

March 9, 2006

The regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Yarmouth was held in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall on Thursday, March 9, 2006.

CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the playing of O'Canada.

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Mayor Charles Crosby
Deputy Mayor Martin Pink
Councillor Byron Boudreau
Councillor Esther Dares
Councillor Clifford Hood
Councillor Murray Judge
Councillor Wally Strickland
Jeff Gushue, C.A.O.
Greg Barro, Town Solicitor
Rose Earle, Executive/Recording Secretary

REGRETS

Councillor Murray Judge

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY Councillor Strickland, SECONDED BY Deputy Mayor Pink that the Agenda be approved with the following additions:

- 6. Uniform Closing Bylaw under Business Arising
- 11. b) Backhoe Tender under Staff Reports
- 11. c) Expropriation re Mountain Cemetery under Staff Reports

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY Councillor Dares , SECONDED BY Deputy Mayor Pink that the minutes of February 9, 2006 (Public Hearing & Regular Council), be approved as amended below:

Joint Leisure Services Committee motion (Page 3453) should read “...that an increase in the Capital Budget for the Joint Leisure Services Committee be referred to budget for consideration.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING

_____The CAO brought forward Second Reading for the repeal of the Uniform Closing By-law No. 19.

Editor’s Note: Councillor Boudreau left the table during discussion of this topic due to a conflict of interest.

MOVED BY Deputy Mayor Pink, SECONDED BY Councillor Strickland that the Uniform Closing By-law No. 19, be repealed.

MOTION CARRIED

Editor’s Note: Councillor Boudreau returned to the Council Table

PRESENTATION

_____The Mayor welcomed Walter Parnel, President, Yarmouth County Ground Search and Rescue Team. Mr. Parnel referred to his written presentation (Appendix A), which was presented to two other councils in the area, and requested Council’s written support to proceed with their request to the taxpayers to approve a yearly tax or levy on residential property assessment. Mr. Parnel advised there is approximately sixty-five persons within their membership and in order to continue to provide their services they require additional funding for their operational budget.

The Mayor advised Mr. Parnel that the Town and municipalities had different rates and ways of taxation for its residents than the county municipalities.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Parnel for his presentation and advised him this would be discussed during budget deliberations.

CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

The CAO reviewed the correspondence from Ken Simpson, whereby the UNSM requests support regarding Fair and Equitable Funding.

MOVED BY Deputy Mayor Pink, SECONDED BY Councillor Dares the following:

WHEREAS in October 2004, the UNSM Board commissioned a study by consultants Dr. Paul Hobson, Dr. Wade Locke and Dr. David Cameron, to establish principles against which the current state of municipal finance in Nova Scotia can be assessed for fairness and equality; and

WHEREAS in May 2005, the Report, "A Question of Balance-An Assessment of the State of Local Government in Nova Scotia," was submitted to the UNSM by the consultants; and

WHEREAS the Report recommends three guiding principles:

- 1) Each level of Government should fund expenditures in its respective jurisdictions from its own revenues;
- 2) The Province should ensure that municipalities have access to the broad property tax powers and revenues sufficient to finance their spending responsibilities;
- 3) Municipal equalization should adhere to the principle that municipalities across the Province have the fiscal capacity to provide reasonably comparable levels of municipal services for a reasonably comparable tax burden. To ensure this, Nova Scotia's municipal equalization program should be fully funded and paid for out of the Province's general revenues.

That were accepted by the UNSM board on July 12, 2005; and

WHEREAS at the 2005 Annual Conference the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities' membership endorsed the Report, "A Question of Balance-An Assessment of the State of Local Government in Nova Scotia," accepting its Guiding Principles and Recommendations and mandated the Board of Directors to seek implementation by the Province; and

WHEREAS an Implementation Strategy, which is based on a five-year phase-in of the recommendations, has been approved by the UNSM Board and the three Caucuses;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Yarmouth joins the UNSM Board in calling upon the Provincial Government to accept the three Guiding Principles and beginning with the 2006/07 Provincial Budget, begin implementation of the Report's Recommendations.

