

COUNCIL

APRIL 22, 2014

#14-04

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 22nd, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Lois Smith presiding.

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

REGRETS: Councillor Robert Fancy

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**

Deputy Mayor Ward moved that the Agenda be approved with the addition of Strategic Plan as item (d) under Committee Reports. The motion was seconded by Councillor Shaw and carried.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Smith asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Council minutes of March 25th, 2014 (#14-03).

Hearing none the minutes were declared approved as circulated.

4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

APRIL 2014

Report given by Deputy Mayor Ward

(a) **FCI Indicators** – The CAO presented an updated version of FCI Indicators noting highlights of the report. He pointed out that the tax burden for residents of Parrsboro in municipal taxes is 2.7% of their income which is extremely low compared to the

provincial average of 3.3%. The town's tax base has increased 11% in the past five years which is also significant. The complete FCI report will be available online on the Provincial website as early as next week.

(b) **Bylaw Officer Update** – A report from the Bylaw Officer indicated that over the past month he had received six calls and returned a dog running loose to its owner.

(c) **Water Extensions** – The matter of potential waterline extensions to MacKenzie Park and Sand Bar Lane was revisited in response to inquiries from interested property owners about the status of the projects. The CAO noted that any costs incurred by the Town to install these waterlines would have to be recouped from the property owners over a period of time.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that the CAO perform a cost analysis of both projects as well as the cost to the property owners. It was agreed further that both groups of property owners be invited to a meeting in July to review this information.

(d) **Flooding – Eastern Avenue and Beaverdam Road** – A complaint regarding flooding from a resident of Eastern Avenue and another from a resident of Beaverdam Road following recent heavy rains were brought to the Committee.

After a discussion it was recommended that the residents be informed that their complaints are being looked into and that hopefully the Committee will have the information they need by the next meeting to respond.

(e) **Aboiteau Gates** – The CAO noted that the gates for the Aboiteau bridge have been completed and that a decision is required whether or not to treat them to make them last longer. He presented a cost estimate of \$600 per gate to have them galvanized.

After a discussion the Committee recommended looking into more cost effective options before a decision is made.

(f) **Garbage Cans** – The Committee reviewed options for new garbage cans that will be installed on Main Street and at the civic grounds.

After a discussion the Committee recommended a style in black in the price range of \$950.00 per unit and that 5 of the units be purchased.

(g) **Sewer Interest** – The CAO noted that currently interest is not charged on overdue sewer bills and suggested it would be appropriate to charge interest at a rate of 2% per month which is equivalent to that of property tax bills.

After a discussion the Committee agreed with this recommendation.

(h) **Tax Exemptions** – The CAO reported that 9 applications had been received for the Municipal Tax Exemption and that seven qualified, one did not qualify according to the

income tax information provided and one could tentatively be approved with verification of income.

After a discussion the Committee recommended approving the seven qualifying applicants and that the eighth be tentatively approved pending receipt of income tax documentation verifying their income.

(i) **Old Fashion Saturday Night** – Deputy Mayor Ward requested that the vendor’s fee of \$25.00 be waived for Old Fashion Saturday Night and Prospector’s Evening, as well as 125th Birthday Celebrations at the former Scott Mill property.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that this request be approved.

(j) **Cumberland Public Libraries** – Correspondence from Denise Corey, Chief Librarian requested the Town of Parrsboro, and all other municipalities that contribute to the library, pay the same amount for library service as they did in the last fiscal year. She noted that as the municipal units agreed to pay an additional 5% in the 2012/13 fiscal year the figure requested, \$9,120.00, represents a slight increase over the required amount.

After a discussion the Committee recommended funding the library at the level requested.

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

Motion carried.

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

APRIL 2014

Report given by Councillor Harrison

Building Inspector’s Report – Following are the permits issued during the months of December 2013 to March 2014:

	<u>No. of Permits</u>	<u>Value</u>
New construction, alterations and additions (Residential)	2	\$100,000

Sewer Committee Report – Councillor Harrison gave a brief report on the meeting held on Thursday, April 17th noting that the Terms of Reference were reviewed prior to referral to the Procurement Officer. A time schedule was developed specifying that the

tender call will go out on April 28th and close on May 26th. Within that week the committee will meet again to discuss the tender for which the contract will be awarded on June 2nd. The study will be due by the 4th of August. In the meantime the CAO will be applying for funding for the study, the cost of which is estimated at \$60,000.

Moved by Councillor Harrison, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ward that the Planning, Development and Housing Committee report be accepted.

Motion carried.

CUMBERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARIES REPORT

APRIL 2014

Report given by Deputy Mayor Ward

Coming Soon – Planning for Summer Reading Club 2014 is well underway!! Research has shown that students who read through the summer achieve better grades in school and are able to retain what they learn, and Summer Reading Club provides a fun family activity. The Cumberland Public Libraries have book clubs for all ages with reading incentives being awarded all summer long so that parents, grandparents and caregivers can read along with their kids.

The Cumberland Public Library will again be participating in the TD Summer Reading club for kids ages 3-12 and this year's theme is *Eureka!* Look for libraries in Cumberland County to be providing all kinds of fun Summer Reading Club programs throughout the summer.

Did you know? – The Cumberland Public Libraries had another successful March Break with the 7 libraries having 22 programs in 5 days with over 300 children attending.

Statistics – In the month of February, Cumberland Public Libraries signed out over 9,000 items! This includes books, movies, TV shows, magazines and more.

Also in February, the 7 libraries held 62 programs county-wide for children and adults, with 704 people attending.

Find out what's going on – Check out the library's webpage (www.cumberlandpubliclibraries.ca) to see our Calendar of Events and get information on upcoming programs.

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@CumberlandPL) to get information on coming events, find out about new books and movies, and see pictures of our programs.

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

Motion carried.

TOWN OF PARRSBORO STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2014

The CAO noted that this is a general strategic plan for 2014 through to 2017 to meet the needs of the community. It is considered a living document that can be changed and adapted when something new arises that needs to be addressed. A hard copy is available to any interested citizen present this evening and will be available on the Town's website and Facebook page. Feedback from the public is welcomed and encouraged. He noted that the plan is broken into several categories including Economic Development and Tourism, Glooscap Park, Public Properties, Recreation, Sewer, and Water Utility and gave a brief summary of each.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lisa Ward, seconded by Councillor Shaw that the Town of Parrsboro Strategic Plan for 2014 be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Ward the meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.