

# COUNCIL

**FEBRUARY 26, 2008**

**#08-02**

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Doug Robinson presiding.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Gleneida Canning  
Councillor Lloyd Smith  
Councillor Lyle Yorke  
A.D. Brown, C.A.O.  
Dylan Heide, Municipal Intern  
Kevin Yorke, Secretary

**REGRETS:** Deputy Mayor 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.

## **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved by Councillor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Councillor Gleneida Canning that the agenda be approved as circulated. Motion carried.**

## **3. SWEARING-IN OF POLICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The following individuals were sworn-in as members of the Parrsboro Police Advisory Committee by the Clerk: Gleneida Canning, Colin Curleigh, Pamela Hoar, Doug Robinson and Anne Trottier. S/Sgt. Frank Kingston was also in attendance. Mayor Robinson thanked those who volunteered to be on the committee indicating that it was nice to see people coming forward to do their civic duty and he also thanked S/Sgt. Kingston for attending the swearing-in ceremony. S/Sgt. Kingston complemented Parrsboro for having the representatives at the meeting in Truro on Saturday and noted that it was nice to have everyone there together so that they are all on the same page as the Advisory Committee moves forward.

#### **4. RCMP REPORT**

Cpl. John James presented the following Police Activity Report for the month of January 2008.

In January the Parrsboro Office attended 51 calls for service. In addition there were 17 requests for criminal record checks from individuals. These background checks are required by numerous employers and volunteer organizations.

In addition the Members of this office attended numerous community events and conducted a number of traffic spot checks.

Cst. Hutchinson is progressing with the rejuvenation of the DARE program in the elementary school. Cst. Hutchinson will begin instruction of the program after the March break and continues to work out the financial challenges of the program.

Members of this office also attended refresher training in CEW (Taser) training as well as Domestic Violence Training.

After giving his report Cpl. James answered questions.

Councillor Lloyd Smith noted that a presentation had been made previously about the possibility of expanding the DARE program to include a refresher course for high school students. Cpl. James indicated that the target level for the DARE program is grades 5 and 6 and that unfortunately a lack of financial and personnel resources preclude the expansion of the program at this time.

Councillor Smith also asked about staffing levels. Cpl. James advised that there was still one member on long term medical leave and at present there was no update as to when or if he would be returning. S/Sgt. Kingston added that unfortunately there would not be a replacement for this member while he is on sick leave because he is still considered an active member of the force until such time as his status may change.

S/Sgt. Kingston also advised that funding and plans have been approved to renovate the detachment building in Parrsboro. This project will see the construction of an addition to the existing building to enlarge the office space and the installation of new office furniture. The commencement of the project is pending a security clearance for the contractor which hopefully will come through within the next couple of months.

Councillor Canning noted 10 false alarms in the statistical report and requested clarification as to whether these were false alarms called in by people. Cpl. James advised that the majority of the false alarms had to do with malfunctioning residential automated alarm systems that are monitored by private security companies who call the police when the alarms are set off.

As there were no further questions, Cpl. James and S/Sgt. Kingston left the meeting.

## **5. FIRE CHIEF=S REPORT**

Fire Chief James Atkinson submitted the following report for the months of December 2007 and January 2008:

### **December 2007**

Flue Fire	1
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### **January 2008**

Structure Mutual Aid Advocate	1
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Flue Fire	1
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First Responder Medical and Lift Assist	5
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### **Membership**

We have 14 active members and 2 auxiliary members. We are currently looking for new members as we are down 8 active members.

### **Training**

We have completed some training over the past few months and are going to become more involved in the spring.

After giving his report the Fire Chief answered questions.

Councillor Lloyd Smith asked what equipment would be taken to a call that is a considerable distance from Parrsboro such as the recent call in Advocate.

The Fire Chief advised that in this particular case in Advocate two vehicles were sent, the rescue truck and one of the fire trucks, however, normally one truck with water would be sent with three or four firemen and perhaps an additional private vehicle to carry the equipment. The reason for sending only one truck is to ensure that coverage of Parrsboro is not jeopardized which is the priority of the department. The Chief added that if the call is in relatively close to Parrsboro and is a major fire, two vehicles may be sent or one may be on standby to shuttle water back and forth.

As there were no further questions the Mayor thanked the Fire Chief for his report.

## **6. APPROVAL OF CHEQUE SHEET**

**Moved by Councillor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Councillor Gleneida Canning that the Cheque Sheet in the amount of \$94,684.82 be approved. Motion carried.**

## **7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Robinson asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Council minutes of January 22, 2008 (#08-01). Hearing none he declared the minutes approved as circulated.

## **8. 1<sup>ST</sup> READING OF DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN CHARLES & SHELLEY FULTON AND THE TOWN OF PARRSBORO (DA-2008-01).**

**Moved by Councillor Gleneida Canning, seconded by Councillor Lloyd Smith that the Town Council approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of the Development Agreement Between Charles and Shelley Fulton and the Town of Parrsboro (DA-01-08). Motion carried.**

## **9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) **Finance** - Report given by Councillor Gleneida Canning:

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

#### **FEBRUARY 2008**

(a) **Kidney Foundation** - The Amherst Chapter of the Kidney Foundation advised that a National Financial Campaign is held each year during the month of March and that local members will be taking part in this March Drive from March 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008. The permission of the Council was requested to conduct a door to door canvass in Parrsboro during this period.

