

COUNCIL
MAY 26, 2009
#09-05

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Deputy Mayor David Harrison presiding.

PRESENT: Councillor David Howe
Councillor Dawn Reid
Councillor Lois Smith
Ray Hickey, C.A.O.
Kevin Yorke, Secretary

REGRETS: Mayor Doug Robinson

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Harrison called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Councillor Dawn Reid that the Agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

3. PRESENTATION OF VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Deputy Mayor Harrison presented Volunteer Certificates from the Town of Parrsboro and the Honourable Murray Scott to the following recipients:

Ken Snowdon – Ken was nominated by the Parrsborough Shore Historical Society and was selected as Parrsboro's Volunteer of the Year. Ken was unable to represent the Town at the Provincial Volunteer Award ceremonies in April as he was out of the country, therefore, the Deputy Mayor took the opportunity to present him with the plaque from the Province as well.

Martina Yorke – Martina was nominated by the South Cumberland Community Care Centre and was selected as 2009 Youth Volunteer for the Town of Parrsboro.

The Perry/McCully Family – Alfreda Perry, Anne McCully and Margo McCully were nominated and selected as Parrsboro's 2009 Volunteer Family of the Year for their volunteer work with various organizations and church groups.

Brenda Welton and Ross Robinson were also recognized for their volunteer efforts this year being nominated by South Cumberland Adult Day Care and Parrsboro Radio Society respectively.

The Deputy Mayor congratulated the volunteers and thanked them for their exemplary volunteer service to the community.

4. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

There was no report.

5. APPROVAL OF CHEQUE SHEET

Moved by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Councillor Dawn Reid that the General Cheque Sheet in the amount of \$139,177.70 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Deputy Mayor Harrison asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Council minutes of April 28, 2009 (#09-04). Hearing none the minutes were declared approved as circulated.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance – Report given by Councillor Lois Smith:

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 2009

a) Conrad Byers RE: Parrsboro Citizens Band - Conrad Byers representing the Band Association met with the Committee to update them on the Culture and Wellness Centre project and to request Council to consider some form of tax relief on the Band Hall building.

Mr. Byers was asked to submit a written request on behalf of the Band Association which the Committee would consider at budget time.

b) Todd Benson - Cumberland County Tobacco Reduction Coordinator - Mr. Benson met with the Committee to talk about the Tobacco Control Strategy for the Province of Nova Scotia and to encourage Council to show leadership in maintaining the health of its citizens by considering a smoke free outdoor spaces policy for public areas in the Town.

In the discussion the Committee was generally receptive to the idea and referred the matter to the Recreation Committee for a recommendation.

c) **New Web Site** - The Committee was advised that the new Town of Parrsboro web site is now up and running. The web site was developed under contract with the Association of Municipal Administrators by Municipal Website Coordinator Les Coleman with Jeff Hanshaw of Custom Page Media and Consulting providing training and technical support to town staff. Photographer Lawrence R. Nicoll provided the photos that are incorporated into the web site's design. Everyone is encouraged to visit the new site at

www.town.parrsboro.ns.ca

d) **Financial Reporting** - Councillor Howe indicated that he would like to see financial reports on a monthly basis and the Committee agreed that more frequent financial information would be helpful. The C.A.O. noted the Committee's concerns and advised that he would check to see what type of financial reporting would satisfy their needs.

e) **Property Assessments** - Councillor Howe noted a concern that there are inequities in assessments in Parrsboro and he presented the idea of having Property Valuation Services do a complete re-assessment of properties in the town.

After a discussion the C.A.O. advised that he would contact the Assessment Office to get the details and implications of a complete re-assessment.

f) **DARE** - The Mayor and Council received an invitation to the D.A.R.E. Graduation Ceremony on Thursday, May 21st, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Parrsboro Regional Elementary School Gymnasium.

Moved by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Councillor Dawn Reid that the Finance Committee Report and recommendations contained therein be accepted. Motion carried.

B. Public Works – Report given by Councillor Lois Smith:

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 2009

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

- ditches have been cleaned
- the Town Hall property and ball fields have been mowed
- property damage resulting from snow plowing has been repaired
- water service has been restored to cottages at First and Second Beaches
- gravel roads have been graveled and graded
- four days were spent at Glooscap Park repairing camp sites and roads and hauling away brush
- picnic tables, benches and garbage cans repaired and repainted over the winter months are being put back out at the Town Hall, on Main Street and at the beaches
- the dinosaur lights have been refurbished and are ready to be re-installed

b) **Grading Road Near Partridge Island** - Councillor Reid noted a concern from the Sustainable Tourism Committee about the condition of the road across the sandbar at Partridge Island. In the discussion it was pointed out that this road is not a Town responsibility and that the area in question is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources. Councillor Reid advised she would contact DNR about it.

c) **Garbage Collection** - It was brought to the Committee's attention that Larry Stronge who has a license to remove and collect garbage in the Town of Parrsboro has not been conforming to regulations in the Solid Waste Bylaw with regard to the collection of organics. After a discussion the C.A.O. advised that he would contact Mr. Stronge to

remind him that as part of his contract he is required to collect organics and take them to the Little Forks Landfill.

d) **Litter on Western Avenue** - The Chair noted complaints from a resident about litter in the ditches on Western Avenue. Councillor Reid advised that she was aware of these complaints and has assigned a crew to clean up the ditches on Western Avenue during the Earth Day Clean-up on May 23rd.

e) **Cross Walks** - Councillor Reid noted a concern from a resident that the cross walks and parking stalls need to be painted with a recommendation that the work be undertaken prior to the tourist season. In the discussion the Superintendent noted that paint has been ordered and that work would proceed when it arrives from the supplier.

