

COUNCIL

JUNE 23, 2015

#15-05

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, June 23rd, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Lois Smith presiding.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Lisa Ward
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 Shaw that the Agenda be approved with the addition of Band Shelter as item (b) 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 May 28th, 2015 (#15-04).

Hearing none the minutes were approved as presented.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

JUNE 2015

Report given by Deputy Mayor Ward

Aboiteau/Bridge – The CAO advised that he will be contacting the Department of Environment to request approval to undertake some additional repair work to maintain water levels in the Aboiteau and that a letter will be sent to the Minister of Transportation

and Infrastructure Renewal requesting a meeting with appropriate officials in his department to discuss plans for the future replacement of the Aboiteau Bridge.

Friends of Firefighters – It was noted that the Friends of Firefighters have a concern about access to the main hall of the Centennial Recreation Centre/Fire Hall and have requested additional keys.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that keys be made for the Secretary and Treasurer of the organization.

Sewer Rates – The Committee reviewed sewer charges for the 2015/16 fiscal year and recommended the following:

- \$205.00 for dwellings that are connected to the central sewer system.
- \$ 50.00 for non-connected dwellings and non-connected vacant lots with access to the central sewer system.

Webcam – The Committee was informed that Bell Aliant has restored internet service at the Pier and that the next step is to re-activate the webcam which should be taking place in the very near future.

Library Ramp – The CAO was asked to contact the engineer and contractor involved with the replacement of the ramp at the Library to request that it be made a priority due to safety concerns about the deteriorated condition of the ramp.

Unightly Premises – The list of unsightly premises with new additions was reviewed. After a discussion it was recommended that letters be sent to the owners of properties identified as priorities.

King Street Water – The Committee was informed that survey work on King Street is in the process of being performed and that once completed our engineers at CBCL will be sending out an RFP for the replacement of water and sewer lines on the street.

Sewer Project – As the former nursing home property on Two Island Road has been identified as a potential site for the sewage treatment plant, the Committee recommends that Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations be contacted for permission to undertake a geo test on the property.

Request for Water – The CAO noted being contacted by a County resident who has made arrangements with a private contractor to supply water for a swimming pool. The resident noted that due to the condition of the access road to her property she was unable to make arrangements with the Parrsboro Volunteer Fire Department to provide this service and requested permission for the private contractor to have access to town water for this purpose.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that this request be approved provided the property owner agrees to make a donation to the Fire Department equivalent to what the department would have charged to provide this service.

Gavin Park – The caretaker of Gavin Park has requested that electricity be installed at the park for the purpose of operating yard care equipment and decorative lighting.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that the CAO obtain cost estimates and request permission from the property owner to undertake this work.

STEP Program – The CAO reported on a meeting with ACOA and Provincial staff regarding the STEP (Strategic Tourism Expansion Program) and that this will be followed up by an initial meeting of the STEP Committee on Thursday, June 25th at 1:00 p.m.

Classics-By-The-Bay – The Committee was advised that the Classics-by-the-Bay Festival is coming up at the end of the month and that the organizers have requested a response to their request for funding.

After a discussion the Committee recommended a grant of \$500.00 for this event.

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

Motion carried.

(b) BAND SHELTER

Deputy Mayor Ward noted that originally the Building Inspector thought that the Band Shelter was going to be safe to use for the summer band program, Concerts in the Park, however, there has been some structural disarray happening and it has been deemed unsafe. The Deputy Mayor indicated that she was, therefore making a motion that **the Council take money out of reserves to have a new structure of the same design built and in the meantime, the existing structure be demolished and a temporary structure erected for the band to use for their concerts. Motion seconded by Councillor Shaw and carried.**

Mayor Smith noted that judging by recent comments on social media this issue is of particular interest to the community and she wanted to assure the public that the Council realizes that the Band Shelter is an iconic structure and an important part of our heritage.

5. SET DATE FOR BY-ELECTION

Mayor Smith noted that the recommended date for the municipal by-election is September 5th with nomination papers being available at Town Hall in mid July and nomination day on August 4th. The CAO added that there will be advanced polls as appropriate.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Ward, seconded by Councillor Shaw that the by-election be held on September 5th, 2015.

