

COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 23, 2004

#04-12

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 23rd, 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

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Robinson welcomed all 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 Lyle Yorke that the agenda be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

3. ELECTIONS - OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Robinson noted that Lloyd Smith and Lyle Yorke were not able to be present for the swearing in ceremony at the special council meeting held on November 9th and it would be appropriate for them to be sworn into office this evening. At this point Mr. Smith and Mr. Yorke took their oath of office and were sworn in by the Clerk in unison as members of Council.

4. PRESENTATION - DR. JANICE KEEFE, RURAL SENIORS PROJECT

Mayor Robinson introduced Dr. Janice Keefe and Chantel Yorke.

Dr. Keefe advised that she is a member of the Rural Seniors Project Research Team being undertaken by Mount Saint Vincent University and that Chantel Yorke has been hired to assist them by collecting information and identifying seniors, caregivers, health professionals, and others in Parrsboro who should be interviewed. She advised that the purpose of being here this evening was to introduce the project, answer questions and to seek Council's support in their endeavours.

Dr. Keefe noted that unlike the project that was undertaken a year or two ago that looked at population change and how it impacts on people of all ages in a community, this project focusses solely on seniors. The purpose is basically to help them understand how supportive communities are in terms of seniors who have lived here all their lives and those who return to retire. The results of this research will help improve programs to make rural and small towns in Canada better places to live. Dr. Keefe indicated that Parrsboro was chosen as one of three case study communities because almost a quarter of its population is aged 65 or older and it differs from other types of rural communities in its high seasonal employment rate and movement of residents in and out of the community. These factors may influence the availability of family and friends to support older adults in Parrsboro. Therefore, the mix of formal services and family/friend support required may be different in Parrsboro than in other small towns and rural communities. Dr. Keefe noted that this was one phase of a three phase project which also included an analysis of the Canadian census, a survey of Legion members, and a case study of three rural communities of which the research in Parrsboro is a part, along with a community in Alberta and another in Ontario. The time frame for the research in Parrsboro is from now until April next year.

Following the report Dr. Keefe and Chantel Yorke answered a few questions of the Council. Mayor Robinson noted that it should be understood that this is not a study on policy directed to the Government to act upon, it is rather a report that people should use in looking at policy. Dr. Keefe agreed with the Mayor's assessment, adding that while she has not been commissioned by the Federal Government to make change, it is hoped that the results of the research project will identify problems that require change and that those problems will be addressed at some point .

Mayor Robinson thanked Dr. Keefe and Ms. Yorke for their presentation and pledged the support of Council in the research project.

5. RCMP REPORT

Due to prior commitments there was no one available to give the RCMP report.

6. BYLAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Bylaw Officer not present. No report.

7. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Will Dunphy advised that while there have not been a lot of calls over the past month, the quality of the calls have been quite serious in nature. They included an EHS assist with a life flight, a tire fire on Halloween night, a car accident and a structure fire.

The Fire Chief noted that the department would like a change in their bylaws to include the position of Safety Officer which many other departments have both at the scene and during

training. These people would actually coordinate and deal with safety aspects and would receive appropriate training for the position. The Chief recommended three designated Safety Officers within the Parrsboro Fire Department as not all members are able to attend emergencies or the training sessions. The department is also recommending the designation of two Public Information Officers dedicated to educating school children and others about fire safety and to deal with public relations.

After a discussion it was recommended that the Fire Chief submit a proposal in written form for the changes to the bylaws that the department is recommending for the Council to consider.

8. APPROVAL OF CHEQUE SHEET

Moved by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith that the Cheque Sheet in the amount of \$331,174.82 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Robinson asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Council Minutes of September 28, 2004, being #04-10 and the Special Council Minutes of November 9, 2004, being #04-11. Hearing none he declared the minutes approved as presented.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2004

(a) Superintendent's Report - John Henwood reported the following activity since his last report in September:

- the works crew spent a number of days at Glooscap Park cleaning ditches on the road to the well site and roads within the campground. Gravel was also applied and levelled on these roads. Work will continue in the spring to haul brush away and level trailer sites. "No Hunting" signs will be placed in appropriate locations throughout the park.

- some new road signs were placed around town including a "No Engine Breaking" sign on West Bay Road, a "No Blocking Road" sign at the end of Lighthouse Rd., a cul-de-sac sign on lower Main Street, a speed sign on Eastern Avenue, and a stop sign at the cenotaph at the intersection of Spring and Main.

- the sewer line on King Street was flushed.
- cross cuts and pot holes in various streets around town were repaired. Work will continue on this in the spring.
- brush cut and leaves raked in ditches.
- benches and garbage cans were removed from Main Street and floats removed from Aboiteau before Halloween.
- one load of cold patch mix brought in for winter patching.
- started getting equipment ready for winter.
- Christmas lights are ready to be installed when NSP has the opportunity to assist.
- Ron Ellis and Chris Clarke completed a course for Confined Space Entry certification.
- 3 - 4 loads of salt have been brought in and the salt shed is topped up for the start of winter.

