

COUNCIL

JUNE 28, 2011

#11-08

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, June 28th, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Lois Smith presiding.

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

REGRETS: Councillor David Harrison

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. The Mayor noted that Councillor Harrison would not be able to attend and had sent his regrets.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Deputy Mayor McCully, seconded by Councillor Howe that the Agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

3. RCMP REPORT

Following are highlights from Cpl. Janet LeBlanc's report of activity over the past month.

- the detachment has been involved in a number of community events including the Lions Night at the arena and the Prom party and dance. The bicycle safety campaign is continuing and has proven to be a success as most children have been observed wearing their helmets.
- 95 calls for service over the past month ranging from damage to property to a fight in progress.
- the Destination Art Gallery fire was investigated and has been deemed electrical and not suspicious. The firemen did a great job extinguishing the fire so that it did not spread to neighboring buildings.
- a break and enter at the pizza shop is being investigated.
- a counterfeit bill received by Tim Hortons is being investigated.
- the adult street team performed a search warrant at a house in town and confiscated over 100 marijuana plants and a large quantity of packaged marijuana.

- the detachment is still down one member, however, the new member has sold his house in Bible Hill and is expected by the end of July.
- Cst. Brown is going to PEI for security duty during the Royal Visit.
- Cst. Parsons had his boat handling course.
- a calling tree of all fishermen in the area and their boats is being put together as a search and rescue resource.

After giving her report the Corporal answered a few questions from Council.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Smith asked if there were any errors or omissions in the Council minutes of May 24, 2011 (#11-06). Hearing none she declared the minutes approved as presented.

The Mayor asked if there were any errors or omissions in the Special Council minutes of June 21, 2011 (#11-07). Hearing none she declared the minutes approved as presented. Mayor Smith noted that the purpose of this meeting was to review the Operating Budget for fiscal 2011/2012 and set the tax rates. The Mayor commented that the Council never likes to increase tax rates knowing how burdensome taxes are in a small town especially one with not a lot of employment and perhaps with only one person in a household working. The Council also realized that some resident's property assessments increased this year. The Mayor advised that the Council was able to hold the rates the same as last year with the residential tax rate set at \$2.04 per \$100 of assessment and the commercial tax rate set at \$4.17 per \$100 of assessment. She cautioned, however, that next year the Council would be facing a greater challenge to maintain the tax rates as the Provincial Government has advised that municipalities are going to have to share in the burden of the cost of education, health and corrections.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(5.1) FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

JUNE 2011

Reported by Deputy Mayor McCully

(a) **Barebones Patio** – Councillor Ward advised that she has received a number of complaints in regard to the safety aspect of the new patio at Barebones Bistro and Pizzeria and that she shares some of their concerns. The C.A.O. noted that the patio has met all Building Code and traffic law requirements and he expressed the opinion that concerns will dissipate once the public becomes used to it being there.

(b) **Skateboard Park** – A piece of deteriorated equipment at the Skateboard Park was brought up and the Committee was advised that the removal of this equipment is already on the Public Works schedule.

(c) **Bug Banners** – The Town is currently checking into the cost of having bug banners printed that are used for promotion at trade shows, conferences, etc.

(d) **Unightly Premises** – The C.A.O. and Building Inspector are working collaboratively to process unsightly premises cases.

(e) **Senior's Complex Water** – The Committee was updated regarding the water situation at the senior's complex and it was noted that a six month remedial process is underway.

(f) **Parrsboro's Birthday** – The Committee discussed doing something to mark the 122nd anniversary of Parrsboro's incorporation and recommended that the Mayor and Councillors serve birthday cake at the Fair Grounds on the evening of July 15th which will coincide with the crowning of the Old Home Week Queen.

(g) **Heritage Books** – A local merchant has expressed interest in selling the Heritage Homes and History book on consignment. The C.A.O. will consult Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Affairs to see if there are options to the current policy that requires merchants and/or organizations to purchase the books for resale.

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

(5.2) PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

JUNE 2011

Reported by Councillor Ward

(a) **Street Sweeper** - Options are being looked at to replace the street sweeper recently damaged in a work related accident. The replacement of this equipment is covered under the Town's insurance.

(b) **Town Shed Floor** – This work will be retendered and should be completed before the fall.

(c) **Public Spaces** - The Committee has requested that a part-time employee be considered in the budget to look after watering flowers, weeding, etc.

(d) **Street Signs** – The new street signs for Main Street have been installed

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

(5.3) PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

JUNE 2011

Reported by Mayor Smith

(a) Building Inspector's Report – Following is a summary of activity in the Building Inspector's Office for the months of April and May 2011:

	<u>No. of Permits</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Permit Fee</u>
New Construction, Alterations and Additions (Residential)	1	\$1,200.00	\$6.00
Garages and Sheds	1	\$15,800.00	\$20.20
Demolition	1	N/A	\$20.00
Development	2	N/A	N/A
Total	5	\$17,000.00	\$46.20

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

(5.4) TOURISM COMMITTEE REPORT

JUNE 2011

Reported by Deputy Mayor McCully

(a) Kiosk at Town Hall – Landscaping, brochure holders and map for the kiosk were discussed and a plan developed to get these items completed.

(b) Tide Chart – The Committee recommends that a tide chart be produced again this year with the cooperation of the Fundy Geological Museum for distribution to the kiosks at 1st Beach, the Ottawa House and the Town Hall.

