

COUNCIL

MARCH 28, 2006

#06-03

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 28th, 2006 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 Councillor Lyle Yorke, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the agenda be approved as presented.
Motion carried.

3. **RCMP REPORT**

Cst. Colin Morton presented the following report of activity between February 22nd and March 28th, 2006.

Complaints: 1 - Driving While Disqualified; 5 - False Alarms; 16 - Moving Traffic Violations; 1 - Fraud; 1 - Impaired Driving; 1 - Liquor Contract Act; 1 - Noise Bylaw; 1 - Motor Vehicle Accident; 2 - Mental Health; 4 - Other Criminal Code; and 16 - Written Traffic Warnings.

Non-Offence Summary: 1 - School Talks; 1 - Drug Awareness; 1 - Seniors Talk; and 2 - Check Points. Cst. Morton noted that he has volunteered to assist Bob Foley do a public information session on car child restraints.

Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith noted the understanding that regulations regarding car child restraints are enforced in Ontario at check points and he asked if Nova Scotia would be following suit and ticketing people if the seats are not installed properly.

Cst. Morton commented that in all likelihood people will be ticketed if the seats are not installed correctly.

Cst. Morton also noted that the new ATV regulations would be coming out in April and it will be interesting to see how they will be enforced.

4. FIRE CHIEF=S REPORT

Fire Chief Will Dunphy presented the following report from February 28th to March 28th, 2006.

Emergency Calls:

False Alarms:	0
Fire Alarms:	1
Flue Fires:	3
Vehicle Fires:	0
MVA:	0
Medical First Responder:	1
Structure Fire:	1
Grass/Brush Fires:	2

Grass fires have started early this year due to the warmer than usual weather. Before a person begins burning they should take into consideration how the weather will affect the fire. High winds, coupled with a sunny, dry day can take a small fire and whip it into an out of control destructive blaze. A fire should never be left unattended. A water source should be on hand at all times and capable of reaching the farthest extent of the fire. Back-burn from trees, buildings or anything else you do not want burned. Make sure that the necessary manpower is on hand for the size of the fire. The Parrsboro Fire Department will not burn your land for you, we are there to put it out. Thanks to the Department of Natural Resources for supplying us with the necessary equipment and education to battle these blazes. They will be coming to us this month to further our knowledge in these areas.

Upcoming training for the Medical First Responders is a session on Obstetrics and Emergency Childbirth at the Southampton Fire Hall. Local paramedics have been offering workshops for MFR=s, firefighters, paramedics and community groups to keep us current on our life saving skills. Parrsboro MFR=s reported to an incident this month where the closest Paramedics and ambulance were coming from Amherst, resulting in the Parrsboro Fire Department being the front line in emergency medical care and keeping the patient comfortable until they arrive.

We had one structure fire which resulted in the loss of a home and many articles within. The FPW Fire Department was called for mutual aid for their water shuttling ability, as well as additional manpower. During the incident the #2 pumper truck=s pump would not engage. It was fixed the next day, though these problems have been arising more regularly over the years. Patching the problem to enable the Fire Department to limp through another year of failing pumps and trucks with engines that quit for no reason or sometimes will not even start at all, is not a way to run a reliable fire department.

After giving his report the Fire Chief answered questions of Council.

Councillor Gleneida Canning asked about the function of the #2 pumper at the structure fire. The Fire Chief advised that the

#2 pumper truck was being used to shuttle water back and forth from town to the portable tank set up at the fire scene as there was no available source of water nearby. He noted that the hoses on the #1 truck were being used to fight the fire.

Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith commented that if the sole purpose of the #2 pumper truck was to transport water to the fire scene, then the malfunctioning pump would not have interrupted the department's fire fighting capabilities. The Fire Chief confirmed that the truck was functional for the purpose it was being used.

5. APPROVAL OF CHEQUE SHEET

Moved by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith that the General Cheque Sheet in the Amount of \$230,514.25 be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Robinson asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Council minutes of February 28, 2006 (#06-02).

Hearing none he declared the minutes approved as circulated.

7. RESOLUTION RE: FAIR AND EQUITABLE FUNDING

Mayor Robinson noted that this resolution received from the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities is part and parcel of a report that was submitted to the UNSM by Dr. Hobson of Acadia University. He advised that a letter accompanied the resolution from Ken Simpson, Executive Director, which he read as follows:

Attached please find a resolution regarding the report, *A Question of Balance: An Assessment of the State of Local Government in Nova Scotia*, commissioned by UNSM in 2005 and approved by our membership at our conference last fall.

