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Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting - September 12, 1995

Present:

Chairman

Mayor John W. Rainforth

Deputy Mayor Michael J. Munday Councillor Bruce H. Morse Councillor John P. Prall

Councillor Michael E. Trinacty Councillor Gary W. Whittier Councillor Ronald G. Reeves Judith Mitchell, Town Clerk Connie Coles, Recording Secretary

,In Attendance:

Ms. Sara White, Berwick Register

1.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7: 01 p. m. public was in attendance.

One member of the

2.

Approval of Previous Minutes

(a) Hearing of no errors or omissions, the Chairman approved the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of July 19, 1995 as circulated.

(b) Copies of the following minutes were circulated for the information of Council:

-/	(i)	Planning Advisory	July 19, 1995
	(ii)	Electric Commission	August 29, 1995
	(ill)	Police Commission	August 30, 1995
	(iv)	Licensing Committee	September 5, 1995
	(v)	Planning Advisory	September 5, 1995
	(vi)	Recreation Committee	september 6, 1995

3. CommitteeReports

(a)Social Services

councillor Morse reported that General Assistance has risen significantly compared to last month, but is still within budget. There was minimal activity in other areas. There are two active clients in the Employment Resource Centre. Councillor Reeves questioned if social services recipients can be directed to do community service i. e. roadside cleanup. After general discussion, it was agreed that the Chairman of the social Services Committee make some inquiries with the Director of Social Services, Municipality of the County of Kings, regarding "work for welfare" and report back.

(b) Planning Advisory Committee

Deputy Mayor Munday reported that PAC had two meetings since Council last met, addressing three matters. The first involved a rezoning request from Saunders Investments Ltd. requesting that a parcel of land of approximately 3.5 acres situated in a broad span between Brown Street and commercial street, and accessed via 147 Commercial Street, be rezoned from

R1 to R2. Mr. Saunders wishes to create "a quality subdivision for mature residents". The proposal includes a buffer zone which will act as a green belt to allow for natural vegetation and provide a walking area, as well as aid natural drainage by absorbing excess water.

After further discussion, it was moved by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Trinacty to approve the request to rezone the 3.5 acre parcel of land belonging to Saunders Investments Ltd, and situated between Brown Street and Commercial Street, from R1 to R2, as detailed in Mr. Saunder's request.

Motion Carried

The second rezoning request was received from Mr. Lewis Chute, who wished to rezone two lots on Brown Street, adjacent to the property of Saunders Investment, and known as #164 Brown Street (Lot 1) and #162 Brown Street (Lot 2) from R1 to R2. It was moved by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor whittier to rezone the two lots of land known as 164 Brown Street (Lot 1) and 162 Brown Street (Lot 2), from R1 to R2.

Motion Carried

The third matter was a request to change the permissible height of Accessory Buildings. Deputy Mayor Munday reported that a letter had been received from Mr. Michael MacIntyre asking that the allowed height of Accessory Buildings be changed from 15' to 20'. Deputy Mayor Munday read excerpts from Mr. MacIntyre's letter, noting that the 15' height restriction seems to have been chosen arbitrarily, and that there are currently Accessory Buildings built prior to 1978 that exceed this limit.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Trinacty that a housekeeping amendment be made to Page 16, Part 6, General Provisions for all Zones, Subsection I, General Accessory Buildings (g) in that the words and figure 15' (fifteen feet) be deleted and the words and figure 20' (twenty feet) be inserted instead.

Motion Carried

(c) Fire Department

Councillor Prall reported that all was running smoothly within the Department and training is ongoing. A fundraising auction is taking place in the near future; any donations are welcome.

(d) Solid Waste Management

A number of meetings have been held recently at the Universite Ste. Anne in Clare to discuss a "Regional" approach to Solid Waste Management. The

provincial Strategy that had been promised in June has still not been received. The Steering and Technical Committees invite'd two representatives from Westmorlandj Albert County in New Brunswick to discuss how the regional process was planned and set up there. A lengthy report was given to the Committees stressing, among other things, the importance of public involvement. Also recommended: that each area have public meetings inviting members to participate on an interim Steering Committee to discuss procedures of Regionalization and Solid Waste Management. Trips have been scheduled to the Municipal Balefill site in ColchesterjCumberland area; to the RecyclingjComposting Facility in Whynott's Settlement, near Lunenburg; and a tentative trip to the WestmorlandjAlbert Solid Waste Corporation's facility, near Moncton, N. B., in October.

