

PUGWASH VILLAGE COMMISSION
Regular Meeting #304
14th November 2011 at 7pm
Pugwash Village Hall

Minute Number 304

PRESENT

Rod Benjamin, Jim Whitman, Dave Farley, Linda Langille

RECORDING SECRETARY

Lisa Betts

CALL TO ORDER

304.1 The Commission of the Village of Pugwash met on Monday, November 14th, 2011 in the Boardroom of the Pugwash Village Hall.

304.2 Commission chair, Rod Benjamin, called the meeting to order at 7pm.

REGRETS

304.3 Commissioner Brooks is on a Leave of Absence

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

304.4 Information items 11.4 and 11.5 were added.

MOTION

304.5 It was moved by Commissioner Farley and seconded by Commissioner Whitman that the Agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MINUTES

MOTION

304.6 It was moved by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Langille that the Minutes of Regular Meeting 303 held on October 17th, 2011 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

304.7 The Clerk reported that she had had a productive meeting with the County solid waste and bylaws staff along with his Town of Amherst counterpart. Some of the information from this meeting included that the brush pile would still be freely available at the Pugwash landfill site as would the metal drop off site (for stoves and fridges).

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PRESENTATION

304.8 None

OLD BUSINESS

Nova Scotia Utilities and Review Board (UARB)

304.9 Chair Benjamin read out the summary of the study released by the Municipality of Cumberland County. Commissioner Farley commented that he thought it a well balanced approach that left the issue for locals to decide upon. The Commissioners agreed that the report states or at least implies that in the event of dissolution, services could not continue at the same level as they are now.

There was some discussion concerning a town hall meeting, its format and timing. There was concern that the meeting would turn into a “PR job” or a debate. The town hall meeting should remain a forum to exchange information.

MOTION

304.10 **It was moved by Commissioner Farley and seconded by Commissioner Langille that the Village Commission host a town hall meeting on December 8th, 2011 at St Thomas More church hall. This will be an open meeting, the format to be determined at a later date.**

MOTION CARRIED

Pugwash and Area Master Plan

304.11 The four Action Teams have been sending their charter reports to the Steering Committee which is now meeting with some of the action teams. The steering committee chair plans to have a report ready to present to council at the next regular county meeting.

Village Commission Staff

304.12 Office hours are now 9am to 1pm.

Old fire hall – paint tender

304.13 The old fire hall is painted with two coats of latex paint and looks much better for it.

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Sidewalks

304.14 Costin Paving is still backlogged with work. They may not get to the Pugwash sidewalks until next spring.

Snow removal

304.15 There was one operator who answered to the advertised tender. Three options were given: a price per trip, a price for a winter season and a third option was for a three year contract.

304.16 It was moved by Commissioner Farley and seconded by Commissioner Whitman that the Commission accept the three year contract.

MOTION CARRIED

LED light exchange

304.17 This will be December 2nd. Other events planned for that date are: the official lighting of the Christmas tree when there will also be carollers, an open house and refreshments at the library, East Cumberland Lodge will have their “dessert extravaganza” and the Rebeccas will have a bake sale.

NEW BUSINESS

Ice rink

304.18 A letter has been sent to the facility manager of the Canadian Salt Co. Ltd. requesting the company sponsor the cost of new purpose-made ice rink plastic. This is heavy duty white plastic in a single 50’x100’ sheet. The company has agreed to purchase the plastic (\$395 + tax + shipping) and even deliver it to the Village Hall. A thank you card will be sent.

Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV)

304.19 Commissioner Farley reported that he (as a director of ANSV), Commission chair Benjamin and the Clerk went to the latest director’s meeting in Bible Hill in the morning of October 28th. The Association fully supports Pugwash in its case with the UARB and has applied for intervener status at the hearing.

Central Nova Tourist Association (CNTA)

304.20 Commission chair Benjamin and the Clerk attended a workshop meeting in Wallace run by the CNTA in the afternoon of October 28th. There was some discussion of branding of the Northumberland shore, including New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

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Use of the Village Hall

304.21 Nov 9th. Steve Harder of North Shore Community Coordination Project – used C@P site for presentation.

CORRESPONDENCE

Requests for funding

304.22 Toy bingo.

The Clerk explained that when the request from the Pugwash Co-Op for the Open Hamper was made last month, there had been no records from the previous year to help decide the amount that should be given by the Commission. This was because the toy bongo was not held last year. The Clerk has since put together a chart of all the donations and bursaries made by the Commission to all the various groups since 2005. This should prove to be very informative when addressing future requests for funding. Records show that historically the Commission has given this particular cause a donation of \$500.

