

COUNCIL

MARCH 25, 2008

#08-03

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 25th, 2008 in the Council Chambers with Mayor Doug Robinson presiding.

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

REGRETS: Councillor Lloyd 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 Lloyd Smith was away on business in Toronto.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Gleneida Canning, seconded by Councillor Lyle Yorke that the Agenda be approved as circulated. **Motion carried.**

3. RCMP REPORT

No report. For information Mayor Robinson indicated that the Police Advisory Committee had met earlier in the day to set the process that they will be going through and that at this very moment the local RCMP detachment was holding a town hall meeting at the school.

4. FIRE CHIEF=S REPORT

No report.

5. APPROVAL OF CHEQUE SHEET

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lois Smith, seconded by Councillor Gleneida Canning that the Cheque Sheet in the amount of \$142,194.86 be approved. Motion carried.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Robinson asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Council minutes of February 26th, 2008 (#08-02). Hearing none he declared the minutes approved as circulated.

7. PUBLIC HEARING RE: DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT (DA-2008-01) BETWEEN CHARLES AND SHELLEY FULTON AND THE TOWN OF PARRSBORO TO OPERATE A FARM ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 35 MILL STREET

Mayor Robinson opened the public meeting and called for comments from anyone in the Council Chambers who wished to speak either for or against the development agreement. There were no comments forthcoming. The Clerk advised that no written submissions had been received either for or against the development agreement.

The Mayor indicated that as there were no comments forthcoming the Council meeting would reconvene and a motion on the 2nd reading of the development agreement would be called.

8. 2nd READING OF DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT (DA-2008-01)

Moved by Councillor Gleneida Canning, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lois Smith that the 2nd reading of the Development Agreement (DA-2008-01) between Charles and Shelley Fulton and the Town of Parrsboro to Operate a Farm on Property Located at 35 Mill Street be approved. Motion carried.

Mayor Robinson noted that an advertisement would be placed in the local papers advising that the development agreement has been approved and that it would come into effect 14 days after the advertisement is published.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2008

(a) **DARE Program** - At a previous meeting the Town Council was requested to provide financial assistance for DARE, a drug awareness program facilitated by the RCMP targeted to grade 5 and 6 students. The Committee reviewed information requested from the schools regarding enrollment and costs associated with the program and is recommending a financial commitment of \$300.00.

(b) **County of Cumberland RE:**

(1) **Fire Service** - The Clerk reported on an initial meeting regarding the Town providing fire service to adjacent areas of the County and expressed the opinion that some progress was made and there is the possibility of an agreement that would be mutually beneficial to both parties. However, he noted that for the current fiscal year, funding given to the Town by the County for fire services is less than that requested and our records indicate that they also underfunded fire service in 06/07. He also reminded the Committee that the Town had similar problems with the County with regard to the summer recreation program over the past 3 or 4 year period. He had brought this up at the meeting and was advised that the County would check into it, however, nothing has been heard back to date. The Clerk recommended a letter to the County CAO advising that there will be no further meetings regarding a fire service agreement until such time as they have met their past obligations.

(2) **Recreation** - The Clerk advised that as requested he had supplied the County with information regarding last year's summer recreation program and to date there has been no confirmation from the County as to whether they will take part in the program this year.

(c) **Town Caucus** - The Mayor reported on the recent Town Caucus meeting attended by himself, Councillor Yorke and Dylan Heide. He noted that agenda items included a presentation of Strategic Plan by Property Valuation Services Corporation, UNSM Municipal Tax Relief Policy for Low Income Home Owners, and Grant-in-lieu of taxes for Justice Centres.

(d) **Renewable Energy Conference** - Correspondence advised that the 3rd Annual Renewable Energy Conference is scheduled for June 3rd and 4th, 2008 in Halifax. Keynote presentations include wind energy, tidal and wave energy technologies.

In the discussion the Committee agreed that it would be to our advantage to attend conferences in the area that have to do with tidal energy. Mayor Robinson advised that he would like to attend and that if any other members of Council would like to go to inform the Clerk so that they also can be registered.

