

COUNCIL

OCTOBER 27, 2009

#09-11

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Acting Mayor David Harrison presiding.

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

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Mayor David Harrison welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order. Before proceeding with the agenda he asked everyone to observe a moment of silence for the passing of former Mayor Doug Robinson.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councillor Lois Smith asked to add New Liaison Committee for Tidal Power to the agenda as item (7.6) under Committee Reports.

Moved by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Councillor Dawn Reid that the agenda be approved with the above noted addition. Motion carried.

3. **FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

No report.

4. **APPROVAL OF CHEQUE SHEET**

Moved by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Councillor Dawn Reid that the General Cheque Sheet in the amount of \$217,271.02 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Deputy Mayor David Harrison asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Council minutes of September 22, 2009 (#09-08). Hearing none he declared the minutes approved as presented.

The Deputy Mayor asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Special Council minutes of September 28, 2009 (#09-09) the purpose of

which was to set the date for the byelection and advance polls. Hearing none the minutes were declared approved as presented.

The Deputy Mayor asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Special Council minutes of October 20, 2009 (#09-10) the purpose of which was to appoint the C.A.O. as Returning Officer and to approve the 2009 Provincial list of electors as the list of electors to be used for the December 5, 2009 byelection. Hearing none he declared the minutes approved as presented.

6. **1ST READING OF AMENDMENT TO THE TAX EXEMPTION BYLAW RE: PARRSBORO CITIZENS BAND HALL**

Councillor Dawn Reid moved and Councillor Lois Smith seconded the First Reading of the Amendment to the Tax Exemption Bylaw RE: Parrsboro Citizens Band Hall. Motion carried.

It was noted that the public meeting and second reading of the bylaw would take place at the next regular Council meeting for which there would be advertising in advance.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(7.1) **Finance** – Report given by Councillor Lois Smith:

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
OCTOBER 2009**

(1) **Request for Property** – A letter was received from Carolyn Henwood who wishes to construct a house on Pinkey Creek Road. She requested the Council to consider selling an adjacent parcel of land owned by the Town which she needs to increase the size of her property for the installation of a septic system. The C.A.O. reported on his investigations into the matter and advised that the parcel of land in question has no value to the Town and that he would recommend that the request be approved. However, he expressed the opinion that only that portion of the property required for the septic system should be sold and that the residual land be held by the Town in case any other property owners may need additional land for similar reasons in the future.

After a discussion the Committee accepted the C.A.O.'s recommendation pending his consultation with the Town's Planner.

(2) **Old Post Office Entry** – Dan Wroblewski, owner of the old post office, has requested permission to alter the Town's sidewalk on Main Street to allow another means of access to his property.

After the C.A.O. reviewed Mr. Wroblewski's plans a discussion was held resulting in the recommendation to permit the sidewalk to be altered providing the property owner covers the expense.

- (3) **Payment to Mary Lou O'Brien** – The Committee was advised that Mary Lou O'Brien, a property owner on Pier Road, has requested reimbursement of money she had spent to replace the water line on her property to correct a problem with low water pressure.
In the discussion the Committee agreed that because Ms. O'Brien was advised to do work that may have been unnecessary at the time, the Town could cover the labour costs.
- (4) **Property Re-Assessment** – The Committee was given a verbal report on the meeting between town officials and a representative from Property Valuation Services regarding the implications of a re-assessment of all properties in the Town of Parrsboro.
After a discussion the Committee agreed that where there are inconsistencies in assessments in the town and the fact that long time property owners will be protected under the assessment cap system, the C.A.O. should proceed to arrange for a complete re-assessment to be undertaken.
- (5) **Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection** – Correspondence from Duff Montgomerie, Deputy Minister of Nova Scotia Health and Promotion advised that the request for the Town of Parrsboro to participate in the Municipal Physical Activity Leadership Program has been approved and that the department is prepared to partner with the Town of Parrsboro for five years to provide staffing to implement the strategy with a contribution from HPP of up to \$20,000 each year.
The Committee would like to gratefully acknowledge the support of the Department of Health Promotion and Protection and Jim Campbell, Fundy Regional Representative in our endeavor to provide a quality physical activity program for the citizens of Parrsboro.

**Moved by Councillor Lois Smith, seconded by Councillor David Howe that the Finance Committee report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.
Motion carried.**

- (7.2) **Public Works** – Report given by Councillor Lois Smith:

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT
OCTOBER 2009**

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- (1) **Guard Rail on Whitehall Road** – Councillor Howe noted a concern from a resident regarding the need for a guardrail on the seaward side of the Whitehall Road in the vicinity of the Philadelphia Avenue intersection.
After a discussion the Committee agreed that the C.A.O. and Superintendent of Public Works look at the area and bring a recommendation back to Council.
- (2) **Request for Culvert** – The C.A.O. noted a request from Cindy Yorke of 183 Beaverdam Road for the Town to explore the idea of putting a culvert across the street from her property to the ditch on the other side to help alleviate a flooding problem. Ms. Yorke felt that this would be an appropriate time to do the work as the Beaverdam Road is on the list of streets to be repaved this fall.

After a discussion the Committee asked that the matter be referred to the Superintendent of Public Works for his review and recommendation.

- (3) **Request for Street Light** – Councillor Smith noted a request for a street light from a resident at 452 Beaverdam Road.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that this request be referred to staff for review and recommendation.

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

- (7.3) **Protective Services** – Report given by Councillor David Howe:

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT
OCTOBER 2009**

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- (1) **EMO** – A concern was expressed that an Emergency Management Plan for the Town of Parrsboro should be put on the fast track especially with the potential for an H1N1 flu pandemic.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that a meeting be arranged with representatives from the Provincial EMO and Cumberland Regional EMO to explore our options.

