

.Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting – November 14/ 1995

Present:

Chairman

Mayor John W. Rainforth Councillor Bruce H. Morse

Deputy Mayor Michael J. Munday 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 Mr. Robert Stewart, Solicitor

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7: 04 p. m .

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a) Hearing of no errors or omissions, the chairman approved the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of October 10, 1995, Special Council meetings of November 2, 1995 and November 6, 1995 as circulated, noting that Special Council of November 6 was called to order at 10: 10 a. m. and not p.m.

(b) For the Information of Council:

(i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (v)

Planning Advisory Police Commission Finance Committee Electric Commission Recreation Committee

October 23, 1995 (circulated) October 30, 1995 (circulated) November 2, 1995 (circulated) November 6/ 1995 (circulated) November 8/ 1995 (circulated)

COMMITTEE

REPORTS

(a) Social Services

Councillor Morse reported on Social Services for the month of October 1995, noting that General Assistance remains constant, there was minimal activity in Homes for Special Care, and no new referrals to the Employment Resource Centre.

Councillor Morse also reported that further to the four housekeeping amendments that had been adopted by Berwick, there is now a fifth one that has been adopted by the Municipality of the County of Kings, and Berwick is strongly encouraged to do the same. This amendment reduces the Comfort Allowance from \$105 to \$90 which covers such expenses as movies, cigarettes, social activities, etc. It was moved

by Councillor Morse and seconded by Councillor Trinacty to accept the fifth recommendation to lower the Comfort Allowance. Councillor Reeves commented that there is little money at stake, and such a change negatively affects recipients. Mayor Rainforth questioned whether the eligible clients are currently able to spend the money? It was moved by Councillor Reeves

and seconded by Councillor Prall to table the motion for one month, 'pending additional information of recipient's use of this allowance.

Motion Carried

(b) Licensing Committee

Councillor Morse updated Council on the number of taxis currently licensed to operate in Berwick, noting that A Better Way Taxi has recently licensed two vehicles and has a request for a third, which would bring the total number licensed for use in Berwick to eight. There is currently no ceiling on the number of taxis permitted. It was moved by Councillor Morse and seconded by Councillor Prall to accept the application from Mr. Stephen Best, A Better way Taxi, to operate a third vehicle in Berwick.

Motion Carried

Mayor Rainforth noted that discussions have been held with Chief DeWolfe, suggesting that perhaps taxis should have one inter-municipal license to cover all four municipalities in Kings County. It was agreed that limits on taxis need not be set, as the taxi business relies on supply and demand and is pretty well self-regulating.

(c) Planning Advisory Committee

Deputy Mayor Munday updated Council on the following PAC matters:

1)

Main Street Video - Preston Ilsley. A Development Agreement has been drafted for review with Mr. Preston Ilsley, allowing him to expand Main Street Video to 1,800 square feet for the explicit use of a Convenience store and video Shop.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by councillor whittier that Council approve the intent to enter into a Development Agreement with Preston Ilsley to allow the use of an additional 600 square feet of existing building space to 1,800 square feet, consistent with C 1 zoning.

Motion Carried

2)

Medical Clinic - Dr. MacEachern. A Development Agreement has been drafted for review with Dr. MacEachern to allow the continued use of a Medical Clinic at 236 Main Street, with the possibility of one apartment at the location in the future. off street parking is to be a provision of this agreement.

Mayor Rainforth indicated that no agreement would be signed until the parking issue has been adequately addressed. The Clerk has

been instructed to check with Chief DeWolfe regarding parking regulations along an arterial highway.

3)

Rezoning Applications. Closing date for appeals for rezoning applications for saunders Investment Ltd. and L.M. chute Ltd. is November 15, 1995; to date, no appeals have been received.

Letters will be sent on November 16, 1995 notifying concerned parties of the outcome.

4)

Mr. Greg Ward - Rezoning R 1 to R2. A Public Hearing was held to receive oral submissions regarding the rezoning application from Mr. Greg Ward on property located at East Main Street. The main concerns expressed were:

i)

Compromising the quality of life;

ii)

Drainage of water;

ill) Supply of well water;

iv) Town sewer system;

v)

Decrease in property value due to increased density;

vi)

Loss of R 1 land base.

vii) Possibility that land in question is a watershed area.

Councillor Reeves stated that the Town should be looked at as a whole, and that many people move to Berwick because of the larger lot sizes and quiet residential areas. Councillor whittier agreed that he is not in favour of having five semi-detached dwellings in one area, and also has concerns over drainage.

