

COUNCIL

OCTOBER 30, 2006

#06-10

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Monday, October 30th, 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
A.D. Brown, C.A.O.
Kevin Yorke, Secretary

REGRETS: Councillor Lyle Yorke

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 Yorke was absent due to illness and sends his regrets.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Councillor Gleneida Canning that the Agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

3. PRESENTATION BY CAROL SINCLAIR

Ms. Sinclair spoke to Council regarding activity on the Main Street which she feels has become a definite problem and one that had increased since the NASCAR event. She indicated that the activity included not only noisy mufflers, but also excessive speeding and squealing of tires as the vehicles make the loop around the Cenotaph. She noted that she had sent a letter a couple of weeks ago regarding two specific license plates of certain very noisy cars and that she had the license plate numbers of five or six additional cars. Ms. Sinclair noted that the RCMP have responded to her concern resulting in at least one vehicle becoming silent, however, she expressed the opinion that more needs to be done by way of patrols during the evening hours when the activity is more prevalent or perhaps setting up one or two strategically placed cameras as some other communities have done to solve the debate about how fast the cars are going and the decibel of the noise they are making. Ms. Sinclair indicated that the problem is exacerbated in Parrsboro because the town has double the number of elders compared to other communities, and therefore, quiet is very important and on the other hand there are many younger people for whom this type of driving is really fun. Ms. Sinclair indicated that she believed that one of the motives behind the activity of the young people is to impress their peers and that they may not even be aware that they are

an annoyance to other people. At the conclusion of her presentation Ms. Sinclair thanked Council for their time and for listening to her concern.

Mayor Robinson advised that the previous letter that Ms. Sinclair had written was passed to the RCMP and to his understanding they had not reported back as yet. He advised that one of the concerns of the Town with regard to the NASCAR=s was the challenge to the young people to imitate them, and from Ms. Sinclair=s presentation it sounds like at least a few are. The Mayor advised that an interview with the Corporal will be arranged to check the status of the matter and to find out what action is being taken.

Ms. Sinclair noted that she would forward the additional license plate numbers to the RCMP.

4. RCMP REPORT

RCMP not present. No report.

5. APPROVAL OF CHEQUE SHEET

Moved by Councillor Gleneida Canning, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith that the General Cheque Sheet in the amount of \$197,737.52 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 September 26th, 2006 - #06-09.

Hearing none he declared the minutes approved as circulated.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

OCTOBER 2006

(a) **Christmas Lights** - The Committee discussed options for Christmas lighting and is recommending that regular coloured lights be used on the civic grounds Christmas tree. Also, that the purchasing, decorating and lighting up of the tree be coordinated with the Board of Trade.

(b) **Door to Door Garbage Collection** - The Committee furthered their discussions regarding door to door garbage collection being put on the tax rate and is recommending that garbage collection be tendered. The Clerk was asked to begin the process by having the necessary tender documents drafted.

(c) **Clear Garbage Bags** - The Mayor advised that he had been approached by a local garbage collector regarding the

problem of people putting recyclables in with their residual garbage. The collector had suggested that the use of clear garbage bags would help to control this activity.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that April 1st, 2007 be set as the date for mandatory use of clear bags for residual garbage and that in the meantime residents be encouraged to begin using clear bags at their earliest convenience.

(d) Letter from Parrsboro Band Association - Correspondence from the Parrsboro Band Association requested a letter of support in principle from the Town of Parrsboro for the development of the Community Culture and Wellness Centre at the Band Hall for which a campaign to restore and revitalize the historic building is underway.

After a discussion the Committee approved a letter of support in principle with the understanding that the Town of Parrsboro does not have the financial resources to make any commitment to the campaign.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the Finance Committee Report and recommendations contained therein, with the exception of item c., be accepted.

Mayor Robinson noted that the letter to the Band Association has been written and a copy was delivered to CREDA by Councillor Canning.

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

Moved by Councillor Gleneida Canning, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith that item c. of the Finance Committee Report be approved.

Councillor Canning asked if the Council felt confident that the garbage collector has tried his best to deal with the situation by tagging bags and not accepting them which is her understanding of how this type of thing is handled.

Mayor Robinson noted having being advised by the garbage collector that he has seen bags of residual garbage with obvious recyclable materials like milk cartons but he did not indicate that he did not take the bags.

The Clerk noted that he had not spoken to the collector but he believed the collector does not want to start tearing the bags open to confirm whether or not there are recyclables in them and that he is looking at the use of clear bags for residual garbage as an easier way to identify and tag them.

