

COUNCIL

MARCH 30, 2004

#04-03

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 30th, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Doug Robinson presiding.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith
Councillor Gleneida Canning
Councillor Lois Smith
Councillor Lyle Yorke
A.D. Brown, Town Clerk
Kevin Yorke, Secretary

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all those in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The addition of item 6. (a) John Paddon RE: Fireworks was requested. Moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.

3. CAROL SINCLAIR RE: NOISE BYLAW

Carol Sinclair noted that she had met with Council previously in the fall about the Noise Bylaw and she requested an update on the status of the bylaw.

Mayor Robinson advised that a bylaw has been drafted in conjunction with information from the RCMP and other sources, forwarded to the RCMP and passed on to their legal department. The Mayor noted that in his last conversation with Cpl. Oliver he was informed that the draft bylaw is at the legal office and that the Corporal was waiting for it to be returned.

In the discussion that followed Ms. Sinclair raised specific questions about the bylaw and the powers of the RCMP to enforce it. Mayor Robinson noted that the idea behind giving the bylaw to the RCMP's legal department is to ensure that it is worded so that it fits within the parameters of what they are able to do and that without having the bylaw back from the RCMP it would be unfair to try and answer these questions at this point in time. Ms. Sinclair also noted a concern about a situation within an apartment building on Main Street and was advised that it was not an issue that the Council would deal with directly and that she should contact the RCMP and/or the Department of Social Services.

Ms. Sinclair congratulated the Council on the Noise Bylaw and expressed her gratitude for allowing her to address the matter.

John Paddon asked if dogs barking during the day would be covered under the Noise Bylaw.

Mayor Robinson advised that this would come under the jurisdiction of the Dog Bylaw.

4. RCMP REPORT

Cst. Jennifer Clarke presented the following report covering the period February 28th to March 30th: 2 Assaults; 1 Property Damage; 3 Disturbances; 3 Break and Enters; 1 Motor Vehicle Act involving injuries; 2 Frauds; 18 Motor Vehicle Act charges; and 2 False Alarms.

5. BYLAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Carl Skidmore advised that he had received 14 complaints and issued several warnings. He noted that complaints are beginning to increase as some dog owners are allowing their pets to run due to the snow in their yards. He also noted a problem in the Whitehall area for which he may have to lay charges.

Mayor Robinson suggested that the Bylaw Officer meet with Council later in the summer to reassess the new Dog Bylaw after it has been in force during the busiest season. Mr. Skidmore agreed that it would be a good idea.

6. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Jim Atkinson presented the following report for February and March 2004:

FEBRUARY

Emergency Calls

3 Chimney

**3 Chimney
1 Rescue (call cancelled)
1 Medical Assistance**

Training

**Equipment checks, personal protective equipment
Ice & cold water rescue
Monthly equipment checks**

MARCH

Emergency Calls

**2 Chimney
1 MVA with injuries (Medical Assistance to EHS)
1 Life Flight
1 Clothes dryer fire with smoke damage to home
1 Medical assistance (EHS)**

Training

**Monthly equipment checks, personal protection equipment
3 members attended several courses at NSFF School in Waverly
Medical First Responder course to be held on two weekends, April 24 & 25 and May 1 and 2**

Truck Repairs

On March 3rd Truck #3 was taken out of service to have some repairs completed to the front end. The parts for this truck are very hard to get and as a result it was out of service from March 3rd to March 30th. It was inconvenient to have the truck tied up for this period of time but this was the only way to get the right parts to complete the repairs.

The Fire Chief advised Council that all three trucks had passed safety inspection today.

The Fire Chief responded to a few questions of the Council following his report. Mayor Robinson noted having observed the landing of the air ambulance during the Life Flight incident and wondered if the weather or landing site preparation had been responsible for what appeared to be a delay in the air ambulance taking off.

Mr. Atkinson advised that the time that the helicopter spent on the ground had nothing to do with either the weather or site preparation and that it was due to emergency personnel following normal procedures.

Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith asked if there had been a contingency plan when the rescue truck was out of service.

The Chief advised that the firemen used resources that were available including ½ ton trucks to transport the rescue equipment.

The Deputy Mayor also asked if there is a full complement of fire fighters in the department.

Mr. Atkinson advised that with the recent departure of a fireman there remained three or four positions to fill for which applications are open for new members.

6. (a) John Paddon RE: Fireworks - Mr. Paddon noted that he had approached Council about the fireworks in January as a private citizen and not a member of the Fire Department. He advised that to date a committee has been established that has been working on ideas to raise funds for the event. Collection cans have been distributed to area businesses willing to put them out and to date \$50.00 has been collected. Corporate business donations will be solicited in the near future. Mr. Paddon indicated that the next step is to obtain permission from the Town to use the Scott property for the fireworks which has been the traditional site for the event.

