

**APPROVED MINUTES FROM REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M.**

The regular council meeting was held Monday, February 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Murphy presiding and Councillors Gallant, Campbell, Dunn, Pottier and Duggan present also Frances Ready, Chris LeClair, Emile Bernard, Tom Murphy, Constable Russell, Cindy Chant – West Prince Graphic, Eric McCarthy – Journal Pioneer and staff Susan Wallace-Flynn. Councillor Cahill was absent due to work commitments.

**The motion was made by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Gallant and carried for the approval of the agenda.**

**The motion was made by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Dunn and carried for the approval of the minutes from the last regular council meeting held January 14, 2013.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Councillor Gallant asked about the street light request from Gerald O’Meara and Councillor Campbell said it was not looked into yet.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Letters were received from Leonard O’Meara and Kelly Williams with a request for Mr. O’Meara to get permission to put his large coach motor home on property number 31138 and to construct the extension of Pope Street with his machinery and supplies to make access to his property, if he has permission from council and his surveying works in his favour.

**The motion was made by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Gallant and carried for approval in principal of Leonard O’Meara’s request to extend Pope Street after providing a survey and plan showing that the street will be constructed to meet provincial standards and town by-laws including 66 foot width and pavement.**

Council reviewed the Access to Information policies from Kensington and Stratford.

**The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Gallant and carried to adopt the draft Access to Information policy the same as Kensington.**

**The motion was made by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Pottier and carried to write a letter of support for West Prince Arts Council to apply for 2014 funds.**

**The motion was made by Councillor Gallant, seconded by Councillor Campbell and carried to hire Alfred Culleton for two weeks.**

Mayor Murphy read the following statement regarding ER closures at Western Hospital.

Any closure of the ER at Western Hospital concerns Town Council, and the frequent closures in January and February are a particular cause for concern, coming as they do during winter months when road conditions can be very bad, making reaching the ER at Prince County Hospital in Summerside difficult.

We are fortunate in West Prince to have a number of dedicated physicians, nurses, paramedics and other health care providers. Council understands the decision by some doctors to not do ER coverage for a variety of reasons.

However, Council feels it is the responsibility of the Department of Health and Wellness and Health PEI to put in place the mechanisms required to ensure the continuous delivery of health care services to which the government has committed.

It is important to recognize that the nature of health care in general, and emergency medicine in particular, have changed significantly in the past 20 years. However, there is a responsibility on the part of policy makers and care delivery organizations to keep abreast of these changes and ensure that services are adapted in order to be maintained for the benefit of area residents.

As a Council we are prepared to work with the Department of Health and Wellness and Health PEI to explore any and all options which might be appropriate in order to ensure that the residents of West Prince receive the best possible health care, not only in emergency cases, but in meeting day-to-day health care needs.

Council was encouraged by the recent meeting with Health Minister Currie, his reassurance that neither Western Hospital nor its ER would be closed, and his willingness to look at alternative arrangements which might be implemented to ensure continuous operation of the ER.

Some of these alternative measures might include -

- 12-hour shifts instead of the current 24-hour shifts
- the hiring of additional ER physicians and the formation of a pool of physicians who would serve both Prince County and Western Hospital ERs on rotation
- the Collaborative Emergency Care model
- the hiring of more nurse practitioners to carry some of the load currently carried by family physicians
- increasing recruitment efforts, especially for physicians willing to work in rural ERs

The residents and communities of West Prince came together in the past to work to ensure health services in West Prince. Now is the time for us all to come together again and to work with the Department of Health and Wellness, Health PEI, physicians, nurses, and paramedics to ensure that in West Prince we receive the best health care possible.

## **BUSINESS LICENSES AND/OR BUILDING PERMITS**

Nil

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Environment Report**

Councillor Dunn reported that there were no issues this past month. She thanked council for sending her for training.

### **Police Report**

Councillor Campbell asked Cst. Russell to read the police report. The RCMP responded to 10 calls for service. Councillor Campbell said a senior on the Dufferin and Argyle Street area requested patrols.

### **Street Report**

Councillor Gallant said that the snow clean up after the storm went well.

### **Parks, Recreation and Tourism Report**

Councillor Duggan reported that he is working on an application for 2014 funds for walking trails and murals and is waiting for letters of support and he said if the support is there we will submit the application. He said there is a request from the chairman of the Under 16 National Softball Championship to have the use of Memorial Field from August 7-11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Fire Report**

Councillor Pottier reported that the calls included 1 structure fire, 1 motor vehicle collision, 1 alarm, 1 downed power line and 1 medical call. The results from the 2013 fire department election were – Fire Chief - Kenny Ramsay, Deputy Chief - Tom Murphy, Safety Officer - Derek Williams, Captains - Emile Bernard, Cory Shea, Darcy Getson and Chris LeClair. Since the 2013 election Kenny Ramsay has retired from the fire service and Captains Emile, Bernard, Cory Shea and Chris LeClair are looking after the day to day operations of the fire department.

**The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Campbell and carried to put in place a purchase order system for any purchases by the fire department. Emergency vehicles will continue to purchase fuel as before without a purchase order. Any firefighters using their own vehicles to attend official functions or training will have to have this approved in advance and will be paid a flat rate to be negotiated by the fire department and the town.**

The only tender received for the sale of the 1979 Ford pumper fire truck was from Triple "S" Farms for \$750.00.

**The motion was made by Councillor Pottier, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to not accept the one tender that was received as it was too low and that the town keep the vehicle, remove any parts which are usable and sell it later for salvage.**

**The motion was made by Councillor Dunn, seconded by Councillor Duggan and carried to send Kenny Ramsay a letter expressing gratitude for years of service.**

### **Finance Report**

Councillor Gallant reported for finance in the absence of Councillor Cahill.

**The motion was made by Councillor Gallant, seconded by Councillor Pottier and carried to pay bills in the amount of \$69,846.61.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

An addition to the heated portion of the maintenance building was discussed. Councillor Campbell left the room due to a conflict of interest. Prices for materials were obtained from Kent and Home Hardware. Tom Murphy said there was steel at the fire hall that could be used.

**The motion was made by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Gallant and carried to purchase the material from Home Hardware and use the steel from the fire hall.**

Councillor Campbell returned to the meeting. There was only one tender for the sidewalk engineer on Dufferin Street and it was from Genivar for \$3,900.00 excluding taxes and expenses for design fee.

**The motion was made by Councillor Gallant, seconded by Councillor Campbell and carried to hire Genivar to do the sidewalk project on Dufferin Street.**

Mayor Murphy read the following tenders received from the request for a used tractor as specified in the tender forms –

Allison Corcoran a 1988 universal for \$8,700.00 and a 1970 David Brown for \$4,750.00

Kensington Agricultural Services Ltd. a 2009 New Holland cab tractor with loader and bucket for \$60,000.00 less rental for a total of \$52,800.00 plus PST

Green Diamond Equipment Ltd. a new John Deere cab tractor and loader for \$90,729.25 PST included.

Council decided to meet later in the week to make a decision.

Council agreed to adopt a new Emergency Measures Plan bylaw next month.

**The motion was made by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Gallant and carried to earmark \$4,861.00 unallocated gas tax grant for the subdivision.**

#### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Tom Murphy offered an explanation for a bill for the fire department concerning a motel bill for September 2012. Mayor Murphy thanked Tom for his explanation. Tom Murphy asked for an explanation of the purchase order system for the fire department. Emile Bernard said that bills for the fire department have to go through their meetings for approval anyway.

**The motion was made by Councillor Pottier and seconded by Councillor Gallant to adjourn the meeting.**