Councillor Trinacty indicated an interest in pursuing the concept of semi-detached dwellings for sale as individual units, as private ownership may improve the maintenance of the properties in question, and this type of housing may allow more opportunities for people on low income to buy their own homes. Clerk is researching the matter.

Councillor Prall agreed that the idea of having five duplexes at one entrance of town is not very becoming as people come into Town.

Also, the drainage issue will not go away and lots will likely remain vacant for quite some time. The Mayor indicated that the drainage ditch that is in place now is not causing problems, and feels council should not be spending money on a new ditch if existing one is adequate. If it is adequate, than an alternative ditching

arrangement should be the developer's responsibility.

After further discussion, it was moved by councillor Morse and seconded by councillor Prall to reject the rezoning application proposal.

Motion Carried

A letter will be sent to the developer to advise of reasons for rejection, at which time the developer can submit a revised or new proposal, if he so wishes.

(d) CED

A meeting was held on October 30, 1995, but due to work commitments, Deputy Mayor Munday was unable to attend. A meeting will be held Thursday night of Western Kings CED to generate interest in CEDIs efforts to stimulate economic development. Deputy Mayor Munday is unable to attend, but urged any Councillors who are free to attend. Deputy Mayor Munday will be attending a meeting scheduled for next Tuesday night.

(e) Berwick Fire Department

Councillor Prall reported on a meeting held last Monday: lengthy discussion on 1st Response policy. Currently, 911 medical calls and traffic accidents are dispatched to Ambulance first, Fire Department second. In many cases, the Fire Department is on the scene first, due to proximity. Fire Department personnel are being trained to deliver a certain degree of medical services, to better enable them to prepare injured for transport to Hospital. The Fire Prevention Act is currently being re-written to allow personnel to move injured people and to prepare those injured for transport to hospital. Regarding liability issues, Mr. Robert Stewart commented on certain precedents set by "Good Samaritan" acts, and that failure to act may cause liabilities as well. Mr. Stewart suggested that a letter be sent to the Department of Municipal Affairs expressing concern that municipalities are working without a new Act and are being delegated responsibilities that may leave them open for legal liability.

Councillor Prall also advised Council of a request from the Department regarding janitorial services, and that consideration be given to cost sharing with the Town for someone currently doing it, or hiring an independent service for cleaning the Fire Hall once a week.

The club is now engaged in trying to secure a Liquor License; all Fire Departments are being encouraged to do this. Cindy Palmer has been hired to administer this.

The washrooms have been moved and Department is now experiencing low water pressure when facilities are being used both up and downstairs. Currently looking into a solution to the problem.

(f) solid Waste Management

,A meeting will be held on November 20, 1995 at Universite Ste Anne. A Public Hearing was held october 24, 1995 at Kings County to invite Public Citizen participation. Representative for Berwick is Mr. Levi Sherman. Department of Environment Minister, the Honourable Wayne Adams, has recently released the long awaited Provincial Waste Strategy, with new, more stringent Regulations and Deadlines. The big challenges to come will be to site a new landfill for this region and handling recyclables.

(g) Recreation Department

Councillor Trinacty updated council on the following items:

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

(6) (7)

(8)

(9) (10)

(h)

"Year of the Wooden Boat" will be next years Tourism theme; banners will be available for the Town to purchase;

Christmas celebrations will take place on December 1-2, 1995; movie will be replaced by puppet show and sing along;

Portable sound system has been purchased for Senior Fitness;

A trophy case will be built and installed next to General office to display trophies;

Looking into possibility of erecting sign on the corner of commercial and Cottage Street to direct people to Rainforth Park and Arena;

Levelling of soccer field will be done in the spring;

Annual RANS Conference to take place on November 23-25, 1995;

Investigation into skateboarding park still ongoing; meeting to be held with those concerned to gauge participation/responsibility levels;

Looking into possibility of hosting an Environmental Day Camp;

Cost of new Ballfield approximately \$9,000, paid by Minor Ball Association.

Tourist Bureau

Fairly successful first year under Recreation Department. visitors were up by 540 over 1994. Recreation Committee recommends that the Department continue to operate the Tourist Bureau, with a review of who's responsibility it is to develop a Tourism Strategy for the Town. It was agreed by all to accept the recommendation of the Recreation Committee.

