

COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 28, 2006

#06-02

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 28th, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Doug Robinson presiding.

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

REGRETS: Councillor Lois Smith

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Robinson welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He noted that Councillor Lois Smith was absent due to other commitments.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lyle Yorke that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

3. RCMP REPORT

Cpl. Phil Oliver presented the following report for the period January 24th to today:

3 - 911 misdials; 6 - False Alarms; 1 - Impaired Driver; 1 - Liquor Control Act; 1 - Noise Bylaw complaint; 1 - Parking Offense; 1 - Theft; 1 - Motor Vehicle Accident; 2 - Uttering Threats (unfounded); and 1 - Written Warning.

Cpl. Oliver also noted that there were two crime prevention awareness seminars held at the schools. One had to do with family violence and the other the dangers of impaired driving.

4. FIRE CHIEF= S REPORT

Fire Chief Will Dunphy presented the following report covering the period of January 23rd to February 28th, 2006.

Emergency Calls:

False Alarms: 1

Fire Alarms: 2

Flue Fires: 1

Vehicle Fire: 0

MVA: 0

Medical First Responder: 0

Structure Fires: 0

Grass/Brush Fires: 0

A relatively uneventful month of February has passed by, though I would like everyone to know that at the Harrison=s Mill there is a large building close to the road that emits steam, not smoke. For training we will be going over the pre-incident surveys from local businesses, as well as a Medical First Responder evening.

I have been to meetings pertaining to the purchase of new fire trucks throughout Cumberland County, with at least 8 coming this year, and may more over the coming years. The County has expressed a desire to help the Town of Parrsboro purchase new trucks and equipment, though the Town of Parrsboro must first initiate a request to them for the purchases to be possible.

The Chief elaborated on the last item in his report indicating that although part of the County, Parrsboro as a separate town has to initiate the request for funding for a new fire truck for the Parrsboro Volunteer Fire Department. He noted the understanding that the County has formulated a plan for many years in the future to replace aging fire trucks throughout the County and is going ahead and purchasing a fleet of trucks to begin that process. He also noted the understanding that a request from the Town for funding would receive favorable consideration as a part of that process.

Mayor Robinson thanked the Fire Chief for his report and noted that his comments would be taken under advisement.

5. APPROVAL OF CHEQUE SHEET

Moved by Councillor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lyle Yorke that the Cheque Sheet in the amount of \$92,968.47 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Robinson asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Council minutes of January 24, 2006 (#06-01). Hearing none he declared the minutes approved as circulated.

Councillor Lloyd Smith noted for information that the committee had taken the advice of the Mayor and sent letters to organizations seeking nominations for the Volunteer Awards.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) **Finance** - Report given by Deputy Mayor Lyle Yorke:

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2006

(a) **Michael Fuller RE: Parrsboro Citizens Band** - Michael Fuller advised that a group of concerned citizens have formed a committee to spearhead a project to restore the Parrsboro Citizens Band Hall and convert it into a cultural centre for all groups and organizations. He indicated that at this point the committee is seeking community support to go ahead with the venture and to date there has been a very good response to their membership drive. With this support the committee will be contacting various government departments for find out what funding may be available for a project of this nature. Mr. Fuller indicated that at this point the committee was asking for Council to approve the project in principle.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that Council support in principle the direction the new group is moving in.

(b) **Kidney Foundation** - Correspondence from the Kidney Foundation of Canada requested the permission of the Town to conduct a door-to-door canvass during their March Drive from March 1st to March 31st, 2006.

After a discussion the Committee recommended approval of this request.

(c) **CREDA RE: Funding** - The Cumberland Regional Economic Development Association has been working on its 2006/07 budget and is requesting the Town to confirm its continued support in the

amount of \$3,900 toward its operations, and in the amount of \$10,000 toward the cost of the Joint Development Officer.

After a discussion the Committee recommended approval of CREDA's request for funding.

(d) Summer Student Workers - The Clerk advised that applications will soon be available for the Federal Summer Career Placement Program and he asked the Committee for direction as to how he should apply for the positions this year.

After a discussion the Clerk was asked to apply for the same number of positions for the Summer Recreation Program and the Park as last year.

