

Present:

Acting Chairman

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING - DECEMBER 10, 1996

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

,Absent:

Mayor John W. Rainforth

In attendance:

Sara White, Berwick Register

1.

The Acting Chairman called the meeting to order at 7: 00 p. m. and passed on regrets from the Mayor, who is ill and unable to attend.

2.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a)

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

(b)

The following minutes were noted for the information of council:

(i) (ii ) (iii) (iv) (v) (vi) (vii) (viii)

Public Police commission social Services Committee Licensing Committee social Services Committee Planning Advisory Committee Recreation Committee Finance committee Fire Committee

November 14, 1996; circulated November 26, 1996; circulated November 26, 1996; circulated November 27, 1996; circulated November 27, 1996; circulated December 4, 1996; circulated Dec. 9/96; not circulated yet Dec. 9/96; not circulated yet

3.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Any outstanding items will arise under Committee Reports.

4.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a)

Licensing

councillor Morse reported that a request had been received from Mr. Charles Wagstaff, of C&S Taxi, to have a third taxi license issued to operate in the Town of Berwick.

Therefore, it was moved by Councillor Morse, and seconded by Councillor Prall, that upon recommendation of the Licensing Committee, Council approve the request for a third taxi license to C&S Taxi for the remainder of the 1996/97 fiscal year.

Motion Carried

For the information of Council councillor Morse advised that there would now be six taxi licenses issued in 1996/97:

(b)

3 to C&S Taxi, Mr. Charles Wagstaff; and 3 to Star Taxi, Mr. Hartley Corkum.

Personnel

(i)

(ii)

A letter had been received from Mr. Manning MacDonald, Minister of Labour, in response to a query from the Clerk regarding mandatory training requirements under the Occupational Health & Safety Act. More Training information will be mailed out shortly.

As approved for recommendation to Council at a prior meeting of the Personnel Committee; and as per the requirements of An Act Respecting Occupational Health & Safety, Item 13, Duties and precautions, Section (2), subsection (e), page 7; it was moved by Councillor Morse and seconded by Councillor Trinacty to formally approve the Town's Occupational Health and Safety Policy, previously introduced at November's Council.

Motion Carried

(c)

social Services Committee

Councillor Morse informed Council that the number of eligible General Assistance recipients had dropped in November from the previous month. However, costs are still overbudget for the current year. There was no change in activity for Homes for Special Care; two new referrals to the Employment Resource Centre program.

Councillor Morse also updated council on recent meetings held with Municipality of County of Kings and Department of Community Services, respectively. If present trends continue, the Town may experience a deficit of \$40,000 or more by March 31, 1997. The Clerk on behalf of the Social Services Committee has sent a letter to Mr. Peter Barteaux of Department of Community Services asking that the province address this serious situation within the next thirty days, if possible. The Social Services Committee is also monitoring costs

quite closely and making every effort to ensure that the backlog in processing of claims gets resolved more expediently.

(d)

#### Solid Waste Management

Councillor Prall reported on the main points of the November 25, 1996 meeting: recent staffing changes at the Resource Recovery Fund Board Inc.; a tire recycling contract has been signed between the Resource Recovery Fund Board Inc. and Tire Recycling Atlantic Canada Corporation (TRACC); review of the Committee's timetable for completion of the Solid Waste- Resource Strategy; a presentation from Vaughan Environmental dealing with (1) a recent meeting with Department of Housing & Municipal Affairs (2) system costs and revenues of the proposed solid waste management system and (3) Public Private Partnership considerations. The Timetable which the Committee agreed upon is as follows:

- Draft Strategy Report - Promote Two Public Meetings - Hold Public Meetings - Revisions to Vaughan Eng. 's draft - Completed Final Draft - Final Draft Copied to all Councillors
- Final Report > Joint Council Meeting

week of December 16, 1996 week of January 6 1997 week of January 13 1997 January 20 1997 January 31 1997

January 31, 1997

February 6 or 7, 1997

The Committee is tentatively planning on approvals by councils in February 1997; possibility of beginning implementation: April 1997.

Councillor Prall noted for Council that it is difficult to accurately project dollars and cents until a new Landfill Site location has been determined.

(e)

#### Fire Department

Councillor Prall advised that the Berwick & District Volunteer Fire Department and the Fire Commission had recently met to discuss acquisition and specifications of a new fire truck to replace a 10-year old Pumper. There may be a good deal on a demonstrator fire vehicle available in Ontario. The B. D. V. F. D. and Fire Commission have met to discuss finances; council will have to meet later in the month to discuss its finances.