(e) **Women in Local Government** - The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities= Women in Local Government Committee is hosting four one-day Municipal Campaign Schools for Women. These non-partisan schools will provide timely advice and knowledge to women considering running for political office. For anyone interested there is a poster in the Town Office with more details on when and where the schools will take place as well as registration and contact information.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lois Smith, seconded by Councillor Lyle Yorke that the Finance

Committee report and recommendations contained therein be accepted. Motion carried.

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

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2008

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

- more snow falls required plowing, sanding and salting of roads and sidewalks and a mixture of sand and salt was prepared for freezing rain.

- more road salt was brought in before the roads were closed and hopefully will last throughout the remainder of the season.

- during the milder weather the gates at the Aboiteau were opened to handle the run off from rain and melting snow. Some culverts were opened up to allow water to flow through ditches.

- cold mix was required to fill pot holes on some roads resulting from the freezing and thawing conditions.

- a water line leak on Pier Road was repaired

- service work was performed on the back hoe and Fire Department=s rescue van.

- a couple of loads of fuel wood for the Town Hall and Works Shed were brought in and will be worked at as time permits.

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

(c) Recreation - Report given by Councillor Gleneida Canning:

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2008

(a) Volunteer Awards - The Committee reviewed nominations for the volunteer awards on Thursday, March 6th . Nominations were received in three categories: Representative Volunteer, Youth Volunteer and Volunteer Family. Beverley Clarke was selected as the Representative Volunteer of the Year and

will be attending the Provincial Volunteer Awards banquet in Halifax in April representing the Town of Parrsboro. Youth Volunteer of the Year is Eric Tibbetts and his name has been submitted on behalf of the Town to be considered for Provincial recognition. The (Don) Yorke Family was nominated again this year and their nomination has been re-submitted by the Town to be considered for Provincial recognition for their volunteer efforts. All volunteers nominated will be recognized by Town Council at their regular meeting in May. Unfortunately I will be unable to attend the Awards Banquet in Halifax due to work commitments out-of-province, therefore, the Mayor will be attending as Council=s representative.

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

10. SEWER RATE INCREASE

The Clerk advised that the contractor was in the process of installing the sewer system on Riverside that was approved by Council approximately a year. He noted that the total cost of this project is in excess of \$700,000 and the Town is receiving approximately \$500,000 in funding from Federal/Provincial programs leaving a shortfall of about \$200,000 for the Town to make up. He advised that there is \$70,000 in a reserve to apply to shortfall, leaving a net responsibility to the Town of \$134,000. The Clerk noted that currently the rates being charged sewer rate payers is \$50.00/year and the recommendation being brought in this evening is that the sewer rates increase from \$50.00 to \$150.00 so that the money can be used to pay off the long term debt. In initial discussions the recommendation made by the Clerk was that the rate increase to \$200.00/year, however, the recommendation coming back from committee discussions was that the rate be set at \$150.00. The Clerk advised that there is some administrative paper work that has to be done and that tonight he would like Council=s approval to establish the rate at \$150.00. Notification will be sent out to those people who are currently on the sewer system advising that there is a rate change and that the bills are going to be delayed by approximately two months in order to get the paper work done, computer programming, etc. The Clerk commented that this money is necessary in order to pay for this first phase of the sewer project, everyone realizes that it is expensive, and that it is only phase one of a multi-phase sewer project.

Moved by Councillor Gleneida Canning, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lois Smith that the sewer rates in the Town of Parrsboro be increased to \$150.00.

Mayor Robinson noted that the Council really struggled with this issue because nobody likes to raise the rates on anything, but as everyone knows as things are expanded, costs have to be met. He stated that the Council should be congratulated for their consideration on the issue and for making the appropriate decision where they balanced the requirement to pay off the debt with the people that have to pay the debt.

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

11. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Proclamation RE: Hepatitis C Awareness Month - Correspondence requested the Mayor and Council to pass a proclamation declaring May Hepatitis C Awareness Month and May 1st, Hepatitis C Awareness Day.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lois Smith, seconded by Councillor Gleneida Canning that the following proclamation be approved:

Hepatitis C Awareness Month

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, Doug Robinson, proclaim May, 2008 as Hepatitis C Awareness Month and May 1st, 2008 as Hepatitis C Awareness Day and do commend its thoughtful observation to all citizens of our province.

Motion carried.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Lois Smith the meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.