

COUNCIL

APRIL 27, 2004

#04-04

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 27th, 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 welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3. JOHN PADDON RE: FIREWORKS

John Paddon updated Council on fund raising activities of the Fireworks Committee. He advised that a pre-teen dance took place recently at the Lions Den attended by 45 - 50 youth and that planned fund raisers include a pancake breakfast on May 8th at the Legion to coincide with Mother's Day and an adult dance on May 29th at the Fire Hall. He noted that other fund raisers are being worked on and the Committee is meeting regularly.

Mayor Robinson noted that he would be out-of-town on May 8th and passed on his regrets for not being able to attend the pancake breakfast.

Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith asked how the Fireworks Committee is doing financially with their cans and other donations.

Mr. Paddon advised that the cans did very well initially and that while donations have started to peter out he expects an increase as July 1st approaches. He noted that letters seeking the support of local businesses have been sent and that some businesses are making donations to fund raisers to help defray costs. Mr. Paddon estimated that \$300.00 of the \$2,500.00 needed to put on the fireworks has been raised so far and he hoped that the Town would be willing to contribute as well.

Mayor Robinson noted that Council would expect a letter of request from the Committee as such donations would normally be discussed during budget deliberations which have not yet taken place. The Mayor indicated that normally the Town has contributed \$400.00 for the fireworks and he would expect that the Town's donation would be in that range.

Mr. Paddon indicated that a letter of request would be forthcoming in the near future.

4. RCMP REPORT

Cpl. Phil Oliver advised that there were a total of 35 complaints since the last meeting with the following requiring actual responses for police service: 1 Assault; 1 Break and Enter; 1 Theft Related; 1 Fraud; 1 Uttering Threats; 1 Breach of Probation; 6 Other Provincial Stats; 1 911 Act; 2 Suspicious Persons; 1 Motor Vehicle Accident Non-Injury; 7 Tickets issued; and the remainder were miscellaneous assistance such as criminal records checks.

Cpl. Oliver noted that he was still waiting for some feedback from headquarters regarding the Noise Bylaw and that he would be sending a follow-up email immediately after the meeting to check the status of their review.

5. BYLAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Skidmore was not presented. No report.

6. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Jim Atkinson presented the following report for the month of April 2004:

Emergency Calls

2 Grass Fires

2 Medical Assistance

2 Fire Alarms

1 Pumping Basement

Training

Monthly Equipment Checks, Personal Protective Equipment

Ice & Cold Water Rescue

Medical First Responder Part 1

**DNR Forest Fire Training
Emergency Centre**

The Fire Hall may become manned as an Emergency Response Centre if the phone and communications services are lost during the Aliant strike. This will be set up through the EMO Coordinator and the Fire Department.

7. APPROVAL OF CHEQUE SHEET

Moved by Councillor Lyle Yorke, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith that the General Cheque Sheet in the amount of \$44,451.82 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Robinson asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the minutes of March 30, 2004, #04-03. 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

APRIL 2004

(a) Dog Bylaw - In October 2003 the Town Council passed a new Dog Bylaw and in order to encourage all dog owners to register their pets, the registry fees have been eliminated. This is a reminder to all owners of dogs aged four months or more to avoid penalty and have their pets registered at the Town Office if they have not yet done so.

(b) Tax Exemptions - The Clerk presented 12 applications for the \$90.00 tax exemption that were submitted by the February 26th deadline. The Committee was advised that all applicants met the criteria to receive the exemption.

The Committee recommends that all 12 applications for the tax exemption be approved.

(c) Suppliers Development Outreach - An invitation was extended to the Clerk to attend a Supplier Development Outreach sponsored by the Department of Economic Development on May 19th at the County Building. The main objective of the session is to inform Cumberland County businesses about the opportunities with government and institutional purchases of goods and

services.

(d) Tim Hortons Appeal - The Town has received official confirmation that the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board has, by an Order dated April 14th, 2004, dismissed the appeal of Town Council's decision to approve a development agreement to permit the development of a Tim Hortons. The Board concluded in their decision that having reviewed all of the evidence they found that the decision of Town Council does reasonably carry out the intent of the Municipal Planning Strategy. The appellants now have 30 days from the date of the Order within which to appeal the URB's decision, if they so wish.

