

COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 28, 2006

#06-11

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 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, C.A.O.
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 Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

3. **RCMP REPORT**

Cpl. John James presented the following police activity report for October/November 2006:

I have undertaken to submit to Council a memo outlining Police Activities for the given month. This will replace the statistical report that was previously provided. I believe this written account will prove to be a more personal and relevant account of our activities.

Members have responded to a number of assistance and criminal code investigation calls over the period covering this report. Overall our Detachment area is considered quiet in regards to the number of criminal code matters investigated.

Our office is currently running one member short due to a medical leave situation. It is not expected that this member will return to work. This office will operate with a contingent of four members including the writer. We do not know at this time when we will be brought back up to full strength. My members have demonstrated great flexibility and commitment in addressing this personnel shortfall. Morale remains high and the community continues to be well served by this office.

Every one of my members attended the Remembrance Day ceremonies. This was the highest member turnout in the county. The writer was honored to attend the dinner and presentations held in the Legion on the same date.

The Halloween A Spookarama® event was also highly successful due to the work and donations of many in the community. The event has been highly effective in eliminating much of the vandalism, arson and mayhem seen in many small communities. Although A Spookarama® is spearheaded by this office this is a community effort and something we should all be proud of.

The writer was recently invited to lunch with the Parrsboro Seniors Group. The lunch was very enjoyable and a good introduction to the group. The writer plans to attend the Senior=s Christmas Party as well.

Respectfully,

Cpl. John James

Mayor Robinson asked if there was any opportunity for a replacement for the member who is on medical leave.

Cpl. James advised that it was highly unlikely for at least the next 8 months to a year. He indicated that there is a shortage of officers not only across the province, but across the entire country and that Cumberland County is not very high on the list for places that are scheduled to get members.

Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith asked if the Town=s contract with the RCMP for policing would be affected by the shortage of a member considering the length of time it will take to replace the officer.

Cpl. James indicated that he did not believe the contract would be affected. He pointed out that it is just a vacant position which is still in place and will not be lost. It is simply a matter of the position not being filled with a body right now.

Mayor Robinson added that there is a provision in the contract for financial consideration to the Town for that after a certain period of time.

Cpl. James advised that currently there are approximately 55 years of experience between the two senior members of the detachment and only 15 - 20 years between himself and the other two members, therefore, it would be ideal if another senior constable with 15 - 20 years experience could be recruited to fill the vacant position. He also indicated that when Cst. Morton retires, his position will probably be filled with a new recruit. Cpl. James noted that the real burden falls on the members who are working together to ensure that the town is well policed and to date there have been no complaints from them and morale remains high in the detachment.

Mayor Robinson noted that in the report Cpl. James was kind enough to acknowledge the involvement of a whole lot of people in A Spookarama@ , however, that it is really the efforts of the local RCMP detachment that keep the program running which everyone appreciates very much.

Cpl. James advised that eventually letters and certificates of appreciation will be sent out to everybody who donated money or resources. He indicated that coming from outside he has seen how the RCMP have to cope with vandalism, squealing tires, broken windows, etc. in other communities on Halloween and he expressed the opinion that Parrsboro really has a good thing going here with the A Spookarama@ program which has been going on for many years. He also acknowledged the cooperation of the young people who observed the rules and all arrived home safely after the event.

Cpl. James asked if Council preferred the type of report he submitted this evening or the statistical report that had been submitted in the past.

After a discussion it was agreed that the Council would prefer both the statistical report and the written report.

4. FIRE CHIEF= S REPORT

The Fire Chief was not in attendance and no report was submitted.

5. APPROVAL OF CHEQUE SHEET

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the General Cheque Sheet in the amount of \$188,816.88 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 October 30, 2006, (#06-10).

Hearing none he declared the minutes approved as presented.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2006

(a) New Year=s Free Skate - There was a discussion regarding what events the Committee felt would be appropriate for the Town to host on New Year=s Day.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that the Town sponsor a free public skate at the Lions Arena with appropriate advertising prior to the event.

(b) December Meetings - The Committee discussed the schedule for meetings in December and is recommending that there be no Council meeting and that the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting be held on the third Tuesday of the month which is the normal time.

(c) Notice RE: Public Hearing - Correspondence was received from the Municipality of the County of Cumberland advising that a public hearing will take place at 1 pm, Wednesday, December 6th, 2006 in the Council Chambers of the E. D. Fullerton Building, to consider public input on the adoption of an amendment to the County=s Land Use Bylaw. The proposed amendment will change the zone on a property identified as Lot 81-1, PID 2519845, located on the west side of Highway No.2, Cross Roads, to permit a service station.