(i)

streets Department

,A new Lift Station is being installed on Lawrence Avenue extension. Fiftytwo truckloads of leaves have been collected with more still to come. R & B paving is currently doing paving and patching.

Councillor Whittier informed Council that he had toured the Bear River Waste Water Treatment facility. It is a very clean and efficient natural way of handing sewage; however, it operates on a very small scale compared to the Town's.

Recent problems have been experienced at the Lagoon, largely due to fat from Larsen's entering the system, which cannot be filtered through the screens. A bottled sample taken from Larsen's site was circulated at Council. Another round of talks with Larsen's are being set up to address this problem, as well as getting a sewer agreement signed. It was agreed by all members that something must be done to resolve the problem of the odour, and if necessary, drastic action should be taken. Chairman to follow up with telephone call to Larsen's to arrange for a meeting with parties involved.

_ (j)

Finance Committee

Meeting was held in November to review capital and operating expenditures; all are on target with no concerns to date.

(k) Health Care Centre

Negotiations are ongoing with Grand view Manor, but agreement is some time away yet.

(l)

Kings Transit

A good year so far with progress better than expected. be held on Thursday; report to follow.

A meeting is to

(m) Kings Regional Housing Authority

The Resolution that was to be presented at this meeting is not yet finalized, but should be available for next Council meeting.

(n) Police Commission

The Chairman reported on the last Police commission meeting, noting that most of the meeting was Audit related.

4.

Correspondence

- (a) Minutes of the Kings County District School Board, October 1995 meeting, as well as Newsletter of November 2, 1995. Copies distributed for the information of Council.
- (b) A copy of a letter from Municipality of Annapolis County to Honourable Jim Smith, Minister of Community Services, fervently objecting to "recently announced limitations to the Senior Citizen Tax Rebate after March 31, 1996", and asking that this decision be rescinded. For the information of Council.
- (c) A letter from Councillor Bruce Morse expressing regrets that he is unable to continue to attend Family & Children's services meetings due to additional job commitments. For a decision of Council as to naming a new representative or not. It was agreed that the Clerk send a letter that there will be no replacement at this time.
- (d) A news release from the Department of Municipal Affairs introducing a Regional Municipality Bill before the legislature. Copies distributed for the information of Council.
- (e) A memorandum from the President of UNSM enclosing a submission made to the Legislative Review Committee outlining concerns about wording and meanings of certain clauses of Bill 28, the Regional Municipalities Act. Copies distributed for the information of Council.
- (f) A letter from the Women's Action Coalition of Nova Scotia requesting that Council support the Purple Ribbon Campaign, commemorating the December 6th Montreal Massacre of 14 women, and asking that Councils continue to secure funds to support local agencies working to end the systemic violence experienced by women in our communities. Their specific request is that the flag be flown at half mast on December 6. Council members agreed that the financial contribution to Chrysalis House is sufficient support for this cause.

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

5.

Bills and Accounts

It was moved by Councillor Reeves and seconded by Councillor Morse that the attached list of bills and accounts in the amount of \$81,390.44 be approved for payment.

Motion Carried

6.

New Business

,(a) Rug Hookers Guild

The Chairman reported that a Thank You note was received from the Rug Hookers Guild, with a donation of \$50. It was agreed that the \$50.00 be used to purchase books on rug hooking for use in the library.

(b) Dog Policy

councillor whittier questioned the current dog policy and reason for \$10.00 payment when a dog is not in pound for a full day. Chairman responded that regardless of how long the dog is in, the cage must still be cleaned after they are released. The Animal control Policy, as agreed to, is to charge for any partial days.

(c) Sewer Facility

It was moved by Councillor Reeves and seconded by Councillor Morse to approve Finance Committee's recommendation to purchase On-Hand Inventory parts for approximately \$12,000, per listing supplied by the Public Works superintendent (copy attached).

Motion Carried

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Reeves to approve the Capital expenditure of \$8,800 for purchase of an Aerator.

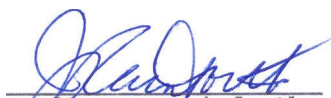
Motion Carried

7.

There was a five minute break at 9: 20 prior to going to Committee-of-the-Whole at 9:25 p.m.

8.

Regular Council resumed at 9: 40 . There being no further business, Council was adjourned at 9:41 p.m.


John W. Bainforth
Chairman



Judith Mitchell Town Clerk & Treasurer

