

COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 22, 2011

#11-03

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 22, 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.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councillor Howe requested the addition of Emergency Room Closures to the agenda. The Mayor suggested adding this as item 8. (b).

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

3. **RCMP REPORT**

Cpl. Janet LeBlanc reported the following activity over the past month:

- Cst. Jonathon Roswell is teaching the D.A.R.E. program to approximately 40 grade 6 students.
- The detachment has been participating in Winter Carnival activities at the High School including a hockey game against the graduating class.
- Patrols are continuing on snowmobiles checking for impaired drivers and those without proper license, registration and insurance.
- Preparations are being made for the annual Ricky Hunter Hockey Tournament
- The Parrsboro RCMP and Fire Department responded to the falling snow incident at the Lions Arena
- The detachment is currently at full staff. Cst. Monroe will be leaving in the spring, however, there is a replacement coming.

- The Parrsboro Police Advisory Committee met to review the RCMP's Annual Performance Plan and have input before the official document is finalized.

4. **FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

No report.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Smith asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Special Council minutes of January 24, 2011 (#11-01) and the Council minutes of January 25, 2011 (#11-02). Hearing none she declared the minutes approved as circulated.

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2011

Report given by Deputy Mayor McCully

(a) **Presentation RE: Biosolids** – Marilyn Cameron, Chair of the Nova Scotia Environmental Network's Biosolids & Wastewater Caucus, met with the Committee to present their position against the use of treated sewage sludge known as biosolids as fertilizer and to seek the Town's support for a moratorium on land application of biosolids in Nova Scotia by writing letters to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities and the Department of Environment. Ms. Cameron was advised that the Committee would discuss the matter in more detail at a later date and get back to her.

(b) **Fire Hall Maintenance** – The C.A.O. advised that there had been no tenders received for repairs required at the Fire Hall, therefore, the Town is at liberty to hire a contractor to do the work. After a discussion the Committee recommended that the C.A.O. be given the authority to hire a contractor and get the work done for the best possible price.

(c) **Baker Tax Write-Off** – A tax account in the name of Frances & William Baker in the amount of \$235.50 including interest, Acct. No. 06040799, was presented for tax write-off due to the property being doubly assessed. After a discussion the Committee agreed that this account be written-off as recommended by staff.

(d) **Emergency Room Closures** – The Committee discussed the impact on the public health care system in anticipation of emergency room closures being proposed by the Provincial Department of Health and agreed that the Town has an obligation to react to this potential threat to the wellbeing of its citizens on their behalf. A plan of action was discussed which will be coordinated by staff and implemented in the near future.

(e) **Strategic Plan** – The Committee agreed that there should be another Strategic Planning session in the near future to prioritize capital projects and assign time lines to each.

(f) **Unightly Premises** – An unsightly/dangerous building was brought to the Committee’s attention. The C.A.O. noted that our Building Inspector is already working on this particular file and advised if there are any other properties that the Committee are concerned about they should submit a list and he will have them investigated.

(g) **Radio Message** – Councillor Ward proposed a public service announcement on our local radio station in appreciation of businesses and encouraging people to shop locally. After a discussion the Committee agreed that this is a good idea.

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

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2011

Report given by Councillor Ward

(a) **Public Works Truck** – The Superintendent has advised that the 1988 Ford ½ ton truck is in poor shape and needs to be replaced. The C.A.O. reported that there are funds in the Capital Equipment Reserve to cover the cost of a replacement vehicle. After a discussion it was recommended that the Superintendent and C.A.O. meet to discuss vehicle requirements and obtain some quotes for the Committee to look at.

(b) **MacKenzie Drive** - The owner of a property in MacKenzie Park asked the Superintendent if the Town would consider plowing to the first T in the road to make access to his cottage easier during the winter months. After discussing the matter with staff the Committee is recommending against this request as this area is and always has been serviced only on a seasonal basis.

