

Village of Murray Harbour
Annual General Meeting
MINUTES
Thursday, March 27, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

Council Present: Faye Fraser, Chairperson
James Evans, Vice-Chair & Councillor
Lowell Birch, Councillor
Shawn Landon, Councillor
Wendy Siebrands, Councillor

Absent with regrets: Marnie Birch, Councillor

Minutes taken by: Joan Young, Administrator

Guests: Stephen MacKay – Fire Chief
Allan Glover – Deputy Fire Chief
Kaye MacLean – Librarian

Residents: Debbie Carew, Amy Chapman, Anna Evans, Les Hilliard, Jim Lund,
Ron MacLean, Sandra Reynolds, Lillian Rourke, Larry Siebrands, Dan
Smith, Marjorie Smith,

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL AND GUESTS – Faye Fraser

Faye welcomed everyone and introduced Council and Guests.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA and ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – Faye Fraser

Motion by Wendy Siebrands, seconded by Jim Evans to adopt the agenda as presented. There were no additional items to be added to the Agenda.

3. READING AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM 2013 AGM – Joan Young

The Minutes of the March 27, 2013 AGM were read. **Motion by Shawn Landon to adopt the Minutes as written/read. Seconded by Jim Evans. All in favour. Carried.**

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairperson's Report – Faye Fraser

Faye gave her report on the highlights of 2013, noting the various events the Village had been involved with including fund raising concerts for the Community Centre and new Municipal Office. Faye spoke of the many upgrades that have been done to the Community Centre including painting the exterior, paving the parking lot, and sprucing up the Village with some beautiful new gardens. She also pointed out that the Fire Hall had undergone an extensive renovation and new equipment was also purchased, and the building of our New Municipal Office which had just been completed this winter. She spoke of the funding we had applied for and received, which enabled us to do some of these renovations. Faye touched on the costs of running the community centre, in comparison to the rental income we receive from it, and noted that rental revenue in 2013 was down by 47.5% from 2012. Although costs to run the centre were under budget by \$7,847, they were still \$16,811 over what was received from rentals.

She mentioned that we still have 2 years left on our loan for the Northumberland Wind Energy Project, and that Council were looking into getting help from the provincial government for this, as the wind turbines are not working as expected. She also confirmed that we had made arrangements for a \$75,000 mortgage for the New Municipal Office, which would be repaid over 15 years.

Faye stated that she felt very strongly that Council have been working very hard for the Village residents over the past year, but seemed to be facing some roadblocks in this new year, which had resulted in the loss of some very good people, both on Council and in staff. This evening would determine the destiny of Murray Harbour as an incorporated Village.

In closing, Faye gave special thanks to Council, the Administrators, and all village staff, and to all the groups of volunteers who give so freely of their time to make Murray Harbour a safe and caring community.

4.2 Report from Fire Department – Allan Glover

Allan presented the report on behalf of the Fire Department, and advised that 2013 had been a very busy year. The Fire Department responded to 20 calls – 1 structure fire, 11 medical response calls, 3 grass fires, 1 alarm activation, 2 mutual aid calls, and 2 water rescue calls.

The Department held monthly training sessions throughout the year, and in 2014 they have started training on a bi-weekly basis now that they have the proper facilities with the renovation of the Fire Hall.

Allan thanked the Village Council for the appreciation dinner that they had held for the firefighters and their spouses in the Spring.

He spoke of the renovations, and of the support they received from the Council and the Village for this project, along with financial contributions from both the federal and provincial governments. The Department feels that they now have a building that they can be proud of, and that the Community can be proud of. A new (used) tanker trucker was also purchased. The Fire Department currently has 16 members and are currently looking for more recruits.

Going forward into 2014 the Department has put forth a request to purchase a set of Jaws of Life, and would be applying for funding to cover 50% of this cost. This will be covered when the budget is presented.