(e) Correctional Services Canada - An invitation to the Mayor to attend the annual awards and honours ceremony on May 14th at St. Andrew's Wesley United Church in Springhill. The ceremonies will highlight special achievements and exemplary efforts and will include exemplary service awards, long service awards and retirements. As the Mayor will not be able to attend due to a prior commitment, Councillor Lyle Yorke will attend in his stead.

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

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

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

APRIL 2004

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

- snow hauled away from parking lots and intersections
- the equipment had to be geared up again for snow removal after an early spring snow fall
- the RCMP have requested that speed signs be replaced or altered to indicate that the speed limit is a maximum of 50 km/hr
- some ditches and culverts were opened up during the recent heavy rains to allow water to run off, as well the Aboiteau gates were opened and closed as dictated by weather conditions
- the tree cutting contractor that was in town doing work for NSP was hired to cut down several trees at the Library

- a damaged fire hydrant at the corner of Western Ave. and Whitehall Rd. was repaired
- sidewalks and streets are in the process of being swept and cleaned of debris
- the reservoir cover was pumped off after the ice melted
- garbage cans are being repaired and painted and some of the drum type cans being placed out around Main Street and at the Skateboard Park
- routine water connections and disconnections as requested by property owners
- the Superintendent was asked to look into painting a stop bar on the pavement at the intersection of Western Ave. and King St.
- the snowflake and reindeer lights will be taken down and stored and the dinosaur lights will be taken down, refurbished as required and reinstalled
- there will be an annual spring clean-up this year after the long weekend in May with specific dates advertised well in advance

Moved by Councillor Lyle Yorke, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith that the Public Works report be accepted. Motion carried.

(9.3) Park - Report given by Councillor Lois Smith:

PARK COMMITTEE REPORT

APRIL 2004

(a) Glooscap Park Brochure - The Park Superintendent has indicated that we need a supply of updated brochures for Glooscap Park and he has presented the Committee with a sample brochure and price quotes from a couple of printing establishments for their consideration. The Committee will meet again in the near future to review the brochure design and cost estimates in more detail prior to making a recommendation to proceed with printing a supply of the brochures.

Councillor Smith noted that the Committee had met today and have contacted other printing establishments for a wider range of costs and that information should be received as early as tomorrow.

Moved by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith that the Park Committee Report and recommendations contained therein be accepted. Motion carried.

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

PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

APRIL 2004

(a) Presentation by S/Sgt. Wade Blake - S/Sgt. Wade Blake, Commander of the Cumberland District of the RCMP, met with the Committee to review a proposal to establish a full-time plain clothes General Investigator position for Cumberland County. This person would assist Cumberland County uniformed members in serious and/or lengthy investigations. S/Sgt. Blake indicated that he was approaching Cumberland, Oxford and Parrsboro at this stage to obtain approval and funding on a cost shared basis between the three municipalities.

At this point the Committee would like to further review and discuss the proposal before making a recommendation.

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

(9.5) Sustainable Tourism - Report given by Councillor Gleneida Canning:

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM COMMITTEE REPORT

APRIL 2004

(a) Update RE: Beautification Project - Terri McCulloch has been soliciting donations toward the tree planting project which will see the replacement of approximately 16 trees on Main Street. This is a joint effort between the Town and the Beautification Committee with the Town committing to purchasing six of the trees with the remainder purchased with donations from businesses, organizations and individuals. The trees will be ordered as soon as all funding commitments have been honoured. The Committee would also like to acknowledge the generous contribution from Parrsboro Metal Fabricators who will provide the material for new tree guards and the donation of time and expertise from Kerwin Davison and Reg Young who will assemble the tree guards.

Moved by Councillor Gleneida Canning, seconded by Councillor Lyle Yorke that the Sustainable Tourism Committee report be accepted.

On the question, Councillor Canning noted the understanding that the trees have been ordered.

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

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

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

APRIL 2004

(a) Presentation by Bob Cormier, Fire Marshal - Bob Cormier, Fire Marshal for Nova Scotia, met with Council to inform them about fire inspections indicating that the purpose of the whole process is fire safety with priority on saving lives and secondary emphasis on saving property. He advised that the sole responsibility of Council is to appoint a fire inspector to inspect various buildings throughout the town, identify deficiencies under the Fire Code and to request that the buildings be upgraded as required. Mr. Cormier advised that the property owner has the right to appeal the Fire Inspector's decision directly to the Fire Marshal whose decision may also be appealed to the Fire Safety Appeal Board under the auspices of the Utility and Review Board. The Fire Marshal indicated that the first step the property owner should take is to call the Fire Inspector for clarification of the required work, and to discuss time lines and priorities. He also invited Council or any of its constituents to contact him if they have any questions about fire inspections.