MOTION CARRIED

YARMOUTH AREA INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

The Mayor referred to correspondence received from Frank Anderson, General Manager, Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission regarding YAIC alternates for the SWSDA Board.

MOVED BY Councillor Boudreau, SECONDED BY Councillor Strickland the alternates as suggested by the Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission for the South West Shore Development Authority be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

WESTERN COUNTIES REGIONAL LIBRARY

The CAO referred to the request from the Western Counties Regional Library for a team for their April Fools Trivia Challenge as well as financial support for their "Adopt a Book" fundraising campaign.

MOVED BY Councillor Dares, SECONDED BY Councillor Strickland that the Town of Yarmouth enter a team in the April Fools Trivia Challenge.

Editor's Note: Councillor Hood advised he would be unable to participate in a team organized by Council as he had already committed himself to be on another team.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS AGREED that Mayor Crosby would speak to Councillor Judge, as Council's representative on the Western Counties Regional Library Board, to organize a team for the April Fools Trivia Challenge.

RRFB NOVA SCOTIA AWARDS – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The CAO referred to correspondence received from the UNSM regarding the RRFB Nova Scotia Awards. He advised any nomination(s) should be referred to WasteCheck.

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS – BUSINESS OCCUPANCY AND ASSESSMENT TAX (BOAT)

The Mayor referred to correspondence received from Leanne Hachey, Director of Provincial Affairs, Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses. He advised the request was that Council pass along any savings from the elimination of the Business Occupancy and Assessment Tax to small business owners as well as to share Council's tax plan with CFIB and its members to recover any lost revenues from BOAT elimination by March 31, 2006.

Deputy Mayor Pink noted the petitions that were included with the request from the CFIB included letters/petitions and were out-dated and more than a year old and referred to a date prior to the last municipal elections. He commented that, in his opinion, the Town would be doing a fairly good job of communicating with the business community regarding the removal of the Business Occupancy Tax and the removal of it as it is phased in. The Mayor commented that they felt that we should now be able to do something to alleviate some of the taxes to small business.

Councillor Hood commented the DFIB request was to shift part of the tax burden from the small businesses to the residential sector. He also commented that any informal discussions Council has had regarding the BOAT tax was to replace the revenue by an adjustment to the Commercial Property Tax.

Deputy Mayor Pink commented the rate was higher than the residential rate and Councillor Hood suggested that would be a debate for the budget deliberations.

Councillor Boudreau also commented the Business Occupancy Tax has always been a bit more than the residential tax.

IT WAS AGREED the correspondence from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business be placed on file for future reference.

JACQUES WHITFORD LIMITED

The CAO referred to correspondence received from Christine Attard, Department of Environment regarding a proposal from Jacques Whitford Limited to undertake a compensation plan for the Walmart wetlands that were infilled during construction for the Walmart store. The Department of Environment is looking for any comment from Council with regard to the wetland compensation proposal that was proposed.

Concerns were expressed regarding the costs associated with this proposal and that monies that have been set aside for the compensation plan would perhaps be used for studies. This would leave an indicated responsibility for the Town of Yarmouth and TREPA to carry out the work for the project.

The CAO advised that Jacques Whitford advised the limit of the expenditure is \$40,000 as the bond set aside for the compensation plan. He advised the Department of Environment is taking a different view and they believe the critical issue is the number of acres to be protected or enhanced as compared to the number of acres that were infilled. The CAO understands there was about one acre so at a point of about twelve to one there is a significant amount of land that needs to be enhanced and, in his opinion, the Department of Environment feels that the land mass is more important than the dollar value and that they are inclined to look for a greater project than what has been proposed by Jacques Whitford.

MOVED BY Councillor Hood, SECONDED BY Councillor Strickland that Council leave this strictly in the hands of the Department of Environment and tell them that they set the criteria, under their rules, and it is their responsibility to implement something that satisfies the environmental community and satisfies their requirements.

Editor's Note: The CAO suggested the Department of Environment's first priority would be a project within the wetlands associated with Broad Brook. If they could not find a project within the wetlands of Broad Brook then they do have the option to look at other wetland systems within the area and if no project could be found that monies could be paid to the Province and held until such time as an appropriate project could be identified.