MOTION

304.23 It was moved by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Farley that the Pugwash Village Commission should add another \$300 to the donation of \$200 already made to the toy bingo (Open Hamper) to make a total of \$500.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION

304.24 It was moved by Commissioner Farley and seconded by Commissioner Langille that a committee should be struck to review grants given to produce and policy.

MOTION CARRIED

304.25 The grants and bursaries review committee shall be: Commissioners Farley and Langille.

304.26 Northumberland Community Curling Club (NCCC)

The Clerk reviewed the request for funding from the NCCC. Two months ago a committee from the NCCC met with some of the Commissioners to explain how the club operated and about the numerous community based programs it runs. A request for funding from the NCCC had not been added to the Village agenda last month because all requests have to be made in writing. This was explained in a letter to the NCCC which then responded with the requisite letter. The NCCC is asking to be excused Village taxes entirely.

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Chair Benjamin said that the NCCC is an asset to the Village and is becoming the community centre the commission had been wishing for. Social evenings are open to the public. There are other groups in the Village which are exempted taxes.

Commissioner Farley said that the commission had given NCCC considerable support when it reduced the NCCC tax status from commercial to residential two years ago and gave the club three \$5,000 donations in 2006 and 2007. Commissioner Farley was concerned that when a tax exemption is made someone else has to pick up the income shortfall. He suggested that where the County was already excusing the curling club its Municipal taxes that the tax payers of the village would be "double dipped" with two tax exemptions. Commissioner Farley said he had spoken with many village residents and found them to be either strongly opposed or strongly in favour of a tax exemption for the curling club with an even split. That being in mind, he had to go with his personal feelings which would be to oppose a tax exemption. Commissioner Farley said he would be more in favour of a grant than a tax exemption.

Commissioner Benjamin pointed out that churches and the Legion do not pay property taxes.

The Clerk reminded Chair Benjamin that given he is a member of the curling club that he should recuse himself from the discussion and vote. Chair Benjamin relied he wished it to be on the record that he would remain in the conversation. Chair Benjamin recused himself when the question was called.

MOTION

304.27 It was moved by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Farley that the Pugwash Village Commission should extend the tax exemption to the Northumberland Community Curling Club with the same excepts as per the memorandum of understanding the NCCC has with the Municipality of Cumberland County.

MOTION DEFEATED

MOTION

304.28 It was moved by Commissioner Farley and seconded by Commissioner Langille that the Pugwash Village Commission should work towards providing a grant to the Northumberland Community Curling Club.

MOTION CARRIED

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304.29 **East Cumberland Lodge** – looking for sponsorship for their Christmas lights. The Lodge has not been financially supported by the Commission in recent times.

MOTION

304.30 It was moved by Commissioner Langille and seconded by Commissioner Farley that the Pugwash Village Commission should support the East Cumberland Lodge with an amount to be determined pending the review of grants. (see minute 304.24)

MOTION CARRIED

Invitations

304.31 **Pugwash and District Volunteer Fire Department** – annual banquet on December 3rd 2011. Commissioner Farley and his wife Jean will accept the invitation on the behalf of the Commission.

304.32 **Nova Scotia Teacher's Union** – presentation in Amherst.

304.33 **Municipality of Cumberland County** – notice of a public hearing re: land use bylaw for wind turbines on November 9th, 2011.

304.34 **Pugwash and Area Chamber of Commerce** – a letter with concerns and suggestions for better signage. The Pugwash Chamber of Commerce will be invited to speak with the Commission to discuss tourism and signage.

304.35 To **businesses on Water Street** – notice that snow will be removed from the sidewalks by the Village.

TREASURER'S REPORT

304.36 The Clerk Treasurer presented the Treasurer's Report.

MOTION

304.37 It was moved by Treasurer Betts and seconded by Commissioner Farley that the Treasurer's Report be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

304.38 Treasurer Betts explained the HST offset. There was a larger amount this year because of larger than normal capital costs last year (Waterfront), making the HST rebate much larger than projected in the budget.

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INFORMATION ITEMS

304.39 The next regular meeting of the Pugwash Village Commission will be Monday, December 19th.

304.40 RCMP – year in review report

304.41 Clean Nova Scotia was reported in the most recent Village newsletter to be cleaning out septic tanks. Commissioner Farley reported that the company only had funding for 250 tanks and this has already been reached. The program may or may not go ahead.

304.42 Viscom – a company owned by local seasonal home owners. Quote sent to replace interpretive panels. This is something that should be discussed with the Pugwash Parks Commission too.

304.36 Celebrate Canada – theme for 2012 is: “1812 – The Fight for Canada”

ADJOURNMENT

304.39 **It was moved by Commissioner Whitman that the meeting be adjourned.**

(Note: Meeting ended at 8:35pm)

Respectfully submitted
Lisa Betts
Clerk Treasurer

Chair _____

Clerk Treasurer _____