(b) Building/Fire Inspection Services - The Town has been investigating alternative means of providing building inspection and fire inspection services which are currently being provided through an arrangement with the Town of Springhill. The Clerk has made a recommendation to contract these services from the Town of Amherst which would result in cost savings of between \$10,000 and \$12,000 per year. A meeting was held with the Mayor of Springhill to discuss the termination of the arrangement between our two municipalities which is being requested not because of dissatisfaction with the Building Inspector, but due to financial considerations. Mayor Mont indicated his support of Parrsboro's request, however, he requested an official letter from Parrsboro regarding the matter.

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

The Clerk updated item (b) of the report advising that a letter has been sent to Springhill as requested by Mayor Mont and, in fact, they were having their Council meeting this evening. The indication is that the Springhill Council will agree to Parrsboro opting out of the service agreement. At this point Mayor Mont has asked Pat Boyce not to come to Parrsboro again due to

the discontinuance of the service which is agreed to by all parties. The Clerk noted that he has had meetings with officials from Amherst including Greg Herrett, Head of Corporate Services, Jason MacDonald, Director of Planning and Bill Crossman, Fire Chief to set the wheels in motion to have their staff come to Parrsboro. Last night the Town of Amherst had passed a motion agreeing to provide the service and approving that the Mayor and Clerk sign the agreement with the Mayor and Clerk in Parrsboro. The Clerk noted that a motion will be needed to appoint Monty Maddison as Building Inspector/Development Officer, Tim Lefurgey as Assistant Building Inspector/Development Officer and to appoint William Crossman as Fire Inspector. A second motion would be needed to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the agreement with the Mayor and Clerk of Amherst in the provision of these services. The Clerk advised that Mr. Maddison would be coming to Parrsboro tomorrow to meet with himself and staff to go over some details as Town staff will have to pick up some of the paper work relating to the initial permits when the homeowner or contractor comes in and the permits will be forwarded off to Mr. Maddison and dealt with in a timely fashion.

Moved by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith that the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign the agreement with Amherst for the provision of Building Inspection/ Development Officer , Planning and Fire Inspection Services.

On the question, Mayor Robinson indicated that this change has absolutely nothing to do with the performance of duties of the Building Inspector/Fire Inspector and that the Town was quite satisfied with Mr. Boyce's work. He advised that this is purely an advantage in the financial sense and that he would not want anyone to think that it was for any other purpose.

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

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Councillor Lyle Yorke that Town Council appoint Monty Maddison as Building Inspector/Development Officer, Tim Lefurgey as Assistant Building Inspector/Development Officer and William Crossman as Fire Inspector for the Town of Parrsboro. Motion carried.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

(10.1) Cumberland Connection on Schizophrenia - Correspondence from Michael MacDonald noted a presentation on May 19th at 1:30 p.m. at the school and another at 6:30 p.m. at the Fundy Geological Museum to which the Town Council was invited.

Mayor Robinson noted that the presentation in the afternoon is focussed specifically on the students and the school and the evening session is important for anyone involved in working with youth, especially parents. The Mayor indicated that this is a very effective program well worth attending.

(10.2) Myrna Breen - Cumberland Community College - An invitation to the Mayor to attend the flag raising ceremony to mark North American Occupational Health and Safety Week at the Cumberland Campus on Monday, May 3rd.

Mayor Robinson noted that he would be unable to attend due to a prior commitment and that he would send his regrets. He indicated that if anyone else on Council is interested in attending to let the office know so that their attendance can be confirmed with the Community College.

(10.3) Family and Childrens' Services of Cumberland County - Correspondence seeking expressions of interest from the public to sit on their Board of Directors.

(10.4) CREDA - A letter from CREDA Chair, Howard Spence advised our current member at large is Rose MacAloney and that her term will expire on May 31st, 2004. Mr. Spence noted that this person is eligible to be reappointed if it is Council's wishes to do so, or they may chose another candidate.

Moved by Councillor Gleneida Canning, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that Rose MacAloney be appointed to CREDA for another term as member at large for Parrsboro.

On the question, Councillor Canning noted that Ms. MacAloney has agreed to accept her reappointment, if it is Council's wishes.

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Councillor Lois Smith the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