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

RED CROSS OPEN HOUSE

Councillor Boudreau advised he attended the Red Cross Open House and was very impressed with their services and their overall presentation at their Open House.

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

Correspondence from Joanne Morton expressing her concerns regarding odour at the Sewage Treatment Plant, was considered.

Councillor Hood advised he had visited the site and noted the odour is periodic and not constant but that the complaints are very real. He questioned if something needed to be fixed or cleaned then it should be done as the plant was working well in the past. Mayor Crosby, Councillor Strickland and Councillor Boudreau also commented on the periodic odour as well. Mayor Crosby recommended holding a Public Works Committee meeting to discuss this issue and how to rectify it.

The CAO advised he had discussed this problem with the Town Engineer and it was also suggested a Public Works Committee meeting be scheduled to deal with the issue.

CORRESPONDENCE PREVIOUSLY DISTRIBUTED

A MACKENZIE SECURITY LTD

Correspondence from Ginger MacKenzie, MacKenzie Security, regarding the tendering of Security or Traffic Control positions within the Town, was considered.

In response to questions, the CAO advised the Town of Yarmouth Commissionaire is contracted directly through the Core Commissionaires office and the person providing the services is not a Town employee. He advised that, to his knowledge, this service had not been tendered in the past but that it was an ongoing contract which provided an ongoing service. He also advised that when the current Commissionaire is absent the Corps of Commissionaires office provides a substitute.

Mayor Crosby advised the position originated with the Yarmouth Development Corporation as a meter person to look after the parking lots and the parking on Main Street and when the Town took that over the person came to the Town and the Town did not expend any monies towards this position.

Councillor Hood advised that he recalled one of the rationales for hiring commissionaires is that Core Commissionaires hire Veterans and those hired are on pensions and it is a supplement to their income to do this. He commented this service has been provided for at least twenty to twenty-five years and he did not recall a tender ever being called for it.

Councillor Boudreau inquired if a tender should be called for these services.

Councillor Hood suggested that a letter be sent to MacKenzie Security advising them that if the Town should ever need the services they offer we would keep them in mind and also that Council could place a call for a tender for other services if they come up. He commented he was happy with the current commissionaire services.

IT WAS AGREED this item would be placed on the next Agenda for the Public Works Committee.

STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Deputy Mayor Pink brought forward the following recommendations from the Finance Committee meeting of March 6, 2006.

MOVED BY Deputy Mayor Pink, SECONDED BY Councillor Dares that Council provide the necessary funds as set out in the letter from the Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission (\$26,000) for the purchase of the former liquor store building for the proposed use of a medical clinic.

THE MOVER AND SECONDER AGREED TO WITHDRAW this motion after discussion regarding conditions for the funding.

MOVED BY Deputy Mayor Pink, SECONDED BY Councillor Boudreau that Council provide the necessary funds as set out in the letter from the Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission (\$26,000) for the purchase of the former liquor store building for the proposed use of a medical clinic provided that there be a taxation offset to the Town of Yarmouth and paid to the Town of Yarmouth for Taxes.

MOTION CARRIED

MOVED BY Deputy Mayor Pink, SECONDED BY Councillor Dares that proposal #2 from David Olie, Town Crier for a new costume (\$1,498.70) be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

Deputy Mayor Pink referenced the Grants to Organizations meeting that was held Saturday, March 4, 2006 and requested Council, if they had not already done so, to provide their grant recommendation charts to Rose Earle as soon as possible.

MOVED BY Deputy Mayor Pink, SECONDED BY Councillor Strickland that the minutes of the Finance Committee meetings of March 4 & 6, 2006, be approved, with an amendment regarding the liquor store property (PAGE 3461) to read as follows:

“...that Council provide the necessary funds as set out in the letter from the Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission (\$26,000) for the purchase of the former liquor store building for the proposed use of a medical clinic provided that there be a taxation offset to the Town of Yarmouth and paid to the Town of Yarmouth for Taxes.

MOTION CARRIED

Deputy Mayor Pink referenced the Fuel Bank issue that was brought to the Finance Committee’s attention by Mayor Crosby.

IT WAS AGREED the request regarding the Fuel Bank would be discussed during budget deliberations.