(f)

## Recreation

councillor Trinacty was pleased to report very successful Christmas celebrations. Good response from the public to all activities: Carolling, Breakfast, Skating with santa, Parade, etc... There is a

student from the Annapolis Valley Work Activity Centre doing work experience at the Recreation Department Office: Ms. Christina Hebb. The Recreation Office will be closed over the holidays, due to vacations, from December 24th to January 2nd.

New items of interest:

(i)

(g)

Streets

from Planning Advisory Committee: Green Areas The Recreation Committee discussed green belts, walkways, trails, etc... within Town limits and have agreed to look into it further *i* possibly in conjunction with the Planning Advisory Committee.

(if )

two program areas being looked at: Youth Activity Centre and Saturday Night Girl's Night out.

Possibility of re-establishing of Youth Activity Centre. Need

to work out a way to make this workable, perhaps with help of community service groups. Also, planning a new program for young teen girls to meet and gather socially and be active in a fun setting.

Councillor Whittier reported that the Electric Building at the Lagoon has been completed, and 1100' of Conduit has been installed to run wire for operating the Aerators. Now that the conduit has been buried underground, the Public Works Department will be able to work on this project throughout the winter.

The Public Works Department and the Recreation Department, by combining efforts, were able to put another float together for the Christmas Parade. The theme this year was a steamed Christmas Pudding with candy canes, lollipops, and gingerbread men dancing around it, and the slogan, "Enjoy Your Life With Recreation". The float will be on display from time to time between now and christmas in the Town Hall parking area, weather permitting. Per Councillor Whittier, a job well done.

Councillor Whittier advised Council that two dogs had been picked up recently and impounded at the Public Works shop. Both dogs have been advertised in the local paper and are now the property of the Town and continue to be unclaimed. Usually, the SPCA is able to take unclaimed dogs; however they've been contacted several times and have no room. They are trying to locate any persons interested in providing a good home. Both dogs are very friendly and wellmannered *i* one is part golden retriever; and the other is mostly

sheepdog. It would be nice to find good homes for these two dogs soon, as the Town cannot keep them indefinitely.

(h)

#### Finance

Councillor Reeves introduced a recommendation from Police Commission to Council, as well as a further recommendation from the Finance Committee, to proceed with the purchase of safety equipment required under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, (Le., updated body armour). It was also noted that a directive from Policing Services would make it mandatory to wear this gear for safety reasons, starting January 1, 1997.

After some discussion pertaining to the exact nature of what was being purchased and why it was necessary to upgrade from the older gear, it was moved by Councillor Reeves and seconded by Councillor Whittier that an additional Capital Expenditure of \$2933, plus tax be approved for personal safety devices for the Police Department, as requested.

#### Motion Carried

Councillor Reeves indicated that the Town's year-to-date Operating and Capital Budgets were reviewed at a recent Finance meeting. All expenditures are within budget, other than Social Services costs. The Finance Committee plans to meet in January to review its overall position and plan accordingly. In the meantime, spending is to be kept at the level of only those items which are absolutely necessary.

(i)

Kings Transit Authority

Per Councillor Reeves, the Kings Transit Authority plans to meet next week. A full report on their current financial status is not available yet; anticipated that it will be ready in January. Too early to talk numbers yet, but Councillor Reeves will endeavour to keep Council informed. Possible deficit situation.

0)

#### Planning Advisory Committee

Deputy Mayor Munday indicated to Council that the last planning Advisory Committee meeting had been called to discuss various outstanding planning issues: study of water situation in Berwick; bicycle routes, green areas/walkways, trails; vegetative buffers between Commercial/Residential zones; informed from surveys on file from 1994; future development of Mill Street, etc.. Was felt to be a very productive meeting.

One of the items discussed was the need to initiate amendments to the Town's Land Use Bylaw to better define recycling depots as an

acceptable use. To that end, it was moved by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Trinacty that a housekeeping amendment be made to the Town's Land Use Bylaw / page 10, Part 2, Definitions, Number 73, Service Shop; to add one sentence at the end of the existing paragraph / as follows:

"Definition of Service Shop shall include recycling depot as an acceptable use; (commonly known as Enviro- Depots)" .

Motion Carried

This was in response to suggestions put forward by the Department of Community Planning office to the Development Officer in October 1996. A date for Public Hearing will be set for Tuesday, January 14, 1997, at 6:30 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Munday also advised that the process for re-zoning of Union Street from R1 to C3 was pretty well concluded. The Notice of Amendment had been advertised and final date to file an appeal would be December 11, 1996. To date, no responses have been received.

(k)

Land Environment Use Committee (Kings C. E. D. Agency)

Deputy Mayor Munday informed Council that he and the Clerk had attended a meeting of the Land Environment Use Committee at Acadia University on November 19, 1997. It was basically an information meeting to bring all Committee members up-to-date. Various planners from Kings County did presentations, as well as a professor from Acadia; followed by a question and answer session. Most of the discussion focused on agricultural issues; as well as the definition of "sustainable development" and the appropriate role for this committee to assume.

