

COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 23, 2010

#10-02

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 23, 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
J. Raymond Hickey, C.A.O.
Kevin Yorke, Secretary

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 Deputy Mayor Howe that the agenda be approved with the addition of Fire Chief's Report immediately following Protective Services in the Committee Reports. Motion carried.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Smith asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Council minutes of January 26, 2010 (#10-01).

Deputy Mayor Howe noted the understanding that the person named first under each committee in the list of committees is the chair and following that rule Councillor Harrison's name should appear first under Glooscap Park. This was duly noted by the Secretary.

The Deputy Mayor also asked about the status of a written submission to the Minister of Economic Development requesting the formal establishment of CREDA as the RDA for our area as passed by motion of Council at the last meeting. He was advised that the written submission had been sent under the Mayor's signature.

Hearing no further errors or omissions the Mayor declared the minutes approved as amended.

4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(4.1) **Finance** – Report presented by Deputy Mayor Howe:

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
FEBRUARY 2010**

(a) **Presentation by Kevin Merriam** – Kevin Merriam of the Maritime Lumber Bureau made a presentation to the Committee regarding a program the Lumber Bureau is working on to try to get municipalities involved in incorporating a wood first policy for municipal and government buildings. Emphasis was placed on the environmental aspect of using wood in construction as it is a low carbon alternative to other materials and it encourages forest management. The Council was informed that if they wished at some point to consider a wood first policy the Lumber Bureau would be happy to provide a sample policy for municipalities for them to look at.

(b) **Tax Write-Offs** – The C.A.O. presented two tax accounts that he recommended be written-off as uncollectable, account # 09159738 and #10206529.

After a discussion the Committee agreed with the C.A.O.'s recommendation.

(c) **REMO** – The C.A.O. reported on his preliminary discussions with County C.A.O., Rennie Bugley and Emergency Management Coordinator, Jim Hannon regarding the Town of Parrsboro's interest in joining REMO. He noted that Council will be advised once an official response is received from the County and its partners in REMO.

(d) **CREDA** – Correspondence addressed to the Mayor and Council from CREDA Chair, Gerald Read, requested written confirmation of the Town's annual contribution to CREDA's 2010/2011 core funding calculated to be \$5,250 (an increase over last year) and to the Shared Development Officer position for which the cost remains at \$10,000 for 2010/2011.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that a letter be sent indicating that the Town is committed to pay core funding in the amount of \$5,250 for 2010/2011, however, the funding for the Shared Development Officer as not yet been decided.

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

(4.2) **Planning, Development and Housing** – Report presented by Councillor Harrison:

**PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT
FEBRUARY 2010**

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

	<u>No. of Permits</u>	<u>Value</u>
New Construction, Alterations and Additions (Commercial)	2	\$105,000
Total	2	\$105,000

(b) Matt Brewer RE: Phinney Lane – Matt Brewer presented a road adoption proposal for Phinney Lane to Council giving them a description of the current road, a proposal for sub-division and the reasons why he feels that the Town should adopt the road concluding that it would be a safe investment for the Town as tax revenues would easily outweigh any expenses, short term as well as long term, there would be an opportunity for the Town to implement its Strategic Plan and to take advantage of the Tidal Power initiative.

After the presentation Mr. Brewer was informed that at this point the Council was not in a position to make a decision and would have to do more research on the proposal and consult the Town's engineers for professional advice.

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

(4.3) Protective Services – Report presented by Deputy Mayor Howe:

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT
FEBRUARY 2010**

(a) Fire Chief RE: Rescue Vehicle – Fire Chief Jim Atkinson advised that the fire department is recommending the replacement of the existing rescue truck due to its age and need for expensive repairs. He noted that they had a lead on a used truck that would suit their needs and they have also been investigating the feasibility of either refurbishing the old box and gear or replacing it with new equipment. The Fire Chief estimated that the new rescue vehicle would be in service for another 25 years and asked Council for a commitment to go ahead and negotiate a price for the truck.

In the discussion it was noted that there is a fire services agreement with the County of Cumberland for 50% of capital purchases and that the Town has reserves for the purchase of fire department equipment. The Fire Chief was informed that the Council would get back to him as soon as these two sources of funding are confirmed.

(b) Police Advisory Committee – Councillor Dawn Reid advised that Anne Trottier has stepped down as a member of the Police Advisory Committee and that the Committee is recommending the appointment of Gleneida Canning to replace her. It was noted that Ms. Canning has the necessary training to fill this position.

After a discussion the Committee agreed that Gleneida Canning be appointed to the Policy Advisory Committee.

Referring to item **(a) Fire Department Rescue Vehicle** Deputy Mayor Howe noted the understanding that there had been a meeting with the County and he asked about the outcome. The C.A.O. advised that due to unforeseen circumstances the meeting did not take place and that it would have to be rescheduled. The Deputy Mayor noted the understanding that there is some urgency to negotiating for the truck as there are others interested in buying it and this was confirmed by the Fire Chief. Mayor Smith recommended that she and the C.A.O. contact the County on this particular issue so that the fire department can move forward. This was agreed to by the Council.

Moved by Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Harrison that the Protective Services Committee report and the recommendations contained therein be accepted. Motion carried.

At this point Fire Chief Jim Atkinson presented a yearly report of activity in the Fire Department from October 2008 to October 2009 (copy attached).

Responding to a question from Councillor Ward the Fire Chief advised that the fire fighter who retired after 15 years of service was John Guilderson and that he was presented with a watch at the department's Christmas banquet in recognition of the many years he dedicated to the fire department.

Mayor Smith recommended a congratulatory card from the Town and the Council agreed.

Moved by Councillor Ward, seconded by Councillor Reid that the Fire Chief's report be accepted. Motion carried.

(4.4) Tourism – Report presented by Deputy Mayor Howe:

**TOURISM COMMITTEE REPORT
FEBRUARY 2010**

- 1. Suggestions arising from last year's Communities in Bloom report:**
 - a. Garbage and recycling. To further the concept that the Town is trying to become greener:
 - i. The web site should promote recycling of household waste.
 - ii. The Town Hall itself should sort its garbage. Apparently now it is put in one garbage bag even though it may be sorted into different waste bins.
 - iii. There should be sorting bins on the streets for all three types of garbage. The RRFB may have grants for purchasing same.
 - iv. There should be a program for adopting space for beautification, i.e. an individual or family could adopt a garden or green space on town owned properties to maintain during the summer.
 - v. The Town should organize another clean-up day probably in May.
 - vi. The Town should adopt a policy that chemical pesticides will not be used by public works.
 - b. The Town should do something to discourage idling of cars for more than five minutes. Perhaps a notice on the web site and some street signs.
 - c. The sidewalks should be kept cleaner and weeded more often.
- 2. Tourism Development Investment Grant.** We propose applying for this to help with completely new signs within town and some panels that will explain some of the town's history and heritage. It will cover 50% of eligible costs with the rest to be supplied by the town, although there is money left over from previous years with CREDA that could also be used. Mary McPhee is working on the exact cost.
- 3.** There has been no progress on the printed map for the kiosks or a proposed site for the webcam or the signs on Highway 2.

4. **Flowers** – There is a budget for flowers for Main Street and the Committee proposes that quotes be requested from local suppliers. In the discussion it was agreed that the foregoing suggestions merited further investigation and the Tourism Committee was given the authority to do so and report back to Council.
5. **Classics-by-the-Bay** – Councillor Howe informed the Committee that Classics-by-the-Bay will be organizing another festival this summer and that they would like the Town to consider sponsoring a new program that will introduce children to classical music. The cost of sponsorship is \$1,000. After a discussion Classics-by-the-Bay was advised to submit a letter of request and budget.

Deputy Mayor Howe commented on item **2. Tourism Development Investment Grant** noting that at Committee-of-the-Whole he thought that the Town applied to the Province for the money and then decided whether the Town could match it. However, in actuality the Town should decide what it is going to spend and then ask the Province to match it. He advised that the Tourism Committee would like the Town to commit to \$2,500 toward a total budget of \$9,500. The Deputy Mayor added that CREDA has \$2,500 in cash from previous years and \$500 in-kind for IT support, and in discussions with the C.A.O. the Town could probably put in \$4,000 in-kind which is one-week's work for a crew of 5. He noted that as the amount of in-kind practically equals the amount of cash the Province may not accept all of the in-kind contributions, therefore, there is a need for some cash from the Council. Deputy Mayor Howe advised that he would like to make the request for \$2,500 from the Council a part of his report.

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

(4.5) Recreation – Report presented by Councillor Reid.