Deputy Mayor Pink advised that staff hoped to be in a position to have a preliminary budget in place within a few weeks.

Deputy Mayor Pink addressed the Finance Committee motion regarding the Gas Tax.

IT WAS AGREED the recommendation from the Finance Committee regarding the Gas Tax be tabled until clarification regarding the criteria for use of the Gas Tax is obtained.

PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Councillor Dares brought forward the following recommendations from the March 9, 2006 Public Hearing:

MOVED BY Councillor Dares, SECONDED BY Councillor Boudreau that Council amend the Land Use By-Law, in particular Part 27(57(A)), the definition of “parking space to increase the minimum required width of a commercial parking space as outlined in the Planner’s Report.

MOTION CARRIED

YARMOUTH WATER UTILITY.

Councillor Hood advised they are continuing to put forth their best efforts to ensure the progress of the designation of the Lake George Watershed. He commented that he spoke with the Department last week and was told the Deputy Minister would be briefing the new Minister regarding the Lake George Watershed designation.

JOINT HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Councillor Dares advised the Joint Heritage Advisory Committee met on February 28, 2006. She commented the Committee was in the process of striking a proposed Conservation District for the Forest Street area. She advised the Committee had good discussion on a draft map of the area. She further advised the Committee will be walking the proposed area on March 28 and that the Committee would be working in consultation with the various stakeholders and property owners throughout the process.

Councillor Dares advised that Elaine Howatt had resigned from the Committee due to additional work commitments.

MOVED BY Councillor Dares, SECONDED BY Deputy Mayor Pink that a letter be sent to Elaine Howatt advising that Council accepts her resignation with regret and thank her for her years of service to the Town Heritage Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Dares advised that Council had received a letter of interest from Adele Hemple, Yarmouth County Museum and Archives to serve on the Heritage Advisory Committee.

MOVED BY Councillor Dares, SECONDED BY Councillor Boudreau that Adele Hemple be appointed to the Heritage Advisory Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Dares advised that the Town of Yarmouth is being nominated by the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and the Provincial Heritage Property Owners Association of Nova Scotia for the Prince of Wales Prize which is bestowed annually by the Heritage Canada Foundation.

Councillor Dares also advised Council that the position of the Heritage Property Programs Manager for the Province was temporarily vacant again.

MOVED BY Councillor Dares, SECONDED BY Deputy Mayor Pink that Council send correspondence to Minister Judy Streach requesting the Heritage Property Programs Manager position be filled as soon as possible and if the position cannot be filled at least temporarily they come up with a plan so that the Heritage needs in the Province are met as a body to ensure continuity during this vacancy; and that a copy of this correspondence be forwarded to our MLA.

MOTION CARRIED

JOINT LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillor Dares advised the Joint Leisure Services Committee met on March 1, 2006. She advised new members, Shelley Wilson and Mark Setlakwe, were introduced.

Councillor Dares reported the Leisure Services Committee made a recommendation to each council to increase their Capital Budget to \$100,000 (\$50,000 from the Town and \$50,000 from the County). She advised this would help cover costs for items such as the Soccer Complex, the floating docks, sports field for Hebron and the Gateway Park Dugouts, and track and field renovations, etc.

MOVED BY Councillor Dares, SECONDED BY Councillor Hood that the recommendation from the Leisure Services Committee to increase their capital budget to \$50,000 (Town's share) be referred to Budget deliberations.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Dares advised the Provincial Volunteer representative for the Town is Bruce Hopkins and the representative for the County is Keith Bridgeo. She further advised that both nominees had accepted the recognition.

Councillor Dares reported the Recreation Coordinator job description was reviewed and that the Leisure Services Department will be placing an ad for the Coordinator in the near future. She also reported that they wanted to get underway with the restructuring of the Leisure Services Agreement and requested that Council appoint the CAO and the Chair of the Leisure Services Committee to work on this restructuring and provide a recommendation to Council. She advised the Municipality will be appointing the Deputy Warden and the Leisure Services Coordinator to this Committee.

