

COUNCIL

JUNE 24, 2014

#14-06

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, June 24th, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Lois Smith presiding.

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

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Deputy Mayor Ward moved the approval of the Agenda with the addition of the following under Committee Reports: (d) Police Advisory; and (e) 125th Celebration Committee. The motion was seconded by Councillor Shaw and carried.

3. **DELIVERY OF PETITION BY WENDY BLENKHORN**

Wendy Blenkhorn apologized for the governance survey petition not being fully ready to be presented and noted the understanding that this is the last Council meeting before the summer and that the petition could be submitted to the CAO at any time when completed. Mayor Smith thanked Mrs. Blenkhorn for her presence this evening and also noted the possibility of meeting informally if they wished to present the petition when all parties concerned are available.

Mayor Smith also noted that the Council has been discussing having a public participation session tentatively in the early fall following the format of a workshop where the Mayor, Council and Town Staff would be available to answer questions and receive input from the public as to what they want for the future of Parrsboro. She expressed the hope that everyone with an interest in the Town's future including those who have signed the governance petition will come out to participate in such a session and noted that it will be advertised well in advance. Mayor Smith added that she would be the first to admit that outside of

the council and committee meetings that she and the other members of Council attend, there has not been a lot of communication and that she hoped that everyone realizes that she, the Councillors and Town Staff are always available. Mayor Smith commented that after serving 17 years as a Councillor and as Mayor she would soon be retiring after the next election in October 2016 and that she and the Councillors she has worked with over the years have always had the interest of the citizens and the community in mind.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Smith asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Council minutes of May 27th, 2014 (#14-05).

Hearing none she declared the minutes approved as circulated.

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) **Finance** – Report given by Deputy Mayor Ward:

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

JUNE 2014

(a) **Presentation: Ship's Company Theatre** – Natasha MacLellan, Artistic Producer, accompanied by Chair Dianne Powel and Board member David Beattie, met with the Committee to review the upcoming 30th anniversary season of the Ship's Company Theatre and to request an increase in funding from the Town. Mr. Beattie noted that when the new theatre was constructed the Town's funding had been equal to the Theatre's property tax bill, however, this commitment has been slipping over the years. The Committee was asked to re-evaluate the grant that had been approved this year taking this into consideration.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that the grant to the Ship's Company Theatre for fiscal 2014/15 be adjusted to an amount equivalent to the 2014/15 property tax bill.

(b) **David Beattie RE: FORCE** – As a follow up to his meeting with Council last month to discuss a cooperative effort between the Town, County and Harbour Commission to prepare the town for tidal power groups coming in, David Beattie advised that Norman Rafuse, Wendell Gallagher and Art Sargent have agreed to serve as part of the citizen team. Mr. Rafuse and Mr. Gallagher were also present for this meeting and participated in a general discussion with the Council regarding priorities for the near future.

(c) **Tax Account Reviews** – Responding to the concerns of taxpayers who had contacted the Town Office and a presentation at Committee-of-the-Whole by Lloyd Smith regarding how the new taxation system affects property owners of vacant land, the

Committee recommends the following policy be adopted: a) owners of multiple properties which form one, continuous block of land will receive only one (1) charge for Fire Protection and Public Street Lighting for that group of properties, provided these properties contain one dwelling or less and b) owners of vacant lots which are too small to be used as a home building lot or are deemed valueless due to extenuating circumstances shall not be billed for Fire Protection or Public Street Lighting.

(d) Harbour Commission Land Request – The Parrsboro Harbour Commission has expressed an interest in acquiring a small piece of Town owned property at First Beach for future development. The CAO advised that if the Committee is receptive to the idea of selling the property it must be declared surplus and offered for sale on the open market to give everyone an opportunity to bid on it.

After a discussion the Committee recommended declaring the property as surplus and listing it with a local real estate agent.

(e) Unightly Premises at 51 Lower Victoria Street – The CAO advised that the future owners of 51 Lower Victoria Street as of June 26th have indicated that they would be receptive to the Town issuing an order to demolish the property and applying the cost of demolition to their tax bill.

After a discussion the Committee recommended proceeding with the demolition order on this property.

(f) Dry Wells at Don Yorke Memorial Ball Field –The organizers of the Don Yorke Memorial Ball Tournament requested that dry wells be installed at the ball field to improve drainage and indicated that they would be willing to share the cost with the Town. The CAO noted that this work could be performed by the Public Works Department and that the only cost would be associated with materials.

After a discussion the Committee recommended installing the dry wells with the Town covering all labor and material costs.

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

Motion carried.