(c) **Summer Staff RE: Public Spaces and Flowers** – A concern was raised about the need for staff dedicated to maintaining public spaces and watering flowers during the summer months. After a discussion it was recommended that the C.A.O. explore our options for accessing federal money for a position.

(d) **Aboiteau Bridge Leaks** – The C.A.O. advised that our MP, Scott Armstrong and his staff are working to find a long term resolution to this problem. A concern was raised that perhaps the Council should explore its options for a temporary fix. After a discussion it was agreed that the C.A.O. and Superintendent meet to look at this and report back with their recommendations.

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

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2011

Report given by Mayor Smith

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

	<u>No. of Permits</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Permit Fee</u>
New Construction, Alterations and Additions (Commercial)	1	\$50,000	\$55.00
Demolition	1	N/A	\$20.00
Total	2	\$50,000	\$70.00

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

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2011

Report given by Deputy Mayor McCully

(a) **Volunteer Awards** – The Recreation Director reported that nominations closed for the Volunteer Awards on Friday February 11th and that three people were nominated for the Volunteer Representative of the Year for the Town of Parrsboro. After a discussion the Committee recommended that Bill Connors be selected as Volunteer Representative. Mr. Connors was nominated by the Masonic Lodge for his volunteer work with that organization and many others in the town. His name will be submitted to the Province for consideration as the Provincial Volunteer of the Year and he will be representing Parrsboro at the Provincial Volunteer Awards ceremony in April. All nominees will be recognized at the next Mayor's Tea for their exemplary service to the town.

(b) **Jurassic Park** – The Committee was advised that Duncan Lake has proposed renaming Jurassic Park in honor of two individuals who have played a huge role in developing and supporting baseball over the years in the town. Those individuals are

Bernie Pettigrew and Philly Legere. After a discussion the Committee agreed that this recognition is well deserved. Councillor Ward indicated that she would contact Mr. Lake to work out the details.

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

TOURISM COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2011

Report given by Deputy Mayor McCully

(a) **Tourism Workshop** – Councillor McCully reported on a workshop she recently attended in Truro facilitated by Lori Blackburn of Tourism Nova Scotia and that she had invited her to come to Parrsboro to speak about creating, developing and promoting the tourism experience. The Fundy Geological Museum has agreed to provide the venue and there would be no cost other than for food which could be recouped by charging a nominal registration fee. The tentative date for the meeting which is open to everyone is March 3rd. After a discussion the Committee agreed that this workshop would benefit the Tourism Committee and the community as a whole and recommended proceeding with it.

(b) **Hanging Baskets** – This was placed on the agenda as a reminder that the deadline for ordering hanging baskets is approaching. The C.A.O. noted that he planned to contact local suppliers in the near future but would like to put the order on hold until he receives word on our application for Main Street funding for new lamp posts which may have a bearing on the type and number of hanging baskets required.

(c) **Dinosaur Lights** – It was noted that the Public Works Department was looking for direction with regard to the remainder of the dinosaur lights which are in storage at the town shed and are in need of repair if they are going to be put back up. In the discussion it was noted that the Council had agreed that where we are looking at a new lighting theme on Main Street it would be practical not to put these lights back up. The dinosaur lights on Two Island Road that lead the way to the Fundy Geological Museum will, of course, remain.

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

LIBRARY BOARD REPORT

FEBRUARY 2011

Report given by Deputy Mayor McCully

(a) **Brand New Logo** – Check out our brand new logo. Right now you can see it on our website (www.cumberlandpubliclibraries.ca) but soon it will also be appearing on library cards and other library material. The new logo was created by local graphic designer, Hollis Bartlett.

(b) **Statistics** – In January, Cumberland Public Libraries signed out over 9,700 items to people across the county which includes DVD's, magazines, books and more.

We also provided over 1,500 hours of free computer time and almost 500 hours of free WiFi to library users in January.

1 in 4 residents of Cumberland County have a library card with the Cumberland Public Libraries. If you're not one of our users pop by your local library for a free card.

