

# COUNCIL

MARCH 27, 2012

#12-04

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Deputy Mayor Lisa Ward presiding.

**PRESENT:** Councillor David Harrison  
Councillor David Howe  
Councillor Dawn McCully  
J. Raymond Hickey, C.A.O.  
Kevin Yorke, Secretary

**REGRETS:** Mayor Lois Smith

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Deputy Mayor Ward 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 Councillor Harrison that the Agenda be approved as circulated.

**Motion carried**

3. **RCMP REPORT**

No report. The Deputy Mayor noted that Cpl. LeBlanc had sent her regrets that she would not be able to attend due to training.

4. **FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Fire Chief Randy Mosher presented the following report:

**Fires/Protective Services:**

March 6: False alarm at Mountain View Manor, Smith Avenue.  
March 7: False alarm (via EHS) for medical assist in Diligent River.  
March 10: Flue fire Beaverdam Road. Extinguished with no issues.  
March 18: Flue fire Ramshead Road, Diligent River. Ongoing issues with masonry flue.  
March 23: Grass fire 100 Victoria St. Extinguished before it could ignite neighbors garage.

- March 25: Blueberry field Western Ave./Hwy 209. Extinguished without issues.
- March 25: Mutual aid to Port Greville grass fire. No issues.

**Training Completed:**

Site tour of Oxford Frozen Foods, Halfway River, including presentation on Anhydrous Ammonia.  
Site tour of Granby Furnace Inc. (former Parrsboro Metal Fabricators)  
5 members continue taking “Level 1” modules and have written “Hazardous Materials Awareness” test.

**Membership:**

Current active members based on alarm response/training attendance: 13  
Roster currently lists 18 active firefighters, plus 1 auxiliary (of max. 22 plus 3 aux.)

**Meetings/Functions:**

- February 29: Truck committee met to review “county tanker specification”.
- March 5: Initial meeting for new “support group”. Group to be named “Friends of Firefighters”. (FoF)
- March 7: 11 firefighters/Friends of Firefighters attended food handling course in Diligent River.
- March 10: Truck committee discussed new fire truck spec. with sales representative from Metal Fab (in our station).
- March 11: Attended Cumberland County Firefighters Association meeting, Springhill, as Secretary. Discussed ongoing training concerns with Program Manager of the Nova Scotia Firefighters School.
- March 15: Attended opening of Sackville N.B. Town Hall/Fire Station. Met with Fire Chief, reviewing their policies, procedures, equipment (town population 4,500 with full-time paid Chief, 45 firefighters and 6 trucks).
- March 20: Received detailed truck proposal from Metal Fab. Budget = \$270,000 +/-.
- March 22: Met CAO to update: former Ladies Auxiliary status, equipment budget, fire hall maintenance requests, initial comments on truck proposal.
- March 22: Special meeting of Firefighters to discuss “Friends of Firefighters” group structure, reporting relationship, fiscal responsibilities to the Fire Department.
- March 25: Truck committee reviewed Metal Fab proposal in detail.
- March 26: EMO planning meeting.
- March 27: FoF catered Alene Yorke funeral reception held at Fire Hall.

**Fire Hall Maintenance/Operation:**

- Ongoing: Issues with Leavitt Fire & Safety – no response since December regarding service contract for extinguishers in Town Shed, Town Hall, Fire Hall.
- Ongoing: Issues with non-response of Humphrey’s Alarm Service regarding updates to (un) authorized users of the Fire Hall.
- Ongoing: Issues with groups NOT contacting Chris Clark@254-3589 for booking of Hall use/rentals. (recent VON meeting).
- Ongoing: Awaiting approval (tonight)? by Council for minor capital improvements to the Fire Hall.

**Planning:**

Making brief presentation at Board of Trade Annual Meeting March 28<sup>th</sup> regarding fire inspections/fire extinguishers.

Need better coordination with Amherst Fire Inspectors. Merchants pose questions of Fire Chief after inspectors give them list of deficiencies. I do not get copied.

Need a formal piece of identification (business card?) stating that I am, in fact, Town of Parrsboro Fire Chief.

After giving his report the Fire Chief elaborated on his investigations into a fire truck noting that by the end of this week he will be as far as he can go with the information he has with regard to what is needed and by April 15<sup>th</sup> he hopes to have more information from the County on what exactly Fort Gary is delivering. Deputy Mayor Ward stated that at this point the procedure would be for the fire truck to be put on the agenda of the next Committee-of-the-Whole.