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(e) Recreation Committee

councillor Trinacty reported that Gala Days were very successful this year, and wished to express his sincere appreciation to Town staff and all of the Departments for their hard work during the setup stages and throughout the weekend, and requested that Committee Chairmen extend his thanks to their respective Departments.

_The Summer Active Challenge involved 11 municipalities, with Berwick coming in first, both in percentages and number of participants. The Town will receive a tree or shrub, as well as a trophy, for winning the Challenge.

Summer Programs went well, with Day Camp and Beach Volley Ball being particularly successful. A number of trophies have been won this year for the float. The possibility of having a trophy case in the Town Hall building is being looked into.

The Recreation Director is currently considering the possibility of erecting a sign showing where the arena and Rainforth Park are located.

Construction of The Minor Ball Association's new Ball Field behind the Curling Club is now underway. Reports from concerned citizens had been received regarding the location of the actual ball field site, as well as obstructions to the walking path. Councillor Trinacty assured Council that the blocked path was a temporary measure and would be cleared up by the end of the week. Councillor Prall suggested that, for safety reasons, signs should be put up at both ends of the path asking people to "Stay out" as it is a construction area. Councillor Trinacty also reported that the field will be shaped and levelled this fall, left to settle over the winter and sodded in the spring. Councillor Trinacty confirmed that the field will be in the location that was originally agreed to.

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(f) Streets

Councillor Whittier reported that all is going well. Video Industrial was in cleaning sewer lines, including Larsens. A Larsen's representative was on hand to see exactly what had accumulated in the lines. The new aerator is at customs and should be released any day. Capital Paving is completed and looks good, especially where the old railway tracks used to be. Only Patching remains to be done.

Councillor Whittier thanked the Public Works Department staff for all of their hard work during the Lagoon's odour problems, and also thanked Ms. Sara White for her interest in taking a detailed tour of the Sewer Lagoons, and the Berwick Register article that resulted. He further commented that the Lagoon problems recently experienced were a combination of several breakdowns; difficulty with suppliers in getting repairs/parts quickly enough; and hot, humid weather. An inventory of parts will be compiled and put on hand, and the new aerator will be installed as soon as possible.

(g) Finance

It was moved by Councillor Reeves and seconded by Deputy Mayor Munday that Council approve the signing of Temporary Borrowing Resolutions totalling \$150,000 for Phase I and Phase II Infrastructure Projects, for fiscal years 1994/95 and 1995/96.

Motion Carried

A copy of the resolution is attached to the official copy of the minutes.

(h) Mayors Report

The Chairman reported on the Police Commission meeting held in August, noting that the majority of the meeting was devoted to the Policing Services Audit. Overall, the audit was very complimentary to the Berwick Police Department. Any shortcomings were mainly due to a small department with limited specialized manpower and limited administrative staff. A more pro active Department was recommended (Le. more community involvement) and building improvements were also recommended (i. e. install a security door, put security glass in front of office area, etc.)

Police Amalgamation was also on the Police commission Agenda, as Bridgewater, Mahone Bay and Lunenburg County have been given the go ahead from the Province to commence amalgamation. It was reported that by the year 2000, RCMP services will be reduced to approximately 200 - 250 members, with a large Regional Force being implemented. A meeting will be held at the end of the month to discuss possibilities of amalgamating locally.

Mayor Rainforth reported that members of the Police commission expressed concern over the operation

of the Beer Tent held this year during the Ball

Tournament. He wished to pass to Council that the Police Commission was concerned, and will come back to Council with recommendations on how it should be handled in future. Councillor Prall expressed an int_rest in addressing the Police Commission before any recommendations are made.

The Electric Commission met in August, and Mayor Rainforth reported that a \$37, 000 capital project to repair the Penstock and Surge Tank near the Hydro Generating Plant at Factorydale is now underway. Also, the road to the powerhouse requires improvements to make it more accessible by 4-wheel drive vehicles. Approximate cost: \$5, 000 to \$10, 000. The Electric Commission has been invited to attend a meeting with the Lunenburg Electric Commission and other utilities, to discuss common concerns.