(c) **Staff Picks Online** – Our staff are avid readers and want to share some of their favourites with you. Take a peek at our new online Staff Picks in the “Read, Watch, Listen” section of our website. Don't forget to check back for updates.

Also, if you're looking for suggestions for good reads for teens or kids check out our “Teen Sector” and “Kids Zone” on the library's website.

(d) **Funding** – Public Libraries in Nova Scotia are funded jointly by the Province and the participating municipal councils. We are also required to raise 3% of our annual operating budget. The Cumberland Public Libraries does this via fines, book sales, donations, etc. CPL is a registered charity so cash donations in excess of \$10 get a tax receipt.

Moved by Deputy Mayor McCully, seconded by Councillor Howe that the Library Board report be accepted. Motion carried.

7. **REQUEST FROM BARE BONES RESTAURANT AND BISTRO**

The C.A.O. brought forth a request from Glenn Wheaton, owner/operator of Bare Bones Restaurant and Bistro, 121 Main Street, to build a seasonal outdoor patio on the Town's sidewalk for patrons of the restaurant. He explained that the patio would be in place only from May to October and then removed and that while it is in place the sidewalk would be extended out into the parking spaces along the street in front of the restaurant. The C.A.O. advised that the plan has been approved by the Building Inspector pending Council approval of the request to use the sidewalk. He added that there is ample parking

in the restaurant parking lot so there would be no concern about the loss of the parking spaces in front of the restaurant.

After a discussion there was a motion by Councillor Howe, seconded by Councillor Ward that permission be granted to Mr. Wheaton to construct a patio over the Town's sidewalk for use on a seasonal basis. Motion carried.

8. 2ND READING OF AMENDMENT TO TRADE AND LICENSING BYLAW

Mayor Smith noted that the proposed amendment to the Trade and Licensing Bylaw passed first reading at the January Council meeting which was followed by a Notice of Intent to Adopt an amendment to the bylaw in the February 5th edition of the Citizen. She advised that the intent of the amendment is to remove the exemption for vendors of farm, forest or sea products and to revise the licensing fee schedule for all transient vendors. The fee schedule had been set at between \$250 and \$500 per year depending on whether the vendor was a resident, a resident/rate payer, a non-resident ratepayer or neither a resident nor a ratepayer. After some debate the Council had come up with what they feel is a more level playing field setting a monthly fee of \$25 and a yearly fee of \$250 which applies to all vendors regardless of their status as residents or ratepayers. At this point Mayor Smith called for a motion to approve the 2nd reading of the bylaw.

Moved by Deputy Mayor McCully, seconded by Councillor Ward that the Town Council approve the 2nd reading of the amendment to the Trade and Licensing Bylaw. Motion carried.

(b) Emergency Rooms Closures – Councillor Howe expanded on item (d) in the Finance report noting that the Health Authority is talking about virtually closing the ER's in Parrsboro, Springhill and Pugwash which requires permission from the Department of Health who have not yet made a decision. He noted that the feeling is that things would stay the same until the end of March which is also the end of their fiscal year. He expressed the opinion that closing the ER's is not a good idea and that he personally has written to Bruce Quigley, C.E.O. and Celina White, Chief of Staff; he has spoken to Paul Hill, a representative on the Health Authority Board; he has emailed our MLA, Jamie Baillie and will be attending the Community Health Board meeting on Thursday. Councillor Howe noted the understanding that public consultation has gone only as far as the doctors being informed about it and suggested that the Town Council should somehow get the word out to the public so that they have an opportunity to react before the Department of Health makes their decision and can sneak something in under the radar. The Council agreed with Councillor Howe's suggestion and recommended the following plan of action:

- The creation of a Facebook site advising of the Health Authority's plans and encouraging people to contact the appropriate officials. Contact list to be provided.
- A similar message on the local radio station.
- Letters from the Mayor to the Chair and CEO of the Health Authority.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor McCully the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Mayor

C.A.O.