After a discussion the Mayor noted that he did not foresee any reason why the request would not be looked upon favourably, however, before final approval he recommended that Mr. Paddon submit a plan for Council to review.

Mr. Paddon thanked Council and noted that he looked forward to presenting the plan at a later date.

7. APPROVAL OF CHEQUE SHEET

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Councillor Lyle Yorke that the Cheque Sheet in the amount of \$164,353.41 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Robinson asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Council Minutes of February 24th, 2004, being #04-02.

Hearing none he declared the minutes approved as circulated.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2004

(a) Summer Works Program - The Committee has reviewed the requirements of the Town for student summer workers and is recommending an application be submitted to HRDC for the same number of positions for the Summer Recreation Program and Glooscap Park as last year.

(b) Taxi Licenses - Official notification has been received that Campbell's Taxi is no longer in operation and will not be renewing its license. On a related matter the Clerk advised that an application for a taxi license was submitted by Robert Forbes which he approved upon confirmation that the applicant met all necessary criteria. The Committee recommends the ratification of the issuance of the taxi license to Mr. Forbes.

(c) Ballfield RE: Booking - A request has been received from local volunteers with the Diabetic Association to use the Don Yorke Memorial Ballfield for a fund raiser on May 15 and 16.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that the request be approved and that bookings for this ballfield be handled through the Town Office.

(d) CREDA Business Plan - The Cumberland Regional Economic Development Association has submitted its business plan for 2004/2005 and will be requesting a meeting with Council in the near future to review the document.

(e) Zonta Club of Amherst Area - The Zonta Club of Amherst Area has submitted a request for a \$150.00 donation toward the cost of panels profiling lesser-known notable women from Cumberland County including two from Parrsboro, Molly Morwick and Margaret Spencer. This is a project in partnership with the Cumberland County Museum and the panels will be displayed throughout the county and beyond.

After a discussion the Committee recommended approval of the request.

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

On the question, the Mayor noted that CREDA had presented its business plan earlier this evening before the Council meeting.

The Deputy Mayor noted that the student summer workers have been applied for.

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

(9.2) Public Works - Report given by Councillor Lyle Yorke:

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2004

(a) Superintendent's Report - John Henwood reported the following activity:

- snow removal during and after the major snow storm. John noted that new equipment including the front end loader and sidewalk machine helped make the job easier and more efficient. As well, snow removal contractors were hired to assist when needed.

- pot holes were repaired with cold patch on various streets.

- sign posts broken off during snow removal have been repaired.

- a frozen water line on Templar Street was thawed out.

(b) Paving - Pinkey Creek Rd. & Old West Bay Rd. - The Committee is recommending that due to the deteriorated condition of the Pinkey Creek Road and the Old West Bay Road preliminary work should begin this year to prepare these streets for repaving next year.

(c) Four-Way Stop Sign at the Intersection of Chapel and Church Streets - Correspondence from a resident noted a concern about safety at the intersection of Chapel and Church Streets and requested consideration of a four-way stop sign at the intersection.

After a discussion the Committee recommended referring this request to the next Protective Services Committee meeting.

(d) Provincial Roads RE: Poor Condition - Concerns were expressed at Committee about the deplorable condition of the #2 Highway and the negative impact this will have on our local economy.

After a discussion it was recommended that a letter be sent to the Premier with a copy to the Minister of the Department of Transportation and Public Works requesting the upgrading of the #2 Highway, with priority on the section between Amherst and Parrsboro.

Moved by Councillor Lyle Yorke, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith that the Public Works Report and recommendations contained therein be approved. Motion carried.

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

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2004

(a) Volunteer of the Year - The Committee has reviewed the nominations submitted by the March 8th deadline and the selection process has resulted in John Lucas being chosen as the Volunteer of the Year and Stevely Wood as the Youth Volunteer of the Year. Mr. Lucas will represent Parrsboro at the Provincial Volunteer Recognition ceremonies in Halifax in April and Stevely Wood's name will be submitted to be considered for selection as the Youth representative for the Province. All local volunteer nominees will be recognized at the Council meeting in April.

(b) Healthy Kids/Active Kids - With research indicating that levels of physical activity among youth have been constantly declining, the Province has introduced an initiative called Healthy Kids/Active Kids to promote a healthier lifestyle for children in Nova Scotia. The Recreation Committee would like to recommend the establishment of an 8 person Healthy/Active Youth committee of concerned individuals (youth, parents, citizens) to determine whether or not it would be feasible to participate in this initiative for which there is program funding available.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Councillor Gleneida Canning that the Recreation Report and recommendations contained therein be approved.

On the question, Mayor Robinson requested clarification as to whether the recommendation to establish the committee would stand as a recommendation until such time as it is known who that committee may be or is it a recommendation to actually go ahead and make that committee.

Councillor Gleneida Canning noted the understanding that the recommendation is to go ahead and establish the committee and this was confirmed by the Deputy Mayor.