The Electric Commission also discussed the costs of tree removal, as 60 trees have been identified in need of cutting, trimming and/or removal. Mayor Rainforth suggested that Council consider the possibility that the battle against Dutch Elm Disease has been lost, and noted that Kings County ceased tree removal some time ago. The Mayor questioned whether or not the Town can afford to continue to remove trees on private property, and asked council members to consider what should be done. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the Public Works Department and Electric Commission be instructed to remove only those dead or diseased trees situated on Town property. Public Works can dispose of the wood in a seemly manner, as long as it is not unsightly. The Town will continue to test trees on private property if the owners so wish.

The Kings Municipal Reform Advisory Committee, known as KMRAC, sent out a memo advising that the Committee will be re-activated, initial meeting to be held on September 21, 1995; Mayor Rainforth, Councillor Reeves and the Clerk to attend. Mayor Rainforth commented on the lack of direction being received from the Province, and quoted Mark Gilbert, Municipal Advisor, from June 1995 AMA meeting minutes, that "the Province is placing emphasis on implementing the 1992 Task Force Report on Local Government", and that the Province would welcome "voluntary amalgamations". If that is the case, and the Provincial Government is proceeding with the 1992 Strategy, then Council is not willing to spend a lot of time or energy on discussions if the Province mandates the direction to be taken.

Correspondence

a.

A copy from the Municipality of Annapolis County of their letter to Provincial Department of Transport requesting consideration that their municipal unit be reimbursed for gasoline tax revenues in order to maintain J Class Roads. For the information of Council.

b.

A request from Kings Transit Authority for an unpaid observer to be appointed to the Kings Transit Authority Board. It was agreed that Councillor Reeves be appointed to this position, and to attend the next meeting.

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c.

A five-page letter from Dr. Jim Smith, Department of Community Services, defending the province's position of capping Social Services at 94/95' levels *I* and which reads in part " There is no question that with the removal of open-ended cost sharing with the federal government, we are entering into uncharted waters to which all of us must adapt". A copy of letter is on file, for the information of Council.

d.

A letter from Bob Radchuck of Peat Marwick requesting that all elected members of UNSM complete a survey on Organizational Structure Review; (since circulated to Council). Request to return any completed surveys to Clerk immediately as deadline is Thursday, September 14, 1995.

e.

A Resolution Book was received from Mr. Ken Simpson, Executive Director of Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities. This 1995 Report of the Resolutions Committee will be distributed at the UNSM Conference. Anyone wishing to review the resolutions in advance can obtain a copy from the Clerk. For the information of Council.

f.

Kings County District School Board Minutes for July 5, 1995. for the information of Council.

Circulated

g.

A copy of the Kings County District School Board's approved 1995/96 Budget which was passed on September 6, 1995. Copy on file for the information of Council.

h.

Received from the Nova scotia Department of Education a bound report entitled Statistical Summary 1994/95, which includes 74 schedules and/or graphs identifying education statistics in a variety of formats. Copy on file for the information of Council.

The balance of the correspondence was of a routine nature or passed to committees for action.

Bills and Accounts

It was moved by Councillor Reeves and seconded by Deputy Mayor Munday that the attached list of bills and accounts in the amount of \$276 ,315.20 be approved for payment.

Motion Carried

New Business

(a) UNSM Conference

A request had been received from the new Cape Breton Regional Municipality that they be permitted 20 voting delegates versus the five allowed for each municipality. In prior years, the eight municipalities of Cape Breton had 40 voting members. It was moved by Deputy Mayor

Munday and seconded by Councillor Reeves to support the interim resolution of 20 voting delegates.

Motion Carried

(b) Community Economic Development

Deputy Mayor Munday reported that a meeting of the Community Economic Development had been held the middle of August, but was unable to attend due to vacation.

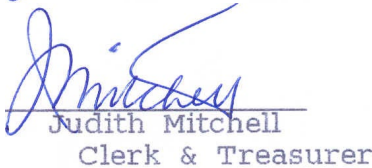
(c) Moody Brothers Parking Lot

Councillor Trinacty requested an update on the status of the parking lot at Bargain Harley's and Moody's Groceteria. The clerk reported that she had been talking with Mr. Moody, and was informed that the parking lot will be completed as soon as the renovations to the store are done. A plan of the parking lot is on file, and any requirements of the Fire Marshall will be made known shortly.

10.

There being no further business, Council adjourned at 8: 47 p. m.


John W. Rainforth
Chairman


Judith Mitchell
Clerk & Treasurer

Town