Councillor Lois Smith suggested starting to do a little bit of education again, either by the collector or the municipality. She also noted that Deputy Mayor Smith was going to do a cost comparison between the clear and dark garbage bags.

Deputy Mayor Smith advised that there is a cost difference. He noted that a 40 pack of dark bags costs around \$5.50 while the same quantity of clear bags would cost about \$9.50, therefore, the residents would be asked to pay approximately twice as much to put their residual garbage out in clear bags. To put things in perspective, however, he pointed out that the \$4.00 difference would be spread over several months. The Deputy Mayor pointed out that the County of Cumberland is the only municipal unit that expects their residents to put their residual garbage out in clear bags, that he had voiced his opposition to it on the Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority, and that he does not think it is the right thing to ask our residents to do it. He noted the opinion that residents should accept the responsibility to source separate their

garbage and that he was in agreement with Councillor Lois Smith's suggestion to enforce the education aspect. He suggested that it could begin by communicating through the papers that it appears that there are recyclables going out into the dark garbage bags and that residents should be recycling. He noted that Halifax puts advertisements on the TV numerous times in a week on how to put garbage out.

Mayor Robinson noted that it should be kept in mind that what Halifax does costs a lot of money and in a small town things have to be kept at a minimum price. He also pointed out that the County of Cumberland actually hired someone to be at the landfill and they also have people at the transfer stations to monitor the loads coming in. He also reminded Council that one of the original arguments against clear bags was that there are obviously certain personal items that someone would not want to put in a clear bag but the rule would also indicate that one can use a plastic grocery bag to put personal items in and they would be more readily identifiable as such rather than recyclables.

Councillor Lois Smith noted that she would probably vote against the clear bags because the Council had just voted in favour of looking further into door to door garbage collection at which time things will probably change depending upon who is awarded the contract if it goes that far. Therefore, she felt that it would be appropriate to remain with the dark garbage bags until we see what happens with the door to door collection.

Deputy Mayor Smith agreed with Councillor Smith to remain with the dark bags with an education campaign through the papers to state that there have been complaints about the recyclables in the garbage and compost. He felt that perhaps a friendly nudge would be all it would take and if it is noticed that it is not working then they may have to look at something different at the point where the garbage collection goes to tender.

Councillor Canning indicated she would only agree to that if the Town decides that it will take on the responsibility of educating the public.

Mayor Robinson indicated that it would be the Town that would be responsible to do the education and not the collectors.

Deputy Mayor Smith pointed out that an educational flyer is sent out every year with a pick up schedule.

The Mayor indicated that this is actually more of an information sheet telling people how to source separate their garbage as opposed to an educational tool. He stated that an educational campaign would include articles and flyers that go out telling people about the harmful effect of what they are doing and that there is a cost associated with it.

At this point Mayor Robinson advised that the Council had two options, either they could vote on the motion and let it stand on the vote or a motion could be made to table the issue until a later date.

After further discussion there was a motion by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith to table item c. to a later date.

Voting in favour - Councillor Lois Smith and Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith.

Voting against - Councillor Gleneida Canning and Mayor Doug Robinson. Motion

defeated.

At this point Mayor Robinson called for the vote on the motion to approve item c. in the Finance Committee Report.

Voting in favour - Councillor Gleneida Canning and Mayor Doug Robinson.

Voting against - Councillor Lois Smith and Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith. Motion defeated.

(b) Public Works - Report given by Councillor Lois Smith.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

OCTOBER 2006

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

- a paving contractor has been in town repairing some cross cuts in streets that were dug up for various reasons such as water line repair and culvert replacement
- water line valves and valve boxes throughout the town have been checked and repaired as required
- fire hydrants were flushed as part of an ongoing maintenance program. A couple of older hydrants were replaced that were not working properly
- a few water services were replaced or repaired as required
- garbage barrels and bins, picnic tables, benches and Aboiteau floats are being put away for winter storage
- gravel roads were graded
- trees were either cut down or limbed as necessary surrounding the reservoir to keep debris off the cover

Moved by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith that the Public Works Committee report be accepted. Motion carried.

(c) Planning, Development and Housing - Report given by Councillor Gleneida Canning.

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

OCTOBER 2006

(a) Building Inspector=s Report - Following is the activity in the Building Inspector=s Office for the month of September 2006:

	<u>No. of Permits</u>	<u>Value</u>
New Construction, Alterations & Additions (Residential)	4	\$145,980
New Construction, Alterations & Additions (Commercial)	1	\$ 8,000
Total	5	\$153,980

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

8. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised that there was no correspondence to bring forward.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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