Mayor Smith who is also Chair of the Harbour Commission, gave an update on items (b) and (d). She noted that the Harbour Commission met earlier in the day with Boyd MacIsaac and David MacDonald who are associated with MacIsaac Marine Operators, the company that owns the barge that has been moored at the wharf since last fall. The associates have been in town on several occasions and the company has recently acquired the former Dunbar property near the wharf. With regard to item (d), Mayor Smith explained that the Harbour Commission owns most of the land where the restaurant is situated and along the side of the wharf as well as various sections of the middle part in

front of the cottages. The Harbour Commission felt that it needed a small piece of land owned by the Town in this middle section to add to their property due to the fact that there will be a lot of activity going on over the next several years.

(b) **Protective Services** – Report given by Councillor Fancy.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

JUNE 2014

Fire Chief's Report – Fire Chief Randy Mosher met with the Committee to present an update on the Fire Department:

Statistics – 43 calls to date which already exceeds the total number of calls in 2013. Flue fires, alarms going off due to wet weather, lift assist calls from EHS and automatic aid account for the increase in calls this year.

County of Cumberland Fire Protection Budget and Financial Reporting Policy – For information the Fire Chief circulated a copy of the Municipality of Cumberland's 2013/14 Fire Protection Budget which he felt would be helpful in future budget deliberations. He also circulated a copy of the County's Financial Reporting Policy which clarifies the financial information that is required from the Fire Departments that receive funding from the municipality.

RFP for Annual Inspections – The Fire Chief recommended opting into the County's RFP for annual truck inspections this year to ensure that the department's fire fighting equipment meet the required standards.

Training Incentives – The Fire Chief noted that Cumberland County firefighters attaining Level 1 training and certification receive a monetary incentive and recommended that the Town Council consider a similar incentive program for members of the Parrsboro Fire Department who attain the same level of training and certification.

Replacement of 1987 Pumper Truck – A listing of fire trucks currently in service in Cumberland County Departments was circulated indicating that only 12% of the county fleet is older than the PVFD's 1987 Pumper Truck which is the number two truck currently in service. The Chief asked that the replacement of this piece of equipment be considered the number one priority of the Town Council when allocating reserve funds.

Unightly Premises – A list of unsightly and/or dangerous premises was requested to keep the Fire Department up-to-date on properties that could pose a fire hazard.

Moved by Councillor Fancy, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ward that the Protective Services Committee report be accepted.

Motion carried.

(c) **Library** – Report given by Deputy Mayor Ward.

CUMBERLAND LIBRARIES REPORT

JUNE 2014

Did You Know?

Summer Reading Club starts June 16 and it's not just for kids. Summer Reading Clubs are available for ages 3-103, with prizes being awarded to all age groups throughout the summer. Drop in to the Parrsboro Library or give us a call at 254-2046 for more information.

Summer Programs

Parrsboro Library will be kicking off its Summer Reading Club on Thursday, June 26th, 10-11am for kids P-6. Look for fun programs all summer long including Lego, Robot Mania, MaKey MaKey and Yoda folding party. Call the Parrsboro Library at 254-2046 to register or for more information.

Coming Soon

MaKey MaKey will be touring Cumberland County this summer. MaKey MaKey is a simple circuit board and robotics kit that turns anything it's connected to into a touchpad that interacts with a computer. For example, have you ever made a piano out of bananas or created a video game console out of a sheet of paper and play-doh? Check out our Calendar of Events this summer to see when MaKey MaKey will be at your library.

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 Fancy that the Library report be accepted.

Motion carried.

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

POLICE ADVISORY REPORT

JUNE 2014

Crime Stats - For the time frame of April 1st, 2014 to June 15th, 2014 for the town and the rural areas are as follows:

Parrsboro Town (Zone 11) – 98

Parrsboro Detachment: Zone 8 – 17; zone 10 – 59

Detachment Updates –

- Cst. Jonathon Roswell attended the annual IWK Walkathon at the Parrsboro Elementary School.
- Member attended and led the parade for the Miniature Horse Show.
- On May 12 the local Cub group walked to the Parrsboro Detachment for a tour of the office. As well, they had a safety talk on bicycle safety.
- Officers attended Parrsboro School with members of the Parrsboro Lions Club to complete fingerprinting of the primary students for their Identification kits.
- Nova Scotia Lieutenant Governor John James Grant attended the Parrsboro School to present his annual education medals to grade 11 from Chignecto-Central Regional School Board region. Cumberland District members Cst. Tim Stocker and Cst. Travise Dowe attended the ceremony in red serge.
- On June 4 a number of officers from the Parrsboro Detachment assisted the Codiac, New Brunswick Detachment with the manhunt for Justin Bourque. Also, detachment members attended the Regimental Funeral Service for the three fallen members, Cst. Ross, Cst. Gevaudan and Cst. Larch on June 10.

The Detachment had a book of condolences available for signing and a large number of people from the Parrsboro area attended to show their support. The book has been sent to the Codiac Detachment, along with books from the other Cumberland Detachments.

Deputy Mayor Ward also expressed condolences on the loss of the three Codiac RCMP officers on behalf of the Mayor, Council, staff and the community.