(b) Directional Sign - The directional sign indicating the route to Truro for vehicles coming into town from Upper Main Street requested by the Town has been installed on the reverse side of the large existing sign on the Town property.

Moved by Councillor Lyle Yorke, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the Public Works Committee report and recommendations contained therein be approved. Motion carried.

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2004

(a) Appointment of Deputy Mayor and Committees - Discussions were held regarding the appointment of the Deputy Mayor and Committees of Council. It was recommended that the Deputy Mayor's position be on a rotation basis over the next four year term as follows:

Year 1 Lyle Yorke

Year 2 Lloyd Smith

Year 3 Gleneida Canning

Year 4 Lois Smith

Committees of Council were to be reviewed at a later date.

(b) Board of Trade RE: VIC Building - After some initial discussions between the Town and Board of Trade a joint committee has been established to look at options for the Visitor Information building which is getting too costly for the Board to maintain and operate.

(c) Gerry Randall RE: Town Crier - Correspondence from Gerry Randall requested Council to reaffirm his appointment as Honourary Town Crier for the Town of Parrsboro, a position he has held for several years.

After a discussion the Committee recommended a letter of confirmation be forwarded to Mr. Randall.

(d) Unsightly Premises - The Town has received unsightly premises complaints on two properties in the town. The Clerk noted the opinion that both will be resolved without legal action.

(e) Tax Write-Offs - The Clerk presented a Business Occupancy Tax account in the amount of \$236.07, a water bill in the amount of \$110.01 and a water bill in the amount of \$174.00 which he recommended be written-off as uncollectible.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that these tax accounts be written off as recommended.

(f) Correspondence -

(f.1) Discussion Paper for Positive Aging in Nova Scotia - This report was circulated to the members.

(f.2) Annual Report - The 2003/2004 Annual Report of the District Health Authority entitled Healthy Communities for a Healthy Future were distributed. It was also noted that the Community Health Board has scheduled a meeting for November 24th at 7:00 p.m. at South Cumberland Community Care Centre with Nurse Practitioner Nancy LaPierre as guest speaker.

(f.3) Cumberland County Community Alternatives Society - In recognition of the 5th anniversary of the Restorative Justice Program in Cumberland County, the Cumberland County Community

Alternatives Society is hosting an open house on Friday, November 19th from 1 - 3 p.m.

On the question, Councillor Lyle Yorke noted that in (f.2) Nancy LaPierre's title is Nurse Practitioner and not Practical Nurse as indicated. Mayor Robinson advised that he would not be able to attend the Community Health Board meeting on the 24th due to another commitment. Councillor Yorke advised that he would be able to attend this meeting. The Mayor also noted that he did attend the Cumberland County Community Alternatives Society meeting on November 19th.

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

(10.3) Planning, Development and Housing - Report given by Councillor Lyle Yorke.

(a) Building Inspector's Report - Monty Maddison reported the following activity in the Building Inspector's office for the months of September and October 2004:

	<u>No. of Permits</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Permit Fee</u>
New Construction & Additions			
(Residential)	4	\$158,000	\$144.88
Garages & Sheds	1	\$ 20,000	\$ 29.00
Demolition	2	-	-
Development Permits	1	-	-
Total	8	\$178,000	\$213.88

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

11. CORRESPONDENCE

(11.1) Order of Nova Scotia - The Clerk noted correspondence and nomination forms from the Nova Scotia Protocol Office regarding the Order of Nova Scotia 2005. The closing date for nominations is March 18, 2005. The Clerk advised that the nomination forms would be on file in the Town Office for anyone interested.

(11.2) Murray Scott, MLA - A letter from Murray Scott, MLA, addressed to the Mayor and

Council congratulated them on their re-election as a result of the recent municipal elections.

(11.3) Zonta Club - An invitation to the Mayor and Council to attend the unveiling of their latest project, " Women of Cumberland, An Exhibit", on Sunday, November 28th, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. at the Cumberland County Museum.

Mayor Robinson noted that he planned to attend this function.

(11.4) Invitations - Mayor Robinson noted an open house at Murray Scott's office in Springhill on Thursday, December 2nd, 2004, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm.; Annual Christmas open house at the Economic Resource Centre (CREDA), Thursday, December 9th, 2004 from 2 - 4 pm.; and an invitation from the Lieutenant Governor to attend a function at Government House on Sunday, December 5th, 2004 from 1 - 3 pm. The Mayor noted that he would be unable to attend the function at Government House due to another commitment and he requested that any member of Council that wished to attend in his stead to let him know within the week.