(l)

Kings C.E.D. Agency

A three hour meeting of the Kings C. E. D. Agency was held on December 9, 1996, with a 14 item agenda. Deputy Mayor Munday attended on behalf of the Town. A Balance Sheet and Income Statement to November 30, 1996 was reviewed as well as strategic Plan Priorities and Committee Objectives for each of the Sectoral

committees: Business Development, Environment/Land Use; Agriculture, Technology, Tourism/Culture/Recreation/Heritage, West Kings Area, Agency Public Relations, and Membership Goals. Funding requests for various projects was also reviewed at length. Mr. Jim Stanley of ACOA was also in attendance to discuss ACOA's role in supporting Regional Development Agencies.

5.

CORRESPONDENCE

,(b)

(c)

(d)

(e)

(a)

Received a letter from the Resource Recovery Fund Board Inc. indicating that the Ban on Tires will start on January 2, 1997. After that date, tires cannot be burned, incinerated, or taken to landfills; but must be recycled. An agreement has been signed by the RRF and TRACC Nova Scotia to shred and convert used tires into new products for sale. There will be a \$3.00 "environmental fee" assessed to the Tire Industry and a \$9.00 "environmental fee" for truck tires. For the information of Council.

Received a copy of a letter from the Town Clerk of the Town of Bridgewater to the Hon. John MacEachern, Minister of Social Services, advising that a resolution had been passed by Bridgewater's Council that applauded a one-tiered social Service Delivery structure, but that objected to ... "the continued inappropriate dependency upon municipal contributions toward social service costs and therefore, urges the Government of Nova Scotia to accept full financial responsibility for these costs...". For the information of Council.

Received a memo from Steven Stoddart, of the UNSM regarding Community Services Funding. The memo states that, "The UNSM's position concerning community services is that it is a "people service" and should be totally funded by the Province". The memo then goes on to say that.. "a fixed municipal contribution could be a positive move for municipalities". For the information of Council.

Received another Memo from Steven stoddart, of the UNSM, regarding the Harmonized Sales Tax. Advises that the Act will soon move to Law Amendments and asks that all municipalities make a presentation to the Law Amendments Committee. Attached to the Memo is a draft copy of the UNSM's submission to the Law Amendments Committee outlining various points of concern with the HST. After discussion, Council agreed to send a letter to the Province supporting the position taken by the UNSM on our behalf.

Received a fax from the Nova scotia Federation of Labour, outlining two copies of correspondence sent to the Premier regarding the Law Amendments Committee. Requested that the Law Amendments committee travel around the province to allow every area an opportunity to speak up about the HST, especially where this Act carries such a longterm impact, both positive and negative, to everyone in the Province. The second letter asks the Premier why he has chosen not to respond to this request. For the information of Council.

(f)

Received a letter from Ms. Pam Dutton of MADD Canada, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, directed to Deputy Mayor Munday, thanking him for his participation in the official kick-off of their Red Ribbon Campaign at the Gardens Mall, New Minas, in November. For the information of council.

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

6.

#### BILLS AND ACCOUNTS

It was moved and seconded by Councillor Reeves and Councillor Morse that the attached list of bills and accounts in the amount of \$166,419.23 be approved for payment.

7.

#### NEW BUSINESS

(a)

##### Green Areas

councillor Morse requested that Council consider a walkway between the new school on Cottage Street and the Bezanson Drive extension area. He has had several requests on the need for such a walkway, and thinks a nice pathway would be an asset to the Town. Councillor Trinacty advised that as far as he knew, the land in question does not belong to the Town; and that the whole matter of green areas and walkways was brought up at Planning Advisory Committee and was being addressed by the Recreation Committee. Deputy Mayor Munday felt that the Recreation Committee would likely follow up on this during the course of their inquiries.

(b)

##### christmas Party for Staff, Council, Committee Members

The annual staff Christmas party will be held at 3: 30 p. m. on Friday, December 13, 1996. All present are reminded to attend.

8.

There was a short break at 8: 20 p. m. prior to going to Committee-of-the-Whole at 8: 29 p. m. to discuss matters of a confidential nature. Regular Council resumed at 9: 55 p. m .

9.


It was agreed that Council would meet quickly, on short notice if need be, if a decision had to be made concerning the Fire Truck purchase before the next regular sitting of Council.



10.

There being no further business ,the Acting Chairman adjourned' the meeting at 9:57 p.m.

Michael J. Munday Acting Chairman



Judith Mitchell  
Town Clerk