

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 10, 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 Robert

Stewart, Solicitor

Judith Mitchell, Town Clerk

In attendance:

Sara White, Berwick Register

1.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 July 16, 1996 as circulated.

(b)

The following minutes were circulated for the information of council:

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

Berwick Electric Steering Committee Police Commission Berwick Electric Steering Committee Berwick Electric Commission Recreation Committee

July 24, 1996 July 25, 1996 July 31, 1996 July 31, 1996 September 4, 1996

3.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Any items to be discussed will arise under Committee Reports.

4.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a)

Social services

Councillor Morse cited statistics from the July 1996 Monthly Social Services Report, which was received in August. of Note: "all employable persons applying for assistance are required to register with the Valley Agricultural Labour Office and accept employment as a condition to receive supplemental to low income, if applicable".  
councillor Reeves asked that more information be requested to see what the implications would be for the Town; as well an update on rumoured changes to the social services structure for providing Home Care.

(b)

Kings CED Agency

Deputy Mayor Munday highlighted the new promotional brochure, put together by the Kings CED Agency, promoting Kings county as a potential retirement and/or pre-retirement destination. This

brochure is very colourful and is being widely distributed and' has received a favourable response from the public.

The Kings CED agency changed officers in May and have set a monthly meeting date on the second Tuesday of each month. Deputy Mayor Munday suggested that he send a letter on behalf of council objecting to the set meeting date, as it conflicts with Council. All agreed.

(c)

Planning Advisory Committee

(i)

Saunders Investments Limited - Deputy Mayor Munday informed Council that there had been no recent PAC meetings; however, there was an item of business to be brought to council. The Clerk had received a written request from Mr. Murray Saunders of Saunders Investments Limited to reduce his Letter of Credit upon satisfactory completion of Phase I of the pleasant Street development per Item 5 of the existing subdivision Agreement. A letter had also been received from Hiltz & Seamone indicating that work to date had met all specifications of the Town's subdivision By-Law, and providing an estimate of the remaining cost of work to be done for Phase II (i.e. paving).

Therefore, it was moved by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Reeves that the Letter of credit for saunders Investments Limited be reduced from \$88,000 to \$33,000, as requested, based on written confirmation from Hiltz & Seamone.

Motion Carried

(ii)

Building By-Law 135 - Amendment - Deputy Mayor Munday held second reading of an Amendment to By-Law 135: Building By-Law, to introduce a new fee structure for Building Permits consistent with fees charged by the Municipality of the County of Kings, (who provides Berwick's building inspection services). There being no discussion or amendments when called for, it was moved by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Morse to proceed to the third reading of said By- Law.

Motion Carried

Upon completion of the third reading, it was moved by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Whittier to adopt said By-Law 135, as amended.

Motion Carried

(d)

Fire Department

,Councillor Prall advised that the Berwick and District Volunteer Fire Department is recruiting more fire fighters. The Ball Tournament that had been planned earlier was quite successful. The new well is hooked up and all necessary plumbing installed and is working fine.

(e)

Regional Solid Waste Committee

councillor Prall reported on several meetings in July and August, as well as one held earlier today in Yarmouth. Mr. Brian Van Rooyen was the successful candidate for the position of Solid Waste Coordinator for the newly formed Region. He will also act as liaison between the Regional group and the RRAF Board. Also of note, the \$100,000 preliminary funding from the Province has now been approved for this region.

There is some concern about pathogens in compost materials, therefore, definition of "organics" is now an issue and will have to be re-defined for clarity. Strategic Plan should be okayed initially by May 1997, and finally in october 1997; after that, organics will not be permitted to go in a landfill, but must be composted. Watch for workshops on compo sting coming soon to Berwick, Port Williams, Lawrencetown, Aylesford, and other areas nearby.

An Internet Home Page for Regional Solid Waste information and suggestions is now ready:

HTTP,IIWWW . MGGNET. CA/V ALLEY. HTML.

A survey can be accessed at this site as well.

Today's meeting in Yarmouth covered the pluses and minuses of Public/Private Partnering. Cautioned against Municipal units losing control of either their solid Waste facilities, or Private Sector projects.

Annapolis County is still trying to find an appropriate location for a modern landfill; down to two sites, running into several NIMBY problems (Not in my backyard). Public feedback process is ongoing. New methodologies for Landfills are much safer than old landfills, but the stigma remains.