(11.5) Cumberland Health Authority - With regard to the meeting of the District Health Authority noted in the Finance report which Mayor Robinson and Councillor Lois Smith had attended, the Mayor felt it is worthwhile for the public to know what the District Health Authority has accomplished over the last year. He read the following report prepared for Town Council from the District Health Authority dated November 23, 2004.

Physician Services

- Since early April, the Cumberland Health Authority has been successful in recruiting seven specialist physicians - two surgeons, two anesthesiologists, an obstetrician/ gynecologist, an internist and an ENT Specialist. All but one of these individuals is now practising at the CRHCC and seeing patients across the county (and beyond). Changes have been made to some sections of the building to accommodate offices - proving to be beneficial to doctors and patients alike. Work is also underway to open additional beds, hire more staff and complete a third operating room in order to accommodate the increasing demands of services.**
- Priority now is to encourage local family physicians and their patients to utilize services that are available. Physicians have developed long-standing referral patterns with specialists in other centres primarily due to many years when services were not available here. As well, patients have come to expect that they will be referred elsewhere - the Cumberland Health Authority is working to find a way to change this way of thinking.**
- In addition to encouraging more use of available services, the CHA also needs to bring patients back to Cumberland sooner to recuperate from procedures performed in other health care centres. The expertise is available here in Cumberland to meet the needs of those who require restorative care. To that end the Health Authority has hired an inter-provincial Liaison Nurse who began work in mid-September. The primary focus of her job**

is to work with the physicians and staff at the Southeast Regional Health Authority and the Georges Dumont Hospital to help ensure a speedy return of Cumberland County residents to their home area.

- In 2002-03, 47% of County residents who accessed inpatient and day surgery services received those services elsewhere. 16% of those services were provided by New Brunswick hospitals. As a result the Province of Nova Scotia paid over \$6 million to New Brunswick for health services provided for Nova Scotia residents. Over \$4 million of that could be traced back to people from Cumberland County. Discussions are underway with the Department of Health to develop a funding formula to which the Authority would receive a portion of that \$6 million to help fund the additional cost that will be incurred in opening more beds and hiring more staff to accommodate those patients repatriated from New Brunswick.

Cumberland South Rural Practice Network

- The Cumberland Rural Health Practice Network, the Cumberland South Rural Practice Network is an innovative pilot project that will have positive outcomes for residents of Cumberland South.
- Primary health care in Cumberland South will be provided by a team of health care providers that is not limited to doctors - there will be nurse practitioners, diabetic educators, public and mental health, nutritionists and others depending on community needs. This program will also stabilize 24/7 emergency room coverage at the South Cumberland Community Care Centre. The first phase of the program will begin in January 2005.
- The basis of the team will be three physicians and three nurse practitioners. A nurse practitioner will be located in Parrsboro, River Hebert and Advocate, and the service will be supplemented at least one day a week by a physician. Statistics show that many times a person sees a doctor when the expertise of a physician is not required. This new plan will ensure that the right health care professional is providing the right type of care in a way that is more accessible to the residents of Cumberland South.
- A centralized, common set of charts for all patients being served by the Practice Network will ensure that all care providers have up to date information on the person's health status.
- This innovative program is being closely watched by the Department of Health and other health authorities and may prove to be beneficial to other geographic areas that are experiencing similar difficulties.

Bursary Program

- Early this year a bursary program was launched as a means to assist the Authority in addressing anticipated human resource shortages in various health care professions in the upcoming years - in the next ten years almost 50% of the current staff will be retiring.
- The program is a joint venture between the Health Authority and the local health care foundations and it is open to Cumberland County students only. Successful applicants

would receive a bursary of up to \$4,000 per year to support their studies in a variety of health care professions.

- Student participation would include signing an agreement with the Health Authority for a "return for service" upon graduation equal to the number of years for which they received a bursary. A successful program is a "win-win" for everyone - students receive assistance with the high cost of post-secondary education, the CHA has highly skilled, enthusiastic employees and the county is able to bring its young people back to live and work.
- It is important that the community support the fundraising campaign in order that the foundations can meet their financial objectives. Announcement on the selection of the first winners will be made within the next couple of weeks.

After giving the report, Mayor Robinson noted that everyone was a bit annoyed when parking fees were put in place at the hospital and when they were instituted the care centre committed to use the funds to purchase hospital equipment. In keeping with that promise the Authority confirmed today that new equipment for the surgical, ENT and obstetrics programs has been purchased and is already in use.

The Mayor noted that there was a concern that the Health Authority had received a lot of bad publicity in the past which they are attempting to straighten out and that from the meeting the other day they have come a long way to improve the system.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Councillor Gleneida Canning the meeting adjourned.