

COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 28, 2004

#04-10

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 28th, 2004 at 7:30 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 all those present and called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. PRESENTATION: JERRY CORMIER RE: UNITED WAY

Jerry Cormier, President of the United Way of Cumberland County advised that the organization started its annual fund raising campaign approximately two week ago with a flag raising ceremony. He noted that the event was, and has always been attended by Mayor Robinson, and that his support is very much appreciated. It was at this event that the Mayor had asked him to make a presentation which was the purpose of his attendance this evening.

Mr. Cormier advised that the United Way has a 47 year history in Cumberland County and that all monies raised stay in Cumberland to support eleven member agencies: Amherst Pre-School Association; Canadian National Institute for the Blind; Canadian Paraplegic Society; Canadian Red Cross Society; Cumberland County Family Planning; Cumberland County Transition House Association; Cumberland Early Intervention Program; Maggie's Place; St. John Ambulance; Victorian Order of Nurses; and the Youth Help Line. He noted that while the majority of these organizations are based in Amherst, all residents of Cumberland County benefit from the services they provide. Administration costs are kept to a minimum accounting for only 20% of funds raised. Mr. Cormier advised that over the past three years the United Way has reached its campaign goal and that last year \$140,000 was raised, however, it is still not enough to meet the

growing needs of member organizations. Mr. Cormier indicated that support from municipal offices has deteriorated over the years and that he would like to see the Town of Parrsboro lead by example and initiate an in-house campaign to raise funds for the organization through payroll deduction, a one time donation or whatever means the employees would deem appropriate. This campaign could either be spearheaded by someone within the organization or by the United Way itself. In conclusion, Mr. Cormier thanked Council for their time and showing their support by having him here this evening and indicated that he would leave some brochures for anyone interested in finding out more about the United Way.

In the brief discussion that followed Councillor Lois Smith advised that as Chair of the Personnel Committee she would place this item on the agenda of the next meeting.

3. RCMP REPORT

In the absence of Cpl. Oliver who was unable to attend, the RCMP report for the summer of 2004 was given by Cst. Dwayne Penney. Following is a summary of that report:

1 Sexual Assault; 15 General Assaults; 3 Break and Enters; 3 Theft of Motor Vehicles; 4 Theft of Bicycles; 3 Theft of Other; 2 Possession of Stolen Goods; 1 Fire Arms Act; 6 Trespassing Act; 14 Damage Complaints; 9 Disturbing the Peace; 2 Harassment Complaints; 7 Liquor Act; 3 Mental Health Act; 2 Abandoned 911; 12 Town Noise Bylaw; 10 Found Property; 11 False Alarms; 5 Motor Vehicle Accidents; 40 Motor Vehicle Tickets; and 3 Impaired Driving.

Mayor Robinson noted that Council had met with Cpl. Oliver concerning the Noise Bylaw and reminded him of the support the RCMP has from Council in enforcing the rules and that Cpl. Oliver had assured Council that the RCMP will do their very best. The Mayor also indicated that he would not be surprised if there are more noise complaints made because people now know that the police will be able to do something about it.

4. MAYOR RE: PETITION

Mayor Robinson noted the understanding that there has been a petition circulating in the town signed by a number of people and that he had fully expected that petition to come before Council this evening, however, it was obvious that it was not going to be presented this evening. He indicated that he would like to make the following statement about the petition.

"There is a petition, which has been circulated around town that raises many issues dealing with the quality of our town water. In fact, I have a copy of it here. I cannot say I support the concept of petitions in general and for many reasons. In saying that, I do not suggest I would not accept the questions raised in a petition, I only mean I do not believe a petition does all that the individual signing the petition may think it does. In signing a petition you have provided your name to a piece of paper for any purpose the petitioner may want to use it for.

So why am I leery about petitions.

First, a petition is a one-sided argument. When you are approached to sign a petition, the individual can make any claim they wish as there is no one there to challenge what they are saying.

Secondly, to gain some validity to their crusade, the petitioner opens with what has been called a Motherhood statement. The author of this petition has not said there is anything wrong with the water but asks if we want clean water leaving the impression that we do not have good water now.

