

COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 28, 2012

#12-02

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Lois Smith presiding.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Lisa Ward
Councillor David Harrison
Councillor David Howe
Councillor Dawn McCully
J. Raymond, Hickey
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**

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

Motion carried.

3. **FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Fire Chief Randy Mosher presented the following report:

Fire/Protective Services:

January 27: Fire at Crossroads Waste Transfer Station. Extinguished with no issues.

Training Completed:

Operational Debriefing by RCMP Incident Command re: Wood brothers search.
TMR Radio Procedures, Forceable Entry Procedures.
5 members continue taking Level 1 modules.

Membership:

Current active members based on alarm response/training attendance: 14
Roster currently lists 17 active firefighters, plus 2 auxiliary (of max 22 plus 3 aux.)

Meetings/Functions:

- Jan. 26: 16 firefighters in attendance “in uniform” at Wood brothers funeral. Hosted reception at Fire Hall.
- Jan. 31: 4 firefighters “in uniform” attended Willard Hebb funeral (brother of former Fire Chief Louis Hebb).
- Feb. 4 & 5: Hosted basic Emergency Management course at Fire Hall. Chief, 2 captains and one FF attending. Raised over \$400 by volunteers providing lunch to all students both days (no through Ladies Auxiliary).
- Feb. 9: Met councilors Howe and Ward and CAO regarding draft budget including planning numbers looking ahead until year 2020.
- Feb. 12: Cumberland County Firefighters Association meeting, Springhill (as Secretary of the Association).
- Feb. 13: Met Frank Warren at Fire hall to discuss electrical upgrades.
- Feb. 15: EMO planning meeting.
- Feb. 19: Attended Flag Day at the Legion “in uniform”.
- Feb. 23: Met Eric Henwood at Fire Hall to discuss windows, doors, kitchen floor, refinishing of main hall floor.
- Feb. 25: Hosted “Ricky Hunter” dance at Fire Hall.
- Feb. 26: Emergency Generator requires emergency repair – met Frank Warren on site.
- Feb. 27: Invited president of “TOPS” to “support group” meeting on Monday, March 5th.
- Feb. 27: EMO planning meeting.

Fire Hall Maintenance:

- Ongoing: Agreed with Deputy Chief to relinquish one of two current Fire Department offices. Vacated office will be subdivided for “TOPS” storage and coat check for Recreation Centre use (near main entrance)
- Ongoing: Have contacted commercial glass firms for pricing of new exterior main entrance doors to Fire Hall.
- Ongoing: Most concrete walkways should be replaced as they have settled unevenly and pose a tripping hazard for both firefighters and the general public. Negotiating for demolition by Public Works, new concrete by Eric Henwood.

Planning:

Have order to submit for \$2,500 of basic firefighting tools and supplies. Requesting approval for same. “Truck Committee” meeting Wednesday 29th to review specification for potential truck to replace 1987 unit. Have made “gentleman’s agreement” to store 1978 truck in Port Greville Fire Hall during winter 2012/13. They will still have an empty bay after receiving their new truck. Paperwork should be minimal (renewal of current loan agreement).

After giving his report the Fire Chief noted that he had received a letter from the Ladies Auxiliary dated February 22nd enclosing the keys to the main hall and kitchen that were in their possession and advising that they are passing the operation of the canteen to the Firemen effective immediately and further that they have removed all personal items from the facility and will no longer require access. The Ladies Auxiliary wished the firemen well in all future endeavors. The Chief indicated that the Mayor had questioned him about the status of the Ladies Auxiliary back in October and that looking at it both internally and externally there did not seem to be a way to make it work, therefore, this letter would be the major point in closing down the operation of that organization barring a few administrative items that are ongoing. There was a meeting last Thursday with a couple of key firemen's significant others as well as all but one of the firemen's membership to come up with some ideas and a further meeting is scheduled for this coming Monday. The Chief hoped that they will be able to move forward with some sort of organization that will make the Fire Hall a hub of activity in the town.

The Chief also noted that the Fire Department has approximately 100 wood/steel framed, stackable, auditorium chairs in surplus and that he was having a difficult time finding anyone who could make use of them. Councillor McCully suggested advertising them on the Parrsboro and Amherst trading post on facebook. The Chief thanked Councillor McCully for the suggestion and indicated that he would bring it up at the next meeting.

Councillor McCully also commended the firemen for organizing one of the best Ricky Hunter dances in memory noting that she had heard many good comments about it. The Chief indicated that this was his first Ricky Hunter dance and that he was impressed with the way the firemen carried it off.

