

## COUNCIL

MAY 25, 2010

#10-06

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Lois Smith presiding.

**PRESENT:** Deputy Mayor David Howe  
Councillor David Harrison  
Councillor Dawn Reid  
Councillor Lisa Ward  
Kevin Yorke, Secretary

**REGRETS:** J. Raymond Hickey, C.A.O.

### 1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

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

### 2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved by Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Ward that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

### 3. **RCMP REPORT**

Colin Curleigh, Chair of the Police Advisory Board introduced Cpl. Janet LeBlanc, commander of the Parrsboro RCMP detachment and noted that at the last Committee-of-the-Whole he had been informed that the Council would like the Corporal to attend the regular Council meetings for a brief update on activity and to address any questions or concerns they may have. Cpl. LeBlanc advised that the Parrsboro detachment is fully staffed with herself as the officer in charge and four constables, Cst. Munroe, Cst. Roswell, Cst. Brown and Cst. Parsons. She noted that the RCMP have been conducting street checks for which statistics must be kept on a monthly basis and answering complaints that included a rash of Break & Enters that have been solved and for which the perpetrators have been charged and will be either going through a diversion process or the courts. All members have been going through training and have met their annual qualifications for firearms. Cpl. LeBlanc noted that with the warmer weather calls are starting to increase as more people are out and about. The Corporal noted that Cpl. Dal Hutchinson is no longer out of the Parrsboro detachment but is the Community Policy Officer primarily based in Amherst and one of his responsibilities is to send out reports on incidents as they arise, press releases and

requests for public assistance. She also advised that S/Sgt. Frank Kingston has retired and they are waiting for a replacement. The Cpl. also spoke about the Annual Performance Plan for the region that all detachments must follow, the Street Crime Unit for Cumberland County dedicated to gathering intelligence focusing on drugs and the Restorative Justice and Adult Diversion programs. Mr. Curleigh added that due to the turn around in membership on the PAC over the past two and a half years five out of the seven members do not have their training, however, this will be rectified at a training session in Amherst on June 5<sup>th</sup>. He also noted that the next meeting of the PAC will be June 24<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Smith extended Council's appreciation for the work Cst. Parsons has done with the Youth Town Council. She noted it was a great association and that the youth enjoyed having him aboard.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Smith asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Council minutes of April 27, 2010 (#10-04) and Special Council minutes of May 11, 2010 (#10-05). Hearing none she declared the minutes approved as circulated.

5. **APPROVAL OF 2010/2011 BUDGET AND TAX RATES**

**Moved by Councillor Harrison, seconded by Councillor Ward that the Town Council approve an Operating Budget for the Town of Parrsboro in the amount of \$1,959,102 for the fiscal year April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011 and that the Residential Tax Rate be set at \$2.04 per \$100 of assessment and that the Commercial Tax Rate be set at \$4.17 per \$100 of assessment. Also, that the taxes be accepted at par until August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and that interest be charged and calculated at a rate of 2% per month on all accounts remaining after August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Motion carried.**

Mayor Smith noted that when a revenue and expense summary is available it will be forwarded in a press release. She also noted that the Town's auditors are currently at the Town Hall preparing the financial statements for 2009/2010 and they will be presented at the June Council meeting.

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) **Finance** – Report given by Deputy Mayor Howe:

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**MAY 2010**

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(a) **Presentation – Nova Scotia Power** – There was a presentation regarding Nova Scotia Power's Low Income Homeowner Program available to those who heat with electricity. Homeowners within specified income levels may qualify for free home

energy upgrades including insulation, water-heater wraps, more efficient lighting and programmable thermostats. All you have to do is visit their web site at [nspower.ca/lih](http://nspower.ca/lih) or call 1-877-434-2136.

The Council agreed to assist NSP to get the word out about the program by putting up a poster in the Town Hall and a link on the Town's web page.

(b) **Meat Truck** – The Committee discussed the Trades and Licensing Bylaw after a complaint was received about a transient vendor who has been setting up on Main Street and selling meat products. Under the current bylaw any person selling products of the farm, the forest or the sea are exempt from licensing fees, however, the Committee agreed that in fairness to established businesses that pay taxes this section of the bylaw should be revisited.

After a discussion the C.A.O. was asked to look into this and report back.

(c) **Tax Sale** – For information the Committee was advised that ownership of the three properties in the O'Mullen estates has been resolved and they have been deleted from the list of properties for tax sale.

(d) **Fish Ladder** – The C.A.O. advised that Council had previously agreed to assist the Parrsboro & Area Fishing Association with replacing the damaged fish ladder at the Aboiteau bridge and that a motion to approve the \$2,500 expenditure was needed so that the project can proceed now that they have a plan in place.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that Council approve the \$2,500 for this project.

(e) **Newsletter** – The Committee reviewed a draft of the first copy of the Town's newsletter which will be distributed to the public on a periodic basis.

After reviewing the newsletter and making a few minor revisions the Committee recommended it for approval.

(f) **Economic Development Committee** – Councillor Harrison requested the appointment of an additional member of Council to the Economic Development Committee who could provide assistance and chair the meetings in his absence.

Deputy Mayor Howe offered to be appointed to the EDC and the Committee agreed.