MOVED BY Councillor Dares, SECONDED BY Deputy Mayor Pink that Council authorize the CAO and the Chair of the Leisure Services Committee to be appointed to a sub-committee authorized to work on the restructuring of the Leisure Services Agreement.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Dares advised she had attended a workshop hosted by Recreation Nova Scotia called Everybody Gets to Play – Recreation Without Barriers. This workshop discussed barriers that children in poverty face and Councillor Dares commented the benefits of this workshop would be felt throughout our community.

Councillor Dares also referred to the SOMORE presentation and advised they want to create a Moris Munroe recreation park in Yarmouth South on the property that was donated to the Town by the Munroes. She advised that SOMORE would like to start raising money to be able to do something with that property and will be looking to the Leisure Services Department for guidance on what exactly they are going to do but in order for them to start fundraising they need approval from the Town to proceed. She advised the Committee is recommending that Council support SOMORE's request by granting them permission to develop this Town property for healthy leisure opportunities.

MOVED BY Councillor Dares, SECONDED BY Councillor Boudreau that Council approve, in principle, the development of the former Munroe property owned by the Town for recreation and leisure opportunities.

Editor's Note: SOMORE would not be maintaining or looking after this, once the project is completed it would belong to the Town; SOMORE is looking for a letter of support, in principle, for this project.

MOTION CARRIED

OTHER COMMITTEES

WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Councillor Hood advised he would be providing a report next month.

YARMOUTH COUNTY TOURIST ASSOCIATION

Councillor Strickland commented on the Marketing and Promotions Levy meeting with the various stakeholders and advised that Council would be receiving correspondence from the Yarmouth County Tourist Association regarding information they would like included in the proposed bylaw.

Councillor Strickland also commented on the amalgamation of the tourist associations within the Province and advised the Association was looking at how many members they would have and what area rates would be, etc. He advised this would have to be further discussed, decided and approved by the full membership and probably would not come into effect until next year at the annual general meeting. He further advised they would be meeting with all municipal units to discuss rates and how various things would be carried out and that any monies allocated from the Town would be expended within our geographic area. He advised he would keep Council up-to-date on the progress of this amalgamation.

MARINERS CENTRE MANAGEMENT BOARD

The CAO advised he was unable to attend Mariners Centre Management Board meeting in February but reported they are now working a year ahead on getting a five year contract in place for the Jr. A. Motor Mart Mariners which would see them through 2007.

Councillor Boudreau questioned the CAO regarding the signage at Mariners Centre. The CAO advised the previous signage was taken down due to corrosion inside the unit and that the new sign is back and will be installed very shortly.

SOUTH WEST SHORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Mayor Crosby referred to Councillor Hood's concerns regarding the Industrial Commission and commented that he had brought those concerns to the Authority and would provide a report as soon as he received the response from the Authority

YARMOUTH HOSPITAL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

_____ Councillor Hood advised the Foundation would be going forward with their second annual ball in another six weeks. He reported the fundraising efforts for the MRI campaign went very well and that the campaign well exceeded its goal. He further advised the extra funds had been allocated to the MRI equipment which would be going towards extra funding for training, etc. He advised the Foundation had appointed him to another committee to deal with some efforts that the Foundation Committee made towards providing funding to students who are entering into the medical profession. He advised he would be following up on that at an upcoming meeting.

Mayor Crosby advised the Veterans Association of the Yarmouth Volunteer Fire Department held a fund raiser to raise money for a pain pump and they raised \$6,000 which would be turned over to the hospital for a pain pump for the Veterans of the Volunteer Fire Department. He commented that they did an excellent job of raising money and that a lot of good work comes out of the funds they raise.

Further to Councillor Hood's comments, Councillor Boudreau advised he had spoken with Paulette Sweeney who advised that ticket sales for the Foundation Ball were going fast and suggested that if anyone wanted a ticket they should do so as soon as possible.

WASTECHECK

_____ Councillor Dares advised the Committee met and voted to buy 430 new smaller carts to be distributed throughout the community. She commented that some of our seniors are having difficulty with the large green carts and for a few years they have been getting requests for smaller carts. She advised she was not sure when these carts would be delivered but they would also be used to replace some larger carts that need replacement as their supply is getting low. She also advised they were getting these new smaller carts at half of the normal price as someone had previously ordered them and did not accept delivery on them.

