

**COUNCIL**  
**MAY 27, 2008**  
**#08-05**

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Doug Robinson presiding.

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

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Robinson opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance, acknowledging the presence of volunteers who would be recognized this evening.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Councillor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lois Smith that the agenda be approved as circulated. **Motion carried.**

3. **PRESENTATION OF VOLUNTEER AWARDS**

Mayor Robinson presented awards to the volunteers in the following order: Bev Clarke, Eric Tibbetts, Robert Yorke, and the(Don)Yorke Family. Following this a picture was taken by the press with the Mayor and the volunteers. The Mayor thanked them once again and they departed.

4. **PRESENTATION BY RON SHAW**

a) **Sewer Bylaw** – Mr. Shaw asked for clarification of the Sewer Charge By-law. He began with section 2 asking if it meant that if you are on a street with a sewer you will be charged for sewer? The Clerk responded that if the sewer fronts your property you will be charged and that the bylaw is clear. Mr. Shaw disagreed and said that he still thinks it leaves room to charge people with sewer on their street and not in front of their property. Mr. Shaw then asked: should only those who are paying sewer charges pay for the sewer redevelopment work and shouldn't we get more money from the Federal Government? The Clerk responded that the town is receiving Federal money for the work it is doing and that the charges are paid by users of the system. Councillor Lloyd Smith added that doing more sewer work now would mean increasing charges beyond anyone's ability to pay and the Mayor agreed that the Town will work as hard as people can afford. The Clerk reiterated that the sewage problem is serious Canada-wide.

b) **Recreation Position** – Mr. Shaw next raised the issue of the recreation coordinator position asking where the money is coming from for this position. Councillor Lloyd Smith answered that it came from the Province. Mr. Shaw asked where this money came from if it wasn't there for the last 12 years. Councillor Smith said he can't speak to 12 years ago but that the need is present now. Mr. Shaw asked if recreation has been carried out in the past 12 years. Councillor Smith responded that some has been, such as summer programs. Mr. Shaw asked how much the recreation position will cost the Town. The Clerk advised \$15,000 to \$20,000 although the budget hasn't been finalized. Mr. Shaw asked where the tax-payers will come up with this now if they haven't had this money for 12 years and if the Town's tax rate will have to go up. Councillor Smith stated that this will be determined in the budget process. Mayor Robinson added that money has always been lacking but the need has been clear and now that the opportunity is there the Town thought the time was right. Noting that Parrsboro is one of only 2 or 3 municipalities without a recreation department the Clerk added that Parrsboro would be the only municipality without a coordinator if this position was not begun now. Mr. Shaw asked if the money was there for the past 12 years from the Province. The Mayor responded that it was not, with the exception of summer students.

5. **RCMP REPORT**

Doug gave the RCMP report. He announced the formation and membership of the Police Advisory Committee and explained its purpose as an advisory body and a liaison from the RCMP to Council. Councillor Lloyd Smith asked if Councillors not on the Committee would have access to the reports of the RCMP which until now have been presented directly to Council. Doug said that they would not be unless Councillors specifically asked for them. Councillor Smith asked to be given a copy of these reports.

6. **FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

There was no Fire Chief's report.

7. **APPROVAL OF CHEQUE SHEET**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lois Smith and seconded by Councillor Lloyd Smith that the Cheque Sheet in the amount of \$139,720.66 be approved. **Motion carried.**

8. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Robinson asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Council minutes dated April 22, 2008, #08-04. Hearing none he accepted the minutes as presented.

9. **2<sup>nd</sup> READING OF SEWER CHARGES BYLAW**

Mayor Robinson asked for questions on the Sewer Charges By-law. A question was asked from a citizen: will the rate be \$150 now and why? The Mayor said it will be and that this is because it was necessary to pay for the work currently being done. Then he asked: why couldn't the increase have been phased in? The Mayor stated it was better to pay off the work quickly to get to the next phase of the sewer project. Ron Shaw asked if the water and sewer are separate accounts and if so, why are the water bills also increasing? The Mayor responded that in 1999 major work was done. The Clerk added that the rate hadn't gone up in 15 years and that the URB approval process meant that infrequent larger increases were the rule in Nova Scotia. He also noted that he didn't agree with this system. Another citizen asked: why is the water quality often poor in some areas? Councillor Lyle Yorke asked exactly where (this was clarified: up from the school on King St and down to Western Ave.), and if the Town crew had sampled the water and the answer was yes. The same citizen asked: could work be done to fix this long-running problem? The Mayor stated that the water utility will be asked to look into it. Tony McKenzie, the owner of Pot Bellies asked if the next phase of the sewer project will extend the system to more users? The Clerk stated that it will not. Mr. McKenzie then asked if, when a treatment plant is built, there will be any extension of the sewer system? Mayor Robinson indicated that it's too early to say and that the second phase of the project will be to tie existing lines together. In an impromptu closing statement Mr. Shaw said that it's a shame that the Federal Government allows untreated sewer out into the Bay and that all residents should pay what is needed to immediately get down to completing a treatment plant. The Mayor closed by saying that the Council is committed to the sewer project but had weighed residents' ability to pay and decided on the phased approach that is being taken. The Mayor then closed the public meeting.

Councillor Lloyd Smith asked for clarification on Section 2 as per Mr. Shaw's earlier request. The Clerk stated that if the by-law is passed he will check with a solicitor but that the bill needs to be passed now to get the current phase of the sewer project paid for.

