

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Via WebEx virtual meetings
February 23, 2021

Present:

Mayor Don Clarke

Deputy Mayor Ty Walsh, Chair

Councillor Derrick Jamieson

Councillor Rod Reeves

Councillor Chris Goddard

Councillor Mike Trinacty

Councillor Adam Lutz

Mike Payne, Chief Administrative Officer

Tim Harding, Public Works

Karen Peckford, Director of Finance

Chantal Pineo-Atwood, Executive Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Committee approved the Agenda as circulated, with the following additions:

- *Valley Solid Waste Partner Guarantee Resolution*
- *Correspondence: Senior Safety*

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The previous COTW Minutes were approved as circulated.

4. Departmental Reports

a.RCMP

The RCMP report was reviewed by the committee. Councillor Trinacty asked if there has been any discussion with regard to the review of policing models, broached by the province and/or the banning of hand guns being a municipal responsibility, as proposed by federal legislation. Neither has been discussed at the committee level to date.

b.Berwick & District Volunteer Fire Department

The committee reviewed the BDVFD report. No questions of same.

c.Active Living

The committee reviewed the report. Discussion ensued with regard to the Accessibility directives/timelines. The committee agreed that the striking of a committee sooner than later would be advantageous. Ms. Brydon is leading efforts in that regard.

d. Recreation Programing

Ms. Boylan's report was reviewed by the Committee. No questions of same.

f. Public Works

Mr. Harding's report was reviewed. Conversation ensued with regard to snowplow contracting and what machinery would work best on our streets. Tim will have this conversation with the contractor.

Staff feels it would be a good idea to have a motion prepared for March Council with regard to Patching and Paving so we can be fast out of the gate with tenders.

g. Finance

Ms. Peckford gave a verbal update highlighting that she has been working hard on BEC financials, AREA, TOB budget and as well, she and the CAO have been in CUPE labour negotiations all week.

Ms. Peckford also noted that there have been between 70-75 visits per day at the Fitness Centre. Ms. Best has also been busy with online promotions.

h. CAO Report

Mr. Payne's report was reviewed by Council. No questions of same.

5. New Business

a. Street Name Approval for proposed Floris Development on South Commercial Street

Staff received a request to name the avenue into the proposed development "George Street". Council asked that Mr. Floris be apprised of the Town's Street Naming policy and that staff follow up with the Development Officer on specifics regarding naming a private street.

6. Ongoing Business

a. Council and Committees of Council Meetings

Discussion ensued with regard to meeting virtually vs in-person during the State of Emergency and the pandemic. The majority of Council are more inclined to meet virtually. It was decided that all meetings will take place virtually, via WebEx, until the State of Emergency is over. Meeting agendas will be posted on the Town's website and meeting minutes will also be posted within twenty-four hours.

Some discussion ensued with regard to advertising for citizen representative positions On Town committees.

b. Valley Waste Temporary Borrowing Resolution

Council agreed to a Valley Waste TBR in the amount of \$462,731.00 for the refinance of the weigh scale and the wind turbine. Berwick's share being 3.53% (\$16,335.00). This motion will go before Council on February 25, 2021.

7. Mayor/Councillors Updates

a. Councillor Trinacty – the committee reviewed the submitted report. Councillor Trinacty had also attended the Gala Days Committee Meeting, Berwick Electric Meeting and the Governance Committee Meeting since his report and offered an update on each. Councillor

Trinacty highlighted that there most likely will not be any "75th" Gala Days events considering the Covid climate.

b. *Councillor Goddard* – the committee reviewed Councillor Goddard’s submitted report. Discussion ensued with regard to cost sharing in some capacity with Kings Para Transit and Kings Transit. Councillor Goddard noted that Kings Transit has no appetite for any such arrangement at this time as the organizations have minimal commonalities.

c. *Deputy Mayor Walsh* – Councillor Walsh reported he attended meetings for Community Development committee, Police Advisory committee, and Town of Berwick/Berwick Gala Days committee. Will be attending Berwick Gala Days AGM on February 24th, and Kings Diversity committee on March 5th.

| Town of Berwick raised the Pan African flag to celebrate African heritage month on February 10 and read aloud the Council proclamation. Similar plans for a flag raising and proclamation for aboriginal heritage month are in the works with recreation staff.

Supporting and promoting Berwick recreation in their endeavours for “Week of Winter,” Volunteer Superheroes promotion and International Women’s Day on March 8.

d. *Councillor Lutz* – noted he attended the Fire Commission meeting and offered a brief update.

e. *Mayor Clarke* – Mayor Clarke explained that he and a group consisting of CAO’s, Mayor’s and REN reps met with Shawn Fraser on February 22nd for pre-budget deliberations in the hopes of finding out what municipalities would like to see in the federal budget to recover from Covid. Other things that were discussed were construction cost concerns, future NS tourist boom and gas tax.

Mayor Clarke also noted that he has two pieces of correspondence in support of Senior Safety and will have Chantal email the correspondence out to Council.

8. In Camera Session (Contractual)

The Regular COTW entered into an In Camera Session at 7:45pm and re-entered into Regular COTW at 8:03pm.

9. Adjournment

The COTW Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.