

COUNCIL

MARCH 26, 2002

#02-03

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 26th, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Doug Robinson presiding.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith

Councillor Gleneida Canning (arrived at 7:15 p.m.)

Councillor Lois Smith

Councillor Lyle Yorke

A.D. Brown, Town Clerk

Kevin Yorke, Secretary

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Robinson welcomed all those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Mayor noted that Councillor Canning would be delayed due to a commitment to attend another meeting in Amherst on Council's behalf.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Mayor advised that he would like to amend the agenda by adding "Motion from the Floor" as item 9. (a).

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.

3. **RCMP REPORT**

Cst. Guy Bergeron extended regrets on behalf of Cpl. Phil Oliver and reported that overall it had

been a quiet month with 32 complaints in the Town of Parrsboro including general assistance to the public, as well as traffic, liquor and criminal code violations for which charges are pending.

4. BYLAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Bylaw Officer Carl Skidmore reported 19 complaints and two dogs disposed of at the owners' request.

5. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Jeremy Dunphy presented the following report for March 2002:

EMERGENCY

1 Flue Fire

2 Ambulance Assistance

1 Structure Fire

TRAINING

Members trained in pump operations on March 7th. This included drafting at the Aboiteau and reviewing the layout of the Department's trucks.

On March 14th the Cumberland County Firefighters Association gave a presentation and did a survey regarding their annual training weekend. Following this a special meeting was held to discuss upcoming projects.

March 21st was a training session on ice rescue at Newville Lake. One rescuer scenarios were practiced on thin ice and open water conditions.

SAFE BOATING COURSE

The department will be holding a Safe Boating Course on April 4th at 6:30 p.m. This will be at the Firehall on Willow Street. This seminar and test will provide the student with their Pleasure Craft Operator Card. Currently all operators born after April 1st, 1983 are required to have the card. All operators of watercraft under 4 m. in length, including personal watercraft (seadoos), are required to have the card by September 15th, 2002. Students should review the Coast Guard's Boating Guide before attending this session. Cost is \$40+tax and starts at 6:30 p.m. It will last about 3 hours. Please call Jeremy Dunphy (254-3169) to register by March 31st.

BLOOD DONOR CLINIC

The Canadian Blood Services have tentatively booked a blood donor clinic for June 19th. We will confirm the details at a later date.

6. APPROVAL OF CHEQUE SHEET

Prior to the motion, Councillor Lois Smith noted for information that cheque #9661 was for supplies for the Economic Development Committee.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the General Cheque Sheet in the amount of \$111,328.43 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Robinson asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Council minutes of February 26th, 2002 - #02-02. Hearing none he declared the minutes approved as circulated.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(8.1) Finance - Report given by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith:

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2002

(a) Randy Corcoran RE:

(1) Hunting in Town Limits - Mr. Corcoran met with Council to express his concerns about careless hunting practices in the vicinity of his home and in other areas of the Town and to request that Council adopt a fire arms bylaw that would prohibit hunting within the town boundaries.

In the discussion the rationale behind Council's earlier decision not to adopt such a bylaw was explained to Mr. Corcoran and Cst. Scott MacRae who was also present during the discussion assured him that any Criminal Code offenses with regard to the unlawful use of fire arms would be dealt with by the RCMP, however, he emphasized the importance of violations being reported and the willingness of the complainant to press charges. Besides enforcement of criminal code laws there are also regulations controlling hunting in the Provincial Wildlife Act which is administered

by the Department of Natural Resources and the Town's Prevention of Disorder and Impropriety Bylaw which states that no person shall disturb the peace and quiet of residents of the Town by discharging a fire arm.

(2) Sewage Treatment - Mr. Corcoran asked if any plans were in place for sewage treatment and, if so, what would be an approximate time line for implementation.

Mr. Corcoran was advised that Council is attempting to move toward addressing sewage treatment in a fiscally responsible manner and there have been meetings with representatives of the Department of Environment and Labour to discuss long range planning and funding opportunities for a preliminary study. Although it was impossible to give a definite time frame for implementation of a sewage treatment system Mr. Corcoran was advised that it is hoped that a system could be in place within the next 10 years depending on the type of system recommended, funding opportunities, etc.

(b) Board of Trade - The Parrsboro and District Board of Trade has submitted a written request for a grant in the amount of \$4,500. to support the operation of the Visitor Information Centre and the Board of Trade Building.

It was recommended that this request be referred to the 2002/03 budget for consideration.