The Chief also detailed the work required at the Fire Hall estimated to cost approximately \$13,000 which is above and beyond the \$30,000 of work approved two years ago. After a discussion it was agreed that Councillor Howe and Deputy Mayor Ward tour the fire hall prior to the next Committee-of-the-Whole to take a look at what has been done and what needs to be done.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Deputy Mayor Ward asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Council minutes of February 28, 2012 (#12-02). Hearing none she declared the minutes approved as circulated.

The Deputy Mayor reviewed the minutes of a Special Council meeting held on March 14, 2012 (#12-03) and asked if there were any errors or omissions. Hearing none she declared the minutes approved as circulated.

**6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**MARCH 2012**

### **Report given by Deputy Mayor Ward**

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(a) **Budget** – The Committee held a preliminary review of the 2012/2013 budget and will have further discussions when more accurate financial information becomes available.

(b) **Ship's Company Theatre Presentation** – Ship's Company Board Chair, David Beattie and Artistic Producer, Matthew Tiffin, met with the Committee in support of their application for funding, to give a briefing on the upcoming season and to explore opportunities for cooperation.

(c) **Council Agenda on Web Site** – Interested citizens are reminded that a brief agenda for Council meetings is published on the Town's web site on the Notices page under Municipal Information.

(d) **Anti-Bullying Day** – Councillor McCully provided updated plans for Anti-Bullying Day and a breakdown of the budget. She advised that funding in the amount of \$1,000 is requested from the Town to assist the organizers with the event.

After a discussion the Committee recommended support from the Town up to a maximum of \$1,000.00.

(e) **Scott Property Soil Testing** – Councillor McCully advised that the Recreation Committee has been looking at recreational opportunities for the former Scott Mill property, however, an assessment of soil conditions would be needed to determine what uses are acceptable. The C.A.O. advised that these soil tests have been performed, however, they have not been interpreted to the extent that would verify that the property is safe. Councillor Howe noted having a connection to someone who could do the analysis at no cost.

After a discussion it was agreed to get these soil tests analyzed through C. Howe's resource person.

(f) **Annual Clean Up Day** – Councillor McCully proposed another Clean-Up Day and was given the authority to choose a date and make plans for it. It was also agreed that a green cart give-away be coordinated with the event again this year.

(g) **Pet Waste** – Deputy Mayor Ward noted the problem of pet waste and proposed installing about 8 pet waste disposal stations with appropriate signage.

After a discussion the Committee supported the idea and asked the C.A.O. to check into it.

(h) **Unightly Premises** – The Committee reviewed a couple of unsightly premises files and will be proceeding to have one property inspected for possible action under the Town's Dangerous or Unightly Premises Policy.

(i) **Dinosaur Lights** – The C.A.O. was questioned about the status of upgrades to the decorative Dinosaur lights and advised he is in the process of obtaining quotes for LED lighting for these fixtures.

(j) **Gavin Park** – The Committee was advised that quotes are being obtained to replace benches and other items that had been destroyed by vandals in Gavin Park.

(k) **Welcome to New Home Owners** – Deputy Mayor Ward proposed the idea of welcoming new home owners to the town.

After a discussion the Committee recommended a welcome card be sent to new home owners by mail.

(l) **Green Carts** – A quote for a new supply of green carts, 72-13 gallon and 88-21 gallon in the total amount of \$5,000 was presented to the Committee.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that these items be ordered.

(m) **Library** – The Committee was advised that the Cumberland Regional Library Board is looking for an increase in funding from Cumberland municipalities for the next fiscal year and that this will be on the agenda for the next CAPSO meeting to get feedback from all units.

(n) **Request for Sponsorship** – A letter from Thomas Brown requested the Town to sponsor his family in a walk for Kids Help Line.

After a discussion the Committee recommended sponsorship in the amount of \$100.00.

**Moved by Councillor Harrison, seconded by Councillor Howe that the Finance Committee Report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.**

**Motion carried.**

Councillor Howe updated item (e) indicating that while the soil was remediated for the two main contaminants (PCP's and THP's) when Scott's Mill left in 1993 and when retested were found to be at acceptable levels, these things are tested differently and the present guidelines are different than in 1994. His son-in-law, therefore suggested that if it is really important the soils should be tested again as there could have been oil dumped there since 1994.

Deputy Mayor Ward asked Councillor Howe to thank his son-in-law on the Council's behalf for his input.

## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT**

**MARCH 2012**

### **Report given by Deputy Mayor Ward**

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(a) **Replacement of Plow Truck** – The Chair reported that the Superintendent has concerns about the 1989 International snow plow due to constant costly repairs and that it would be appropriate to look at replacing it. The C.A.O. advised that each year the Council has been putting \$25,000 into a reserve for public works equipment but at budget time they may want to look at increasing this in anticipation of having to purchase a new truck.

After a discussion it was recommended that the Superintendent be asked to get cost estimates for a suitable replacement vehicle.

(b) **Public Works Employee** – The hiring of an employee to bring the Public Works Department back up to full staff was referred to the Personnel Committee.

(c) **Main Street** – With the early spring weather this year it was recommended that the park benches and garbage cans be put back out as early as possible. It was also suggested that the Committee assess the need for some wooden garbage receptacles that accept recyclables and that the company supplying the stainless steel receptacles be asked to replace them with the original black finish that was used when they were first installed.

**Moved by Councillor McCully, seconded by Councillor Harrison that the Public Works Committee Report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.**

**Motion carried.**

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

**MARCH 2012**

### **Report given by Councillor Harrison**

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(a) **Economic Development** – The Committee brainstormed for ideas to stimulate economic growth and will be focusing on the following:

- Developing information packages for people thinking of setting up a business and advertising contact information in the newsletter.
- Revisiting the nursing home issue.
- Attracting developers for suitable housing.

**Moved by Councillor Harrison, seconded by Councillor McCully that the Economic Development Committee Report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.**

**Motion carried.**

## TOURISM COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2012

### Report given by Councillor McCully

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(a) **Glooscap Park** – Deputy Mayor Ward suggested that the Committee look at another piece of playground equipment and internet access this year. She also asked about plans for upgrades at the park. She was informed that the teeter totter purchased last year would be installed for this coming season and that there will be new lots going in this year. Also, preliminary investigations have been made into internet access.

After a discussion it was agreed to leave these items with the Committee to look into further detail when developing an overall plan for the park this year.

(b) **Kiosk** – An update on signage and brochure racks for the kiosk was requested. The C.A.O. advised he would check with Bernie Murphy from CREDA on the status of these items.

(c) **Tide Chart** – It was recommended that the C.A.O. contact the graphic designer of the tide chart and ask to have the chart prepared for printing in time for the early tourism season, perhaps sometime in May or early June.

(d) **Story Board** – It was recommended that the Hudson Bomber story board be put up before the long weekend in May along with other tourism signage.

(e) **Flower Baskets** – The Committee recommends that the two local greenhouses be requested for quotes for flower baskets, etc. for Main Street, Town Hall and Glooscap Park.

**Moved by Councillor McCully, seconded by Councillor Harrison that the Tourism Committee Report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.**

**Motion carried.**

## RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2012

### Report given by Councillor McCully

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(a) **Committee Chair** – Deputy Mayor Ward expressed the opinion that with a full-time Recreation Director that is doing an excellent job there is no need for two members of Council on the Recreation Committee. Therefore, she asked to be taken off the Committee of which she is the Chair.

In the discussion the Committee agreed with the Deputy Mayor's assessment. Councillor McCully will continue on as the Council rep assuming the position of Chair.

**Moved by Councillor McCully, seconded by Councillor Harrison that the Recreation Committee report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.**

**Motion carried.**

**7. APPROVAL OF INCREASE IN SEWER RATES**

The C.A.O. noted that this is the increase that was recommended during the last budget discussions and that there should be a separate motion to approve it outside the budget process. The Deputy Mayor also noted the understanding that after the approval in the budget last year it was too late because the sewer bills had already been issued. This was confirmed by the C.A.O.

**Moved by Councillor Howe, seconded by Councillor Harrison that the sewer rates increase from \$150 per unit to \$175 per unit.**

**Motion carried.**

**8. AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN RCMP POLICING CONTRACT**

**Moved by Councillor McCully, seconded by Councillor Howe that the Mayor be given the authorization to sign the RCMP Policing Contract on the Town's behalf.**

**Motion carried.**

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence presented, however, Councillor Howe did note that there is a letter on its way asking if the Town will be doing anything to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

After a discussion it was agreed that this be put on the agenda of the next Committee-of-the-Whole.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Councillor McCully the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Deputy Mayor

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C.A.O.