(e) Tax Exemptions - The Committee was advised that it was time once again for them to review the income level and the amount of the tax exemption to see if any changes would be recommended this year. The Clerk advised that last year the maximum income level was \$13,500 and the tax exemption was \$100.00.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that there be no changes this year.

(f) Property Taxes - It was brought to the Committee's attention that there are a number of outstanding property tax accounts and that the public should be aware that the Town's tax collection policy requires that taxes have to be paid in full by March 31st, 2006 or be subject to tax sale.

The Committee agreed that this is a concern and that it would indeed be wise to remind the public of the importance to make arrangements to pay their taxes by the March 31st deadline.

(g) Federal Gas Tax Funding - After reviewing the Municipal Funding Agreement between the Government of Nova Scotia and the Town of Parrsboro for the transfer of Federal Gas Tax Revenues to the municipality for investment in environmentally sustainable infrastructure, the Committee recommended that the Mayor and Clerk be given the authority to sign the agreement for the year 2005/2006 and that there be no capital projects undertaken with the money this year. When the money is received the funds will be held for the following fiscal year as required under the guidelines of the program.

(h) Garbage Collection - The Committee has had some discussions regarding the most effective way to provide garbage collection in the Town of Parrsboro. As a result it has been recommended that the Clerk be directed to investigate door to door garbage collection being included in the tax rate.

(i) 2006 Standing Committees - The Committee has reviewed the list of standing committees and is recommending that there be no changes in 2006. The Deputy Mayor's position has been filled on a rotating basis over the past several years and this year the Committee is recommending that Councillor Lloyd Smith be so appointed.

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

On the question, Mayor Robinson noted that in item (h) door-to-door garbage collection referred to residential garbage collection and does not include commercial.

Councillor Gleneida Canning referring to item (f) asked how the public will be advised about paying outstanding taxes by March 31st.

The Mayor indicated that although the Town would be sending overdue notices it was also hoped that the press would report it in the papers for the information of the general public.

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

(b) CREDA - Report given by Councillor Gleneida Canning.

CREDA REPORT

FEBRUARY 2006

(a) Marketing Plan and Strategy - Amy Smith, CREDA=s Joint Development Officer, presented the consultant=s report on a Marketing Plan and Strategy for the Fundy Shore Region and the Town of Parrsboro which was a project of the Sustainable Tourism Committee. The report also included the introduction of the new brand image for Parrsboro.

After a discussion the Committee agreed that it needed clarification from the Sustainable Tourism Committee on the brand before making a final decision to accept the consultant=s report.

(b) Youth Build Project - The Committee was informed that CREDA is currently working on the Youth Build project designed to teach skills and work ethics to young people by providing them with work experience in construction. Amy reviewed the details of the program aimed at non-profit organizations and noted that the plan is to coordinate projects within the communities under CREDA=s umbrella.

In the discussion the Committee was very supportive of this project.

(c) Strategic Plan - The Committee was advised that CREDA is recommending a review of Parrsboro=s Strategic Plan to ensure that it is relevant to where the Town is at with the different projects that are planned or already underway.

It was agreed to schedule the review within the next couple of months.

Moved by Councillor Gleneida Canning, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lyle Yorke that the CREDA report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.

On the question, Councillor Lloyd Smith asked if by passing the report the Council would be accepting the marketing study and logo.

Mayor Robinson noted that the matter was passed back to the Sustainable Tourism Committee for more information and there is nothing in the report to indicate that anything was being accepted.

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

(c) **Public Works** - Report given by Councillor Lloyd Smith.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2006

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

- repaired waterline break on Spring Street caused by ground shifting
- water pipe break at Lions Arena caused discoloured water
- plowing, sanding and salting of streets and sidewalks as required by weather conditions
- pot holes in pavement repaired with cold mix
- repaired street signs that were damaged during the winter
- general repair and maintenance of vehicles and equipment
- the Superintendent is arranging to have Nova Scotia Power assist with removing the Christmas lights

(b) **Flowers for Main Street** - The Committee discussed what would be needed for flowers for Main Street, the Town Hall and Glooscap Park.

After a discussion the Committee recommended ordering flowers on the same basis as last year.