4. RCMP REPORT

Following is a summary of the report given by Cpl. LeBlanc of activity over the past month:

- 40 complaints ranging from assault, reckless driving, noise, and vandalism.
- 2 members and auxiliary worked at the Ricky Hunter Tournament with no problems reported.
- Code Blue exercises in Parrsboro and Advocate schools.
- DARE program starting after March Break.
- Cst. Parsons and Cst. Hutchinson have been attending Youth Town Council and Youth Advisory meetings.
- Check points were successful in spotting liquor, drug and MVA infractions.
- Cst. Brown will be setting up a snowmobile patrol with DNR.
- Cst. Roswell who is the technician for impaired driving did a data master test.
- Cst. Brown attended an attempted suicide at the high school.
- VIN registration verifications performed.
- Members taking PAD training for printers located in vehicles that will be used to print tickets.
- Members taking mandatory restorative justice training.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Smith asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Council minutes of January 24th, 2012 (#12-01).

Deputy Mayor Ward noted an error under item (m) **Street Lights** in the Finance Committee where it states that the street light being requested is near the end of Jenks Avenue where it intersects with Templar Street. She advised that it was actually requested at the other end of Jenks Avenue near the South Cumberland Community Care Centre.

Councillor Howe noted an error under item (a) **CNTA** in the Tourism Committee Report where it indicates that the tourism levy would apply to fixed roof accommodations with over 12 beds. He advised that it should actually be 10 beds.

Being no further errors or omissions noted, Mayor Smith declared the minutes approved as amended.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

FEBRUARY 2012

Report given by Deputy Mayor Ward

(a) **Tax Write-Off** – Tax account #10286417 in the amount of \$48.00 was presented for write-off for the 2011/2012 tax year. Due to a clerical error at PVSC this property in the name of Nova Scotia Natural Resources was changed from exempt to taxable last year, however, this error has been corrected for 2012/2013.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that this tax write-off be approved.

(b) **Anti-Bullying Day** – Councillor McCully reported that plans for Anti-Bullying Day are progressing well with support from community organizations, the schools and RCMP. The Council has agreed to donate funds from the miscellaneous budget for grants to organizations for the purchase of T-shirts. C. McCully advised she would submit a budget to the C.A.O. for these items.

(c) **Lighthouse Preservation** – An email from Barry MacDonald, President of NSLPS was presented regarding the crisis looming in lighthouse preservation and what action can be taken. In order to have a lighthouse considered for heritage protection, a petition signed by 25 residents of Canada, 18 years or older, must be received by Parks Canada on or before May 29th, 2012. Once received by Parks Canada the Petitioning Group has until the early spring of 2015 to submit a business plan to Fisheries and Oceans for maintaining the lighthouse. A “heritage lighthouse” designation may prove useful as a

promotional and marketing tool, leading to increased tourism or economic opportunities and may help secure future funding for the conservation and/or promotion of the lighthouse property. More details are available at www.nslps.com and the petition can be signed at www.savecanadalighthouses.ca

(d) LED Lighting – The Province has mandated that every municipality must have LED street lighting by 2015 and there are two options, either NSP will do it for the municipality for a fee or the municipality will do it on its own. The C.A.O. reported on his research into the matter and proposed that the Town of Parrsboro purchase and install its own LED street lights at a cost of \$213,000 financed over 10 years through the Municipal Finance Corporation. He pointed out that with both the power bill and cost of borrowing the Town would still be saving about \$15,000 per year. There are three steps to this process: (1) a letter to Nova Scotia Power advising of our intentions; (2) a borrowing resolution for \$213,000; and (3) putting out an RFP.

In the discussion the Committee supported the recommendation citing ownership, cost savings and reduced environmental impact as benefits of the project. There was some debate, however, about financing options and the C.A.O. was asked to get some additional information.

(e) Returning Officer – The Committee was advised that the appointment of a Returning Officer is required for the upcoming municipal elections in October.

After a discussion it was recommended that C.A.O., Ray Hickey be appointed Returning Officer.

(f) Discharge of Development Agreement – 719 Main Street – Committee advised that there is a Development Agreement in place for 719 Main Street predating the Town of Parrsboro's LUB/MPS which restricts the use of the property and would prevent the new owners from developing it for their purposes. The C.A.O. noted that a discharge agreement has been drafted and he would recommend that it be passed by Council.

After a discussion the Committee recommended approving the discharge agreement.

(g) Water Line Extension – The owner of a cottage on MacKenzie Drive would like to make it a permanent residence and has expressed an interest in contributing financially to extend the water line with the potential for additional financial contributions from neighboring residents.

In the discussion the Committee felt that investigation was warranted and asked the C.A.O. to get an estimate of the cost and to request the cottage owner to canvass the support of neighboring property owners.