Moved by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Councillor David Howe that the Public Works Committee Report and recommendations contained therein be accepted. Motion carried.

C. **Protective Services** – Report given by Councillor David Howe:

PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 2009

a) **Emergency Measures** – Councillor Howe noted a concern that the Town of Parrsboro does not have an emergency measures response plan and that while a volunteer has been asked to take on this task the time may be appropriate to make emergency measures a priority especially with global threats such as the H1N1 flu virus. After a discussion the C.A.O. was asked to contact Jim Hannon of Cumberland Emergency Measures to arrange a meeting with Council at the next Committee-of-the-Whole to discuss the possibility of Parrsboro becoming involved in emergency measures on a regional basis.

Moved by Councillor David Howe, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the Protective Services Committee Report and recommendations contained therein be accepted. Motion carried.

D. **Recreation** – Report given by Councillor Dawn Reid:

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 2009

a) **Bleachers at DYM** - The Recreation Director informed the Committee that the bleachers at the Don Yorke Memorial Ball Field were in a state of disrepair and should be replaced. He reported on prices for new bleachers and possible sources of funding to help defray the cost. In the discussion the Committee agreed that due to safety concerns this is a matter of some urgency and recommended that the bleachers be replaced prior to the Don Yorke Memorial Soft Ball Tournament. The C.A.O. was asked to check further into funding opportunities and proceed with the project as soon as possible.

b) **Jurassic Park** - The Committee was advised that the Minor Ball Association is interested in undertaking a couple of projects at the Jurassic Park Ball Field for which they would require the approval of the Town. The first is the installation of two signs that would include the names of major sponsors and second a general upgrade and repair of the field. The Ball Association has indicated that they are not seeking any financial assistance from the Town, only the permission to do the work. In the discussion the Committee agreed that these projects would greatly enhance the ball field and recommend that the Council grant the approval requested.

Moved by Councillor Dawn Reid, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the Recreation Committee Report and recommendations contained therein be accepted. Motion carried.

E. Planning, Development and Housing – Report given by Councillor Lois Smith:
**PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT
MAY 2009**

a) Building Inspector's Report - Following is a summary of the activity in the Building Inspector's Office for the month of April 2009:

| | <u>No. of Permits</u> | <u>Value</u> |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------|
| New construction, alterations, additions (Residential) | 3 | \$83,500 |
| Accessory buildings (Residential) | 2 | \$ 3,500 |
| Development | 1 | \$ 4,000 |
| Total | 6 | \$91,000 |

Moved by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Councillor David Howe that the Planning, Development and Housing Committee Report be accepted. Motion carried.

8. **RESOLUTION RE: CANADA-NOVA SCOTIA BUILDING CANADA FUND**

The C.A.O. noted that the Town had received a letter from the Government of Nova Scotia regarding the Build Canada Fund in response to an application that was submitted for assistance in paving streets in Parrsboro. The Nova Scotia Government has given a positive response advising that they can provide a contribution of up to 2/3 of a \$1 million paving project. The next step in the process is for the Council to make a resolution stating that this is the priority of the Town of Parrsboro under the Build Canada Fund. With that resolution the project can proceed to the next step in terms of determining the funding.

Moved by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Councillor David Howe that the paving of streets is the priority of the Town Council under the Build Canada Fund. Motion carried.

9. **PROCLAMATION RE: NATIONAL HUNGER AWARENESS DAY**

Deputy Mayor Harrison read a letter from Diane Swinemar, Executive Director of Feed Nova Scotia asking the Town of Parrsboro to proclaim June 2nd, 2009 as National Hunger Awareness Day after which he read the following proclamation:

NATIONAL HUNGER AWARENESS DAY

Proclamation

WHEREAS addressing the food security needs of children, youth and families today is fundamental to the future of the Town of Parrsboro;

WHEREAS the need for comprehensive, coordinated emergency food programs place upon our community a critical responsibility;

WHEREAS it is appropriate that a day should be set apart each year for the direction of our thoughts towards the health and well-being of hungry Canadians;

WHEREAS FEED NOVA SCOTIA, through its unique approach to providing emergency food supplies, is effectively caring for the needs of hungry children, youth and families in our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I David Harrison, do hereby proclaim June 2nd, 2009 to be National Hunger Awareness Day in the Town of Parrsboro and urge our citizens and all agencies and organizations interested in meeting the needs of hungry people to unite on that day in the observance of such exercises as will acquaint the people of Parrsboro with the fundamental necessity to support the work of food banks in meeting the food security needs of hungry children and youth and families.

10. PROCLAMATION RE: CHILD CARE AWARENESS DAYS

Deputy Mayor Harrison read a letter from Elaine Ferguson, Executive Director of Child Care Connections Nova Scotia requesting the Town to proclaim the month of June 2009 Child Care Awareness Days after which he read the following proclamation:

CHILD CARE AWARENESS DAYS

Proclamation

WHEREAS quality childcare is an investment in our present and in our future; and
WHEREAS 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 BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Parrsboro 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 hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of our municipality to be affixed.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

The C.A.O. advised that there was no correspondence to present.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Councillor Lois Smith the meeting adjourned.