and Recreation

The 2014-15 budget allocates significant funds for several important recreation capital projects. These include a completely renovated Tennis Court, the start of a Community Bicycle Program and the purchase of equipment for a new Community Fitness Center which is a joint project with the Parrsboro Regional High School. The Town anticipates funding assistance from other sources for these projects, and the Town's portion of the Tennis Court will be funded over 3 years.

Protective Services

2014-15 sees the establishment of budgeted transfers to capital reserves in anticipation of the future purchase of a new fire truck.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Smith asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the minutes of April 22nd, 2014 (#14-04). Hearing none the minutes were declared approved as presented.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(6.1) Finance – Report given by Deputy Mayor Ward.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 2014

(a) **David Beattie RE: FORCE**: David Beattie, President of the Board of Trade, advised that the organization is committed to helping the community prepare for the tidal power project and is undertaking the preparation of a data base of resources for FORCE and is spearheading a community task force. Mr. Beattie invited the Town to have representation on this committee.

(b) **Public Forum on Strategic Plan** – The Committee proposed a public forum to present the Town’s 2014-2017 Strategic Plan and 2014-2015 budget highlights.

After a discussion it was agreed to hold this forum in September.

(c) **Liberal Caucus Meeting** – For information the CAO advised that the Liberal Caucus will be meeting in Amherst on June 4th and would like to send representatives of the caucus to meet with Council at 1:30 p.m.

The Committee agreed this would be an excellent opportunity to discuss matters of mutual concern and asked the CAO to confirm that the Council will meet with the Caucus as requested.

(d) **UNSM Info** – Deputy Mayor Ward presented a report from the UNSM Spring Conference noting that the Red Cross will be sending a letter to all 54 units in Nova Scotia regarding their campaign request to donate \$1 per citizen paid over 10 years to help pay for the services they provide. Another conference topic was the newly introduced 211 number which has information on over 4,000 services provided by non-profits, community groups and government departments.

(e) **125th Birthday Celebrations** – Deputy Mayor Ward requested consideration of funds to purchase paint to spruce up the Glooscap Statue with the work being done by volunteers.

After a discussion the Committee recommended a budget of \$600 for this purpose.

(f) **Band Shelter** – There was a discussion regarding the refurbishment of the Band Shelter which is part of our application to ACOA resulting in a recommendation that some work be done in the interim to spruce up the structure in time for the 125th Birthday celebrations.

(g) **Tale of the Town** – Deputy Mayor Ward noted that she and Mayor Smith met with a contingent from the “Tale of the Town” on May 18th which is doing a feature on Main Street stories for radio and the stage. She indicated that Parrsboro was the first town chosen for the interviews and that several local story tellers were invited to participate.

(h) **Board of Trade Request** – The CAO noted a request from the Board of Trade to extend the area barricaded off for Old Fashion Saturday Night down to the intersection of Lower Main and Western Avenue to take in the Ship’s Company Theatre.

After a discussion the Committee had no objection to this, however, recommended consulting the RCMP for their input.

(i) **Economic Development Update** – Councillor Fancy reported that he is currently involved with four working groups that are pursuing various economic development initiatives.

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

Motion carried.

(6.2) **Public Works** – Report given by Councillor Shaw.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 2014

(a) **Disabled Parking** - The CAO noted a request from Winnock Physiotherapy that one parking spot in front of the clinic be designated for disabled parking.

After a discussion the Committee recommended designating one parking space for disabled parking during normal business hours, Monday to Friday.

(b) **Aboiteau Gates** – The Committee discussed the possibility of implementing a temporary solution to maintaining water levels in the Aboiteau until funding is approved for a more permanent fix.

After a discussion the Committee recommended applying for the necessary approvals through the Department of Environment to place clay around the base of the bridge structure to reduce water loss.

(c) **King Street Water Tender** – The CAO reported on the results of a tender call for installing a stop valve in the King Street water line to improve water quality and recommended that the tender from J.R. Isenor in the amount of \$39,000 be accepted.

(d) **Crosswalks** – Public safety concerns have been expressed regarding a crosswalk on Eastern Avenue and another on Main Street where there have been reports of vehicles failing to yield to pedestrians.

After a discussion the Committee recommended painting warning signs on the pavement on either side of the Eastern Avenue crosswalk. The Committee would also like to

remind the public that they should slow down when approaching any marked crosswalk in the town as pedestrians entering the crosswalk may momentarily be obscured by parked vehicles.

(e) **Dog Park** – The need for a garbage can and repairs to the fence at the Pier Road dog park were noted for the Superintendent.

