

COUNCIL

MAY 25, 2004

#04-05

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 25th, 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, C.A.O.

REGRETS: Kevin Yorke, Secretary

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

2. PRESENTATION BY RANDY CORCORAN RE: TOWN BEAUTIFICATION

Mr. Corcoran advised Council that he has in his possession approximately 4000 sunflower seeds which he would like to see distributed throughout the town and some of the surrounding area. It was his feeling that this is the type of project that has the potential to grow over the next few years which could create a tourist attraction and something of interest that could attract additional people to the town and surrounding area. His purpose for being at Council this evening was to request permission to plant a few of these seeds on the Town's property. He was looking at having five or six seeds planted on the Town Hall property at the back on the Upper Main Street side.

The Mayor suggested that maybe Mr. Corcoran would like to discuss this issue in more detail with the Beautification Committee of Council that has been established to develop a long term plan to beautify the overall appearance of the town. Mr. Corcoran felt that due to the time of year there was not sufficient time available to deal with committees on this. Again he indicated that he was only requesting to place five or six seeds on the Town Hall property and that he was in the process of trying to find other locations on private property and elsewhere in the area to have these seeds put out.

After a brief discussion the Council advised Mr. Corcoran that they would get back to him by Thursday, May 27th indicating their approval once they had a discussion with the Committee.

3. PRESENTATION: JOHN PADDON RE: FIREWORKS

Mr. Paddon advised Council that his purpose of being at the meeting this evening was to update them on the activities being undertaken to raise funds for the fireworks on July 1st. He advised that they just recently had a car wash at which they realized a profit of \$140.00. He also indicated that there is a dance being scheduled for the Fire Hall on Saturday night with the proceeds going to the fireworks fund as well. He also advised that the Post Office have an annual barbeque at which the funds raised are donated to various charitable organizations or groups and this year the profits from that barbeque will be going toward the fireworks. He asked Council if any decision had been made as to the amount of the contribution the Town will make toward this project.

Mr. Paddon was advised that a recommendation is included in the committee reports that will be coming up later in the meeting.

4. PRESENTATION OF VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Mayor Robinson advised that he had the honour to present John Lucas, Saundra Spence and Stevely Wood with a certificate and pin recognizing their outstanding contributions to the community through volunteerism. Mayor Robinson noted that Mr. Lucas was also our Provincial Volunteer Representative who had been presented with an award by the Honourable John Hamm, Premier of Nova Scotia at a ceremony in Halifax in April. He also noted that Stevely Wood was being recognized as Youth Volunteer and that it was unfortunate that Saundra Spence was unable to attend this evening to accept her award due to another commitment. In his congratulatory remarks Mayor Robinson emphasized the importance of volunteerism in the community and noted that many visitors have remarked about the amount of volunteer work that is done in the Parrsboro area. The Mayor commented that volunteerism sets the residents of Parrsboro and area apart from other people.

After the presentation Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith advised that the Committee had advertised for nominations for these volunteer awards. He indicated that there were approximately 55 organizations in the town but the Committee only received a very few nominations. The Committee was a bit disappointed in this and hoped that for future years more nominations would be coming forth. He felt there were many people who would be worthy of this recognition, however, for one reason or another the organizations did not nominate them.

5. RCMP REPORT

Cst. Guy Bergeron presented the report regarding the activities of the RCMP in the past month. He indicated the detachment had handled 60 complaints which included 4 Assaults, 1 Break and

Enter, and 7 Property Damage during this period of time.

Cst. Bergeron was asked if this was an increase in the number of complaints for this time of year. He indicated that this is fairly normal comparing it to prior years. He indicated that the weather is getting a bit warmer and people are getting out more than they had been in the past number of months.

Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith asked if Cst. Bergeron knew what the status was of the Noise Bylaw that had been prepared by the Council and forwarded off to the RCMP for review. Cst. Bergeron indicated that to his understanding this bylaw was in Halifax before their legal department who are reviewing the bylaw to make sure that it was enforceable.

6. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

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

Emergency Calls

1 Grass

1 Chimney

1 Rescue

2 Structure

Training

Monthly Equipment Checks, Personal Protective Equipment

Medical First Responder Part 2

Water Streams & Hose Set Up, Pumping and Drafting Water

Emergency Centre

There is a plan in effect by EMO. The Fire Hall may become manned as an Emergency Response Centre if the phone and communication services are lost during the Aliant strike. This will be set up through the EMO and the Fire Department.

Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith asked the Fire Chief if there was any cost sharing with the Province for the medical first responders part II training. Jim indicated that he did not know for sure whether there is cost sharing for this item or not but he would check into it and take advantage of any cost sharing that may be available.

7. BYLAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Carl Skidmore advised Council that in the past month he had received 14 complaints and investigated one unsightly premises complaint where the homeowner indicated that they were not going to clean up the mess and he had made a follow up with them to see that corrective action was taken.

8. APPROVAL OF CHEQUE SHEET

Moved by Councillor Lyle Yorke, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith that the General Cheque Sheet in the amount of \$142,831.83 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Robinson asked if there any errors or omissions noted in the Council Minutes of April 27, 2004, #04-04. Hearing none he declared the minutes approved as circulated.

10. LIBRARY REPORT

Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith read the Library report for the month of May as follows:

March 31st marked the end of our fiscal year and the numbers from the past year are quite impressive. For example, circulation of library materials increased by 15% this year with 18,159 items checked out from the Parrsboro Library this year compared to 15,845 last year.

122 new people joined the Parrsboro branch this year and 636 people attended a program at the library. The majority of the programs offered were computer classes, but there were also story hours for children. Special thanks are extended to Sandra Shaw for volunteering countless hours teaching people to use the computer.

The computers continue to be a big drawing card to the library and there were 4,870 half hour bookings for the computers. A new four person computer workstation was purchased last year with CAP funds making the computer layout much more efficient. Many people use the library to find out facts or information, while others will ask for suggestions of good books to read. Over 3,600 reference questions were answered last year.

The Parrsboro Library will have a special guest on May 26th when children's author Julie Lawson visits the library. Julie, a native of British Columbia, has been nominated for the Hackmatack Children's Book Award for her book *A Ribbon of Shining Steel: the railway diary of Kate Cameron*. This book is a fictional account of pioneer life in western Canada in the 19th century. Grade four students from Parrsboro Elementary will get to hear the author read from her works and discuss the importance of reading as well as explain what it's like to be a writer. Julie Lawson's visit was made possible through a grant from the Canada Council for the Arts.

Francis Newman
Chief Librarian
Cumberland Regional Library

There was a motion by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith to accept the report as presented. Motion carried.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 2004

(a) Fireworks - A letter has been received from John Paddon on behalf of the Fireworks Committee for a donation from the Town toward the cost of the July 1st fireworks display.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that the Town commit \$450.00 provided the Fireworks Committee is able to raise the remainder of the funds needed.

(b) L.A. Animal Shelter - A letter has been received from the Lillian Allbon Cumberland County Animal Shelter for a financial contribution from the Town to assist with their operating costs.

The Committee recommends that this request be referred to the 2004/2005 budget for consideration.

(c) DARE Program - Correspondence from Cst. Guy Bergeron requested consideration of a \$250.00 donation to help defray the cost of workbooks, t-shirts and presentation equipment associated with the DARE drug awareness program being taught to sixth grade students in the Parrsboro schools.

After a discussion the Committee recommended approval of this request.

(d) Policy RE: Proclamations - At the request of the Mayor, the Committee reviewed Policy No. 24 adopted by Council on June 23rd, 1998 which states that the Town of Parrsboro will not endorse any proclamations.

In the discussion the Committee agreed that there are many occasions where it would be appropriate for the Town to participate in proclamations and it was recommended that Policy No. 24 be rescinded.

(e) Municipal Election Voters List - The Committee reviewed options available for obtaining a voters list for the upcoming municipal election.

