

Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting - March 12, 1996

Present:

(Acting) Chairman

Deputy Mayor Michael J. Munday Councillor Bruce H. Morse Councillor John P. Prall  
Councillor Michael E. Trinaety Councillor Gary W. Whittier Councillor Ronald G. Reeves Judith Mitchell, Town  
Clerk

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Absent:

Chairman

Mayor John W. Rainforth

In Attendance:

Mr. Robert Stewart, solicitor Ms. Sara White, Berwick Register

1.

The Chairman being absent, the Deputy Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a)

Hearing of no errors or omissions, the Deputy Mayor approved the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of  
February 13, 1996, as circulated.

(b)

For the information of Council:

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

Regular Police Commission Special Electric Commission Public Works Committee Personnel Committee  
Recreation Committee Finance Committee

Feb 21/96, circulated Feb 22/96, circulated Feb 22/96, circulated Mar 05/96, circulated Mar 06/96, circulated Mar  
11/96, circulated

2.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a)

Transfer of Land to Christ Church

Deputy Mayor Munday raised the matter of transferring a small piece of land from the Town to Christ Church (a.k.a. Anglican Church).

This motion was tabled at last month's Council meeting. Councillor Trinacty updated Council on a discussion of the issue at the most recent Recreation Committee meeting, and reported on a motion made at the Recreation Committee level to agree with the intent of the 1992 motion whereby Council had "agreed in principle to transfer a small plot of the old school property to the Anglican Church in exchange for right-of-way access to the new oil tanks on the north end of the new Town Hall", at no cost to the Town.

It was therefore moved by Councillor Trinacty and seconded by Councillor Whittier to transfer the said land to the Anglican (or Christ Church) with the same terms agreed to in 1992.

Motion Carried

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3.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a)

Social Services

Councillor Morse reported that General Assistance remains at a constant level and may be underspent for this fiscal year if current trends continue. There was no change to the Homes program for the month of February; it also appears to be underbudget to date. The Town of Berwick has three active clients participating in the Employment Resource Centre.

(b)

Personnel

Councillor Morse indicated that a meeting is scheduled for March 18, 1996 to meet with Department Heads to review the draft policy for Occupational Health & Safety; as well as Safety Guidelines for each Department.

(c)

Solid Waste Management

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Councillor Prall reported that the February 21, 1996 meeting had been cancelled, and the Regional Solid Waste Management Group is still awaiting a decision from the Province on funding.

Literature has been circulated regarding the April 1, 1996 Disposal Bans on recyclable garbage items, however, not sure what is to be done specifically for the local area. The Provincial Government has chosen the April 1, 1996 date arbitrarily, and there are supposed to be 75 Recycling Depots in the province, with five in Kings county in operation by that time. Councillor Prall noted that the deadline is April 1, 1996, "where possible".

Once a more definite course of action becomes known, it was agreed to advise the public as quickly as possible with Public Notices and insertions in power bills. The Clerk was instructed to maintain contact with Municipality of the County of Kings and EFR Disposal to see what changes are coming and advise accordingly.

(d)

Fire

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The water problems at the Fire Hall have been solved by the new submersible pump reported Councillor Prall. In other Fire Department items, Mr. Jamie Morse has been hired on a Section 25 Grant; the Liquor License is in place and working out well; there will be upcoming CPR/First Aid courses available at the Fire Hall, if Town employees are interested. The Personnel Chairman may wish to advise Department Heads of this course. (Anyone interested should get in touch with Mr. James McKay, BDVFD).

councillor Prall advised Council that the Fire Department is considering purchase of a new Class A Pumper for next fiscal year. Estimated cost: \$250-\$300,000.00. Town's share: \$100,000.00 +/-.

(e)

#### Recreation

Councillor Trinacty was pleased to announce that the Recreation Department has been quite active getting the Tourism SubCommittee underway. Currently looking at how to develop a Strategic plan for Tourism in the area, and investigating available funding.

Looking for groups/organizations in the Community to create banners for Volunteer Recognition Week to be put on display in April. Open to any Community-minded organizations: Gala Days, Church Groups, Lion Clubs, Sport Groups, etc Don't want to miss anybody!

Apple Blossom Tea is next week: four entries for Apple Blossom Princess this year. The Recreation Committee has had an ongoing discussion on Signage to better identify Parks and Open Spaces; as well as locational/ direction signs to help newcomers find needed areas. It was suggested that the Recreation Department, Board of Trade, and the Arena all sit down together to avoid duplications; as all three groups have looked at Sign Requirements recently.