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

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

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2004

(a) Building Inspector's Report - There were no building or development permits issued for the months of January and February, 2004. The following is a summary of activity of the Building Inspector's Office for the months of January and February, 2004.

- **Contacted one person operating a business without proper permits.**
- **Performed 1 tap count.**
- **Performed 2 building inspections.**
- **Attended an information session on the procedures and process for subdivision plans entering the new Registry 2000 system in Amherst, N.S. on Jan. 14, 2004.**
- **Attended a building inspector's course Feb. 27, 2004 in Truro, N.S.**

The following is an outline of activity for the Fire Inspections service for the same time period.

- **The first types of building and/or occupancies to be inspected have been identified and listed.**
- **25 letters of notice to fire inspect were mailed out to building owners and/or occupants.**
- **Received 13 replies to set up a time to inspect.**
- **Performed 7 fire inspections.**
- **42 violations were identified.**
- **6 fire code orders were issued.**

Please Note: It takes between 6 and 10 hours to create a file for the building and/or occupancy, perform the inspection, and issue fire inspection report/order . There are approximately 140 building and/or occupancies to be inspected within the town by the end of 2006.

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

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

CUMBERLAND JOINT SERVICES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY REPORT

MARCH 2004

(a) Appointment to Committee - The Committee was advised that appointees were needed to sit on the County's Leachate/Septage Central Treatment Facility Steering Committee which will hold its

first meeting on Thursday, March 25th.

After a discussion the Committee recommended the appointment of Mayor Robinson and Councillor Yorke to this steering committee.

Moved by Councillor Lyle Yorke, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith that the Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority Report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.

On the question, Mayor Robinson noted that he had attended the meeting held on March 25th the purpose of which was to set out the parameters of how that committee is going to look at the subject of leachate and septage central sewage treatment and that it will be an ongoing committee.

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

(9.6) Library - The Deputy Mayor presented the following Cumberland Regional Library Report for March 2004:

The Cumberland Regional Library has recently developed a Strategic Plan to identify the directions the library is pursuing over the next few years. The Strategic Plan was created in order to provide a focus for library resources, to build upon current services and to identify services that need more attention.

Five key goals were established:

- Promotions of Library Services**
- Improve Service to Teens**
- Improve Service to Seniors**
- Improve Service to Children Grade Six and Under**
- Improve Computer and Online Services**

For each of these goals, specific objectives and actions have been identified. For example, to improve the library's service to teens, one of the actions to be taken include holding focus group of local teens to gather information on what they would like to have available in the library collection and what types of programs they would like to see offered. For seniors, the library hopes to purchase more large print books and audiobooks as well as promote our free Books By Mail service to those who are unable to visit any of our libraries.

To promote the library's visibility throughout the County, several initiatives will be undertaken including a county-wide membership drive and developing a series of public service announcements (PSA's) for the local radio station.

More emphasis will be placed on the importance of reading to babies and family literacy programs will be offered to empower parents to teach their children about the wonderful world of books at the earliest age possible.

The library's web site will be revamped to include more information about library programs and online services available. For example, you can request books and renew library materials online as well as search the library's catalogue and magazine databases through our web site.

The Strategic Plan will be used to help the Library Board with budgeting and allow the management team to establish priorities in workflow. The Strategic Plan was a joint effort of both the library staff and board members. Copies of the Plan are available at all seven branches of the Cumberland Regional Library and will soon be available on the library's web site at crl.library.ns.ca.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the Library Report be accepted. Motion carried.

(9.7) Youth Town Council - Councillor Lois Smith gave a verbal report from a meeting of the Youth Town Council held earlier today. She advised that their main focus is to get the skateboard park up and running and that with the melting snow and the assistance of the Public Works Department there have been a number of youth already utilizing the park over the past two or three nights. The priority right now is to repair the ramp damaged during the major snowstorm with several people volunteering to do the work as soon as conditions permit. Hopefully this spring basketball hoops will be added to the asphalt installed last fall and a volleyball net and sand installed for beach volleyball. Councillor Smith advised that the Youth Town Council are planning an event sometime in May for the seniors such as a tea or luncheon and they will take part in a town-wide food bank drive on April 17th with the cadets and other organizations. Councillor Smith invited anyone interested to attend the Youth Town Council meetings and to make a presentation to the youth if they so wished. She advised that the meetings take place the third Tuesday of the month, however, she noted that the next meeting is on April 7th to take care of some pressing business. Otherwise anyone with questions or concerns that they may want brought forward can contact her.

Moved by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith that the Youth Town Council report be accepted. Motion carried.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

(10.1) Royal Canadian Legion - The Clerk read correspondence from the Legion thanking Town Council for the new lights at the cenotaph.

For information the Mayor noted that a shadow box had been installed on one of the lights and

that shadow boxes for the other two lights are in storage waiting to be installed when the weather permits.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.