

COUNCIL

MARCH 24, 2009

#09-03

The Parrisboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 24th, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Doug Robinson presiding.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor David Harrison
Councillor David Howe
Councillor Dawn Reid
Councillor Lois Smith
A.D. Brown, C.A.O.
Dylan Heide, Municipal Intern
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 Dawn Reid, seconded by Councillor David Howe that the Agenda be approved as circulated. **Motion carried.**

3. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

No report.

4. PRESENTATION: PAUL HILL

Mr. Hill sent his regrets that he would not be able to attend.

5. APPROVAL OF CHEQUE SHEET

Moved by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor David Harrison that the General Cheque Sheet in the amount of \$113,081.74 be approved as presented. **Motion**

carried.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Robinson asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the minutes of February 24, 2009 (#09-02). Hearing none he declared the minutes approved as presented.

7. FIRST READING OF SEWER CONNECTION BYLAW AND SEWER DISCHARGE BYLAW

Deputy Mayor David Harrison moved the first reading of the Sewer Connection Bylaw and the Sewer Discharge Bylaw. The motion was seconded by Councillor David Howe. Motion carried.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(8.1) Finance - Report given by Deputy Mayor David Harrison.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2009

(a) Music Festival - The Committee was updated regarding the Classical Music Festival that will be taking place June 26 - 28th at various venues around town. A tentative budget was presented with a request that the Town contribute \$1,000 towards their goal of raising \$2,500 for advertising to launch the first year of the festival which the province will match.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that the request be approved with the funds coming out of the 2009/2010 budget.

(b) Bottled Water - A resolution from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities National Board of Director's meeting regarding bottle water was read (copy attached). Basically the resolution urges all municipalities to phase out the sale and purchase of bottled water at their own

facilities where appropriate and where potable water is available and that municipalities be urged to develop awareness campaigns about the positive benefits and quality of municipal water supplies.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that FCM's resolution regarding bottled water be accepted.

(c) Temporary Borrowing Resolution - The Committee was advised that the Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority needs to borrow for a new leachate facility and that the approval of participating units is required for their portion which in the Town of Parrsboro's case is \$21,750.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that a Temporary Borrowing Resolution in the amount of \$21,750 for the CJSMA Leachate/Septage Facility be approved.

(d) Joint Meeting with CREDA - The Cumberland Regional Economic Development Association has requested a joint meeting on April 16th with all Cumberland municipalities for presentation of their 2009/2010 Business Plan.

After a discussion the Committee agreed to this date and time for the meeting.

(e) Account Write-Off - The C.A.O. presented a couple of small outstanding accounts which cannot be collected, one in the name of Diane Campbell in the amount of \$297.85 and the other in the name of 4U Meats in the amount of \$64.53. He recommended that these accounts be written-off to get them off the Town's books.

After a discussion the Committee agreed with the C.A.O.' recommendation to write-off these accounts.

(f) Tax Exemptions - The Committee was presented with a list of the five qualified applicants

for the 2009 Property Tax Exemption.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that the tax exemption be granted to all five applicants.

Moved by Deputy Mayor David Harrison, seconded by Councillor Dawn Reid that the Finance Committee report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.

Councillor Howe noted that item (a) regarding the music festival should have included that the festival will repay the \$1,000 to the Town if sufficient funds are generated from the event.

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

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

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2009

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

- a couple of major snow storms and lighter snow falls required snow plowing, sanding and salting of streets and sidewalks. Between storms the crew hauled snow banks away from various locations to lessen the impact of water melting, crossing streets and refreezing. Some sidewalks had to be sanded and salted daily as a result of snow melting during the day and freezing at night.
- cold patching of pot holes was steady during this period
- gravel roads were fixed up as weather conditions would allow
- gates at the Aboiteau were opened when there were heavy rains and melting snow which controlled flooding in the area

- there were no reports of flooded basements during the heavy rains indicating that the ditches were able to handle the water
- routine maintenance of vehicles and equipment
- at the well site work has begun on the water project

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

(8.3) Police Advisory - Report given by Councillor Dawn Reid.

POLICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2009

(a) RCMP Report - Following are highlights from Cpl. John James' report submitted to the PAC for the months of November, December, January and February:

Over the past four months the Parrsboro Office responded to approximately 290 calls for service. The statistics tend to show a declining crime rate for the Parrsboro area. Although statistics can be misleading, I am confident that Parrsboro and the surrounding area continue to be a very safe place to live.

In January Cst. Roswell successfully completed his six month Recruit Field Training. Jonathon continues to develop his skills and is progressing very well.

Cst. Munroe arrived in late August and is settling in very well. Dennis has taken on referee duties at the local rink which has proven to be an excellent way to have positive contact with the youth and the community.

Cst. Davidson has accepted a transfer to St. George, New Brunswick after serving four years in Parrsboro. Cst. Davidson has serviced this community well over the last four years.

At our last meeting the topic of speeding vehicles was raised as a community concern. In response, I felt that a structured traffic safety campaign may be a way of addressing this issue. My approach would be to educate the public and raise awareness of the larger safety issues.

Enforcement would play a role but public safety through greater police visibility would be the primary objective. Areas of the Motor Vehicle Act to be monitored include: stop signs, school zones, speeding and seatbelts.

The grade five students from Parrsboro Elementary created some beautiful traffic safety awareness posters which were placed in local businesses around town. The students did an excellent job and enhanced the concept that traffic safety is a community responsibility. I also recorded five public service announcements at the local radio station. The members received many positive comments about the project from the public at local check points and while they were conducting their duties. The traffic survey and accident statistics indicate that overall our community is driving safely.

It is with some regret that I am announcing to the Board my upcoming transfer to a job in Headquarters. Leah, Alex and I have very much enjoyed our time here and will miss the people. From our first day we felt welcomed and have been happy to call Parrsboro home. I have greatly appreciated the support of the board and the individual members in their own capacities.