(c) CREDA - Correspondence advised that the CREDA Board of Directors need to confirm municipal funding for 2002/2003 and agreed that the 5 municipal units be approached to consider a 10% increase in annual core funding from \$100,000 to \$110,000 to help offset increased operational costs. Based on the Assessment Roll Summary for 2001 and the funding formula, this would mean an annual contribution of \$3,190 from the Town of Parrsboro which is \$310 less than the Town's 2001/02 contribution. The letter also indicated that Parrsboro may wish to consider allocating the difference for local economic initiatives.

After a discussion the Committee recommended approval of the funding request for \$3,190 and that the difference of \$310 be allocated to the Economic Development Committee.

(d) Tax Write-Off - The Clerk presented a business occupancy tax account in the amount of \$304.50 which he recommended be written off as uncollectible. He confirmed that the business had, in fact, closed but had not been removed from the Assessment Roll.

The Committee supports the Clerk's recommendation that this tax account be written off.

(e) UNSM RE: Assessment Agency - For information a copy of correspondence was read addressed to the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations from the President of the UNSM regarding the creation of a new municipally controlled assessment agency which the Province has targeted for implementation by April 1, 2002. The UNSM feels that the April 1st

deadline is not realistic and suggests that a timetable of eight to ten months would be appropriate to address the issues raised by UNSM membership. The Report of the UNSM Sub-Committee on Assessment Services was forwarded to the Minister for his review and comment with a request for a new negotiation time frame, discussion of a Provincial offset to municipal assumption of assessment costs, and to the recommendations of the Assessment Services Report.

(f) Amherst RE: Planning Services - The Clerk noted being asked verbally by the Town Manager of Amherst whether Parrsboro would be interested in contracting planning services from their municipality.

After a discussion it was agreed that Mayor Robinson and the Clerk request a meeting with the Town Manager of Amherst to gather more details for the Committee to consider.

(g) Request for Amendment to the MPS - A letter from Stan Blenkhorn requested an amendment to the policy in the Municipal Planning Strategy which allows a maximum of three lots (including the remaining lot) on a private road in a rural area. Mr. Blenkhorn requested the change to the number of lots on a private road be determined by the number of lots approved by the Department of Environment regulations.

The Committee agreed to investigate the merits of the proposed amendment in regard to its impact on the overall strategy.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the Finance report and recommendations contained therein be approved. Motion carried.

(8.2) Public Works - Report given by Councillor Gleneida Canning:

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2002

(a) Superintendent's Report - John Henwood reports that most of the works crew's time has been spent on winter vehicle maintenance and plowing, sanding and salting streets and sidewalks. It should also be noted that the Christmas snowflake and reindeer lights were taken down and stored with the assistance of Nova Scotia Power Incorporated which was very much appreciated.

(b) Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations RE: Funding for Study - Written confirmation of approval has been received for the Town's application for financial assistance under the Municipal Drinking Water Supply - Planning Assistance Program for the land use planning project for the Parrsboro wellfield. Funding for the project under this program is equal to 50% of

the actual cost incurred, to a maximum of \$7,500.

Moved by Councillor Gleneida Canning, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith that the Public Works report and recommendations contained therein be approved. Motion carried.

(8.3) Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority - Report given by Councillor Lyle Yorke:

CUMBERLAND JOINT SERVICES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY REPORT

MARCH 2002

(a) CJSMA Budget - The latest draft of the Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority's budget dated March 14th, 2002 has been circulated to all members. A joint meeting of all municipal units in Cumberland to review the budget is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27th at 6:00 p.m. at the County building after which each municipal council will be asked to schedule a special meeting to deal with approval of the budget on an individual basis.

Moved by Councillor Lyle Yorke, seconded by Councillor Gleneida Canning that the CJSMA report be accepted. Motion carried.

(8.4) Protective Services - Report given by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith:

PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2002

(a) Capital - The Committee has reviewed the Fire Department's request for funding for new fire fighting equipment. The Fire Chief has been informed that this request has been referred to the capital budget and no decision can be made until these items are reviewed in conjunction with other capital requirements of the Town.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the Protective Services report and recommendations contained therein be approved. Motion carried.

(8.5) Economic Development - Report given by Councillor Gleneida Canning:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2002

(a) Board of Trade Meeting - The Economic Development Committee, Ship's Company Theatre, Fundy Geological Museum and Ottawa House By-the-Sea have been invited to take part in a Business and Community meeting on April 10th, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fundy Geological Museum to review visitor data compiled by the museum and to discuss their expansion project. Each group has also been invited to make a presentation on their success story and plans for the future. Ron Levy is currently preparing a presentation on behalf of the Economic Development Committee.

Moved by Councillor Gleneida Canning, seconded by Councillor Lyle Yorke that the Economic Development Committee report be accepted. Motion carried.