As outlined in the email I sent you yesterday, this is the first step in UNSM's initiative *A Call for Fair and Equitable Funding*. Through various activities, we are encouraging the Province to begin implementing the recommendations contained in our report with the upcoming 2006/2007 budget.

We are asking all 55 municipalities in Nova Scotia to support our initiative by doing the following:

1. Put the resolution on the agenda for one of your council meetings in March.
2. Invite your local media to attend the meeting to hear the resolution.
3. Send an update to UNSM with the results of your vote.
4. Send the approved resolution to the Honourable Richard Hurlburt, our newly-appointed Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations.

We appreciate your support of our initiative. If you have any questions, please contact the UNSM office in Halifax.

RESOLUTION - FAIR & EQUITABLE FUNDING

WHEREAS in October 2004, the UNSM Board commissioned a study by consultants Dr. Paul Hobson, Dr. Wade Locke and Dr. David Cameron, to establish principles against which the current state of municipal finance in Nova Scotia can be assessed for fairness and equality; and

WHEREAS in May 2005, the Report, A Question of Balance-An Assessment of the State of Local Government in Nova Scotia®, was submitted to the UNSM by the consultants; and

WHEREAS the Report recommends three guiding principles:

- 1) Each level of Government should fund expenditures in its respective jurisdictions from its own revenues;
- 2) The Province should ensure that municipalities have access to the broad property tax powers and revenues sufficient to finance their spending responsibilities;
- 3) Municipal equalization should adhere to the principle that municipalities across the Province have the fiscal capacity to provide reasonably comparable levels of municipal services for a reasonably comparable tax burden. To ensure this, Nova Scotia's municipal equalization program should be fully funded and paid for out of the Province's general revenues.

That were accepted by the UNSM Board on July 12, 2005; and

WHEREAS at the 2005 Annual Conference the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities' membership endorsed the Report, A Question of Balance-An Assessment of the State of Local Government in Nova Scotia®, accepting its Guiding Principles and Recommendations and mandated the Board of Directors to seek implementation by the Province; and

WHEREAS an Implementation Strategy, which is based on a five-year phase-in of the recommendations, has been approved by the UNSM Board and the three Caucuses;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Parrsboro joins the UNSM Board in calling upon the Provincial Government to accept the three Guiding Principles and beginning with the 2006/07 Provincial Budget, begin implementation of the Report's Recommendations.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the foregoing resolution be approved. Motion carried.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2006

(a) **CJSMA Budget** - David Scott, Director of Finance for the Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority met with the Committee to review the Authority's 2006/2007 Budget and answer questions.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that the Authority's budget be approved by Town Council.

(b) **Statistics Canada RE: Resolution** - Statistics Canada has requested the support of all municipalities in the 2006 census by passing the following resolution and Mayor's Proclamation:

Municipal Council Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Parrsboro supports the 2006 Census and encourages all residents to complete their census forms online at www.census2006.ca or by mail by Tuesday, May 16, 2006, so that accurate and complete data will be available to support programs and social services that benefit us all.

Mayor's Proclamation

WHEREAS Statistics Canada will conduct the Censuses of Population and Agriculture on Tuesday, May 16, 2006; and

WHEREAS the Town of Parrsboro supports the census because grants are provided to our town based on a complete enumeration; and

WHEREAS census information is vital to support policy analysis and public debate by governments, businesses and institutions for a wide variety of social and economic issues such as health, immigration, education, training, housing, income support and the environment; and

WHEREAS the *Statistics Act* of Canada requires that personal information provided on census questionnaires will be kept strictly confidential;

THEREFORE I, Doug Robinson, Mayor of the Town of Parrsboro do hereby declare the week of May 14 to 20 as **CENSUS WEEK** in Parrsboro and call upon all residents to complete and return their census questionnaire online at www.census2006.ca or by mail by Tuesday, May 16, 2006.

(c) **Postponing April Council Meeting** - Mayor Robinson noted that he and Councillors Canning and Yorke would like to attend Product Development Day in Wolfville on April 26th, and the Committee was asked to consider changing the date of the Council meeting in April to May 2nd to allow them adequate traveling time.

After a discussion the Committee agreed that the April Council meeting be held on Tuesday, May 2nd.

(d) **Hepatitis Outreach Society** - Correspondence from the Hepatitis Outreach Society requests that the Mayor proclaim May 2006 as Hepatitis C Awareness Month in the Town of Parrsboro and May 1st, 2006 as Hepatitis C Awareness Day.