(f)

#### Streets

Councillor Whittier commented on recent story in the Berwick Register about Public Works picking up a dog by the drugstore; the employee did exactly what he was instructed to do, and in fact, more people are buying their dog tags now. The Animal control program does appear to be working out quite well; 18 dogs were picked up so far this year.

The new furnace is being installed in the Drumshear Building; Public Works Committee awarded the contract to D. W. Palmer Plumbing & Heating. To date, the boiler, water tank, chimney, oil tank, and most of the plumbing have been installed.

For general interest, Public Works mixed 100.56 metric tonnes of Salt with 630 cubic yards of Sand for application on Town Streets and Sidewalks. This compares to 92.29 metric tonnes of salt and 600 cubic yards of Sand mixed last year. Overtime hours, largely due to Snow Removal, amounted to \$7,000.00 YTD.

The Public Works Superintendent will be applying for a Summer student for 16 weeks under the Municipal Works Project. The

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Canadian Public Works Association will hold its annual Seminar in Bridgewater this year April 17, 18 and 19, 1996; the Public Works Superintendent and Foreman plan to attend this worthwhile session.

(g)

#### Finance

Councillor Reeves updated Council on a recent Finance meeting where Insurance quotations for those policies expiring on March 31, 1996 were disclosed. Councillor Reeves moved that the lowest tenders be accepted, as listed below, with effective date of April 1, 1996. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Munday. Successful bidders are:

#### Saunders Insurance

(1 ) (2 ) (3 ) (4)

commercial Multi Peril Boiler & Machinery Ins. Vehicle Insurance Liability Insurance

\$ 2,631. 00

\$ 1, 172 . 00 \$15,033.00 \$ 5,278.00

#### Horsnell Insurance

#### Motion Carried

Councillor Reeves added that quotations were requested for a threeyear period; however, all insurance companies declined as they only quote for one year at a time. However, if prices remain at or near present levels, it was agreed to continue with the same carriers next year.

A draft copy of Grants-to-Organizations Allocation Policy was circulated to all on Council by Finance Committee. Councillor Reeves made a Notice of Motion to ask that Council review the draft over the next month, for discussion and consideration at April's Council meeting.

(h)

#### Planning Advisory Committee

Deputy Mayor Munday had no activity to report for the month, however, a meeting will be held soon to review Final Draft of two Development Agreements, which are almost complete.

(i)

#### CED Agency

Deputy Mayor Monday was unable to attend this month's meeting due to other commitments. The Director of the CED Agency, Mr. Chris Heseltine, plans to attend the April Council Meeting to present the 1996/97 Budget for the CED Agency, for Council's consideration.

(j )

#### Mayors/Wardens Meeting

The Deputy Mayor spoke on behalf of Mayor Rainforth, who was unable to attend tonight's Council meeting. At the recent

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Mayors/Wardens meeting, a discussion took place on whether to disband the Kings Municipal Reform Advisory Committee (KMRAC) or not. The emphasis is now on pursuing "Shared Services on a Regional Basis", and not to look further at unitary government for the time being. Therefore, it was agreed that Town of Berwick would no longer be participating in the KMRAC.

The other major agenda items discussed at the Mayors/Wardens meeting was continued participation with the Kings Transit Authority (KTA) and continued support of the Wolfville to Greenwood route. The Deputy Mayor outlined some of the changes proposed to the Instrument of Incorporation for KTA, and how they would impact on Berwick.

The Town of Berwick will be added as a participating municipality in Paragraph 2 of the Instrument of Incorporation. paragraph 3 would be amended to read, "That area of the Municipality of the County of Kings and all Towns and Villages therein. . . . Berwick will get one seat on the Board of Directors for KTA, and the funding formula for the next three years will be based on the population of the serviced area and the percent of total: for Berwick this is 5%, based on serviced area of 11 7 4.

The 1996/97 proposed budget requires municipal funding of \$100,000.00, after fares and advertising revenues. An additional \$25,000.00 for Capital Expenditure will only be paid to KT A if the Department of Municipal Affairs provides a 50% Capital Grant to KTA to overhaul a bus. Berwick's 5% share equates to \$5,000.00 and \$1,250.00 respectively; maximum costs \$6,250.00.

Councillor Reeves was concerned about costs and thought the recent addition of the Greenwood run had proved to be profitable. He added that, in theory, if revenues or profits continue to increase, eventually Municipal units should end up paying less.

