

COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 23, 2010

#10-12

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 23rd, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Lois Smith presiding.

PRESENT: Councillor David Harrison
Councillor Dawn McCully
Councillor Lisa Ward
J. Raymond Hickey, C.A.O.
Kevin Yorke, Secretary

REGRETS: Deputy Mayor David Howe

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Smith welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Mayor extended a special welcome to the new Recreation Coordinator, Tissy Bolivar, and introduced her to the Council.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Councillor McCully, seconded by Councillor Ward that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

3. **RCMP REPORT**

Cpl. Janet LeBlanc briefed Council on activity since the last meeting. Following are some highlights from her report:

- Assisted with search efforts for missing hunter. The Corporal noted that although the search has been suspended the file remains open and the RCMP will act on any tips or information they receive.
- An impaired driver was apprehended and will be dealt with under the new license suspension regulations.
- Patrols at the schools are ongoing when students are travelling to and from school.
- Cst. Roswell remains on light duty but hopefully will be back on full duty sometime in December.
- Mandatory training is ongoing for such things as the tazer, baton, and computer.
- The detachment entered the Christmas Tree competition at the Fundy Geological Museum where judging will take place on December 2nd.

- Actively pursuing leads in a suspicious fire at the former Berry's Restaurant and another fire at a vacant house in Harrison Settlement. Cpl. LeBlanc noted the cooperation of the Parrsboro Volunteer Fire Department has been much appreciated.

After the report the Corporal answered a few questions. Mayor Smith thanked Cpl. LeBlanc for her report noting that she was pleased to hear her remarks about the Fire Department and that the Council also appreciates the hard work and dedication of our local firefighters.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Smith asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Council minutes of October 26, 2010 (#10-11). Hearing none she declared the minutes approved as presented.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2010

Report given by Councillor Harrison

(a) Presentation – Shawna Easton, CREDA and Penny Henneberry, County Director of Planning, presented an overview of the Wind Energy Development Strategy Plan for Cumberland County which has involved a public consultative process to identify potential areas within Cumberland County for wind turbines for the maximum benefit of this type of renewable energy. They advised that the next steps in the process include finishing the work of the consultant, research into various practices in other areas, review and analysis of survey data and the preparation of mapping and documentation for the next stage of consultation.

After a discussion the Committee thanked the presenters for coming and noted that developing a strategic plan for wind energy is a practical thing to do so that Cumberland County will be ready when opportunities for wind turbine development arise.

(b) Destruction of Documents – The Committee was advised that there are a lot of old documents in storage at the Town Hall and that staff have gone through them to identify what is no longer of any value. The C.A.O. reported that as required by our Destruction of Documents Bylaw he has inspected these documents and is recommending that they be destroyed.

After a discussion the Committee supported the destruction of these documents and felt that it would be appropriate to hire the services of a professional shredding company to do this work.

(c) **Twinning with Town in England** – Deputy Mayor Howe reported that during his recent visit to England officials of a town called Iver in Buckinghamshire, with whom he has a family connection, had suggested that our two towns become twin communities and he asked if the Committee had any interest in this proposal.

After a discussion the Committee agreed that our two communities would benefit from the opportunity to exchange information. Councillor Howe offered to start the ball rolling by writing a letter to the official stating our willingness to enter into such an arrangement.

(d) **Vendor's License Bylaw** – The C.A.O. reported on his research into transient vendor fees and information he had requested from Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations regarding the exemption for vendors of certain products. In previous discussions the Committee felt that the current fee structure in the Trades and Licensing Bylaw based on a yearly charge is unreasonable, especially for students or young people who may operate a small business on Main Street for only two months during the summer. The Committee had also questioned the justification of the exemption for any person selling products of the farm, the forest or the sea.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that the fee structure in the Trades and Licensing Bylaw be amended to a flat charge of \$25.00 per month or \$250.00 for the year. Also, that the exemption for persons selling products of the farm, the forest or the sea be removed from the bylaw.

(e) **Bylaw Officer** – At the last Committee meeting the C.A.O. had suggested that Council may want to look at a new pay scheme for the Town's Bylaw Officer taking into consideration that the services provided by the bylaw officer are not in as much demand lately. He was asked to research the pay schemes of other municipalities in Cumberland County for comparison with our own.

After reviewing this information and a discussion the Committee recommended that the current monthly remuneration of \$300.00 be reduced to \$200.00.

Moved by Councillor Harrison, seconded by Councillor McCully that the Finance Committee Report and recommendations contained therein be approved. Motion carried.

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2010

Report given by Councillor Harrison

(a) **Building Inspector's Report** – The Building Inspector reported the following activity for the month of October 2010:

	<u>No. of Permits</u>	<u>Value</u>
New Construction, Alterations and Additions (Residential)	1	\$20,000
Mini Homes/Mobile Homes	1	\$42,000
Development	1	N/A
Demolition	1	N/A
Total	4	\$62,000

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

TOURISM COMMITTEE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2010

Report given by Councillor McCully

(a) Signs at Long Hill and Unsightly Premises – The Committee was advised that Sustainable Tourism has discussed Roger Brooks’ presentation on September 28th in Joggins detailing his Golden Triangle concept. Mr. Brooks’ main criticism for Parrsboro from a tourism point of view is the state of some properties in the Long Hill area and the negative image they present at the entrance to the town. After discussing the presentation Sustainable Tourism agreed that it would be a good idea to remove the welcome sign at the top of Long Hill and use it as a mural affixed to a building downtown, perhaps the post office, and that the other welcome sign on the highway to Amherst also be removed and affixed to another building in the town. Sustainable Tourism also recommends a letter to the County of Cumberland regarding the unsightly premises.

During the discussion it was pointed out that the welcome signs are the property of the Parrsboro and District Board of Trade and that we must have the consent of that organization to remove and relocate these signs. Councillor McCully advised that she would make all the necessary contacts to ensure that all interested parties are in agreement. With regard to the unsightly premises the Committee supported a letter being sent to the County and the matter being placed on the agenda of the next CAPSO meeting.

Moved by Councillor McCully, seconded by Councillor Harrison that the Tourism Committee Report and recommendations contained therein be accepted. Motion carried.

With regard to a letter regarding the unsightly premises, Mayor Smith noted that she had sent a letter to County Council on February 2nd, 2010 and that she and the C.A.O. will be bringing the issue up again at a CAPSO meeting on December 2nd in Oxford. Mayor Smith also noted having spoken personally with the Warden and County Councillors in our area and that they do realize the problem and that it does affect our tourism.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) **Parrsboro Girl Guides** – The C.A.O. presented a thank you note from the Parrsboro and Area Girl Guides for allowing them to use Glooscap Park for their annual Halloween fundraising event. The organization also asked permission to use the facility again next year.

At this point the Council agreed to approve the request in principal.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Councillor Ward the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Mayor

C.A.O.