Moved by Councillor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Councillor Gleneida Canning that the Public Works report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.

On the question, Councillor Gleneida Canning noted that the Committee had also recommended purchasing flowers for the five poles on the opposite side of Main Street.

Mayor Robinson indicated that this indeed should have been included in the report.

As there were no further discussions or additions the **motion** was voted on and **carried**.

(d) Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority - Deputy Mayor Lyle Yorke advised that there were three items to deal with as follows:

(d.1) Release of the Little Forks Agreement - The Deputy Mayor advised that the Authority is requesting the five municipal units to approve the following motion that was made at the February 23rd, 2006 Authority Board meeting:

Moved by Councillor Rhindress, seconded by Councillor Rector that a letter be sent to the five municipal units recommending the approval of the release of the Little Forks Intermunicipal Landfill Design Build and Operate Agreement (Little Forks Agreement) between the original Municipal Parties, CJSMA and Municipal Enterprises Limited (MEL)/ Browning-Ferris Industries Ltd. (BFI) by March 31, 2006. Motion carried.

For clarification, the Clerk advised that for quite some time the five municipal units have been talking about taking over what is commonly referred to as the Halifax or first cell at the Little Forks Landfill which is presently being managed by Browning-Ferris Industries. Next to this cell is another cell owned by the five units through the Joint Services Management Authority. With these two cells open and in operation there will be an extra fifteen years of landfill use rather than having to build a brand new cell. He noted that this has already been discussed at Council meetings off and on, however, now Joint Services is coming back with a recommendation that the councils agree because it takes the approval of all five municipal units.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lyle Yorke, seconded by Councillor Gleneida Canning that Town Council accept the recommendation of the Board of the Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority with regard to the release of the Little Forks Agreement. Motion carried.

(d.2) RE: Budget Process - Joint Council Meeting - Deputy Mayor Yorke advised that the Authority is requesting the five municipal units to approve the following motion that was made at the February 23rd, 2006 Authority Board meeting:

Moved by Councillor Kelligrew, seconded by Councillor Jones that a letter be sent to the five municipal units recommending the approval to delete the Joint Council meeting requirement for the CJSMA budget, as outlined in the intermunicipal agreement. Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lyle Yorke, seconded by Councillor Lloyd Smith that Town Council accept the recommendation of the Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority Board regarding the Budget Process - Joint Council Meeting.

On the question, Councillor Lloyd Smith noted that each individual council does have the right to request the Solid Waste Manager and the Accountant to come to a Committee-of-the-Whole or Council meeting to discuss this process. He also commented that the Joint Council meetings were not being utilized.

Mayor Robinson noted the opinion that it is regrettable that the councils never took advantage of that opportunity and that it caused a certain amount of disruption and confusion in subsequent dealings with CJSMA because people who did not attend did not read the documents

and therefore, did not ask the appropriate questions at that meeting. He indicated that he found it disturbing that a couple of years councils passed the budget and then took action that, in actual fact, interfered with that budget working. The Mayor also noted that the Council of Parrsboro had been a good attendee of that meeting and is one of the reasons it understood the process a little better.

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

(d.3) RE: 2006/2007 Budget - Deputy Mayor Yorke advised that the Authority is requesting the five municipal units to approve the following motion that was made at the February 23rd, 2006 Authority Board meeting:

Moved by Councillor Kellegrew, seconded by Councillor Rector that a letter be sent to the five municipal units recommending the approval of the CJSMA 2006/2007 Budget by March 31, 2006. Motion carried.

Mayor Robinson noted the opinion that the Council would have to see the budget first before recommending its approval and as had already been commented have them come down and explain the budget to Council.

After further discussion it was agreed to ask CJSMA to come and explain the budget to Council and then at that time either approve it or not. The date and time of the meeting is to be determined.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board - The Clerk noted correspondence from the NS Utility and Review Board in which is quoted section 369 of the Municipal Government Act that requires councils of every municipality to apply to the Review Board in the year 2006 to confirm or alter the number and boundaries of their polling districts and the number of councillors. He indicated that there were some materials with the correspondence that Council will have to review at a later date.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Councillor Lloyd Smith the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.