(b) Town Hall Meeting - There will be a "Town Hall" meeting on March 26th, 2009 at the Parrsboro High School on the second floor in the library. An information session will start at 7:00 p.m. on identity theft with Paul Calder followed by the Town Hall meeting which will include discussions on a crime prevention association and any concerns or issues that the public would like to discuss.

(c) Speed Zone - The Council will be sending a letter to the Province asking permission to set a speed limit less than 50 km in the school zone.

Moved by Councillor Dawn Reid, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the Police Advisory Committee report be accepted.

Mayor Robinson noted that he had written a letter of recommendation for Cpl. James to S/Sgt. Frank Kingston. He also noted the understanding that the letter regarding speed zones had

not yet been submitted to the Province but that it will be acted upon.

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

(8.4) Sustainable Tourism - Report given by Councillor David Howe.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2009

(a) Report - David Howe addressed the Committee on a number of topics relating to the Sustainable Tourism Committee: Communities in Bloom which will be pursued through a subcommittee; Heritage Walking Tours working with the Historical Society through a subcommittee; and the implementation of sections from the Towards a Sustainable Parrsboro report with the focus on 5 projects for the time being, addressed through subcommittees. The most immediate of these projects will be a town-wide "Earth Day" clean-up on May 23rd which Councillor Reid is coordinating. It will combine a community clean-up with a barbeque and information session on "green living" and perhaps other recreational activities.

Moved by Councillor David Howe, seconded by Deputy Mayor David Harrison that the Sustainable Tourism Committee report be accepted.

Councillor Howe added the following projects that were not included in the report: town signage, improvements to the web site and banners.

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

(8.5) Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority - Report given by Councillor Dawn Reid.

CUMBERLAND JOINT SERVICES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY REPORT

MARCH 2009

(a) **Presentation Stephen Rayworth CJSMA** - Stephen Rayworth, Solid Waste Manager, made a presentation on the pros and cons of choosing clear bags for garbage. There was a substantial discussion on the steps Council would need to take to implement clear bags as well as coordination of collection standards and bylaws between the various municipalities in Cumberland County. Mr. Rayworth suggested that the implementation of clear bags be delayed pending a CJSMA study that will look at the issue on a coordinated, county wide basis.

After a discussion it was agreed that Mr. Rayworth's recommendation be accepted and that the implementation of clear bags for garbage in Parrsboro be delayed for the time being.

Moved by Councillor Dawn Reid, seconded by Councillor David Howe that the CJSMA report and recommendations contained therein be accepted. Motion carried.

(8.6) **Recreation** - Report given by Councillor Dawn Reid.

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2009

(a) **Volunteer Awards** - The Recreation Committee has reviewed the nominations submitted for volunteer awards and have selected Ken Snowdon as 2009 Representative Volunteer for the Town of Parrsboro. Mr. Snowdon was nominated by the Parrsborough Shore Historical Society and will represent Parrsboro at the Provincial Volunteer Awards ceremony in Halifax in April. Martina Yorke was selected as Youth Volunteer and the Perry/McCully family were chosen as Volunteer Family. Martina and the Perry/McCully family's nominations have been forwarded to Recreation Nova Scotia to be considered for Provincial recognition as well. All those who were nominated will be invited to the Council meeting in May to be recognized for their volunteer efforts.

(b) **Recreation Coordinator's Report** - Marc presented results he has compiled to date from responses to the recreation survey distributed to residents. He felt that the number of surveys that were returned was not sufficient to do a final report and he recommended that consideration be given to resubmitting the surveys with the water bills that will be sent out in April. The Committee felt that this would be a good way to redistribute the surveys and would encourage the public to fill them out and return them.

The Recreation Committee has also been recruiting new members and would recommend at this time that Ron Forbes, Darren Ferdinand and Travis Anderson be appointed to the committee.

Moved by Councillor Dawn Reid, seconded by Deputy Mayor David Harrison that the Recreation Committee report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.

Motion carried.

Mayor Robinson noted the understanding that Ken Snowdon would not be able to attend the Volunteer ceremonies in Halifax in April. The Mayor indicated that he would email Mr. Snowdon to find out if he would like someone to go in his stead.

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

9. EARTH HOUR

The Mayor presented a Members' Advisory from the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities encouraging all municipalities to join with communities in 70 countries in observance of Earth Hour on March 28, 2009 by flicking off their lights from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. in support for action on climate change.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) **Cumberland Health Care Foundation** - An invitation to the Mayor and Council from the Board of Directors to join in their 11th annual foundation dinner to be held on Saturday, April 25, 2009 at the Amherst Regional High School. The C.A.O. reviewed the details for those interested in attending.

(b) **Dylan Heide** - The C.A.O. noted that this was the final Council meeting that Dylan Heide would be attending as Municipal Intern. He advised that Dylan had been with the Town for a little over a year and that he came to us through a cost shared program through Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, a program designed for university graduates thinking about a potential career in municipal government who need some practical experience. The C.A.O. indicated that during his time at the Town Office Dylan had access to a raft of information and experience and he has done an extremely exceptional job in a number of areas including the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan for which Parrsboro was the first municipality in Nova Scotia to have it completed and which is being used by the Province as a model for other municipalities to follow. Other projects that Dylan was involved in are the draft EMO plan and the Energy Audit, among others. The C.A.O. recognized Dylan for his service with the Town and noted that from a staffing point of view his work was greatly appreciated.

On behalf of Council, Mayor Robinson also thanked Dylan noting that personally he is aware of how much effort he put into his job and the various committees to which he contributed.

Dylan indicated that it had been a pleasure working with and getting to know everyone.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Councillor Lois Smith the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.