

COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 29, 2015

#15-10

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 29th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Lois Smith presiding.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Lisa Ward
Councillor Norman Rafuse
Councillor Ron Shaw
J. Raymond Hickey, CAO
Kevin Yorke, Secretary

REGRETS: Councillor David Harrison

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

Motion carried.

3. **SWEARING-IN CEREMONY**

At this point Norman Rafuse took the Council Member's Oath of Allegiance and of Office and was sworn-in as a member of Council by CAO, Ray Hickey.

4. **MOTIONS TO APPROVE BUILDING OFFICIALS AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Ward, seconded by Councillor Shaw that David Buell, Pat Boyce, Monty Maddison, Steve Varner and Thomas Trenholm be appointed as Building Officials for the Town of Parrsboro pursuant to Section 5, subsection (2), of the Nova Scotia Building Code Act.

Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Ward, seconded by Councillor Shaw that David Buell, Pat Boyce, Monty Maddison and Thomas Trenholm be appointed as Development Officers for the Town of Parrsboro pursuant to Section 243, subsection (1), of the Municipal Government Act.

Motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Smith asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the Council minutes of June 23rd, 2015 (#15-05). Hearing none the minutes were declared approved as presented.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Ward, seconded by Councillor Shaw that the minutes of a Special Council meeting held on July 6th, 2015 (#15-06) be approved.

Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Ward, seconded by Councillor Rafuse that the minutes of a Special Council meeting held on July 14th, 2015 (#15-07) be approved.

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Shaw, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ward that the minutes of a Public Hearing held on July 14th, 2015 (#15-08) be approved.

Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Ward, seconded by Councillor Rafuse that the minutes of a Special Council meeting held on August 26th, 2015 (#15-09) be approved.

Motion carried.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2015

Report given by Deputy Mayor Ward

(a) King Street Water/Sewer Project – The Committee was updated regarding the King Street water/sewer project which is expected to be completed during this construction season.

After a discussion it was recommended that a letter be sent to appropriate residents of King Street advising that the water project will be taking place so that they can plan to replace their water lines at the same time, if they so wish. Also, that a letter be sent to other residents who also have the option to connect to the sewer main which is being extended.

At the September meeting the CAO reported that the tender for the project is out with a closing date of October 6th.

(b) Phinney Lane – The Committee was advised that the developer of Phinney Lane had requested consideration of improvements to the subdivision including street lights,

paving and/or water service and that there had also been a request for water from a resident of Phinney Lane.

After reviewing cost estimates the Committee agreed that where there are other projects that are a priority such as sewage treatment plant, neither the extension of the water line or paving would be considered financially viable at this point in time. The Committee did, however, recommend the approval of the request for street lights.

(c) **Aboiteau Project** – The CAO advised that the necessary permits for repair work at the Aboiteau have been approved and that the project will involve the installation of cement and clay which will require specialized equipment at additional cost.

After a discussion that involved input from the Superintendent of Public Works, the Committee recommended proceeding with this project in the spring and that three new gates be ordered and installed in conjunction with the project. The CAO noted that funding could come from our Gas Tax money. There was also a discussion regarding the replacement of the Aboiteau Bridge resulting in the recommendation that appropriate Provincial officials be contacted with a request that the project be undertaken as soon as possible.

(d) **Energy Symposium** – Councillor Harrison reported that the first annual Energy Symposium will be held on September 24th in Springhill and September 25th in Parrsboro at the Legion. The objective of this symposium which is open to the public will be to bring together the green energy industry, suppliers, various levels of government and academia to gain greater insight into the opportunities for growth in the renewable energy sector in Cumberland County and throughout Nova Scotia.

(e) **Band Stand** – The CAO advised that to the date of his report there had been a couple of tenders received for the demolition of the old band stand.

After a discussion the Committee recommended giving the CAO the authority to choose the best tender of those received by the deadline.

At the September meeting the Committee was advised that now that the demolition of the Band Stand has been completed, the next step is to draw up a tender document for the construction of a new band stand based on Keith Graham's design plans and that Taylor and Randy Mosher will be working on this together.

(f) **Dr. Howe RE: ER Services** – As a follow up to his earlier meeting with Council, Dr. David Howe expressed his concern about continued emergency department closures at the South Cumberland Community Care Centre and the consequences if something isn't done to address the situation.

Mayor Smith noted that she has written to the Minister of Health regarding the matter and that she would follow it up with further correspondence.

(g) **Inquiry RE: Snowmobile Access** – Councillor Shaw noted being contacted by an individual asking if the Town could approach the Snowmobile Association about being able to have access to the downtown for fuel and other supplies.

The Committee felt that it was not the role of the Town to do this and recommended that the individual be advised to contact the Snowmobile Club and others concerned directly.

(h) **Don Yorke Memorial Committee** – Councillor Shaw advised that the grandchildren of Cora and Don Yorke have formed a new DYM committee and are interested in discussing some ideas for expanding the entertainment side of the tournament thus making the event bigger and more profitable for the businesses in the town.

After a discussion the Committee recommended referring the Committee to the Recreation Department for booking the ball fields and also indicated that the Town would be open to discussions with regard to any events that they would propose to be held on public property.

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

Motion carried.

Mayor Smith noted that the Minister of Health had responded to her correspondence in February concerning the lack of emergency services and that he shares our concern. She added that the Council regularly receives updates regarding when the temporary closures are going to happen and the procedure that should be followed when a medical emergency arises. Councillor Rafuse noted the understanding that emergency services had been provided by paramedics when there was a shortage of medical staff and questioned if that service is still available. It was the general understanding of those present that paramedics are no longer providing emergency service and it was therefore agreed to look into the matter.

(b) PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2015

Report given by Deputy Mayor Ward

Monthly Activity Reports

June 2015

Calls:

3 Motor Vehicle Accidents (no extrications required)

2 Medical Calls

1 Building Alarm (vacant house – presume moisture set off alarm)

Training:

13 members attended Equipment Check Night

3 members attended “Swift Water Rescue” for 3 full days in Ottawa – training not available locally

10 members learned some of the above skills in a 2 hour regular training session (how to help those fully trained)

9 members took 2 hours (of 6 required hours) of Medical First Responder refresher training

One regular training night used for Field Day preparations

July 2015

Calls:

2 Motor Vehicle Accidents – no extrication required

1 Water Rescue – dispatched our Boat and “Mule” in Mutual Aid to Joggins

2 Woods Fires. Thursday, July 16th and recall on Friday, July 17th to Diligent River. A total of 130 firefighter hours and 30 truck hours between the two days.

Training:

13 members attended Equipment Check Night

4 members practiced boat rescue techniques

5 members started installing new, “non-slip” steps on the Rescue Truck

No training – on scene at Diligent River woods fire

12 members attended Monthly Meeting

(b) **Fire Department Rescue Boat** – On behalf of the Fire Department, Deputy Mayor Ward presented a request for additional funding in the amount of \$2,000, cost shared by the County of Cumberland, to purchase a rescue boat to replace the existing boat for which \$8,000 had been budgeted for repairs. She noted that the total cost of the new boat with additional equipment included would be \$10,000, cost shared equally between the

Town and County and that the Fire Department felt that it would be more cost effective to purchase new rather than repair the old one. She also pointed out that the old boat could be sold with the proceeds going toward other much needed fire fighting equipment.

After a discussion the Committee approved the Town contributing an additional \$1,000 toward the purchase of this equipment.

(c) **Fire Truck** – The Deputy Mayor also presented a proposal on the department’s behalf that a used 1997 EI Pumper be purchased at a cost of \$90,000 which could be cost shared equally with the County of Cumberland. She reviewed the particulars of the vehicle which has been inspected and certified and noted that acquiring this equipment would not only enable the department to provide enhanced fire fighting service, but also would delay the need to purchase a new fire truck to replace the 1978 truck by several years. It was noted that there is some money in reserve that could be used for this purpose and that the balance could come from the General Operating reserve.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that this request be approved provided the County agrees to its share of the cost to purchase this equipment.

(d) **1978 Pumper** – The Committee was advised that the Fire Department proposes to spend approximately \$5,000 on repairs to the 1978 Pumper to keep it in good working order. It was noted that this truck is particularly useful due to the pump valve option and that the department feels that it would be money well spent. This expenditure would also be cost shared with the County as per the Fire Services Agreement.

After a discussion the Committee recommended approval of the Town’s share of the cost to repair this vehicle.

(e) **Operations of Building** – The Committee was also informed about issues relating to the maintenance of the Fire Hall building which were noted by the CAO and will be dealt with in due course.

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

Motion carried.

(c) PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2015

Report given by Mayor Smith

(a) **Building Inspector’s Report** – The Building Inspector submitted the following report for the months of May and June 2015. There were no permits issued in July.

	<u>No. of Permits</u>	<u>Value</u>
New construction, alterations and additions (Residential)	3	\$22,500
Development	1	N/A
New construction, alterations and additions (Commercial)	3	\$ 9,000
Total	7	\$31,500

Building Permits Issued for the Past Year (September 2014 – September 2015)–

New construction, alterations and additions (Residential)	*10	\$881,000
New construction, alterations and additions (Commercial)	8	\$402,000
Garages & Sheds	3	\$ 27,500
Demolition	3	N/A
Development	1	N/A
Total	25	\$1,310,000

* (includes 4 permits for new home construction totaling \$835,000)

(b) Heritage Property Request – Correspondence was presented from the new owner of the former Wright property at 134 King Street requesting consideration of the property for Municipal Heritage Designation. The new owner indicated that he plans to restore the house back to its former glory and provided supporting documentation as to the building’s historic significance and prominence in the town. The CAO noted that the Heritage Property Bylaw stipulates that there is to be a Heritage Advisory Committee consisting of six members which is supposed to recommend to the Town whether to approve a property for heritage designation.

After a discussion the Committee recommended a response noting that the Town Council supports his initiative, however, presently we do not have an active committee and that the Council will investigate forming one to deal with his application.

(c) Unsightly Premises – The CAO advised that notices have been sent to a number of property owners and relayed their responses to the Committee.

After a discussion the Committee recommended that a follow up letter be sent requesting updates and timelines.

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

Motion carried.

(d) LIBRARY REPORT

JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2015

Report given by Deputy Mayor Ward

Children’s Summer Reading Program Stats 2015

Year	Participants	Total Programs Offered	Total # of children (and adults) who attended programs	Average # of children (and adults) per program
2015	313	66	977	15

By Branch

	Participants		Hours Read		Programs		#Attended	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
Parrsboro	15	26	195	235	12	7	98	83

Teen Reading Program Stats 2015

Year	Participants	Entries	Hours Read	Avg. Hours/ Participant
2015	12	147	294	24

By Branch

	Participants		Entries		Hours Read	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
Parrsboro	4	1	34	3	68	6

Annual Activity

Items Borrowed	2013-14	2014-15
Parrsboro	11,498	8,577

Holds Placed	2013-2014	2014-2015
Parrsboro	2,993	2,244

Inter-Library Loans	2013-2014	2014-2015
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Loaned to Other Libraries	1,963	2,408
Borrowed from Other Libraries	2,643	2,894

Annual Visits	2013-2014	2014-2015
No. of In Person Visits to Library*	83,221	82,542
No. of Online Visits to Library	139,948	137,297

*This is an estimate based on one week of library usage in October.

Reference Questions	2013-2014	2014-2015
Parrsboro	1,420	905

Programming	2013-2014	2014-2015
No. of Programs Offered	651	655
Total Attendance	8,294	10,095

Children's Summer Reading Program	2013-2014	2014-2015
Participants	352	297
Hours Read	2,535	1,836
Program Attendees	863	1,072

Teen Summer Reading Program	2013-2014	2014-2015
Participants	28	26
Hours Read	1132	636

Adult Summer Reading Program	2013-2014	2014-2015
Participants	101	131
Books Read	812	1,106

Resources	
Books & Magazines	63,739
DVDs, Blu-Ray & VHS	2,903
Audio Books	1,466
Periodical Subscriptions (titles)	94
Online database subscriptions	4
Public Access Computers	38

Our Technology

Wireless Use Hours	2013-2014	2014-2015
Parrsboro	2,163	1,548

Public Access Computer Use Hours	2013-2014	2014-2015
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Parrsboro	2,491	2,074
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Our Community

Members*	2013-2014	2014-2015
Parrsboro	824	772

*Active, registered users (have used their accounts within the last 3 years)

New Members	2013-2014	2014-2015
Parrsboro	82	77

Moved by Deputy Mayor Ward, seconded by Councillor Rafuse that the Library report be accepted.

Motion carried.

(e) TOURISM COMMITTEE REPORT

JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2015

Report given by Councillor Shaw

(a) S.T.E.P. Program – Councillor Shaw reported on the STEP (Strategic Tourism Expansion Program) meeting held on September 15th, with Chair Heather Foster Spidell and Co-chair David Beattie. He noted that there were approximately 9 people for the working committee that met during the morning session and that the evening session was well attended with round table discussions resulting in a lot of useful information coming forth. Marsha Pond, a very knowledgeable tourism expert, has taken this information and will compile a project to work on within the next six weeks with the objective of building our tourism sector and making the Parrsboro shore one of the best tourism experiences anywhere.

Moved by Councillor Shaw, seconded by Councillor Rafuse that the Tourism Committee report be accepted.

Motion carried.

(f) CUMBERLAND JOINT SERVICES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY REPORT

JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2015

Report given by Deputy Mayor Ward

Following is a summary of the material delivered to the site during the fiscal year 2015/2016 (April – August). It is important to remember that Construction and Demolition material delivered to other sites is not included in these numbers, but will be included in the final disposal numbers for our area released by the Province.

Composting:

1,888 metric tons of organic materials were delivered to our Compost Facility. This is a decrease of 24.3% (458 metric tons). We received 2,346 metric tons in the same period in fiscal 2014/15.

Disposal:

3,754 metric tons of garbage was delivered to the landfill. This is a decrease of 1% (33 metric tons). We received 3,787 metric tons in the same period in fiscal 2014/15.

Recycling:

1,622 metric tons of recycling product was delivered to the Recycling Facility. This is a decrease of 3.1% (50 metric tons). We received 1,672 metric tons in the same period in fiscal 2014/15.

Construction & Demolition:

2,326 metric tons of construction & demolition material was delivered to the C&D site. This is a decrease of 42.6% (991 metric tons). We received 3,317 metric tons in the same period in fiscal 2014/15.

Enforcement Activities:**Residential Curbside**

- 205 residential curbside audits were conducted which resulted in 28 rejections.
- The Oxford Transfer Station is visited once a month.

Commercial Off-site

- 85 commercial off-site audits were conducted.

CJSMA Site Audits

- 24 C&D audits were conducted.
- 31 garbage audits were conducted.
- 3 recycling audits were conducted.
- 20 Wagon audits were conducted.

Call2Recycle

Staff were busy contacting locations around Cumberland County to participate in the Call2Recycle battery recycling program. Current locations are:

1. Cumberland Central Landfill
2. Canadian Tire Amherst
3. Amherst Stadium

4. Crossroads Co-op Ltd.
5. Advocate Country Store
6. Springhill Foodland
7. Oxford Home Hardware Building Centre
8. Pugwash Co-op Ltd.

Business Rewards Program

The most recent business to be recognized under the Business Rewards Program is the A&W Amherst.

Major Organizational Priorities

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Presentation

Stephen Rayworth provided a PowerPoint Presentation. He noted that EPR was part of the regulatory review process by NS Environment. CJSMA provided comments last summer. NSE is now moving forward. Lobby groups (primarily the Canadian Federation of Independent Business) are trying to stop EPR due to concerns of the effect on small business. Stephen will be providing a presentation to UNSM.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Ward, seconded by Councillor Rafuse that the Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority report be accepted.

Motion carried.

7. Correspondence

(a) **The Honourable Geoff MacLellan, Minister of Transportation** – Mayor Smith noted correspondence from the Minister dated August 13th, 2015 in response to her correspondence regarding the Aboiteau bridge. Mr. MacLellan noted that the Aboiteau bridge structure is currently scheduled for replacement in the 2019/20 construction season and that given this replacement schedule the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal has not begun any field work or formal design of the structure to date. He added, however, that District staff are available to meet with the Council to discuss the bridge replacement.

Mayor Smith noted that she had, in fact, contacted Area Manager Buffy White to arrange a meeting that is scheduled for October 6th at 10:00 a.m.

(b) **Parrsboro Band Association** – Mayor Smith noted correspondence dated September 17th from the Parrsboro Band Association thanking the Town for the tremendous support that is given to the annual Bernie Burke Golf Tournament.

(c) **Sherman Shapiro** – Deputy Mayor Ward noted correspondence from Sherman Shapiro, Mayor of our sister city, Blue Lake, California advising that through the assistance of the ancestral archives at the Ottawa House Museum his research has revealed that the founder of the Bluenose picnics was sea captain Joseph E. Merriam,

who was originally from the Parrsboro area and moved to Blue Lake over 100 years ago becoming a prominent citizen and judge. Mr. Shapiro noted being amazed that there is such a chance link over nearly 4000 miles uncovered now only because he and Eva visited Parrsboro for one night in 2004, bought a house the next year and were moved to investigate by the Blue Lake Museum's 2006 summer display on the Eastern Canada and New England connection to Blue Lake 100+ years ago which included Blue Lake's Bluenose picnics. He indicated that the two cities have already been related over 100 years by blood and in a sense the sister city resolution was just a formality.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Ward the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.