(f)

Recreation Department

Councillor Trinacty reported that the Recreation Department had had a fairly successful summer; all programs are now complete. The Fall Program Brochure (blue) is newly released and these programs will be available soon.

Soccer Field work will soon get underway. Councillor Trinacty advised that, as much as possible, any blockage or obstruction of the pathway will be avoided; (however, there may be a couple of days that are simply unavoidable).

There is a Major Coaches Conference scheduled this fall to be held the weekend of October 5/1996 at Berwick and District School with several different clinics. Councillor Trinacty advised that the

Recreation Director is taking a course at Acadia University and will be working flexible hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays to accommodate the course. The Section 25 Grant is still in place; however, a replacement person was hired for the remainder of the Grant (to November 1) as one recipient's claim had expired.

Gala Days went very well this year, despite rain on Monday; final figures are not available yet. Councillor Trinacty emphasized the tremendous support of the various Town Department's to help make it happen; particularly Police / Recreation, Public Works and the Electric Commission. Much appreciated. It is a bigger event every year.

(g)

streets Department

Public Works Department describes summer experience with lagoons as "exceptional" reported Councillor Whittier; the extra aerators make a big difference. D.O. levels are also very good (i. e. 1.5 is a good reading, Cell NO.1 is currently at 4.6), as are the BOD readings. Cooperative efforts from both Larsen's Packers and Avon Foods have also helped. The Mayor added that money on new aerators and spare backup parts has been well-spent; as smells from the lagoon have been almost non-existent this summer.

August has been very busy with preparations for the Gala Day weekend: 222.5 hours spent on Gala Days from Public Works Department alone. Tree removal work is ongoing. Video Industrial is scoping sewer lines. Lines on Main Street are showing very low fat levels compared to last year.

(h)

Finance Committee

Councillor Reeves advised Council that the annual borrowing resolution from the bank had expired and a new one needed to be put in place. It was noted that local borrowing had not been necessary since the tax billings were changed to Interim and Final Bill in 1991/92 fiscal year.

It was moved by Councillor Reeves and seconded by Deputy Mayor Munday that a Municipal Corporation-Borrowing Resolution be

,approved in the amount of \$400,000 to defer current expenditures as cash flow requirements dictate.

Motion Carried

Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the necessary banking documents.

(i)

Kings Transit Authority

In response to a letter from the Kings Transit Authority Board, Councillor Reeves asked that an alternate representative be appointed in the event that he is unable to attend a KTA Board meeting. Councillor Prall offered to act as alternate. It was agreed that Councillor Reeves would contact Councillor Prall if he is unavailable for a meeting.

(j)

Mayors/Wardens Meeting

The Mayor advised that due to year-end work, budget preparations, setting tax rates 1 and summer break, there had been no meetings of Mayors/Wardens since May 1996. It is expected that one will be held relatively soon.

(k)

Police Commission

Study of local Police Regionalization is still ongoing with some delays; there is more work and more issues to be dealt with than initially thought. Actual projected costs have been somewhat difficult to pin down. The Province is working on a draft Planning Strategy for Policing that parallels the process that the Study Group is undertaking. The october meeting of the Full Study Group on Regional Policing should prove to be a pivotal meeting.

(l)

Berwick Electric Steering Committee

Initial study to consider feasibility of Beals Falls Hydroelectric Generation Project indicated that the project was not as viable as had been anticipated. However, it was still a very productive study in that the question of development of the Beals Falls area, which has been considered off and on for years, has now been put to rest. The proposed project is not attractive to private partners, nor is there enough return to justify the Berwick Electric Commission proceeding with it either. The Study did indicate, however, that improvements to the existing plant may be quite viable.

5.

CORRESPONDENCE

,(b)

(c)

Received from the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, a letter asking that Council show opposition to the blending of the PST and GST taxes to the UNSM Executive while attending the UNSM conference. For the information of Council.

(a)

Received from the Municipality of Annapolis County a copy of a letter from Warden Peter Terauds to the Honourable Guy Brown, objecting to perceived influence in the landfill siting process in Annapolis County. For the information of Council.

Received from Mr. Gordon Rafuse of 241 Main Street, Berwick, a letter expressing concern over the compost pile in the Public Works yard. of particular concern to Mr. Rafuse is the possibility of leachate from the compost contaminating the water table and/or local wells; as well as the possibility that sewage and waste product contaminates may be in the finished compost. The Clerk read most of the letter aloud for Council's information.