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

Motion carried.

(e) **125th Birthday Celebration** – Report given by Deputy Mayor Ward.

Many activities throughout the summer: Beach tours – Fundy Geological Museum; Live theatre & concerts – Ship’s Company Theatre; Concerts in the park – every Sunday evening; Many activities taking place at the Ottawa House Museum; Films at the Hall. Just to name a few.

July 1st

Canada Day Celebrations – Parrsboro Volunteer Fire Department

Ottawa House Flag Raising 2:00 p.m. – Ottawa House

Fireworks at dusk – Town of Parrsboro

July 5th

Old Fashion Saturday Night – Board of Trade

July 15th Parrsboro's 125th Birthday !889-2014

Mayor, Council, Staff and 125th Birthday Celebration Committee Members invite you to attend the Mayor's Tea Party to celebrate Parrsboro's 125th Birthday on July 15th, 2014 at the Town's Civic Grounds from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. To kick off the event the church bells will ring at noon. There will be games, refreshments and prizes. Come out to celebrate and socialize with your friends and neighbors. We encourage you to dress in period costume.

August 30th

Music Festival Celebrating Parrsboro's 125th Birthday – Come out and enjoy a day of entertainment, vendors, food and socialize with friends, family and new acquaintances. Entrance Fee – Pay what you can.

- 12:00pm – Balysto Steel Drum Band
- 1:00pm – UNFORSEEN featuring blind pianist Shelby Murray
- 2:00pm – Jim Aylward
- 3:00pm – Nancy MacDougall and Band
- 4:00pm – Hooligans Ruff
- 5:00pm – Grant Fullerton
- 6:00pm – Balysto Steel Drum Band

Moved by Deputy Mayor Ward, seconded by Councillor Shaw that the 125th Birthday Celebration report be accepted.

Motion carried.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) **Deputy Mayor RE: King Street Water** – Deputy Mayor Ward indicated that as many are aware the seniors complex and some residents of King Street have been experiencing discolored water and that Council have been working hard to come up with a solution. An engineer was brought in to assess the problem and recommended installing a stop valve. The Deputy Mayor advised that the valve has been installed and everyone is hoping that it will solve the problem. The cost of installing the valve is approximately \$39,000 which is far below the original estimate.

(b) **Councillor Harrison RE: Aboiteau** – Councillor Harrison gave an update on the Aboiteau noting that last year after it was determined that the Town does not own the bridge and the Department of Transportation was asked to repair the structure. After an assessment the department placed armour rock at the base of the structure, however, the depth of the hole was underestimated and the money budgeted by DOT ran out before

the job could be finished. The Town has been after the DOT to finish the job which they have indicated will depend on the availability of funds through the department. In the meantime, the Town was advised that the replacement of the bridge is on the Province's 5 year plan, however, the Town will be responsible for replacing the gates. Councillor Harrison noted that through the kind assistance of Granby the gates have been replaced, but unfortunately they have not resulted in the retention of water levels. This led to other options being explored including the placing of clay around the base of the structure which has been done in the past and is possible to do again with the proper approvals from various departments of both senior levels of government. Recent information that has come to light with regard to the advancement of the tidal energy project that will involve the Parrsboro marine facility prompted the Council to meet a week and a half ago with Provincial Finance Minister, Diana Whalen, to impress upon her the urgency to expedite the replacement of the bridge so that it can handle the heavy trucks and machinery that will be travelling to and from the wharf. In the meantime, the Council is proceeding with the approval process for clay, however, they do not see an urgent need to spend a lot of money on a permanent fix when the entire bridge structure could be replaced within the near future.

Councillor Harrison also addressed the issue of communication from the Council which he agreed has been lacking, however, he noted that steps are being taken to improve the dissemination of information to the public through the Town and Recreation Department's Facebook pages. He noted that despite popular belief Speaker's Corner is not the official website of the Town and that it is unlikely that Councillors will be placing comments on this site. Councillor Harrison supported the premise behind Speaker's Corner, however, he indicated that lately the posting of certain objectionable material aimed at the Council has turned the site into an embarrassment for the Town. Councillor Harrison also noted that this week there have been issues with the new system of taxation resulting in some people coming to the Town Hall and confronting Betty Anne Paris, who had nothing to do with the new policy, with a rude and disrespecting attitude. Councillor Harrison pointed out that the Mayor and Council are always available to the public if they have any issues they wish to discuss, however, they expect to be treated with mutual dignity and respect.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Ward the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk

SUMMARY OF APPROVED EXPENDITURES:

Presentation: Ship's Company Theatre - After a discussion the Committee recommended that the grant to the Ship's Company Theatre for fiscal 2014/15 be adjusted to an amount equivalent to the 2014/15 property tax bill.....2

Dry Wells at Don Yorke Memorial Ball Field - After a discussion the Committee recommended installing the dry wells with the Town covering all labor and material costs.....3