Lastly, the petitioner will indicate they are doing this to represent the signer. The trouble, to me, is that the petitioner can use your signature to make any other statement they feel will justify their arguments when your are not around.

This is a case in point. If I understand the obvious, the purpose of this petition was to bring it to the attention of this council and yet that was not done.

Therefore, one must wonder, what other purpose does the petitioner have?

Water quality is always paramount in a council's thinking and to believe otherwise one must believe that past Town Councils including the present Council did not take appropriate steps to ensure quality of water. One must also believe all of the testing we have done either independently or through various engineering work, and for that matter, the Provincial Department of Environment, has ignored any sign of a problem.

I am not an engineer and neither is the individual that produced this petition. Therefore, I felt it appropriate to have it answered by someone qualified to do so."

At this point Mayor Robinson advised that he would like to read aloud a response from Dillon Consulting, the engineering firm that does most, if not all, of the Town's engineering dealing with the Town of Parrsboro Drinking Water System.

"As one can see, protection of our water is an ongoing and developing process. As the response from Dillon indicates, we are moving through a Provincially mandated process. Criteria will change and this council will continue to work to ensure we maintain a high quality water utility.

Just one last comment.

It was this council that took the necessary action to upgrade our utility at a time when there was quite a bit of opposition to what we had to do, and if I may, I will remind those nay sayers, that that was before Walkerton.

I can assure the citizens of Parrsboro this council will continue in their efforts to diligently provide good drinking water."

5. BYLAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Bylaw Officer not present. No report.

6. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Jim Atkinson presented the following report for the months of May to September 2004:

May 2004

Emergency Calls: 5

**1 Structure
1 Filter Fire
1 Chimney
1 Grass
1 Rescue**

June 2004

Emergency Calls: 3

**1 Power Pole
1 Fire Alarm
1 First Responder**

July 2004

Emergency Calls:

1 Fire Alarm

August 2004

Emergency Calls: 0

September 2004

Emergency Calls: 1

Training

We are resuming our regular training on Thursdays after taking a break for the summer.

After giving his report, the Fire Chief noted that at their last meeting the Fire Department had discussed making a change to the Policies and Procedures of the Parrsboro Volunteer Fire Department Bylaws, particularly Sec. 6 which stipulates that members must have completed at least five years in good standing with the Department before they are eligible for Auxiliary status. He advised that there are currently two members with less than five years with the Department that would like to stay on as Auxiliary members and that the Department would like to change the requirement from five to three years. The Chief indicated that both individuals are valued members of the department, who for various reasons, are unable to stay on as regular full-time firemen and that the department would benefit greatly from their continued involvement and expertise. He also noted for information that new members are required to begin their level I training during their first year probationary period and complete 12 - 15 courses within two years. He also pointed out that there are only three auxiliary fire fighter positions available and that the change to auxiliary status does not happen automatically but must be requested by the member and be approved by the Chief Officers.

In the discussion it was the general consensus of the Council that the recommended change would not have a negative impact on the Fire Department and, in fact, there would be benefits to both the Fire Department and the members seeking auxiliary status.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the first sentence of Sec. 6 of Policies and Procedures of the Town of Parrsboro Volunteer Fire Department Bylaws be amended to read "Members must have completed at least three years in good standing with the Department before they are eligible for Auxiliary status." Motion carried.

7. APPROVAL OF CHEQUE SHEET

Moved by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Councillor Lyle Yorke that the General Cheque Sheet in the amount of \$352,208.00 be approved as presented.

On the question, Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith noted for the record that cheque #75190 in the amount of \$500.00 to Don Yorke Memorial was not a donation as indicated, but rather it was a budgeted item for ball field repairs.