- (2) **Crosswalk Safety** – A concern from a citizen was noted regarding crosswalk safety, specifically that cars are not stopping until pedestrians are half way across the street. After a discussion it was recommended that the matter be referred to the Police Advisory Committee.

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

- (7.4) **Recreation** – Report given by Councillor Dawn Reid:

**RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT
OCTOBER 2009**

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- (1) **Don Yorke Memorial Ball Field** – The Committee revisited the requests for a street light and relocation of the sign at the Don Yorke Memorial Ball Field so that the hill overlooking the field can be used for winter activities.

After a discussion the Committee recommended approval of the street light and sign relocation and it was also suggested that the parking area be cleared of snow during the winter months.

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

(7.5) **Sustainable Tourism** - Report given by Councillor David Howe:

**SUSTAINABLE TOURISM COMMITTEE REPORT
OCTOBER 2009**

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- (1) **Decorative Lights** – The Sustainable Tourism Committee is concerned that lighting used on the Christmas and dinosaur decorations is outdated and should be replaced with a more reliable system such as LED lights.
After a discussion it was recommended that the C.A.O. check into the feasibility of replacement LED lights.
- (2) **Communities in Bloom** – The Committee was advised that the winner of Communities in Bloom in Nova Scotia will be announced during the TIANS conference taking place November 30th to December 2nd. The Committee feels that it would be appropriate to send representatives from the Town to the conference where Parrsboro had participated in the Communities in Bloom competition this year.
After a discussion it was recommended that Community Development Officer Mary McPhee and Councillor Dawn Reid attend the TIANS conference to represent the Town.
- (3) **Sculpture** – The Committee has obtained several estimates for sculpting the elm tree trunk on the civic grounds, all of which are \$3,000 or more and has not yet decided on a subject for the sculpture.
After a discussion it was recommended that a decision on what to do with the tree trunk be held over until the spring. In the meantime the Public Works crew will paint the trunk to preserve it.
- (4) **Web Cam** – The Committee has been advised that CREDA will cover the \$1,000 cost of replacing the stolen web cam at the wharf, however, will not cover the \$1,500 that the owner will require if the replacement camera is stolen or destroyed.
Councillor Smith noted that the Harbour Commission is prepared to help but she would not know the dollar amount until after the next meeting.
After a discussion the Committee recommended cost sharing with the Harbour Commission on this item subject to the Town being supplied with a reasonable plan to protect the camera.

Councillor Howe added two items to his report: First he noted that since the meeting he found out that we were not successful in our application for the Community Arts and Culture Recognition Award. Councillor Howe also noted that in discussions with Bernie Murphy he was advised that CREDA will finance half of the cost of sending both Councillor Reid and Mary McPhee to the TIANS conference if the Town will finance the other half. He noted the opinion that the Town should accept this offer and that he would like to make it a recommendation in his report.

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

Councillor Lois Smith noted that the next meeting of the Harbour Commission is scheduled for November 2nd and that she would see that cost sharing for the web cam is placed on the agenda.

- (7.6) **New Liaison Committee for Tidal Power** – Councillor Lois Smith advised that she, along with some other citizens of Parrsboro, are on a new tidal power committee for which there was a government press release today. She read excerpts from the press release as follows:

“Energy Minister Bill Estabrooks welcomed appointments to two new committees today, Oct. 26, that will help guide the work of the tidal demonstration project in the Minas Passage.

One committee will provide advice around environmental effects monitoring and the second will serve as a liaison between people involved in the project and the surrounding communities.

“Tidal technology can play a role in protecting our environment and sustaining our communities”, said Mr. Estabrooks. “These committees will help ensure that role is open and transparent, right from the start”.

“The role of the committee will be to review the environmental effects monitoring programs and available data and make recommendations for monitoring the environmental effects of tidal power technologies in Minas Passage.”

The Community Liaison committee will link local organizations, community and FORCE participants, providing a forum to discuss tidal project-related issues and share information as the project proceeds. The committee is co-chaired by Lois Smith, Parrsboro municipal councillor, and Joe Kozak, FORCE representative.

“This is about keeping everyone in the conversation,” said Mrs. Smith. “FORCE has international significance, but it’s also a local project and this committee will serve to keep the community actively involved.”

Both committees will have representation from the fishing sector, Mi’kmaq, government, technology developers and FORCE. The environmental monitoring advisory committee will also include members of the academic community. The community liaison committee will include members of the general public.

Councillor Smith noted that the complete press release was in today’s Chronicle Herald and added that the turbine will be placed on a barge and towed from Halifax by tug boats down the south shore around Yarmouth and up the Bay of Fundy which is expected to take five days. She commented that it is a very exciting project that will raise the profile of Parrsboro.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- (8.1) **Classics-By-the-Bay** – The C.A.O. read a letter addressed to the Mayor and Council from Dr. David Howe thanking the Town for the loan of \$1,000. It was noted that although the \$1,000 was not needed for their bottom line it was invaluable in allowing them to buy advertise in advance of the event which was another small piece in their vision to make Parrsboro a place that attracts people interested in the arts.

The C.A.O. noted that the \$1,000 was returned to the Town.

- (8.2) **Messages of Condolence** – The C.A.O. noted messages of condolence regarding the passing of former mayor Doug Robinson from Billy Joe MacLean, Mayor of Port Hawkesbury, Lawrence Mawhinney, Mayor of Lunenburg, Sharon Byers, Chair of the Town Caucus, as well as 24 municipal administrators from around the Province.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Councillor Lois Smith the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.