(c) Town Brochures – The Committee will be looking at the Town's brochure with the idea of updating the content and design and having a new supply printed next year.

(d) **Hanging Baskets** – The hanging flower baskets have been put up and at the moment are being maintained by Public Works using a new battery operated watering cart.

(e) **Barrels** – Floral arrangements for the wooden rum barrels are being worked on and will be installed along the Main Street when completed.

(f) **Chalk Boards on Civic Grounds** – A Public Service Announcement on our local radio station was recommended to remind people about the chalk boards on the civic grounds and how they can be utilized to advertise community events.

(g) **Story Boards** – The Committee was informed that work is progressing on the wording and design of the Town's story board and that a proof will be sent to all members. Story boards for other establishments are also in production including our local B & B's.

(h) **Garbage Cans** – Complaints about the contemporary design of the metal garbage/recycling containers on Main Street were noted. The C.A.O. advised that this is the most efficient and cost effective receptacle available to the Town.

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

LIBRARY REPORT

JUNE 2011

Reported by Deputy Mayor McCully

Summer Reading Club for Kids – Kick off parties will be held at all the branches near the end of June. Check the library's Calendar of Events for dates and times. The theme this year is Splash! so there should be lots of watery fun this summer.

Summer Reading Club for Teens and Adults – Not to be left out, teens and adults can take part in their own summer reading clubs. Read books and win prizes.

New Name and Logo – Join us at our branches for parties to celebrate our new name and logo. Refreshments will be served. Check the library's Calendar of Events for dates and times.

A Facelift for Four Fathers – The Town of Amherst has approved funding for a facelift for the Four Fathers Library. Look for fresh new paint, new flooring and a prettier circulation desk.

Statistics – Over 129,000 items were signed out by Cumberland Public Libraries last year that include books, magazines, DVDs, audiobooks and more. That’s over 3 items per person in the County.

27% of residents of Cumberland County have a library card that they have used within the past 3 years, if you are not one stop by your local library for a free card.

Facebook – The library is on Facebook. We’ve posted pictures from some of our recent programs, articles and videos from the local newspapers and sent out reminders about upcoming events. To join us on Facebook all you need to do is “Like” us. A link to our Facebook page can be found on the library’s website: www.cumberlandpubliclibraries.ca

Moved by Deputy Mayor McCully, seconded by Councillor Ward that the Library Report be accepted. Motion carried.

6. SECOND READING OF TOWN OF PARRSBORO REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEASURES BYLAW

Mayor Smith noted that the first reading of the bylaw took place at the Council meeting last month and that the bylaw is being changed because Parrsboro is going to join REMO which is the County’s Emergency Measures Organization. There is an Emergency Measures Coordinator on staff with REMO who will coordinate things in Parrsboro should there ever be an emergency in our community. Mayor Smith called for written or oral submissions either for or against the bylaw. There were no submissions forthcoming.

Moved by Councillor Ward, seconded by Councillor Howe that the Town Council approve the 2nd Reading of the Town of Parrsboro Regional Emergency Measures Bylaw. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith advised that with the passing of the foregoing motion the Emergency Measures Bylaw has become an official bylaw of the Town.

7. STORY BOARDS

Councillor Howe noted that there are two story boards set up on the Main Street and that they should have been proofread as there are misspelled words and grammatical errors on both. After reviewing the errors Councillor Howe suggested that the people that own them be contacted and that it be explained how these errors reflect badly on the image of the town and that they be asked if they will get them changed. Councillor Ward noted that there are many story boards in production including the Town’s for which she has asked for a proof that all members can review for correctness. She offered to approach the appropriate individuals to convey the Town’s concerns and point out the importance of proofreading the story boards before they are put up. The Council accepted her offer to do this on their behalf.

8. AIMS REPORT

Ray Hickey advised that for the second time the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies, a not-for-profit organization, has studied municipalities in Nova Scotia ranking them according to their efficiency, performance and other criteria. At this point he read the following description:

“The AIMS second annual Nova Scotia Municipal Performance Report is a resource for taxpayers and municipal administrations to understand how their municipal government and all other Nova Scotia municipal governments are performing with regards to keeping costs low and achieving their intended results. Grades and ranks are provided for seven different categories: governance and finance; taxation; safety and protection; environment; transportation; economic development; recreation and culture. These seven categories are also averaged to provide overall ranks and grades. It is important to look beneath the overall grade and rank to see how you are serving your citizens and where there is room for improvement.”

Ray advised that out of all 55 municipalities Parrsboro ranked second in the report and that it is something to be very proud of.

9. PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT

Ray advised that the damaged street sweeper has been deemed fixable by the insurance adjuster and that the insurance company will only pay for the damage caused by the accident estimated to cost approximately \$50,000. Any additional maintenance to get the equipment in working order would not be covered. He and the Superintendent had weighed the option of repairing the existing street sweeper against purchasing a new one at a cost of about \$100,000 and felt that there may be an advantage to purchasing new rather than repairing something that is already old and damaged. It is unknown, however, at this time whether the insurance company would put money towards a new one and it is something that would have to be negotiated.

After a discussion it was recommended that Ray and John get together and come up with some recommendations for Council to consider at the next committee meeting.

10. SIGNS

Ray circulated samples of a sign to be added to the existing sign at Jurassic Park and samples of a sign that will replace the two existing signs on the civic grounds identifying the Town Hall.

After the Council reached a consensus on the signs Ray indicated that he would order them.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence presented.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor McCully the meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.