Councillor Dares reported there was discussion regarding a materials recycling facility and whether or not we would build one here. She advised they struck a Committee to decide this and work with them to see if this would evolve into becoming a building committee should that decision go forward. There is to be representation from each municipal unit on that committee and she suggested the CAO be included and requested Councillor Hood's participation as well. She advised there was a lot of support for the Town to have its own facility.

Councillor Dares advised that WasteCheck had received approval from the Resource Recovery Fund for \$0.50 dollars for the construction of three household hazardous waste depots; one in Digby, one in Clare and one in Yarmouth at the Landfill. She advised they cost around \$30,000 and that some of that money is for training of staff as well. The household hazardous waste collection days are very expensive and it would be an opportunity for the Town to save some money by having our own depot.

Councillor Dares also advised WasteCheck had made a motion to instruct staff to proceed to create an implementation plan to proceed with a clear bag garbage collection program and staff were asked to come up with recommended dates for implementation of that plan. She advised these things are sensitive as stores and consumers have inventories of green bags and there needs to be a lot of lead time applied for this kind of program. She advised staff will be coming forward to the Committee with recommendations on how to implement this program in the coming months.

TAXI COMMITTEE

Councillor Hood advised the Taxi Committee meets four times a year and hasn't met this month.

YARMOUTH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Councillor Boudreau advised the Committee met February 14, 2006 in Lovitt Plaza. He advised they discussed hanging flower baskets in the downtown and the Committee made a motion to suggest that if anyone on the Communities In Bloom Committee wished to step down, that perhaps a Yarmouth Development Corporation member could participate on it. He advised the next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2006. Councillor Dares advised that Sandy Dennis is on the Communities In Bloom Committee and represents the Yarmouth

Development Corporation and would probably be reporting to the Yarmouth Development Corporation on the initiatives that the Communities In Bloom Committee are taking.

TIDAL VIEW MANOR

Councillor Strickland referred to the last Council meeting whereby Council requested a letter be sent to Richard Hurlburt regarding the Alzheimer's unit and requested a copy of the letter. He advised the Department of Health would be carrying out an extensive review of the present facility and future requirements and needs of today. He advised there were a lot of things that needed to be addressed and hopefully this review would identify some of those needs and requirements. He further advised that Yarmouth was the only area that did not have an Alzheimer unit.

PENSION COMMITTEE

Deputy Mayor Pink advised the Pension Committee had met and will be meeting with one of the groups who make investments on behalf of the Town to discuss the Town's investment strategy. He advised he would report to Council on their discussions.

COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM

Councillor Dares advised the Committee had met twice and they had compiled a list of potential projects that they would like to do. She advised they had shortened the list to a reasonable targeted amount including planning workshops, year round frost park lighting, a festival to honour particular flowers, community gardens, Mayflower Awards, etc. She advised they had made a motion to create a new category for the Mayflower Awards recognizing the community gardens initiative that started last year.

_____ MOVED BY Councillor Dares, SECONDED BY Councillor Boudreau that staff create a new category for the Mayflower Awards for recognition for Community Gardens.

MOTION CARRIED

_____ Councillor Dares advised the Committee was working on a draft budget and a package to send to the Communities In Bloom judging committee. She advised she would provide a copy of this package for Council's perusal.

_____ Deputy Mayor Pink advised he is also on the Communities In Bloom Committee and commented the meeting was good and well attended with lots of input from the various appointees to the Committee. He advised the Committee would like to see a Green Team which would be comprised of perhaps a half dozen students, who would have an appropriate dress code that would be very visible in and around the Town of Yarmouth. They would be picking up litter, cleaning and doing whatever has to be done within the community. He advised that last

year, in his opinion, the general appearance of the Town and surrounding area was not that great and so he welcomes the suggestion of a Green Team.

_____ MOVED BY Deputy Mayor Pink, SECONDED BY Councillor Dares that Council approve, in principal, the development and implementation of a Green Team as soon as possible and to have it in place in time for the 2006 tourist season and to have staff work out budget details in consultation with the Communities In Bloom Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Boudreau questioned if there would be a problem in relation to implementing a Green Team with regard to the Union. The CAO advised that the Union Contract allowed for the provision of hiring seasonal employees.

