

COUNCIL

MARCH 22, 2011

#11-04

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 22nd, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Lois Smith presiding.

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

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Smith advised that she would like to add "In Camera Session" as item .9 on the Agenda.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Dawn McCully, seconded by Councillor David Harrison that the Agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.

3. RCMP REPORT

No report.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Smith asked if there were any errors or omission noted in the Council minutes of February 22, 2011 (#11-03). Hearing none she declared the minutes approved as presented.

5. REPORTS

(a) FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2011

Report given by Deputy Mayor McCulley

(a) **Sewer Line Extension** – As a follow up to a request received last month for the sewer line to be extended on Western Avenue, the C.A.O. presented an engineer's estimate for this work which he indicated is much higher than he had anticipated. After evaluating the cost in comparison to the few homes that would be affected, the Committee recommended against proceeding with the project at this time.

(b) **Paving Costs** – The Committee discussed options for financing the \$28,000 overrun in the paving project and agreed with a recommendation from the C.A.O. to take this money from our gas tax revenue for infrastructure.

(c) **Park Street Property** – A resident of Park Street contacted the C.A.O. about the prospect of purchasing an adjoining piece of land that is owned by the Town. After discussing the matter with staff there was a recommendation that the property be declared surplus and sold.

(d) **Emergency Room** – As a follow up to last month's discussion regarding proposed changes to the emergency room system the Committee recommended proceeding with posting contact information on our Facebook site for those who are concerned.

(e) **Tax Write-Off** – A property tax account in the name of Linda and Bartley Babineau in the amount of \$216.24 was presented for tax write-off as the property no longer exists in the system. The C.A.O. explained the circumstances as to why the property has become redundant and recommended that it be written-off as uncollectable. After a discussion the Committee agreed that the property account be written-off as recommended.

(f) **Appointment of D/O Officer** – The Committee was advised that as the Town of Parrsboro contracts planning services from the Town of Amherst and there has been a change in staff in their planning department, we are required to official appoint the new staff person, Sharel Longhurst as Development Officer for the Town of Parrsboro. After a discussion the Committee recommended that Ms. Longhurst be so appointed at the next regular council meeting.

(g) **Sears House** – The Committee discussed options for selling the Sears house on James Street now owned by the Town. After a discussion it was recommended that the C.A.O. request quotes from our two local real estate agents for selling this property on the Town's behalf.

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

(b) PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2011

Report given by Councillor Ward

(a) Water Quality – The C.A.O. presented a report regarding a water quality issue which was first detected at Mountain View Manor. The report indicates that there is no concern for public health, however, water system infrastructure could be affected over time. Engineers have looked at a solution to this problem and a plan of action is underway.

(b) Snow Removal – The Committee was informed that due to the severity of the past winter season the budget for salt was approximately \$13,000 over this year.

Moved by Councillor Ward, seconded by Deputy Mayor McCully that the Public Works Committee report be accepted. Motion carried.

(c) TOURISM COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2011

Report given by Deputy Mayor McCully

(a) Tourism Workshop – Lori Blackburn of the Nova Scotia Department of Tourism has provided the Committee with dates in April when she would be available to facilitate a tourism workshop in Parrsboro. After a discussion the Committee agreed that April 15th would be appropriate. Details of the workshop will be announced once they are finalized.

(b) Working Calendar – Councillor Ward and Lori Lynch have been putting together a working calendar of time lines for various projects and would like Council to approve it. It was agreed that the calendar would be emailed to Council to look at.

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

(c.1) Story Boards – Councillor Ward reported on a merchants' meeting last night advising that one of their projects is the creation of 2' x 3' story boards for each of the business buildings on Main Street with a picture and history circa the early 1900's. There will be some vacant areas across from Bare Bones Restaurant, along the boardwalk and in Gavin Park and the group is wondering if the Council would cover the cost of two or three at \$140 - \$145 per story board which includes Conrad Byers' fee. For information Councillor Ward noted that the other story boards are being sponsored by the owner's of

the buildings and will be on driftwood and that the story board across from Bare Bones will depict the wharf and its history.

After a discussion there was a motion by Councillor Ward, seconded by Deputy Mayor McCully that Town Council cover the cost of the 2 – 3 story boards for the vacant areas in this year’s budget, however, should there not be sufficient funds in this year’s budget, then it be included in next year’s budget. Motion carried.

(c.2) Benches – Councillor Ward advised that at the last Committee meeting she had reported that the merchant group would like to change the colour of the benches on Main Street to fit into the new colour scheme and that the feasibility of doing this without replacing the existing boards was questioned. This was checked out and it was found that the benches can be re-stained with the two chosen colours. Councillor Ward displayed the new colours and explained how they will be applied to the benches and advised that the stain will cost \$32.00 per gallon.

After a discussion there was a motion by Councillor Ward, seconded by Councillor Harrison that Public Works be authorized to re-stain the benches with the new colours chosen by the merchants group. Motion carried.

