

COUNCIL

MAY 28, 2015

#15-04

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 28th, 2015 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

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 Councillor Harrison, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ward that the Agenda be approved with the addition of Band Shelter under Committee Reports.

Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Smith asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Council minutes of April 28, 2015 (#15-03).

Hearing none the minutes were declared approved as presented.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 2015

Report given by Deputy Mayor Ward

Presentation by Heather Foster-Spidell – Heather Foster-Spidell of Rural Energy NS, met with the Committee to present information gathered on a recent trip to Spain, Ireland and Scotland where sustainable and renewable energy are at the forefront of economic and social development.

The Committee found the presentation very informative and recommended that a similar presentation be made to the Cumberland Energy Authority.

Reimbursement for Damage – A request was received from a resident for reimbursement for damage to a utility trailer that resulted from municipal snow plowing operations.

After a discussion the Committee recommended compensation in the amount of \$100.00.

Damage to Fire Hydrant – The Committee reviewed the matter of damage to a fire hydrant caused by a private snow removal contractor and agreed to recommend seeking compensation in the amount of \$2,500.

Art Proposal – Correspondence was received from Main and Station requesting a meeting to discuss a proposal that would offer the Town the possibility of giving support to the arts.

After a discussion the Committee recommended extending an invitation to the next Committee-of-the-Whole meeting.

Survey – In preliminary budget discussions the Committee discussed the issue of the system of taxation that would be used this year. It was the general consensus that it would be helpful to have the input of taxpayers and it was agreed to proceed with an online survey to determine the preferred option.

Tax Exemptions – The CAO reported that 15 applications had been received for the \$350.00 tax exemption and 6 applications received for the \$100.00 tax exemption and that all applicants qualified.

After a discussion the Committee recommended approving all applications.

Heritage Books – The Committee was advised that local museums have expressed an interest in selling the Heritage Homes and History of Parrsboro books of which there is a significant quantity remaining in storage at Town Hall.

After a discussion it was recommended that the books be offered to the museums at the regular price on a consignment basis so that they would not have to put money up front to buy them.

Letter from Dorothy Best – Correspondence from Dorothy Best requested permission to use the Town Hall grounds for a fund raising event on June 13th, 2015 for the Parrsboro Trap, Neuter and Release Program. This event would be open to the public with no admission charged and would include a Miniature Horse Walk-A-Thon and Barbeque.

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

Committees – The re-assigning of committee duties was discussed that would be in effect until after the upcoming municipal by-election with the following recommended:

Glooscap Park – Chair, Councillor Harrison

Economic Development – Chair, Mayor Smith

Protective Services – Chair, Deputy Mayor Ward

Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority – Rep, Councillor Shaw

Northern Regional Solid Waste Management – Rep, Deputy Mayor Ward
Alternate, Councillor Shaw

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

On a point of clarification, the CAO noted that generally the Town would not compensate for damage that occurred during snow removal, however, in this particular case the damaged trailer was well in on the property and the damage occurred when the snow plow was making a difficult turn.

Councillor Harrison asked if the survey would be available in any other format than online.

The CAO noted that there could be forms available at the Town Office for anyone who does not have access to the internet.

As there was no further discussion the **motion** was voted on and **carried**.

(b) PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 2015

Report given by Councillor Harrison

Land Use Bylaw – Retail Property in Rural Residential Zones – The matter of retail property in Rural Residential Zones was referred to our Development Officer for a report and recommendation. The Development Officer advised that if Council wanted to allow typical rural type businesses in the Rural Residential Zone, then an amendment to the Town of Parrsboro Land Use Bylaw would be required.

After a discussion the Committee recommended proceeding with this change.

Building Inspector's Report – Following are the permits issued during the months of January, February, March and April 2015:

	<u>No. of Permits</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Fees</u>
New construction, alterations and additions (Residential)	2	\$455,000	\$339.26
Development	1	N/A	\$ 20.00
New construction, alterations and additions (Commercial)	2	\$251,200	\$301.20
Total	5	\$706,200	\$660.46

Sewer Project – The Committee was advised that the next step in the sewage treatment project is the geo analysis of the properties identified as potential sites for which there is funding available.

After a discussion the Committee recommended proceeding with this stage of the project.

King Street Water – The Committee discussed the King Street water quality problem which continues to affect many residents on the street.

After a discussion the Committee recommended initiating the replacement of both water and sewer lines on King Street this year using Gas Tax money or a combination of Gas Tax and Build Canada funds depending on availability.

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

Motion carried.