_____ Councillor Boudreau inquired about funding for such a program. The CAO advised that if such a program were in place they would be exploring various funding opportunities to help offset some of the costs associated with it, if it was approved by Council.

AIRPORT COMMISSION

Deputy Mayor Pink advised the Airport Commission meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2006.

YMCA

Councillor Hood advised the YMCA is in the preliminary stages of assessing and engaging community support for the redevelopment of the life cycles and enhancement of the YMCA. He advised the building is now twenty years old and there are issues that will have to be addressed to ensure the building has another twenty year cycle.

ART GALLERY

Deputy Mayor Pink advised the capital construction of the Art Gallery is moving toward completion and that Jeffery Spalding is coming down from Halifax to meet with various interested stakeholders, members of the Board of the Art Gallery and others who might be interested in participating and/or donating time and labour to the operation. He advised they are talking about a final opening towards the latter part of May and would keep Council informed of their progress.

HEALTH HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

_____ Councillor Hood commented that the Health Human Resources Committee continues to do its work and advised there are two more health professionals that have signed contracts who will locate here in two years.

_____ Councillor Hood reported on the low numbers that have signed up for the clinic and invited people to make contact and sign up for the clinic. He also commented on the recent negative press regarding physicians in this area. He advised there are seven more medical health physicians in Yarmouth today than there were in December of last year and suggested this was a very positive aspect to the whole doctor shortage situation.

STAFF REPORTS

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE – GERRY VERRAN

The CAO introduced Gerry Verran, Director of Finance. The Mayor, on behalf of Council and the citizens of Yarmouth, welcomed Mr. Verran to this area and invited him to bring in his family to meet council.

The CAO brought forward a staff report regarding the closure of Third Street and Rogers Lane.

MOVED BY Councillor Dares, SECONDED BY Councillor Boudreau that Council advertise for a public hearing in order to consider and if deemed advisable, close Third Street and Rogers Lane in keeping with Section 315 of the Municipal Government Act and the enclosed policy. (Appendix B)

MOTION CARRIED

Editor's Note: The CAO advised that these two streets are part of the block of property for the proposed site of the future court house and as such will be closed and transferred to the Province for that purpose.

BACKHOE LOADER – TENDER

The CAO advised invited tenders were requested from four equipment suppliers for the supply of a new four wheel drive extendable backhoe complete with loader bucket, backhoe bucket, quick hitch coupler and air conditioner. He advised it was recommended that the Town purchase a backhoe from Atlantic Tractor & Equipment in the amount of \$87,475 +HST.

MOVED BY Councillor Boudreau, SECONDED BY Councillor Dares that the tender for a backhoe loader be awarded to Atlantic Tractor & Equipment in the amount of \$87,475.00 + HST.

Editor's Note: It was noted the reason Council accepted this tender is based on the Solicitor's advice and because the lowest tender did not meet the specifications as laid out by the Town Engineer.

EXPROPRIATION – MOUNTAIN CEMETERY

The CAO referred to the expropriation of property from the Yarmouth Mountain Cemetery for the purpose of the realignment of Burton Avenue to line up with the intersection in front of Staples and Superstore.

MOVED BY Councillor Dares, SECONDED BY Councillor Boudreau that the Town proceed with the expropriation of the lands of Yarmouth Mountain Cemetery situate on the eastern side of Burton Avenue in the Town of Yarmouth as shown on the survey plan of R. C. Dearman dated February 6, 2006 for the municipal purpose of widening Burton Avenue, a public street in the Town of Yarmouth.

MOTION CARRIED

Editor's Note: The CAO advised the strip of property is 90' wide, 326' long and the reason he had to bring this back to Council was because there was a previous motion to expropriate lands in the same area but this property is just slightly wider than the previous resolution.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES

MOVED BY Councillor Strickland, SECONDED BY Deputy Mayor Pink that the invoices as okayed by the various chairpersons, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next regular meeting would be held on Thursday, April 20, 2006.

ADJOURN

_____ The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

MAYOR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER