

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING - APRIL 9, 1996

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

,In attendance:

Ms. Dorothy Miller, Annapolis Valley Work Centre Ms. Isabel Madeira-Voss, Kings CED Agency Mr. Chris Heseltine, Kings CED Agency

1.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7: 05 p. m.

2.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a)

Hearing of no errors or omissions, the Chairman approved the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of March 12, 1996, as circulated.

(b)

The following minutes were circulated for the information of Council:

(i) (ii) (iii)

Public Police Commission Personnel Committee Recreation Committee

March 25, 1996, circulated April 2, 1996, circulated April 3, 1996, circulated

3.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS BY GUEST SPEAKERS

(a)

Ms. Dorothy Miller, Annapolis Valley Work Centre

Ms. Miller outlined briefly the mission and activities of the Annapolis Valley Work Centre, which has been in existence for six years and is intended to help those who have fallen through the gaps of society and need extra help with training and skills development to upgrade to labour market requirements. Program works on attitude, personal development, anger management, motivation, literacy, work options,

employment support, and aftercare; based on individualized programs for each particular client's situation. Over 68% of graduates find employment, 130 participants annually (increasing very quickly), may be as high as 150 to 180 this year, with a waiting list. Minimum age for eligibility: age 18 and out of school system for several months.

The Annapolis Valley Work Centre is looking at partnering with the Province for a large number of students age 21 and below, (as they are servicing Provincial areas of General Assistance, Corrections, and Educational Fields without monetary support from those areas). They are also seeking any funds available from Municipal units now that the federal CAP funding is ending.

...

The Mayor thanked Ms. Miller for her interesting presentation; and she withdrew.

(b)

Kings CED Agency: Ms. Madeira-Voss & Mr. Heseltine

Ms. Madeira-Voss opened the presentation on the latest activities of the CED Agency and reviewed the 1996/97 Budget that had been circulated to Council earlier. She indicated that the 1996/97 Budget includes Municipal Funding for a full-year, rather than a partial year. The funding level has not been increased. Mr. Heseltine continued the presentation. There are three key areas to be developed in a Business plan based on the Action and Strategy Draft, which are as follows:

1) 2) 3)

Business Facilitation and Support Community Infrastructure Development Business and Investment Attraction

There are also plans/programs being proposed to target early retirees, aged 45 to 60, to come to the Annapolis Valley to retire and/or start small businesses. Another program is Import substitution, where regional purchases from outside suppliers are identified and existing businesses look at developing those products locally. Seed money to fund new development ideas/groups is also being made available; \$8000 per CED Committee.

All on Council and the public are reminded of the upcoming Annual General Meeting of the Kings CED Agency on May 21st at 4:30 p.m. (location to be announced later) .

Deputy Mayor Munday thanked Ms. Madeira-Voss and Mr. Heseltine for coming and updating Council on the Agency's plans for 1996/97.

4.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a)

Social Services

Councillor Morse had not received the monthly social Services Report from the Municipality of the County of Kings, so was unable to report.

(b)

Kings CED Agency

Deputy Mayor Munday plans to attend the next CED meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 16, 1996. Any other CED items were covered in this evening's presentation.

.(c)

Planning Advisory Committee

Planning Advisory Committee meeting tentatively set for next Wednesday evening, April 17, 1996, at 7: 00 p. m., to review draft Development Agreements, a land use query, a zoning query, and to discuss impact of proposed changes to the Planning Act.

(d)

Fire

Councillor Prall reported that the Fire Department is busy with Budget Planning for 1996/97. The Fire Commission is also planning for upcoming Capital Requirements. Fund Raising Auction set for April 27, 1996. All donations welcome. Jamie Morse has been hired on a Section 25 Grant and is working out very well.

(e)

Solid Waste Management Committee

still waiting for provincial Funding to be approved. Councillor Prall reported that a Policy Advisory SubCommittee has been struck with Rick Ramsay as Chair, and Brian Van Rooyen, as Secretary, to meet on the first Wednesday of each month. Keith Robichaud, of Municipality of County of Annapolis is working on a draft Constitutional Report. Next meeting of Solid Waste Management committee: May 1, 1996 at University Saint Anne. Councillor Prall noted that a lot of work has yet to be done, but little progress can be made until funding is in place.

(f)

Recreation

Councillor Trinacty reported on recent discussion of theme signage needed for Parks and Open Spaces; as well as directional signage. To be looked at in conjunction with other organizations, such as Arena, Board of Trade, Tourism SubCommittee, etc. Apple Blossom Tea is scheduled for April 20, 1996 at 2: 00 p. m. Apple Blossom Float not started yet; still looking for ideas. Band Parents Association may come up with something, as this year's theme is "Music in Blossom".

Volunteer Week Event set for Wednesday evening, April 24, 1996; hoping lots of volunteers will attend (please contact Recreation Director if you need more information; it's not too late yet!) Municipal Recreation Seminar, Truro, was attended by Councillors Trinacty and Morse. The Nova scotia Sports and Recreation Commission is still proceeding with programs, despite severe funding cuts. Presentations focused on need to increase female participation in sports/recreation/volunteering. Youth at Risk was another area of concern. The Recreation Committee is pursuing a Capital upgrade

,of the existing Soccer Field behind Town Hall. The Annual Recreation Department Report has been prepared and circulated to all on Council for 1995/96 year; please call Brigitte Edwards if you have any questions.

(g)

Streets

Councillor whittier presented the Superintendent's written report. Spring Cleanup will be held April 15, 1996 to April 26, 1996, inclusive. New aerators on order for Lagoons, expected delivery time: 6-8 weeks. Discussed new Electrical Building needed to house Electrical Panels and consolidate wiring at Lagoons to a central area, out of the weather. Also suggested that Councillors drop by the Public Works Building to see all of the improvements done over the winter: new office, new wood shop, painted ceiling, etc. The Public Works employees take a lot of pride and care in their work place.

(h)

Finance

Councillor Reeves had no report for Council regarding Finance. However, he moved that the draft policy of Grants to Organizations be adopted as presented at last month's Council meeting. seconded by Councillor Morse.

After reviewing the document item by item, and discussing various points to determine grant eligibility guidelines without being overly restrictive, it was agreed to table the motion again and return to it at May Council. In the meantime, a reviewed draft of Grants to Organizations will be prepared and circulated to all on Council for review/revisions in May.

The request for approval to proceed with advance funding of Capital upgrade of the Soccer Fields was discussed at length. At issue is not the amount (\$8000) so much as the reluctance to pre-approve any Capital Budget items unless absolutely necessary when this year's Budget will be a difficult one. It was also suggested that late september may be the best time to proceed with extensive field work and re-sodding, after the Soccer season is ended; otherwise, the field may not be able to be used, if dug up and re-sodded in the spring. It was agreed to come back to this item when the total Capital Budget was ready for approval.

8.

(i)

Mayors Report

Police Commission

The Berwick Police Commission, on recommendation of the Chief, decided to continue on with Public prosecutorial Services, as provided by the Province, for the next fiscal year. Berwick Police Department budgets are at or near budget levels to date. Diseased raccoons seemed to have abated for now.

The Mayor and planning staff plan to meet with the Western Kings Memorial Health Centre to review options for the hospital facility with regard to zoning, assessment, etc. The Mayor reported on a 2-day seminar he recently attended in Halifax, entitled "The Coming Revolution in Local Government". An excellent Seminar, extremely worthwhile; presenters were flown in from all over the world: England, New Zealand, United States, and Canada. Most interesting ideas on streamlining municipal government to be more effective, efficient, economical, etc. Some differing views were presented on Amalgamation (larger versus smaller: which is better?) Winnipeg's "Unicity"'s experience at amalgamating was very negative. Some said answer was "outsourcing"; (means contracting out for all kinds of services). Some municipal units also have their own employees tender on services. others sold off almost everything and then purchased services from private sector; still other municipal units did partnerships between the two.

CORRESPONDENCE

(c)

(a)

Received Minutes of the County District School Board for February 7, 1996 meeting and for March 6, 1996 meeting. Copies distributed for the information of Council.

(b)

A letter from the Municipality of the County of Richmond requesting that Council clearly indicate to the UNSM that they should not be pursuing a second round of service exchange at this time. county of Richmond's position is that they are still having difficulty coping with the last service exchange, along with further downloading from senior levels of government. For a response from Council.

Received a follow-up letter from the Municipality of the County of Richmond indicating that they view a second round of service exchange is coming, based on (president of UNSM) , Ann MacLean's recent discussion with the Premier to "re-open negotiations for the complete service exchange", as well as her later comments that, "the

(d)

_(g)

_(h)

,UNSM and the provincial government must return to discussion of a service exchange involving Community Services Costs". For the information of Council.

A letter from Ron Lane, Mayor of the Town of Liverpool, suggesting that the Service Exchange program is an incomplete exchange as it currently stands, and writes that, "Municipal Government will not truly come of age until it is clearly defined what responsibilities rest with the province, and what are municipal responsibilities. Status quo with shared responsibilities and division of authority continues

to leave us vulnerable to continuous downloading by the Province." Mr. Lane goes on to suggest that, "if all members of the UNSM do not support policies that seek equal status and treatment of business and industry, and of people in all municipalities, then Municipal Government will divide into interest groups according to the inequities that continue to exist, and in the end, we will all be losers". For the information of Council.

(e)

A UNSM Memo from Ann MacLean regarding the 1996 provincial Budget and the possibility that the provincial Government is currently considering requiring municipalities to pay the Provincial Sales Tax, at a total cost of \$40 million province-wide annually. Ms. MacLean adds that, "using property tax payers to pay provincial sales tax makes no sense at all! This proposal would simply be a tax on a tax". For the information of Council. It should be noted that the implications of paying PST on this Municipal Unit have been roughly calculated at \$56,910 for the Town and \$198,784 for the Electric Utility, or \$255,694 in total, including Operating and Capital Expenditures. It was agreed to write a letter to the Minister outlining the impact of PST to Berwick, with copy to UNSM.

(f)

A letter from the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth strongly objecting to charging PST to Municipal units and requesting that all Municipal Units in the province" send strong letters of objection to the Premier and Finance Minister, as well as your MLA". They are also suggesting that Municipal units "March en Masse" on Government House in Halifax, if need be. For consideration by Council.

A UNSM Memo from Ms. Ann MacLean updating Municipal Units on a recent meeting with the Minister of Finance to discuss "Harmonization of the PST and GST", and its impact on municipalities. For the information of Council.

A letter from David Darrow, Executive Director of Municipal Services, Department of Municipal Affairs outlining changes in grant allocations for 1996/97 due to changes in classification of Standard

Expenditures and in assigning Cost Responsibility to different classes of Municipal units. While the letter was generally vague, the Clerk reported on a recent phone call from the Municipal Advisor from Department of Municipal Affairs who advised that the Town of Berwick's Equalization Grant of \$5,200 would be nil this year. He advised that this was largely due to two factors: (1) the expenditures of regional and rural municipalities were up due to assumption of police costs and highway costs, and (2) fewer towns as Bedford, six Cape Breton towns, and Town of Liverpool all cease to exist as towns effective April 1/ 1996; their expenditures were tallied in with rural and regional units; leaving remaining Towns Classification with fewer expenditures overall. The advisor further reported that on average, Equalization Grants to Towns would be reduced by 15%, while Equalization Grants to rural and regional units would be increased 10%. When the Clerk queried, why if grants were reduced 15%, the Town of Berwick's was reduced by 100%; the reply was 15% was the average, and that \$5,200, even at 100%, was likely far less dollarwise than some municipal units who lost 30-40%. It was agreed that the Clerk and Mayor would send a letter to the Minister protesting this cut and the cavalier way it was handled.

9.

Council recessed for a short break at 9: 15 p. m., prior to going to Committee-of-the-Whole at 9: 25 p. m. Councillor Trinacty advised Council of recent discussion to update the Recreation Director's salary level to reflect additional responsibilities for Tourism.

Based on a recommendation from the Personnel Committee, Councillor Morse moved that the Recreation Director's job description be amended to include additional Tourism Responsibilities, with salary level increased by \$1,654, effective April 1/ 1996. To be subject to the approval of the Public Sector Compensation Restraint Board. Seconded by Councillor Whittier.

Motion Carried

10.

Regular Council resumed at 9: 32 p. m. Council adjourned at 9: 33 p. m.

There being no further business,

John W. Rainforth Chairman


Judith Mitchell
Town Clerk