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

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Robinson asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the minutes of June 22nd, 2004 - #04-07, Special Council of July 15, 2004 - #04-08 and Special Council, August 16, 2004 - #04-09 respectively. For the benefit of those present the Mayor noted that at the July 15th Special Council meeting a motion was passed approving the second reading of amendments to the Town's MPS/LUB to protect the long term viability of the MacAloney Lake Well Field and consideration of supportiveness for Rural Communities of Nova Scotia project, Mt. St. Vincent University. Mayor Robinson indicated for clarification that the amendments to the Land Use Bylaw are for the Town of Parrsboro and not for the County. Regarding the Special Council of August 16, 2004, Mayor Robinson noted that the Council had approved a taxi rate increase at the request of a taxi operator from \$4.25 to \$5.00 for a one way trip and from \$8.50 to \$10.00 for a two way trip and an increase in the cost for additional people from \$0.50 to \$1.00. The request for the increase was made due to increasing fuel, insurance and related costs. Also as one of the controlling municipalities there was the requirement for Council to agree to a Leachate Agreement that the CJSMA has with the County of Colchester. The Council also approved a lease agreement between CJSMA and Atlantic Cat for an excavator. The final issue on the table was the Municipal Elections to do with advertising for revisions to the Preliminary List, setting the date for the final list of electors and setting the dates for the Advance Polls.

Hearing no errors or omissions the Mayor declared the above noted minutes approved as circulated.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2004

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

- the annual spring clean up was held during the week of May 25th. The clean up actually went beyond the usual three days this year, not only due to the large amount of debris put out but also because it was not sorted. John recommended amending the advertisement next year requiring that the debris put out for the clean up be sorted.

- three water services were renewed and the three inch sewer line for Tim Hortons was hooked up. Wheaton's Irving water line that runs through to Chapel Street was renewed while the Tim Hortons lot was dug up and the Town's end of the water line was also renewed. A water leak on Layton Street was repaired and a new valve installed.

- the dinosaur lights that had been refurbished were reinstalled on the power poles and the snowflakes and reindeer lights were taken down.
- the bench in front of the Home Hardware was repainted and put in place.
- "No Parking" signs were installed on King Street
- the sea serpent and other floats were put back in the Aboiteau.
- hanging baskets and planters were placed out on Main Street for the summer and removed at the end of the season
- seats for the swing sets at the Pier Rd. playground have been shipped and will be installed
- some ditching and brush cutting work was done on the side streets and on our end of the Whitehall Rd.
- the Don Yorke Ball Field dug outs were torn down and site prepared for the construction of the new dug outs.
- the air ambulance landing site was cleaned up.
- a number of catch basins, mostly dry wells, were dug out and cleaned
- Main Street was swept and cleaned and the crosswalks and parking stalls were painted, crosswalks in other parts of the town were also painted as well as the lines in the Town Hall and Fire Hall parking lots.
- pot holes in gravel roads were repaired and chloride applied for dust control at Glooscap Park.
- wood for the Town Hall furnace has been piled in the basement and wood is being cut and split for the Town Shed.
- the permit from the Department of Environment was received giving the Town permission to repair the Aboiteau bridge to alleviate the leakage problem that results in low water levels in the Aboiteau.

(b) Sewer Bylaw - One of the priorities of the Waste Water Assessment report is the replacement of the Town's Sewer Bylaw which has not been updated since the 1940's. Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations has provided a model bylaw which the Council will look at over the summer

in preparation for more detailed discussions in the fall.

(c) Road Across Aboiteau - A concern was expressed within the Committee that the curve in the road across the Aboiteau Bridge is not marked and should be made more visible especially for tourists.

After a discussion it was recommended that reflectors be put on the guardrail to warn that there is a curve in the road.

(d) Signage at Intersection of Main Street & Eastern Avenue - It was brought to the Committee's attention that some vehicles entering onto Eastern Avenue from Main Street in front of Wheaton's Irving are not yielding to traffic that have the right-of-way. The Department of Transportation was consulted and is recommending that the yield sign on the traffic island be lowered to make it more visible. The Committee also recommends that the word "Yield" be painted on the surface of the street at the intersection.

The lack of directional signage at the intersection indicating the route to Truro for vehicles coming into town from Upper Main Street was also discussed. The Committee recommends that the Department of Transportation be requested to install a directional sign on the back of the large existing sign on the Town property.

(e) Signage RE: Beach Access - As a result of complaints regarding vehicles blocking the access road to cottages at the end of Lighthouse Road the Committee recommends the installation of a sign indicating "Access Road/Do Not Block".

(f) Cul-De-Sac Sign at Intersection of Lwr. Main and Western Ave. - It was noted that the cul-de-sac sign indicating the number of kilometers to the end of pavement on Whitehall Road had been removed due to damage and the Committee recommends that a replacement sign be installed. The Committee also recommends that the possibility of installing a sign at this intersection indicating the direction to follow to reach Advocate be investigated through the Department of Transportation. These recommendations are being made particularly in the interest of tourists, many of whom take the Whitehall Road in error to reach destinations down the shore.

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

On the question, Councillor Gleneida Canning requested an update on the status of the recommendation made by the Deputy Mayor that the DOT be requested to include a sign for the beaches on the large directional sign that will be installed on the existing sign.

The Clerk advised that his recommendation had been noted, however, contact with DOT had not been made as yet.

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

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

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2004

(a) Summer Recreation Program - The Summer Recreation Program was a success again this year with 162 local area youth taking part in Day Camp, Sports Programs and Kiddie Camp. Through the YMCA we had a very good coordinator this year, Kathleen Welton, and a good crew of young people hired by the Town to run the programs. Kathleen submitted a four page report with a few recommendations to help manage the summer recreation program in the future. Comments from parents, participants and staff indicate that the overall program was well planned and administered and enjoyed by all those involved.

(b) RANS Conference - A joint conference between Canada Parks and Recreation Association and RANS has been scheduled to take place this year.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that the Recreation Committee Chair should register for this conference that may provide opportunities for new information and ideas to help improve recreation in the community.

(c) Physical Activity Enhancement Grants - Provincial Physical Activity Enhancement Grants to a maximum of \$10,000 are now available through the Health Promotions office of Nova Scotia Sport and Recreation. These grants are available to organizations willing to take on the promotion of physical activity for all ages.

(d) Canadian Volunteer Initiative - Anyone interested in obtaining information about the Canadian Volunteer Initiative can access their web site at www.nscvi@chebucto.ns.ca.

(e) Cumberland County Activities Coalition - Grants of up to \$20,000 are available through the Cumberland County Activities Coalition for organizations and individuals interested in promoting health and physical activity for youth. Paul Hill is our local representative and application forms are available at the front desk at the Town Hall.

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

(9.3) CREDA - Councillor Gleneida Canning advised that she had recently been elected to the

executive of the Cumberland Regional Economic Development Association and that she would like to update the Council on some of the ongoing activities of CREDA:

Joggins Fossil Cliffs and Interpretation Centre - This project is progressing well and the Fossil Cliffs have now made it to the tentative list for a UNESCO site. Construction on the new building should begin sometime next year.

Expansion of Fundy Geological Museum - This is a priority of CREDA in the upcoming year and the expansion will complement developments in Joggins and both projects will definitely be a boost to Cumberland County.

Broadband Project - This project is underway and although there was a delay in the initial start up the overall completion of the project is actually ahead of schedule expected sometime early in the new year.

Shared Development Officer - Amy Smith who is the Development Officer shared between Parrsboro, Springhill and Oxford is working well within the community. Amy has been working within the Sustainable Tourism Committee and one of the activities currently underway is a marketing and promotional strategy session scheduled for September 29th at the Fire Hall. This session will be facilitated by Rhonda Kelly, Executive Director of CREDA.

Nova Scotia Regional Development Associations' Conference - This conference will be held in Cumberland County for which the planning has begun.

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

On behalf of Council, Mayor Robinson congratulated Councillor Canning on her appointment to the executive of CREDA noting that Parrsboro has always had a member on the executive and he noted that it was nice to see that tradition continuing.

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

(9.4) Youth Town Council - Report given by Councillor Lois Smith:

The Skateboard Park was used again this summer by many area youth. In addition to some regular maintenance and resurfacing existing ramps, basketball hoops were installed at the park with the assistance of Nova Scotia Power drilling equipment. The Youth Town Council would like to extend a sincere thank you to Kevin MacMillan, Duncan Lake, Bill Power, Andrew Smith and Steveley Wood for working in the rain on September 9th, in order to get the poles installed. The Youth Town Council would also like to extend their appreciation to the Town Public Works staff for their ongoing work at the Park.

New Officers were elected at the first Youth Town Council meeting on September 8th:

- Chair - Christene MacAloney**
- Vice Chair - Lynda McPhee**
- Secretary - Miranda Bowden**
- Student Relations - Trisha Lewis**
- Public Relations - Terri Lynn Brown**
- Skateboard Park Reps. - Steveley Wood, Travis MacMillan, Ian McCallum**

The Youth Town Council meets the third Tuesday of the month...all youth welcome to attend.

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

Mayor Robinson noted that the Youth Town Council has been in existence for 7 years now and that Councillor Lois Smith has been their mentor from its inception. He commended Councillor Smith and the Youth Town Council for their continued work in bringing youth issues to the forefront.

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

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

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2004

(a) Building Inspector's Report - Monty Maddison reported the following activity for the months of June, July and August 2004:

	<u>No. of Permits</u>	<u>Value</u>
New Construction & Additions		
(Residential)	2	\$85,000
New Construction		
(Commercial)	1	\$300,000
Garages & Sheds	1	\$6,000
Mobile Homes	1	\$30,000

Development Permits	1	-
Demolition Permits	2	-
Total	8	\$421,000

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

(9.6) Web Site - Councillor Gleneida Canning indicated that she had requested to have this item on the agenda to remind people that there is a Town of Parrsboro web site (town@town.parrsboro.ns.ca) that contains a lot of municipal information including policies, Council minutes, business directory, building permits, etc. She encouraged people to view the web site and to email the Town if they find that there is information that is not current. Councillor Canning also noted that Kevin Yorke has been doing a good job keeping the web site updated.

Mayor Robinson noted that at the recent UNSM Conference there had been a session on E-Government and getting involved in Service Nova Scotia's web site. He indicated that there are advantages to taking part at no charge to the municipality with a variety of services being available, for example online surveys.

Moved by Councillor Gleneida Canning, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the Web Site report be accepted. Motion carried.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

(10.1) Invitation - The Clerk noted an invitation to the Mayor and Council to attend the first game Cumberland County Blue's Junior C Team at Springhill's new arena on Friday, October 1st.

(10.2) Deputy Mayor - Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith extended his gratitude to Council for postponing this evening's meeting to 7:30 p.m. to allow him to attend to very important commitment.

(10.3) Homeless Youth Initiative - Councillor Canning noted that a while ago she had met with Lydia Quinn who is the Cumberland youth leader for the Youth Homelessness Initiative and that she had received a follow up letter detailing some activities that will be taking place. There will be focus groups hosted over the fall months with community groups, organizations and youth; an interactive theatre piece commissioned from Dale Faulkner, Deputy Mayor of Amherst; community forums hosted, one in Stellarton on November 17th; a youth forum will be hosted in Truro on November 6th, a revamped web site poster campaign; the RCMP and Springhill and Amherst Town Police dispatch services, and Transition House and Family Services crisis lines have all agreed to provide information that youth require in case of an emergency such as shelters, etc.

(10.4) Mayor RE: Last Council Meeting - Mayor Robinson advised that this was the last meeting of this Council before the municipal election and in recognition of that he thanked everyone at the table for their service over the past four years and noted that it has been a pleasure for him sitting as Chair of the Council to work with them. The Mayor indicated that the Council has done an excellent job and put in a lot of time at the expense of family, jobs, etc. for which he is very appreciative. He noted that he had heard a rumour today that he does not support the Council because he had made the statement that he would not endorse any member. He indicated that he had made this statement because he does not feel that it is fair to endorse any particular member, however, that does not mean they do not have his support and he would not be a bit surprised if at the next Council meeting he sees the same faces around the table.

Mayor Robinson also stated that he felt that it was appropriate at the end of this Council's term to thank the Public Works crew, the Town Office staff and especially Ashley Brown, C.A.O., for their outstanding service to the Town.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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