The Mayor advised that the letter had only been received earlier that day and that he had instructed the Clerk to look into it and report her findings. The Clerk then itemized the information, for the benefit of council. Per the Town's engineer:

(3)

(4)

(5)

(1)

any leachate from the compost pile would be pretty close to that of residential sewage in a septic field;

(2)

both food processing plants are highly regulated and monitored by the Department of Health; their byproducts would be mostly biodegradable matter;

the raw sewage coming into the Sewer Treatment plant is in solution form; once this has gone through the drumshears, the only solids remaining are matter; some biodegradable and some not;

the Department of Environment regularly checks the Sewer Treatment Plant and does spot samples; to date they have not identified the compost pile as a particular health or environmental problem;

a sample of the compost material was tested by the Department of Agriculture in May 1995 for composition of organic matter, phosphates, potash, calcium and magnesium. They advised that the compost would be suitable for mixed gardens if ammonium nitrate were added to it;

(6)

(8)

as it is, the Public Works Department advises anyone .who wishes to take compost for their garden that it should only be used on flower gardens and not on vegetable gardens;

(7)

as far as leaves being mixed in with the compost, the Public Works supervisor advises that the leaves are mulched and eventually hauled to farmers' fields; whereas the compost pile is made up mostly of drumshear solids, wood chips, and sawdust. It is not hauled to farmer's fields;

the Clerk checked with both the Health Centre and the local pharmacy; the health centre does dispose of some outdated drugs once or twice a year; any biohazardous waste or tissue goes to Halifax to pathology labs and then to the High Heat Incinerator in Halifax, which every hospital in Nova scotia must use;

(9)

the drugstore will permit householders to return out-of-date prescriptions to them, where they are stored, along with those of the pharmacy, until a wholesaler picks them up for drug disposal in Ontario once a year.

The Mayor thanked the Clerk for her report; the matter at hand was discussed at length by council. It was felt that the Public Health Committee in Berwick appeared to have wound down about the same time that the Western Kings Memorial Hospital was closed. council agreed that the Clerk respond to Mr. Rafuse's letter in writing, with the various points just brought up; and await any formal response from the Department of Health and/or the Department of Environment.

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

6.

#### BILLS AND ACCOUNTS

It was moved and seconded by Councillors Reeves and Morse that the attached list of bills and accounts in the amount of \$187,423.28 be approved for payment.

Motion carried

7.

#### NEW BUSINESS

(a)

Municipal Legislation Review Committee Discussion Paper

The implications of the Discussion paper on legislative changes recommended for a revised Municipal Government Act was discussed. Generally, it affects Rural and Regional Municipalities ,more so than

Towns. of impact to Berwick will be suggested changes to dissolve Fire Commissions and the issue of where capital contributions will come from without such a Commission. After concern was expressed as to whether or not the Berwick and District Volunteer Fire Department had been aware of the proposed legislative changes, and the likelihood that this would be on the agenda at the UNSM Conference in October, it was agreed to revisit the issue at the next Council meeting and decide at that time to send a letter to the Municipal Legislative Review Committee if need be.

(b)

Defer Council to October 15, 1996

Due to a conflict in timing between the commencement of the annual UNSM Conference in Dartmouth and the regularly scheduled Council meeting of October 8, 1996, it was moved by Councillor Reeves and seconded by Councillor Morse that the next Regular Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, October 15, 1996.

(c)

Mandatory contributions: Uniform Assessment

Deputy Mayor Munday voiced concerns about rising assessment and how this would affect the Town as far as education costs, corrections, and other expenditures which are determined in part by local assessment levels.

After some discussion, it was suggested by Councillor Reeves that all existing cost-sharing arrangements, between the Town and the Province, that would be affected by assessment, be identified and reviewed for financial implications, at either a meeting of the Finance Committee or a Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting. The Clerk agreed to prepare the necessary information and suggested a Finance Committee meeting that would be open to anyone on Council who wished to attend. (Time and date to be advised in due course). All agreed.

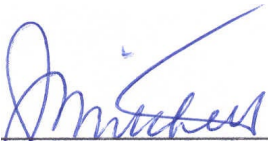
8.

There was a short break at 8:30 p. m. prior to going to Committee-of-the-Whole at 8:38 p.m.

9.

Regular Council resumed at 8:49 p. m. . There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p. m.

John W. Rainforth     chairman



Judith Mitchell  
Town Clerk