(8.6) Planning, Development and Housing - Report given by Councillor Lyle Yorke:

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2002

(a) Building Inspector's Report - The following is a summary of all permits issued and activity of the Building Inspector's Office for the months of January and February 2002:

	<u>No. of Permits</u>	<u>Value</u>
Repairs & Alterations		
(Residential)	1	\$22,000
Occupancy		
(Residential)	1	\$ 0
Total	2	\$22,000

- During this time 6 inspections were done.

- Performed 3 water tap counts.
- Issued one 911 civic address number.
- Issued 2 zoning conformation letters to Nova Scotia Alcohol & Gaming Authority.

Moved by Councillor Lyle Yorke, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the Planning, Development and Housing report be accepted. Motion carried.

(8.7) Recreation - Report given by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith:

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2002

(a) Meeting with YMCA - On Monday, March 18th, Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith, Councillor Gleneida Canning and the Clerk met with Janet Sutherland, CEO of the Cumberland YMCA for preliminary talks on the "Y" administering the summer Tot Lot program again this year. Ms. Sutherland has reviewed our file from last year and recommends a similar program with the same fee structure. Also discussed was the possibility of extending the program during the shoulder season for some adult programs if the budget allows.

(b) Volunteer Awards - The Committee has reviewed nominations and selected Jeremy Dunphy as Volunteer of the Year and Crystal Roberts as Youth Volunteer. One nomination was submitted for "Family Volunteer", however, the nominees declined to accept. Jeremy will be attending the Provincial Volunteer of the Year Awards ceremony in Halifax on April 18th as Parrsboro's Volunteer of the Year. Crystal's nomination will be forwarded to a selection pool and may also be attending this function if chosen.

Our local volunteer social and awards ceremony will take place on Monday, May 6th, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Hall. Letters will be sent to all local organizations requesting that one member be selected to receive the award on behalf of the organization.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Councillor Gleneida Canning that the Recreation report be accepted. Motion carried.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

(9.1) County of Cumberland - For information the Clerk reviewed a copy of correspondence from

the County of Cumberland to Ernest Fage, Cumberland North MLA and Murray Scott, Cumberland South MLA advising that at a Council session held Wednesday, March 20th, 2002 a motion was approved that Council forward correspondence in support of the acquisition of land in and around Hidden Falls, New Prospect, N.S. and economic development potential in this area. Also enclosed was correspondence from Dennis and Donna Babineau which details this high potential economic development initiative.

Mayor Robinson noted that the Town of Parrsboro had also sent a letter in support of this initiative and the idea behind it because it obviously is going to be good for tourism and the ecology.

(9.2) Region of Queens Municipality - The Clerk presented a letter copied to all municipal units addressed to the President of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities from John G. Leefe, Mayor of the Region of Queens Municipality indicating that the Council had passed a motion to encourage the UNSM to take a more active role in working for all municipal units in the province on a whole instead of splinter groups working separately.

Mayor Robinson commented that it was nice to see units that come forward realizing that the UNSM is supposed to represent all municipalities within the UNSM which includes towns, regions and counties.

9. (a) Motion from the Floor - Mayor Robinson noted an item for which no correspondence had yet been received but which has been detailed in the newspapers having to do with the possibility of a gas tax specifically for roads. The Mayor indicated that all municipal units would pay this tax, therefore, it should be expected that the towns would receive some revenue from that tax over and above anything that is received now. He noted that Councillor Canning has agreed to make the following motion.

In recent news releases it is reported that the Provincial Government has finally recognized that "Nova Scotia roads are in dire need of repair". These same news releases also indicate that the Provincial Government is considering an increase in the fuel tax that the Province collects from each litre of fuel sold within the province. This money is intended to pay for road maintenance. Towns and cities are also financially responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of roads and streets within their boundaries and receive no revenue from the fuel tax. Therefore, I believe it would be appropriate for us to request a portion of the fuel tax revenue collected by the Province to assist in the maintenance of our roads and streets.

Therefore, I make a motion that the Town of Parrsboro request the Provincial Government to transfer a portion of the fuel tax revenue collected on the sale of each litre of fuel to assist in the upkeep and maintenance of town roads. Motion seconded by Councillor Lois Smith.

On the question,

Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith asked if by this motion the Town of Parrsboro would be accepting that there will be a tax and is agreeing to that tax.

Mayor Robinson noted that the letter would not be written in support of the tax. He indicated that the point of the letter would be that if the indication is that revenue from gas tax will be used in repairing roads, then the Town of Parrsboro would expect an appropriate amount of revenue from that to repair our roads rather than the Province collecting the tax and only spending it on roads for which they are responsible.

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith the meeting adjourned.