(f) **Drainage on Layton Street and Beaverdam Road** – Drainage problems on Layton Street and Beaverdam Road were discussed resulting in the recommendation to consult our Superintendent and our engineer for advice on possible solutions and related costs and to look into the availability of funding through the Flooding Infrastructure Grant.

Moved by Councillor Shaw, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ward that the Public Works Committee report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.
Motion carried.

(6.3) **Tourism** – Report given by Councillor Shaw.

TOURISM COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 2014

(a) **Town Gardener** – The Committee discussed the need for a gardener dedicated to looking at the hanging baskets and flower gardens and recommended that the CAO look into hiring a part-time person based on a 20 hour week for an 8-12 week period.

(b) **Big Beach Chair** – The Committee was presented with the idea of placing three oversized beach chairs at First Beach cost shared by the Board of Trade, Harbourview Restaurant and the Town of Parsboro at \$200 each.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that the Town participate in this tourist promotion with a \$200 contribution to purchase one of the chairs.

(c) **Garbage Can Tops** – The Committee was presented with two options for tops for the older type garbage barrels.

After a discussion the Committee recommended purchasing the less expensive option.

(d) **Trade Show** – The Committee was presented with a list of names of people recommended to be included in the contingent from the Town going to the upcoming trade show in Toronto in the fall, and whose expenses will be paid by the Town.

After a discussion the Committee approved Tissy Bolivar, John Meadows and Lawrence Nicoll as the contingent from the Town.

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

Motion carried.

(6.4) Planning, Development and Housing – Report given by Mayor Smith.

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 2014

(a) Building Inspector's Report – Following is the activity in the Building Inspector's Office for the month of April 2014:

| | <u>No. of Permits</u> | <u>Value</u> |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|
| New construction, alterations and repairs (Residential) | 2 | \$51,000 |

(b) Unightly Premises – The Committee agreed that with the end of the winter season unsightly premises should be put back on the agenda and that there should be a follow up on any outstanding files. The Committee also recommended reviewing the list at every Committee meeting to keep it current.

(c) Cobequid Housing Appointee – The Town has received verbal communication from the Cobequid Housing Authority that the term of our current representative is close to expiring and the Council will have to make a recommendation for an appointee to serve the next term.

After a discussion the Committee agreed to look into the matter.

Mayor Smith noted the understanding that the appointee has to be a private citizen and not an elected official.

Moved by Mayor Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ward that the Planning, Development and Housing Committee report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.

Motion carried.

(6.5) Police Advisory – Report given by Deputy Mayor Ward.

POLICE ADVISORY REPORT

MAY 2014

Following is the activity of the Parrsboro RCMP Detachment covering the period December 15th, 2013 to March 31st, 2014:

Members attended both the Advocate and Parrsboro schools to assist the Parrsboro Lions Club with printing the primary students for identification purposes. Attended Advocate school on March 18 and Parrsboro school on April 25th for ident kits to be completed.

The DARE program is being taught to the Grade 6 students at the Parrsboro Elementary School this year by Cst. Travis Dow.

The Community Police Officer assisted with a school lockdown procedure for the staff at Parrsboro Elementary School. Conversation surrounding school safety, basic safety, school lockdown plan.

Speeding – Summary Offense Tickets – **17**; Speeding – **79**; **16** checkpoints were completed in our area during this period.

Total number of Warrants executed: **82**

Total number of Charges: **195**

Hand held device SOTS from April 1/13 to March 31/14: **135**

Impaired/Refusal Charges from April 1/13 to March 31/14: **32**

Driving Related SOTS from April 1/13 to March 31/14: **688**

As of March 31, 2014, **75** CSO checks have been completed with **11** CSO breach charges resulting.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Ward, seconded by Councillor Shaw that the Police Advisory report be accepted.

Motion carried.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) **Canadian Red Cross** – Deputy Mayor Ward presented correspondence from the Canadian Red Cross regarding their campaign to raise funds to support disaster relief services provided by the organization by asking all 54 municipal units in Nova Scotia to consider donating \$1 for each resident which can be pledged over a three to five year period.

(b) **Fundy Shore Auto Club** – Mayor Smith noted correspondence from the Fundy Shore Auto Club requesting a donation of \$50.00 to go toward the Mayor's Trophy which is presented at their annual Show N' Shine to be held on July 26th and 27th at the

Lions Arena. Mayor Smith noted that she always enjoys participating in this event and encouraged everyone to attend.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Ward, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.