(h) Unightly Premises – The C.A.O. reported the most recent information on the case of an unightly premises.

The Committee felt that a meeting with the property owner to clarify the position of both parties would be appropriate and asked the C.A.O. to arrange it.

(i) **Green Cart Purchase** – \$2,500.00 in funding is available through the Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority for another supply of green carts. The total cost of the carts is \$5,000, therefore, a commitment from the Town in the amount of \$2,500 is needed.

After a discussion the Committee recommended approval of the \$2,500 expenditure.

(j) **Energy Committee Joint Council Meeting** – The Committee was informed about a Joint Council meeting at All Saints Parish in Springhill on February 29th where the finalized agreement for the Energy Committee will be presented for review.

(k) **2012/2013 Budget** – The Committee recommends a preliminary budget meeting at the next Committee-of-the-Whole in March. The C.A.O. requested the Committee members to email anything that they would like to have included in the initial budget.

(l) **Dumping Snow** – A concern was brought forward about the potential damage to the banks of the harbour resulting from the dumping of snow during snow clearing operations.

The C.A.O. advised that he would speak to the Superintendent about this.

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

Motion carried.

Mayor Smith commented on item (c) stressing the importance of preserving our lighthouse which is an icon in the community. She noted that the Harbour Commission, of which she is Chair, was approached by DFO a while back about taking over the lighthouse and it was declined because the main cost is the liability insurance. However, since that time she had checked with the Harbour Commission's insurance provider for the wharf and found that the lighthouse could be added to their insurance for probably a little less than an individual group could get. Mayor Smith noted the understanding that at this time the Town Council does not want to take over the lighthouse and advised that she intends to contact Chairs of other organizations to canvass their interest and call a public meeting with the idea of joining forces and taking over the lighthouse as a group with conditions, etc. She indicated that it is something to be kept in mind because the lighthouse has been declared surplus and if the Federal Government is asked to make it a heritage property through this program and there is a business plan, then at least the structure will not be torn down.

(b) PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2012

Report given by Councillor Harrison

(a) Building Inspector's Report - Following is the activity in the Building Inspector's Office for the month of January 2012:

	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Value</u>
New Construction, Alterations and Additions (Residential)	1	\$15,000
New Construction, Alterations and Additions (Commercial)	2	\$95,000
Total	3	\$110,000

(b) Appointment of Building Inspectors – Tim Peters' recent resignation as Building Inspector means that the Town of Amherst from which we contract building inspection services, will be temporarily relying upon the County of Cumberland and Town of Springhill to provide this service. Therefore, it is necessary to process a motion appointing Town of Springhill Building Inspectors Pay Boyce and Steve Varner, as well as Municipality of Cumberland Building Inspectors Monty Maddison, Tom Trenholm and Brian Wood as Building Inspectors for the Town of Parrsboro.

Moved by Councillor Harrison, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ward that the Planning, Development and Housing Committee Report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.

Motion carried.

(c) PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2012

Report given by Councillor Howe

(a) Parrsboro Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary – The Committee recommends that the current Ladies Auxiliary be recognized for their outstanding and loyal service at a future Council meeting.

(b) Improvements to Fire Hall Building – It was noted that the Fire Chief has a list of required improvements to the fire hall building and would like to know how much money is left in the budget that could be used to do them. The C.A.O. advised he would check this out and report to the Chief. He also noted that anything new on the list would require another motion of Council to be taken out of reserves, or could be considered in the 2012/2013 operational budget.

Moved by Councillor Howe, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ward that the Protective Services Committee Report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.

Motion carried.

7. MOTION TO RESCIND POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR THE TOWN OF PARRSBORO DANGEROUS OR UNSIGHTLY PREMISES COMMITTEE DATED SEPTEMBER 28, 1999 (POLICY #25)

Mayor Smith advised that a motion to rescind the above noted policy would be in order as the Council had recently adopted a new policy governing procedures for dangerous or unsightly premises.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Ward, seconded by Councillor Howe that Policy #25, Policy and Procedures for the Town of Parrsboro Dangerous or Unsightly Premises Committee dated September 28, 1999 be rescinded.

Motion carried.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

On behalf of Council, Mayor Smith acknowledged the Public Works Department for the great job they are doing this winter and noted that she received many positive comments at Coffee with the Mayor earlier in the day. Also on Council's behalf, the Mayor sent Phillip Forbes their best wishes and the hope that he will be feeling better soon. A thank you was also extended to Ron Ellis for filling in for Phillip. Regarding the coffee party, Mayor Smith noted that a couple of items came forth that will be discussed at the next Committee-of-the-Whole and that it is always good to have citizens and tax payers make suggestions.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Ward the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