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Howe, seconded by Councillor Ward that the Finance Committee report and recommendations contained therein be accepted. Motion carried.**

(b) **Public Works** – Report given by Councillor Ward:

## PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 2010

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(a) **Floating Holidays** – In Personnel meetings the staff rep from Public Works has indicated that they would prefer to have a day off in lieu as opposed to overtime or time and a half, particularly as it pertains to on-call duty on holidays. The C.A.O. noted that the Town's Personnel Policy does not allow for this and that a motion of Council would be needed to make the change. He also noted that he supported the change not only because it would address Public Works' request, but it also would save the Town money.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that Town Council approve the amendment to the Personnel Policy to allow for days off in lieu.

(b) **Short Term Staff** – The C.A.O. advised that with two Public Works employees off on temporary sick leave the department will be left short staffed for a period of time and he recommended hiring someone on a casual basis to work with the two summer workers.

After a discussion the Committee recommended advertising for the position.

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

(c) **Planning, Development and Housing** – Report given by Councillor Harrison:

### PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 2010

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(a) **Building Inspector's Report** – Following is a summary of activity in the Building Inspector's Office for the month of April 2010:

	<b><u>No. of Permits</u></b>	<b><u>Value</u></b>
New construction, alterations and additions (Residential)	2	\$29,000
Garages & Sheds	1	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>\$29,000</b>

**Moved by Councillor Harrison, seconded by Councillor Ward that the Planning, Development and Housing Committee report be accepted. Motion carried.**

(d) **Recreation** – Report given by Councillor Reid:

## RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 2010

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(a) **Don Yorke Memorial** – The Don Yorke Memorial Tournament committee will be submitting a new design for the new score board that will replace the old one that was removed for the sledding hill.

(b) **Ball Fields Update** – The field maintenance at Jurassic Park has been completed. The infield was cleaned up and put back down with new material and the centre field was top soiled last fall and seeded this spring. Grass is finally growing after several weeks. A quote for a new backstop has been submitted for approval. It is hoped to have all this work completed prior to the Provincial Softball tournament in Parrsboro being hosted by the high school on June 4-6<sup>th</sup>.

(c) **The “Plan” Update** – Jim Campbell and Robin Norrie were here on Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> to start piecing everything together so there will be strategic and visual similarities with the other municipalities.

(d) **Trails Committee** – The Trails Committee has started looking at locations to begin work on the trails system. There are several members and the meeting will be open to the public to see if there are any other people interested in assisting. We have identified a need to have a member of Council on the committee as well.

(e) **Volleyball Program** – 13 children participated in the volleyball program. It is good to see this level of interest as Parrsboro will be one of 10 pilot sites across the province for a mini volleyball program.

(f) **Skate Park** – The Recreation Coordinator is looking into the feasibility of getting the skate park back up and running at the request of some residents. The Town of Amherst has just approved a new skate park and have kindly provided Marc with their project document with plans.

**Moved by Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Harrison that the Recreation Committee report be accepted. Motion carried.**

Mayor Smith noted that she had received a call earlier in the day from a concerned citizen about the skate park and that she had informed him that a couple of years ago a committee was formed with representatives from Council, parents, Youth Town Council and others to discuss the skate park. At that time a pamphlet was sent out through the Recreation Department asking people what activities they wanted and to her recollection only three responded that they wanted a skate park, therefore, the committee felt that there wasn't enough interest to warrant carrying on with it. Now, according to this gentleman, there is more interest being generated and the Mayor noted that she has asked

to have a meeting set up on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall for interested parents, YTC and anyone in the community that might want to volunteer to work on a new committee for a skate park. This meeting will be advertised and promoted. The Mayor added that the Council of the day felt that it was a lot of money to put into a facility that would only be used by a few people, but now perhaps there is more interest.

(e) **Protective Services** – Report given by Deputy Mayor Howe:

## **PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT**

**MAY 2010**

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(a) **Fire Hall Maintenance** – The Protective Services Committee noted the opinion that it might be appropriate for the Town to assume a larger role in the routine maintenance and cleaning at the fire hall thereby taking the onus off volunteers to do it.

After a discussion it was recommended that the Committee discuss this with the Fire Chief for his thoughts on the matter.

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Howe, seconded by Councillor Ward that the Protective Services Committee report and recommendations contained therein be accepted. Motion carried.**

(f) **Mayor RE: Aboiteau** – Mayor Smith noted that she has had a lot of calls recently about the lack of water in the Aboiteau and that she had pointed out that with not much snow over the winter and very little rain this spring the lakes and rivers are low and there is not much water flowing into the Aboiteau. Compounding that there is the problem of water leaking around the gates when the Aboiteau is full and this is something that Council will have to deal with at the Provincial and Federal levels because there is a cost involved. In the meantime the Aboiteau is being monitored by Public Works and they will do whatever is within their capability to maintain water levels.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) **Invitation to CAP Review** – Mayor Smith noted that Mayors, Wardens, C.A.O.'s, Directors of Finance and Councillors are invited to participate in a CAP assessment review taking place in Amherst on June 18<sup>th</sup> at the Wandlyn. She advised that Ray and Janie will be going and asked anyone else interested to contact Janie so they can be registered. At this point the Mayor and Councillor Ward indicated that they will be attending.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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Mayor

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Secretary