Joan thanked Allan for his report. Council thanked the Fire Department for their wonderful support and care of our Village Residents. Everyone stood and applauded the Fire Department.

Motion by Jim Evans to adopt the report from the Fire Department. Seconded by Lowell Birch. All in favour. Carried.

4.3 Report from Sewage Utility – Wendy Siebrands

Wendy announced that she had taken over as Chair of the Murray Harbour Sewage Utility Board, and she reported that the Sewage Utility had a full complement of board members. In 2013 the Utility had installed the Omnisite Monitoring System, and were continually looking at ways to improve the system and make it more efficient. Jim Lund asked why the Utility would send out a bill with a balance owing that was equivalent to less than the cost of a stamp. Wendy replied that the Board would be reviewing and developing policies this year to ensure that we were in compliance with IRAC regulations, and running efficiently.

Motion by Lowell Birch to adopt the report from the Fire Department. Seconded by Shawn Landon. All in favour. Carried.

4.4 Report from Library – Kaye MacLean

Kaye thanked the Village and the Library Board for their ongoing support, and proceeded with her report on the library operations for Murray Harbour for the last year.

- 522 people have library cards
- 128 programs offered have been attended by 737 children and adults
- 453 internet sessions
- 5,687 books, DVDs, CDs, and magazines have been checked out.

Library hours for Friday's have changed to 12:30 to 4:30 pm. Kaye spoke of the display cabinet they had on loan to house historical items on display for the PEI 2014 celebrations. She commended Jackie Doran-MacLeod for the monthly write-ups she was doing on Who's Who in Murray Harbour, which were being sent out with the Village newsletter.

On behalf of the PEI Public Library Service she spoke about a new program throughout the PEI Library system called Freegal where users can download 3 songs per week for free and browse through a collection of over 3 million songs.

The PEI Public Library Service hosted the 3rd One Book, One Island program. This year's book was titled Island by Alastair MacLeod. Kaye announced that in 2014 there would be a total of 14 books to choose from for this program, in the hopes of covering all ages/interests.

Kaye spoke about the provincial library's website makeover, which was very user friendly and visually appealing and advised everyone that 117,961 e-Resources had been checked out of the provincial library system in the past year, including eBooks, eAudiobooks, and other electronic materials.

Motion by Shawn Landon to adopt the report from the Library. Seconded by Anna Evans. All in favour. Carried.

5. 2013 FINANCIAL STATEMENT PRESENTATION – Jim Evans

The Auditors, Grant Thornton were scheduled to present the financial statements but had another commitment for the scheduled storm date for the AGM. Joan asked Vice Chair, Jim Evans to present the Financials. Jim declined as he did not think this would be appropriate given the fact that he had tendered his resignation to Council. Joan presented the financial statements on behalf of the Village, Sewage Utility and Fire Department.

Motion by Larry Siebrands to adopt the Financial Statements for the Village as presented. Seconded by Lowell Birch. All in favour. Carried.

Motion by Wendy Siebrands to adopt the Financial Statements for the Sewage Utility as presented. Seconded by Sandra Reynolds. All in favour. Carried.

Motion by Les Hilliard to adopt the Financial Statements for the Fire Department as presented. Seconded by Kaye MacLean. All in favour. Carried.

6. 2014 BUDGET PRESENTATION – Jim Evans

Jim Evans declined to present the budget as he had resigned from Council effective March 31st. Joan presented the budget for 2014.