After a discussion the Committee recommended using the most recent Federal/Provincial voters list.

(f) Request for Donation - The Clerk noted a written request for a donation to help defray the cost of an awards reception recognizing children in sports in the Parrsboro schools.

After a discussion the Committee recommended a \$50.00 donation.

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

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

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 2004

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

- benches, picnic tables, garbage cans and bins have been placed out at the Town Hall, the beaches, ball fields and along the Main Street

- the grass was mowed at the Town Hall, mini park and Fire Hall

- the beach water line has been turned on for the cottages and repaired as necessary

- gravel roads were graded and dust control applied, additional gravel is being applied to the Town's end of the West Bay Road

- the dinosaur lights have been taken down and the lighting removed in preparation for scraping and painting. Once the lights have been re-assembled, Nova Scotia Power will be requested to assist Public Works with re-installing them on the poles

- some clean up work was done around the Library parking lot after the trees were cut down

- a lead water service was replaced on Whitehall Road

(b) Old Post Office - The owner of the old post office has requested permission to tie the roof drains of the building into the Town's storm sewer system to prevent the water from running across the sidewalk. John noted that he had consulted our engineers and was advised that the

system would handle the additional waste water.

After a discussion the Committee recommended approval of the request provided the owner agrees to pay the cost of repair work to the sidewalk and curbs that will have to be displaced in order to make these improvements.

(c) Playground Equipment - The Superintendent has brought to the Committee's attention that the seats and chains need to be replaced on the swing sets at the playground on Pier Road.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that new seats and chains be ordered for this playground equipment.

(d) Municipal Waste Water Workshop - A workshop is scheduled for June 16th in Moncton facilitated by a group interested in getting feedback from municipalities regarding rules and regulations for waste water management.

After a discussion it was agreed that Mayor Robinson, Councillor Yorke and John Henwood attend this workshop.

(e) Parking Concerns on King Street - A concerned citizen has submitted a letter to Council regarding the potentially dangerous situation that exists when vehicles park on the hill on King Street during school hours and bingo at the Band Hall, as well as the failure of some motorists to observe speed limits in the school zone.

After a discussion it was recommended that the Superintendent contact Cpl. Oliver for advice on signage that would be appropriate to control traffic in this area.

Following the report the Mayor advised that he, Cst. Oliver and Superintendent John Henwood had met earlier that day to discuss the parking situation on King Street. It was agreed to put up "No Parking" signs on one side of the street on which there is a painted cross walk and on the other side the RCMP are to enforce the no parking on pavement regulation.

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

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

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 2004

(a) Summer Recreation Program - Notification has been received from HRDC that our application has been approved to hire five students for the Summer Recreation Program. Discussions are underway with the Cumberland YMCA to provide program supervision and to begin the hiring process for the five student positions.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Lois Smith that the Recreation Committee be accepted. Motion carried.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

(12.1) Cumberland County Family Planning - Correspondence was read from Cumberland County Family Planning advising that they are implementing a self esteem program for adolescent girls aged 10 - 13. The letter was requesting Council to consider making a financial contribution to this program.

This item was referred to budget for consideration.

(12.2) Nova Scotia Community College - A letter was read from the Nova Scotia Community College advising that their graduation exercises would be held on June 5th,2004 at 5:00 p.m. at St. Andrew's Wesley United Church in Springhill and the Mayor was invited to attend the functions. The Mayor indicated that he would be attending the graduation exercises.

(12.3) Department of Tourism and Culture - A letter was read from Minister Rodney MacDonald outlining the impact that tourism has on Nova Scotia, in particular, he was thanking Council for supporting the regional tourism association which is CNTA and hoped that we would continue to support these organizations which help promote tourism in Nova Scotia.

(12.4) Department of Transportation and Public Works - A letter was received from the Honourable Ronald S. Russell acknowledging a letter the Town had sent requesting upgrading work on Trunk #2 highway between Parrsboro and Amherst. The Minister thanked the Mayor for his letter and indicated that this area would be reviewed for upgrading work.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business the meeting adjourned.