Motion carried.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Parrsboro Lighthouse Society – Mayor Smith noted that there is a move being put forward by the Federal Government to preserve lighthouses and that a group called the Parrsboro Lighthouse Society has been formed of which Alain Couture is the Treasurer. She noted that Mr. Couture was originally scheduled to make a presentation to Council this evening, however, was not able to attend due to other commitments and had asked her to present the following letter on his behalf.

The Parrsboro Lighthouse Matters!!!

Why does it matter?

To whom does it matter?

Why does Town Council need to know?

What does Town Council need to know?

Who are the parties involved?

These are all questions that the Parrsboro Lighthouse Society will be attempting to answer for you in this presentation.

History: Two years ago the Historical Society, the Harbour Commission and Town Council were approached by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans advising these organizations that they were divesting themselves of the Lighthouse and if no one in the community wanted it, they had intentions to tear it down and possibly replace it with a metal tower for the fog horn and light. A community meeting was held and the Parrsboro Lighthouse Society was born. It presently has 44 members from all walks of life in Parrsboro and surrounding area. The Lighthouse has been inspected several times and we are working on obtaining an opinion from a building engineer on how we can save the structure and use the area encompassing the lighthouse for the benefit of the community. Without this opinion, the existing contractors have been unable to provide any quotes for restoration. They need a restoration plan based on an engineer's advice. Fisheries and Oceans are willing to provide a grant to cover the restorations and the maintenance fees for approximately 5 years. But this is a one time amount and we must be reasonably accurate with our estimates.

A few weeks ago the society was approached and made aware of a program started by Heritage Canada National Trust to save Nova Scotia's lighthouses. The program is called: THIS LIGHTHOUSE MATTERS. A competition was started last week and runs until July 15th whereby a sum of \$250,000 is being competed for. To win, you need to demonstrate that your lighthouse and community are the most deserving. Also, at the same time, there is a Crowd Fund Project to further raise funds for the lighthouse.

We feel the Lighthouse is a symbol and a reminder to the people of Parrsboro and, indeed, all Nova Scotians of the courage and bravery of their heritage and the importance that they have always attached to the sea. The Lighthouse is also a major focal point within the Parrsboro area for tourists. Without the Lighthouse, we feel that there would be a major gap in Parrsboro's tourism strategy.

Why does Town Council need to know any of this? Money! The tourism industry is a major contributor to the life of Parrsboro and surrounding area. Anything that affects this industry will have an impact on the Town.

What does Town Council need to know? We will be asking the Council, from time to time, for their assistance with putting the word out that Parrsboro supports the preservation of their Lighthouse and encourages everyone to take a close look at this project and support it both in one's time and monies. We will need people to help clean up the area around the Lighthouse at some point; we'll need people to make up flyers and help distribute them; and we will need Council's expertise in opening doors with other government departments, both in Provincial and Federal jurisdictions. We hope the Town Council members will further provide us with ideas for the successful management of this project based on their individual, vast experiences.

Who are the parties involved? Presently we have a board consisting of 8 members. Two of these members are appointed by and represent the Harbour Commission. We have two local contractors standing by to work out details once a building engineer's opinion is obtained. A crucial point remains the obtaining of quotations for the restoration. Remember that the Lighthouse is Parrsboro and Parrsboro is the Lighthouse. We need your vocal support.

Mayor Smith noted that she is the Chair of the Harbour Commission and that the organization is very concerned about the fate of the Lighthouse and has expressed their concerns to Fisheries and Oceans as well. She encouraged the representatives of the media in the gallery to spread the word about what the Lighthouse Society is trying to do and suggested that the Town can help by placing information about meetings, etc. on its website.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor

CAO

SUMMARY OF APPROVED EXPENDITURES:

Classics-By-The-Bay – The Committee was advised that the Classics-by-the-Bay Festival is coming up at the end of the month and that the organizers have requested a response to their request for funding.

After a discussion the Committee recommended a grant of \$500.00 for this event.....3

Band Shelter - The Deputy Mayor indicated that she was, therefore making a motion that the Council take money out of reserves to have a new structure of the same design built and in the meantime, the existing structure be demolished and a temporary structure erected for the band to use for their concerts. Motion seconded by Councillor Shaw and carried.....3