Administration Exp	\$ 41,330	Motion by Wendy Siebrands to adopt the Administration Budget. Seconded by Lowell Birch. All in favour. Carried.
Community Centre Exp	\$ 22,058	Motion by Jim Evans to adopt the Community Centre Budget. Seconded by Sandra Reynolds. All in favour. Carried.
EMO	\$ 1,500	Motion by Shawn Landon to adopt the EMO Budget. Seconded by Lowell Birch. All in favour. Carried.
Parks & Recreation	\$ 9,450	Motion by Shawn Landon to adopt the Parks & Recreation Budget. Seconded by Jim Evans. All in favour. Carried.
Reserve Fund	0	There was no reserve fund budgeted for.
Revenue & Expenditures	\$176,380 \$178,838	Revenue Expenditures Motion by Larry Siebrands to adopt the overall Revenue and Expenditures budget. Seconded by Anna Evans. All in favour. Carried.
Fire Department*	\$ 48,900 - R \$ 39,005 - E	Motion by Lowell Birch to adopt the Fire Dept Budget. Seconded by Jim Evans. All in favour. Carried.
Sewage Utility	\$ 64,193 - R \$ 59,430 - E	Motion by Wendy Siebrands to adopt the Sewage Utility budget. Seconded by Shawn Landon. All in favour. Carried.

***Fire department put in a request to acquire the Jaws of Life. Joan will fill out an application to the Island Community Fund to fund 50% of this. The fire department will pay for the balance. Motion by Ron MacLean to go ahead with this funding request/purchase for the Jaws of Life. Seconded by Jim Evans. All in favour. Carried.**

6.1 Property Taxes – Joan Young

There was no proposed increase for municipal property taxes for 2014.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Residents Concerns – Faye Fraser

Sandra Reynolds expressed her concerns about the costs of heating the Community Centre, and felt that with the price of oil people could not afford to keep their own homes as warm, so why would we keep the community centre warmer than what we do our own homes. She felt that people should just dress appropriately and wear an extra sweater or two. Jim Lund asked why we did not have the thermostat locked. Joan advised that there had been a motion of council last year to keep the thermostat programmed at 68 when the community centre was being used, and to keep the thermostat locked. Joan replied that she had tried this but finally gave up as there were constant complaints and in fact threats. Joan asked if the residents would like to make a motion at this meeting regarding guidelines for the heating. Jim Evans said this should be a motion of council at a regular Council Meeting. **This has been put on Council's agenda for the April 2014 meeting.**

Danny Smith reported that there used to be two stop signs posted on the trail where it crossed his driveway, but these had been taken down. **Request has been emailed to Ruth DeLong of Island Trails. (redelong@gov.pe.ca)**

Jim Lund asked what happened with the Village applying for Town Status. Joan advised that this would be taken on by the new Council and if needed, a separate meeting would be scheduled to vote on this.

Joan asked if there were any other Resident Concerns. There were none.

7.2 Special Election for 2 Vacancies on Council – Joan Young

Council had received expressions of interest from two residents who were interested in running for Council. Unfortunately both of these residents did not appear to qualify at this time.

Joan asked if there were any nominations or if anyone present was interested in running for Council. There was not.

Council will carry on with Faye Fraser as Chair, and Lowell Birch, Marnie Birch, Shawn Landon and Wendy Siebrands as Councillors. This means that the Chair and at least 3 of the remaining Councillors will have to be present at all council meetings to form a quorum.

7.3 Staff Vacancies – Faye Fraser

Faye announced the appointment of Debbie Carew as the new C.A.O. for the Village and welcomed Debbie aboard.

Dave Stepney will be hired to replace Peter Young as Custodian of the Community Centre.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Faye thanked Joan and Peter for everything they had done for the Village. Sandra Reynolds also expressed her thanks and gratitude, and said that she knew there was an awful lot of work that went into taking care of the village affairs, both by staff and council, and that the village did not always express their thanks for everything that was done. Everyone present stood and clapped with the exception of Ron and Kaye MacLean.

Joan thanked Council and the Residents, and said that she really loved her job and enjoyed working for Council, and for the residents and felt that retirement would be a big adjustment. She asked the residents to please keep in mind that although it may appear to them that directives are coming from the Administrator, that the fact was that the Administrator just carries out Council's directives, and she hoped this would be remembered when working with the new Administrator.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Chairperson – Faye Fraser

Date

Administrator – Debbie Carew

Date

(Affix Seal)