WHEREAS hepatitis C is a blood infection transmitted by the blood and blood products that can lead to liver failure and other severe health problems; and

WHEREAS hepatitis C is a treatable illness affecting thousands of Nova Scotians; and

WHEREAS early detection, education and awareness can reduce harm to those already infected with hepatitis C and prevent the spread to others at risk;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Mayor Doug Robinson, proclaim May, 2006 as Hepatitis C Awareness Month and May 1st, 2006 as Hepatitis C Awareness Day and do commend its thoughtful observation to all citizens of our province.

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

(b) **Economic Development** - Report given by Councillor Gleneida Canning:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2006

(a) **Sustainable Tourism Committee RE: Brand Image** - The Council has reviewed information that came back from the Sustainable Tourism Committee regarding the Brand Image and is recommending acceptance of the Committee's recommendation for the consultants flat design and the multi-colour and two colour schemes as recommended by the consultant. The new Brand Image and Marketing Strategy will be unveiled to the public on April 24th at 7:00 p.m. at the Fundy Geological Museum.

Moved by Councillor Gleneida Canning, seconded by Councillor Lyle Yorke that the Economic Development Committee Report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.

Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith advised that he would be voting against the motion due to his inability to see how the image as presented justly represents Parrsboro.

Councillor Lois Smith advised that she also would be voting against the motion. Rather than an entirely new image, Councillor Smith noted she would have liked to have seen something with a sailing ship that would perhaps appeal to the older generation when they think of Parrsboro. Councillor Smith added that neither she or Lloyd Smith had the privilege of serving on the committee and that she would like to take the opportunity to congratulate her colleagues and the committee for doing a fantastic job and making what would have been a very difficult decision. She also noted that if the motion is passed she will certainly support it and attend the launch.

Councillor Gleneida Canning asked if Councillor Smith and Deputy Mayor Smith would be voting against both the brand image and the marketing strategy.

Mayor Robinson pointed out that the recommendation within the report has to do only with the brand image.

At this point Mayor Robinson called the motion to a vote.

Voting in favour of the motion - Councillor Gleneida Canning, Councillor Lyle Yorke and Mayor Robinson.

Voting against the motion - Councillor Lois Smith and Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith. Motion carried.

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

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2006

(a) **Superintendent=s Report** - Assistant Superintendent Phillip Forbes presented the following report of activity in the Work=s Department:

- over the last month many hours have been spent on vehicle maintenance, especially to the two 3/4 ton trucks and V plows
- streets and sidewalks were plowed and salt applied as required by weather conditions
- several water services were turned off and then on again for repair work to valves. A broken water line at the Lions Arena caused some discolouration of water in various parts of town which cleared up after the line was repaired.
- the crew has been filling pot holes with cold mix
- work has been done to clear brush along property lines at the former Swan Creek landfill
- the fire trucks were serviced to prepare them for safety checks and all three vehicles have since passed safety inspection
- some work has been done at the well field

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

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

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2006

(a) **Volunteer Awards** - The Committee has reviewed nominations for the Volunteer Awards and following are the recipients for 2006: Lewis Brown for the Volunteer Representative; Ryan Matthews for the Volunteer Youth Award; and the Ross Robinson/Rose MacAloney family for the Family Volunteer Award. Lewis Brown will be representing Parrsboro at the Provincial Volunteer Award Ceremony and Luncheon that will be held in Halifax in April. Ryan Matthews and the Robinson/MacAloney family will be forwarded as nominees to be considered for selection as the Provincial Youth Volunteer and Family Volunteer representatives. All local volunteer nominees will be recognized at the Council meeting on May 2nd.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Councillor Gleneida Canning that the Recreation Committee Report be accepted. Motion carried.

(e) **Planning, Development and Housing** - Report given by Councillor Gleneida Canning:

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2006

(a) **Building Inspector=s Report** - Following is the activity in the Building Inspector=s Office for the months of January and February 2006:

	<u>No. of Permits</u>	<u>Value</u>
Demolition	1	-
Development	1	-
Total	2	-

Moved by Councillor Gleneida Canning, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the Planning, Development and Housing Report be accepted. Motion carried.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) **Seniors Secretariat** - The Clerk noted correspondence from the Seniors Secretariat requesting an opportunity to meet with Council in April. The Clerk noted it was unclear whether they wanted to attend a Committee meeting or an open Council meeting.

After a discussion it was agreed to invite the Seniors Secretariat to meet with Council at the meeting of their choice, either

the Committee meeting on April 18th or at the next open Council meeting on May 2nd.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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