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT FEBRUARY 2010

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- (a) Report** – The Parrsboro Recreation Department has held a few snow shoeing activities at Glooscap Campground. There has been a lot of positive feedback regarding the activity. Participants are looking forward to the next activity which will be held at Wards Falls on Saturday, February 20th from 1 – 4 p.m. The ski trip was a huge success. We were not expecting to get many numbers. We put out advertising around town and on the radio and circulated it around the schools. There were 21 participants on the bus and another 10 people who went on their own. We are looking at running the activity again on Friday, February 26th with Council's approval.
- Winter walking has also become a hit. We have between 12-16 walkers each day. We have created a board where walkers can keep track of their laps around the fire hall and they are responding well to it. This program is also double booked with

TOPS, a weight loss program with 21 participants, however, both groups decided they can co-exist as their goals are the same.

The Recreation Committee has lost a few members. Darren Ferdinand, a high school teacher was transferred to Pictou and Ron Forbes and Charlene Smith have both decided to step down. The Elementary School gym teacher has agreed to sit on the committee to take Charlene's place as the school's rep.

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

(4.6) Library – Report presented by Councillor Reid.

**CUMBERLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD REPORT
FEBRUARY 2010**

- (a) Food for Fines** – The Cumberland Regional Library held another successful Food for Fines campaign in December with well over 800 food items going to local community food banks and almost \$1,700 in fines being forgiven.
- (b) Downloadable Audiobooks** – Soon the Cumberland Regional Library will be offering downloadable audiobooks on our website (www.drl.library.ns.ca) giving residents of the County the ability to check out audiobooks from the comfort of their own home.
- (c) Borrow Anywhere/Return Anywhere** – Nova Scotians now have access to over 100 libraries province-wide through the Borrow Anywhere/Return Anywhere program. You can now borrow items from the Halifax Public Libraries and drop them off in Oxford, or pick up a book in Pugwash and return it to the Cape Breton University Library. As with all good things, some restrictions apply so ask for more information at your library or check out www.librariesns.ca.
- (d) Statistics** – The Cumberland Regional Library's website (www.crl.library.ns.ca) gets approximately 10,000 hits a month. Visitors can do everything from read full-text magazine and encyclopedia articles online, look for books, check on their account or see what's on their branch's calendar of events.
We've signed out approximately 95,000 books since April. That's 3 books borrowed for every person that lives in the County.

Moved by Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Harrison that the Library Board report be accepted. Motion carried.

(4.7) Northern Region Solid Waste Management – Report presented by Councillor Ward.

**NORTHERN REGION SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
FEBRUARY 2010**

- (a) Northern Region Draft Agreement** – The Committee was advised that there is a new Northern Region Solid Waste Agreement that must be ratified by the municipal units that use the landfills at Little Forks, East Hants and Colchester. The new agreement

includes the amendment requested by Councillor Howe that each unit have an appointed member and an appointed alternate who can attend in the member's place, however, only one can attend at one time. Councillor Howe recommended that the Council accept the draft agreement and approve it for signing.

The Committee agreed with Councillor Howe's recommendation.

Moved by Councillor Ward, seconded by Deputy Mayor Howe that the Northern Region Solid Waste Management report and recommendations contained therein be accepted. Motion carried.

(4.8) Parrsboro Source Water Protection Advisory Committee – Report given by Councillor Harrison.

**PARRSBORO SOURCE WATER PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 2010**

(a) Garage – Councillor Harrison advised that through the PSWPAC he was requested by the County of Cumberland to ask Council whether there is any interest in the Town acquiring the former ESSO service station on Highway 2 just outside the town boundaries if the property proceeds to tax sale but is not sold.

After a discussion the Committee agreed that they would have no interest in acquiring this property.

Councillor Harrison noted that the PSWPAC had met since the report was written and that he had taken this information back to the committee. The PSWPAC has recommended that Town Council reconsider its decision not to purchase the garage from the point of view that if the property goes up for tax sale and is not sold, the County is not going to take ownership of it and the potential remains for the tanks to be sitting in the ground forever posing a risk for contamination down the road and the potential for an even greater expense to the Town if the wells have to be moved due to contamination. The Committee brainstormed about how money could be leveraged from either the Federal or Provincial Governments to help with the removal of the tanks and it was suggested that our MLA and MP be contacted about it. Councillor Harrison advised that he would like to put this issue back on the agenda for the next Committee-of-the-Whole and that hopefully there would be more information to go on.

Moved by Councillor Harrison, seconded by Councillor Ward that the Parrsboro Source Water Protection Advisory Committee report be accepted for information and that the issue of the garage be placed on the agenda of the next Committee-of-the-Whole to discuss the options available. Motion carried.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

(5.1) C.A.O. RE: County of Cumberland – For information the C.A.O. noted receiving a phone call from the County of Cumberland in response to our letter regarding the current state of some properties outside Parrsboro and being advised that the issue is going to be addressed.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Councillor Reid the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.