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

Mayor Robinson expressed the opinion that the Town should be represented at the public hearing where it has to do with a property in our well field area and that unfortunately he would not be able to attend due to another commitment on December 6th. He also noted the understanding that our Planner, Jason MacDonald wanted to be at the public hearing and that he also may have a conflict because of his meeting with the Parrsboro Council on December 6th at 2:30 p.m. to do with our MPS/LUB. Therefore, he wondered whether our meeting with Jason should be rescheduled.

The Clerk reminded the Council that on the Town=s behalf Jason MacDonald had reviewed the amendment that the County Council is considering and that he drafted a letter to their planner outlining his concerns from a planning aspect on this type of development. The Clerk noted that he had talked to the County C.A.O., Rennie Bugley, earlier in the day to inform him that he would not be attending the hearing due to past experience in dealing with the issue. He indicated that the County was anything but cooperative when the two municipalities were dealing with the original land use bylaw and municipal planning strategies, both for the Town and for the County for the area under their control. He had let it be known to the County, the Department of Environment, and people in Halifax that he was not happy with the lack of controls that the County originally put in and that Mr. Bugley indicated that both he and his Council are well familiar with that. Mr. Bugley was not aware of Jason=s letter to their planner but he indicated that he would locate it and pass it forward. The Clerk indicated that he did not know whether Jason was going to the public hearing, but even if he was there would be no reason to change our meeting at 2:30 because the hearing is at 1:00 p.m. and normally they do not take that long, therefore, he should be able to make it back for our meeting.

Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith asked if it would be beneficial to send a copy of Jason's letter, a copy of our well field plan, and a copy of the County's proposal to the Department of Environment, even though they should be aware of what is going on.

The Clerk advised that he also has had some issues with the Department of Environment and its whole land use process and they are well aware of it. The Clerk advised that he had been speaking to someone from the Department of Environment earlier in the day and they were not aware of the amendment being proposed by the County, however, they indicated that they did not think that the County had any legal obligation to advise them. The Clerk advised that he had faxed a copy of Jason's letter to the rep from DOE who indicated that he would look into it, but that he was not sure whether anything could be done.

After further discussion it was agreed that the Clerk and Councillor Gleneida Canning would attend the public hearing on December 6th.

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

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

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2006

(a) Superintendent's Report - Assistant Superintendent Phillip Forbes presented the following summary of activity in the Public Works department:

- the Red Devil Company was hired to flush out a clogged sewer line on Station House hill and the sewer line to the former lawyer's office was replaced
- a section near the dumping station at Glooscap Park was cleared out making the area three times as wide. The area was then covered with rock and gravel. When drier weather returns the crew will do some more filling in at the dumping station and the individual camp sites.
- the department has been experiencing some difficulties communicating with their two-way radios and will have Nova Communications back to correct the problem
- the crew has been cleaning up leaves in the ditches and are about 95% finished with the job
- benches, tables and garbage baskets have been removed and stored for the winter
- repairing of gravel roads has been ongoing due to the rain
- water service has been turned off at McKenzie Park and Hawk's Road. Several other private services have been turned off for people going away for the winter
- the crew put up the Christmas tree on the Town Hall grounds and installed the lights. The snowflake and reindeer lights were put back on the poles with the kind assistance of Nova Scotia Power
- paving contractors were in town recently to do some patching of cross cuts and sidewalk repair
- a new water service was installed for a home being built on Lake View Drive
- a new dry well was installed on Eastern Avenue

- regular maintenance of vehicles and equipment is ongoing

Moved by Councillor Lyle Yorke, seconded by Councillor Gleneida Canning that the PublicWorks report be accepted.

Councillor Yorke indicated that he wanted to take the opportunity to thank Public Works for their assistance with putting the Christmas tree in place and installing the lights.

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

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

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2006

(a) **Building Inspector=s Report** - Building Inspector Monty Maddison submitted the following report for the month of October 2006:

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

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

8. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) **Deputy Mayor RE: Tree Lighting Ceremony** - Deputy Mayor Smith noted that in the absence of the Mayor he had opened the Christmas tree lighting ceremony on November 24th and that he would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Trade and their many volunteers for the work they put toward the ceremony. He indicated that it was the largest turn out of people for this type of event.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Councillor Lois Smith the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.