It was moved by Councillor Trinacty and seconded by Councillor Morse to support the Kings Transit Authority for a three-year period with a commitment to one-year funding based upon an approved Budget with Municipal Funding set at \$100,000.00, and an additional \$25,000.00 Capital, contingent upon Provincial approval. Berwick to have one member on the Board of Directors; to be included on the Instrument of Incorporation; and to pay 5% of Municipal Funding based on a serviced population of 1174.

Motion Carried

Deputy Mayor Munday asked Councillor Reeves to continue to represent Berwick on the KT A Board of Directors; to which Councillor Reeves agreed.

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4.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

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A Newsletter about Education in Kings County, announcing Dr. Jim Gunn, as Superintendent for the New Valley Regional School Board, along with a short update on the School Board Amalgamation. Copies distributed for the information of Council.

Received Kings County District School Board minutes for January 3, 1996 meeting. Copies distributed for the information of Council.

Letter from Brian Van Rooyen, President of the Nova Scotia Association of Waste Reduction Co-ordinators, along with a pamphlet, outlining disposal bans effective April 1, 1996. Copies distributed for the information of Council.

Cover letter and copy of the consolidated Solid Waste- Resource Management Regulations from the Nova Scotia Department of Environment. Copies circulated to members of Regional Solid Waste Steering Committee and a copy remains on file in the Clerk's office. For the information of Council.

(e)

Letter from Mr. Colin Anderson, requesting that" some kind of plan be put in place to deal with the removal of diseased and/or vicious animals from the Town's residential areas, for the safety of residents . . . in Berwick"; this is in reference to a diseased raccoon in the MacIntosh Street area that had to be disposed of. Apparently the Department of Natural Resources no longer provides this type of service, and the Animal control Bylaw only deals with domesticated animals, not wild animals. For discussion and/or a decision by Council.

Councillor whittier commented on this recent situation with a diseased raccoon in a residential subdivision area, and agreed that it was of concern with small children around. After some discussion, it was agreed to refer the matter to the Bylaw Committee for possible inclusion of a policy on wild animals in the Animal Control Bylaw. The Clerk was asked to contact the Berwick Police Department for their input at the Bylaw Committee level; as well as to write a letter to Mr. Colin Anderson, informing him of Council's handling of the matter.

Letter from Mr. Robert Thibault, Clerk, Municipality of Argyle, inviting all municipal units, "to join them in asking the Federal Government to withdraw the proposed Licensing Fee increases, and to re-draft the criteria for

maintenance and transfer of "Small Boat" Licenses. For the information of Council.

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(h)

5.

A memo received from Ken Simpson, Executive Director of the UNSM, advising municipalities of a "request from Department of Health to extend current arrangements between Municipalities and the Department, for the administration of In-Home Support Programs, Homes for the Aged, and Nursing Homes". Copies distributed for the information of Council (Note - a meeting has been scheduled later in the week to discuss provision of Social Services Programs in the coming fiscal year) .

Received a press release from Ann MacLean, UNSM President, which warns "Business Owners and Property Tax Payers - Watch Your Wallets. " This was written in response to the Provincial Finance Minister's recent statements that, "municipalities will share the pain in the upcoming provincial Budget." Ms MacLean writes that,

"Municipalities are sick and tired of the Province pointing the finger at the local level of government and suggesting that there are many inefficiencies and room for property tax increases. Municipalities have internally restructured and reorganized over the past number of years to avoid tax increases. But, there are only so many rabbits that can be pulled from the hat!

Copies distributed for the information of Council.

(i)

Received a copy of a letter from the CAO for the Municipality of Picton County, addressed to the Federal Minister of Fisheries & Oceans, informing him that Council, "fully supports the efforts of the Gulf Nova Scotia and Eastern Shore Fishermen and request a delay in Bill C-98, The Ocean's Act and Bill C-155, The Fisheries Act. .. of one year, in order that there can be meaningful input into these issues". For the information of Council.

The balance of correspondence was of a routine nature or passed to Committees for Action.

#### 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 \$98,314.54 be approved for payment.

6.

Motion Carried

#### NEW BUSINESS

No one had any new business to bring to the table at this time.

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Council moved to Committee-of-the-whole at 8: 08 p. m. to discuss a legal matter. Council resumed at 8: 20 p. m

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There being no further business the Deputy Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Munday

Acting Chairman

  
Judith Mitchell  
Town Clerk