(c) TOURISM COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 2015

Report given by Councillor Shaw

Taylor Redmond RE: T-Shirts – Special Projects Facilitator, Taylor Redmond, presented design and color options for the Anchored and Authentic logo that will be used on T-shirts and other promotional items. She noted that 48 T-shirts would be produced and sold this year with the proceeds going toward a future Main Street project.

After deciding upon the preferred options for the logo, the Committee recommended that Taylor obtain quotes from three suppliers and select the one with the best price and quality.

Board of Trade RE: Video – On behalf of the Board of Trade, Taylor noted that the organization is interested in producing a shorter version of the video “*Parrsboro and Cumberland County – a good place to visit...a great place to live!*” with a focus on business and that in addition to seeking permission to do so, they also hoped that the Town could contribute financially to the project.

While the Committee had no objection to a portion of the video being used for this purpose, they did feel that more information was needed about what exactly they want to do and what assistance they are looking for. Taylor was asked to relay this to the Board of Trade and request that a letter be sent that could be referred to the budget.

Music Festival – It was reported that a positive response had been received from an individual who had been approached about organizing this year’s music festival and that a meeting will be arranged in the near future to discuss the matter in greater detail.

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

Motion carried.

(d) RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 2015

Report given by Councillor Harrison

Fitness Centre

- a. There will be a reduction of hours, if necessary, due to a decline in usage attributed to the nicer weather.
- b. The Recreation Director will be looking into the availability of funds to purchase an incline bench and bike for the fitness centre.

Current Programming

- a. Walking Club: The last day of walking was May 20th.
- b. CO-ED Sports: Volleyball and basketball are still running good.
- c. Busy Bees: Both groups finished up the week of May 11th.
- d. iCAN: The second session has started with a focus on biking and nutrition.
- e. Geology Gems: In partnership with the Fundy Geological Museum, this program started May 20th. There are 11 participants from ages 4-10.
- f. Kids in the Kitchen: Ages 8-12 start on May 25th and ages 4-7 start on May 28th. Each group will run for four weeks.

Regional Initiatives

- a. Fundy Connect: A meeting is scheduled next week to continue planning for this program.

- b. Learn 2 Lead: The first session, Dealing with Parents, with Mark Smith started on May 11th. There will be three more workshops in the series on the next three consecutive Monday evenings.
- c. Cumberland County Bike Week: The 2nd Cumberland County Bike Week will be held the week of June 6th-14th. A bike rodeo lead by the Cumberland RCMP will be held in Parrsboro on June 9th from 1:00-2:30pm at the elementary school.
- d. Regional Summer Staff Training: Regional Summer Staff Training will take place at Victoria Park in Truro with sessions on outdoor play, nature, being a role model, effectively leading games and more.

New Initiatives

- a. Summer staff interviews have been completed with hiring taking place the week of May 18th. The Supervisor will need to begin work part-time immediately to plan the summer and have promotions out by the first week of June.
- b. The Recreation Director and Councillor Harrison met with Peter McCracken (Regional Rep for Health and Wellness), Laura MacPherson (Regional Active Living Coordinator) and Paul Desbarres from Nova Insights (contracted company to conduct surveys) on May 14th to go over the results of the community survey. Some general trends in our community were determined which will be explored further in the early fall.

Moved by Councillor Harrison, seconded by Councillor Shaw that the Recreation Committee Report be accepted.

Motion carried.

(e) BAND SHELTER

Deputy Mayor Ward noted having received a call from Patricia Burke inquiring if there are any safety concerns with the Band Shelter as the Band Association is in the beginning stages of planning for their summer events.

The CAO noted that he would have the Building Inspector take a look at the structure.

(f) ABOITEAU

Mayor Smith noted having a few phone calls and Facebook messages about the Aboiteau and asked the CAO for an update.

CAO Hickey noted that the Town is looking at doing additional repair work to help maintain water levels, however, no work can be done before June 1st. He added that the possibility of using materials other than clay is being explored which could present a challenge as far as the Department of Fisheries is concerned.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Parrsboro Band Association – Mayor Smith noted that two letters had been received from the Parrsboro Band Association. The first requested the continued financial support of the Town which she would refer to the budget.

The Mayor noted that ever since a Tax Exemption Bylaw came into effect in 2009, the Residential Tax Rate has applied to the Band Hall building and the second letter from the Association requested that this continue. She noted that as the Band Association does a lot for the community and provides the building for various uses she would see no reason why the Council would not agree to this exemption continuing.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Ward the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.