After a discussion the Committee agreed that it had no objection to this request.

(b) **Energy Audit** - Dylan Heide presented an update on the Energy Audit indicating that he has applied for funding through the Eco Trust Program and reviewed quotes from several Energy Audit Contractors. Dylan=s recommendation was to contract the services of Nova Dynamics to perform the energy audit.

After a discussion the Committee recommended accepting Dylan=s recommendation to contract Nova Dynamics pending the approval of funding through the Eco Trust Fund.

(c) **Training** - The Committee was advised that Dylan Heide had received a bursary for youth in municipal government to attend a conference in Alberta entitled A Rural Matters@ coming up in July. This bursary is cost shared by the UNSM, AMA, Service Nova Scotia and Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties and should cover all conference-related costs.

The Committee agreed that this would be a great opportunity for training and experience for Dylan..

(d) **Returning Officer** - The Committee was advised that with the upcoming municipal elections in October it is a requirement of Town Council to appoint a Returning Officer.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that CAO, Ashley Brown be so appointed.

(e) **CREDA** -

(1) **2008/09 Budget** - CREDA= s 2008/09 operating budget has been reviewed and the Committee is recommending that it be approved including core funding from the Town of Parrsboro and the Town= s contribution toward the cost shared Development Officer position, both of which are the same as last year.

(2) **New Appointee** - Due to the recent resignation of Rose MacAloney there is a vacancy on CREDA= s Board of Directors for a citizen representative from the Town of Parrsboro. The Committee was asked to bring in names for a replacement and after a discussion it was recommended that Michael Levy be appointed to fill the vacancy on CREDA if he is agreeable to do so.

(f) **Tax Exemption** - The Committee reviewed the municipal tax exemption and is recommending that it remain the same as last year which is a \$100 exemption for those with a combined household income of \$14,500 or less. Tax payers who qualify are reminded that they are required to apply for the tax exemption on a yearly basis.

(g) **CNTA** - Correspondence from the Central Nova Tourist Association has advised that their annual general meeting will be held in Amherst on April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> and that the organization is requesting a donation from the four municipal units in Cumberland to help offset the cost with the Town of Parrsboro being asked to contribute \$250.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that this request be approved.

(h) **Minister of Justice** - A letter addressed to the Mayor from the Minister of Justice advised that an additional RCMP officer is being provided to the Town of Parrsboro upon 2008-2009 budget approval. This new officer will fulfill the Department= s commitment to provide every municipality across the

province with at least one new officer to enhance public safety.

**Moved by Councillor Gleneida Canning, seconded by Councillor Lyle Yorke that the Finance Committee report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.**

Mayor Robinson advised that he had spoken to Michael Levy and he is willing to accept his appointment to CREDA. He also indicated that the issue of the extra RCMP officer must not be confused with the question that Councillor Smith had raised earlier to do with staffing levels. The Mayor advised that this officer is for a very specific purpose and that the officers assigned to the County, Oxford and Parrsboro are being combined to form what is called a general investigation service, or they will basically be plain clothes officers. He noted that there were three or five options available as to how the officers could be used and the option was chosen that was recommended by S/Sgt. Kingston.

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

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

## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT**

**FEBRUARY 2008**

**(a) Superintendent=s Report** - John Henwood reported the following activity in the works department:

- with the numerous snow storms over the past couple of months plowing, sanding and salting of streets and sidewalks have been a regular duty of the works crew. Six more loads of road salt had to be hauled in which hopefully will last throughout the duration of the winter.

- snow was hauled away from several places around town where it was difficult to push it aside and some ditches and drains were opened up to allow for drainage during the milder, wet weather. The Aboiteau gates were also opened as required to handle the run off.

- some cold patching was done to fill pot holes.

- water services were turned on or off as requested by property owners.

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

**(c) Protective Services** - Report given by Councillor Gleneida Canning:

## **PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT**

## **FEBRUARY 2008**

**(a) Fire Service Agreement** - The Committee held discussions regarding fire service in Cumberland County and is recommending that a letter be sent to the Warden and Council advising that the Town of Parrsboro is open to discussions with the County regarding a fire service agreement.

**Moved by Councillor Gleneida Canning, seconded by Councillor Lloyd Smith that the Protective Services Committee report and recommendations contained therein be accepted. Motion carried.**

Mayor Robinson noted that the letter to the County had been sent off and nothing had been heard back as yet.

**(d) Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority** - Report given by Councillor Lyle Yorke:

### **CUMBERLAND JOINT SERVICES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY REPORT**

## **FEBRUARY 2008**

**(a) 2008/09 Budget** - The Board of the Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority has reviewed and accepted the draft budget for 2008/09 and is requesting that the budget be presented to the individual municipal councils for approval.

The Committee recommends that the Town Council review the draft budget with CJSMA staff prior to making a decision.

**Moved by Councillor Lyle Yorke, seconded by Councillor Gleneida Canning that the Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.**

**Addendum** - After this report was drafted the Council did review the Joint Services budget for 2008/2009 and are in agreement with it. **Motion carried.**

## **10. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to report.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Councillor Lloyd Smith, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.