(c.3) Calendar - Mayor Smith commended the Committee on the calendar, however, she recommended that it be considered only a guide as there are so many things that could interfere with the schedule such as the weather. Councillor Ward confirmed that the calendar is only a guide or a reminder calendar to keep the Committee on track so that nothing gets overlooked.

Moved by Deputy Mayor McCully, seconded by Councillor Ward that the working calendar for the Sustainable Tourism Committee be accepted by Council so that they can proceed with it as a guide. Motion carried.

(d) PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2011

Report given by Councillor Harrison

(a) Building Inspector’s Report - Following is a summary of activity in the Building Inspector’s Office for the month of February 2011:

	<u>No. of Permits</u>	<u>Value</u>
Development (Commercial)	1	N/A
Demolition (Residential)	1	N/A

Total

2

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

(e) CUMBERLAND JOINT SERVICES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY REPORT

MARCH 2011

Report given by Councillor Ward

(a) **Budget** – The Cumberland Joint Services Management Committee has submitted its 2010/2011 Solid Waste Services budget for the approval of the five municipal units. After a review and discussion the Committee recommended that the budget as submitted be approved by Parrsboro Town Council.

Item (b) **New Member** was removed from the report as there was new information since it was written. Councillor Ward advised that CJSMA met this week and one of the issues that arose was that when a municipality takes over as chair it has to have three members to represent it and where the Town of Parrsboro and another town have limited resources it was suggested that the chair have voting rights thereby eliminating the need to appoint a third member.

Moved by Councillor Ward, seconded by Councillor Howe that the Town Council approve the recommendation that the Chair of CJSMA have voting rights. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Ward, seconded by Councillor Harrison that item (a) of the CJSMA report be accepted. Motion carried.

(f) RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2011

Report given by Deputy Mayor McCully

(a) **Triassic Park** – The Committee received a presentation from a couple of local citizens who are opposed to the renaming of Triassic Park which is currently on the table. The Committee noted the concerns of the presenters and advised that they will be taken into consideration in Council's final decision.

A discussion ensued regarding this item. It was the general consensus of the Council members that the presenters had made a valid argument against renaming the park because it discriminates against or ignores other people who have also contributed. This does not, however, diminish the outstanding contributions of Mr. Philly Legere and Mr. Bernie Pettigrew to the sport of baseball in Parrsboro and the Council had no objection to a private citizen honouring them with signage in some other way. The discussion resulted in the following motions.

Moved by Councillor Howe, seconded by Mayor Smith that the name of Triassic Park not be changed. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Ward, seconded by Deputy Mayor McCully that Town Council accept a citizen coming forward to recognize a supporter of baseball to be able to place a sign or signs at the ball fields. Motion carried.

Councillor Ward indicated she would speak with the individual who had proposed honouring the two gentlemen and get back to the C.A.O.

(f.1) Tissy RE: Proposal – Recreation Director, Tissy Bolivar, presented a proposal for capital facility upgrades at Triassic Park and the tennis court for which she wished to submit applications for Provincial and Federal funding that would provide one-third of the total capital cost. She noted there was some urgency to getting Council approval as the deadline for one of the funding programs is April 1st. The proposal included a budget and estimated cost for each project with the Ball field at \$10,265.00 and Tennis Court at \$19,900+. Tissy noted that only one of the projects could be submitted for funding and that she had no preference as she would like to see both facilities upgraded, however, from a financial and safety stand point the ball field looked more feasible. The C.A.O. noted that a lease agreement for the tennis court is in the works and the Tennis Association is in favour of it, however, there is an extra complication that may delay the Town taking it over, therefore, it might be advisable to go with the ball field upgrade and deal with the tennis court later. A discussion followed regarding how the Town might fund its portion of the required capital. The C.A.O. advised that there is reserve funding that could be committed before April 1st. Councillor Howe noted a concern about committing to 2/3 of the cost or approximately \$7,000 when the Council has yet to assess what other demands there are on the reserves or what the budget for next year is going to be, however, he presumed that the project could be turned down if the Town is unable to come up with its share. Mr. Cyril Yorke, a spectator in the Chambers supported what was being proposed and suggested getting the youth involved in fund raising. Tissy stated that there is definitely the potential for fund raising. Councillor Ward noted that the Youth Town Council could apply to the SPAR Community Health Board for funding and Mayor Smith noted being aware of \$1,500 from another organization which has yet to be committed. The Nova Scotia Baseball Association was also suggested as a potential source of funding. Further discussion resulted in the following motion:

**Moved by Deputy Mayor McCully, seconded by Councillor Ward that the Recreation Coordinator apply for the funding for the baseball field upgrades.
Motion carried.**

6. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) **Marathon Run** – For information Mayor Smith circulated correspondence regarding a marathon run on August 14th from the Age of Sail Museum noting that some of the Youth Town Council will be getting involved and perhaps the Leo Club also. Deputy Mayor McCully also noted that the Tourism Committee plans to create some events around the marathon.

(b) **Gayle and Terry Shaw** – Mayor Smith read a thank you note from Gayle and Terry Shaw for whom she had sent a retirement card.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor McCully the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Mayor

C.A.O.