**Moved by Councillor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lois Smith that Town Council accept the second reading of the by-law (with clarification of the by-law to ensure it reflects its expressed intent). Motion carried.**

## **10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**(10.1) Finance** – Report given by Deputy Mayor Lois Smith:

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**MAY 2008**

- a) **DARE Program** – Correspondence from Norma Jean Collinson, Vice Principal of the Parrsboro Regional Elementary School, thanked Town Council for making a monetary contribution in support of the DARE Program and extended an invitation to attend the graduation ceremony on Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

- b) **Tax Exemptions** – The Clerk reported that a total of 9 applications for the \$100 tax exemption had been received and that all but one met the eligibility requirements.  
The Committee recommended that the 8 applicants meeting the criteria should be approved for an exemption.
- c) **Fundy Geological Museum** – A letter from the Chair of the Board of Directors, Karen Dickinson, requested funding in the amount of \$3,500 to assist with employment expenses for one person to staff the Visitor Information Centre at the Fundy Geological Museum.  
The Committee recommends that this request be referred to the 2008/2009 budget.
- d) **Temporary Borrowing Resolution** – The Clerk presented a Temporary Borrowing Resolution in the amount of \$21,750 to do with the Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority's Leachate/Septage Facility. This is a capital expense to Joint Services that requires the approval of all five municipal units for their portion of the project. The Clerk explained that there is no direct cost to the municipalities and that the project is funded through CJSMA's operating budget and tipping fees.
- e) **Lions Club** – Correspondence from Frank Hartman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Lions Club advised that the Lions Club "Walk for Dog Guides" is scheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. He outlined plans for the event and expressed the hope that they would meet with Council's approval.  
After a discussion the Committee agreed that they had no objection to the event taking place as planned.
- f) **UNSM RE: 12-Month Notice Letter** – For information a letter was presented from the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities addressed to UNSM President, Robert Wrye from the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations giving 12 months notice prior to introducing legislation to do with the establishment of a Municipal Auditor General and the Inspection of Tourist Facilities. The UNSM board reviewed the letter at their May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting and will offer comments to the membership in due course.
- g) **Cumberland County Exhibition** – A letter from Erin Emmerson, CCE Board Secretary/Treasurer requests the Town to consider making a financial contribution to this year's Cumberland County Exhibition.  
The Committee recommended that this request be referred to the budget for consideration.

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

**(10.2) Public Works** – Report given by Councillor Lyle Yorke:

## PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 2008

- (a) **Superintendent's Report** – John Henwood reported the following activity in the Works Department:
- 6 or 7 water services on Pier Road were transferred from an old 4" water line to a newer 6" line. The 4" line was shut off and dug up.
  - The water line to the beaches has been turned on and with a few repairs is functioning properly.
  - Water has been turned on for a number of seasonal residents.
  - The benches, garbage barrels/baskets and picnic tables have been repaired, repainted and most of them put back out.
  - The sidewalk machine swept the sidewalks, intersections, Main Street, Town Hall parking lot and ends of paved driveways.
  - The ball fields were put back in shape for the coming season.
  - Assistance was given at Glooscap Park to restore water service and upgrade some camp sites.
  - Planed asphalt was put on Ocean View Drive and the gravel roads were graded.
  - Repairs have been made to the sidewalk, signs and tree grate caused by a vehicle accident on Main Street.

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

- (10.3) **Planning, Development and Housing** – Report given by Deputy Mayor Lois Smith:

### PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

May 2008

- (a) **Building Inspector's Report** – The Building Inspector reported the following activity for the months of January to April 2008:

	<u>No. of Permits</u>	<u>Value</u>
New Construction, Alterations, Additions (Residential)	1	\$10,000
New Construction, Alterations, Additions (Commercial)	2	\$149,000
Garages & Sheds (Residential)	1	\$ 300
Garages & Sheds (Commercial)	1	\$ 6,000
Development	1	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$165,300</b>

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

**(10.4) Protective Services – Report given by Deputy Mayor Lois Smith:**

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT**

**MAY 2008**

**(a) Fire Department Re: Roof** – The Committee was advised that the replacement of the fire hall roof has been completed by the contractor, the work has been inspected by the firemen and is to their satisfaction

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

**(10.5) Recreation** – Report given by Councillor Lloyd Smith:

**RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

**MAY 2008**

**(a) Summer Recreation Program** – The Committee was advised that only three of the five summer student positions applied for through the Canada Summer Jobs 2008 program had been approved and that there could be problems delivering the summer recreation program. The Committee is currently in the process of reviewing its options to provide the service.

Councillor Smith noted that the options have been clarified and the two extra positions will be shared between the Town of Parrsboro and the County of Cumberland to provide the same level of summer programs as in the past.

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

**(10.6) Economic Development** – Report given by Deputy Mayor Lois Smith:

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**MAY 2008**

**(a) Projects** – The Economic Development Committee submitted three projects for consideration: (1) Main Street trees, (2) banners/flags and (3) signage.

After reviewing the projects and a discussion it was recommended that the tree project be approved to proceed; that the banners/flags project be referred back to the Committee due to the cost and that component (d) of the signage project which is a distance sign at the Blue Sac Road be done if the Department of Transportation will not do it. It was also recommended that DOT be requested to repair the current distance sign in Bass River.

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Lois Smith, seconded by Councillor Lyle Yorke that the Economic Development Committee report and recommendations contained therein be accepted. Motion carried.**

**11. CORRESPONDENCE**

**a) Proclamation of Child Care Awareness Days** – Mayor Robinson read the following proclamation declaring the month of June Child Care Awareness Days.

Quality childcare is an investment in our present and in our future. By providing strong, stable relationships and safe and stimulating environments to our children today, parents are productive and children can grow into successful and responsible adults.

Therefore our municipality proclaims the month of June 2008 as **Child Care Awareness Days**. I urge all citizens to support quality childcare in our community.

*Invest in our future – support quality childcare!*

In witness thereof, I have unto set my hand and caused the seal of our municipality to be affixed.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**