

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING - NOVEMBER 12, 1996

Present:

Chairman

Mayor John W. Rainforth Deputy Mayor Michael J. Munday Councillor John P. Prall Councillor Gary W. Whittier Councillor Ronald G. Reeves Robert Stewart, Solicitor Judith Mitchell, Town Clerk

,Absent:

Councillor Bruce H. Morse Councillor Michael E. Trinacty

In attendance:

Sara White, Berwick Register

1.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7: 00 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 october 15, 1996 as circulated.

(b)

The following minutes were circulated for the information of Council:

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

social services Committee Police commission Public Works Committee Personnel Committee Recreation Committee Personnel Committee

October 22, 1996 october 30, 1996 November 4, 1996 November 5, 1996 November 6, 1996 November 8, 1996

3.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Any items to be discussed will arise under Committee Reports.

4.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a)

social Services

In the absence of Councillor Morse, Councillor Reeves updated Council on the latest Social Assistance statistics for the month of October. The cost of Social Assistance continues to escalate. There will be a meeting with Department of Community Services in November to discuss the funding levels.

(b)

Remembrance Day Service

Deputy Mayor Munday reported that he had attended the Remembrance Day Service on behalf of the Mayor. It was a good service and was well attended. Attended the banquet as well.

,(c)

Meeting with Minister of Municipal Affairs

Both Deputy Mayor Munday and Councillor Reeves updated Council on a meeting held October 17, 1996 with Minister of Municipal Affairs, Dr. Jim Smith; the Executive Director of Municipal Affairs, Mr. David Darrow, and the Valley Municipal Affairs Advisor, Mr. Danny McDougall. It was a good productive meeting; the Minister appeared very receptive to the concerns raised; however, time will tell. The main points of focus were: rising Social Assistance costs, concern over possible dissolution of Fire Commissions, liability exposure on volunteer fire fighters; a renewed Infrastructure program should include Municipalities, Service Exchange formula needs to be revisited, Re-assessment procedures, Blended Sales Tax, one year's notice before funding cuts from Province become effective; Concerns over Municipal Amalgamation, and funding of the 911 system.

(d)

Kings C. E . D. Agency

Deputy Mayor Munday advised that he had received a letter from the Kings C. E . D. Agency acknowledging his letter concerning conflict of meeting dates with Council. No word yet on an alternate meeting date.

Also attended the Land Use/Environment Committee Meeting at Acadia university, with the Clerk. It was primarily an introductory meeting to identify issues and concerns that relate to either Land Use, the Environment, or both. A meeting has been set for municipal planners to meet and discuss uniformity of Municipal Planning Strategies, and regional planning concerns, for the four municipal units in Kings County.

(e)

Planning Advisory Committee

A rezoning request had been received from Mr. John Nichols, Berwick Building Supplies, to rezone the Darrell E. Corbett property, 145 Union Street, from R1 (Single Family Residential) to C3 (Commercial Warehouse). A Public Hearing was held earlier this evening. No submissions were made, either oral or written, and no one from the public attended. Two inquiries were made to the Development Officer earlier, but appear to have been dealt with satisfactorily. The Public Hearing concluded with a recommendation to approve the rezoning request.

,Therefore, it was moved by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Reeves that Council approve the rezoning of the Darrell E. Corbett property, 145 Union Street, from R 1 to C 3, as requested, for the purpose of Future expansion of Berwick Building Supplies.

Motion Carried Councillor whittier: discussion and motion

abstained

from

(f)

Fire Department

Councillor Prall reported that the Berwick & District Volunteer Fire Department had met the previous Monday evening; everything is going smoothly. Discussed the implications of the new Fire Prevention Act at their meeting: still awaiting more information on anticipated impacts at the local level.

(g)

solid Waste Management

There was a meeting of the Valley Region Waste-Resource Committee on November 4, 1996, however Councillor Prall was unable to attend. Minutes of the meeting have now been received and the next meeting is scheduled for November 25, 1996 in Kingston. Councillor Prall reviewed the agenda items for Council. Expect there will be two public meetings in January after consultant's report is filed. After that, the VRWR Committee plan to meet and revise the report to include input from the public. Discussed the Committee's budget; meeting fees were voted down. Further clarification of compostable organic bans is still needed. Apparently, each region and/or municipal unit will need a site to receive organics. Discussion also took place on structure of representatives, handling of Hazardous Waste, and types of garbage containers.

(Councillor Prall advised that he may not be available for the November 25, 1996 meeting, and asked if Councillor Reeves would attend in his place) .

(h)

Recreation

Councillor whittier reported on Recreation items, in the absence of Councillor Trinacty. The November 6, 1996 Recreation Committee meeting was chaired by Councillor Whittier, as well. The new directional sign is finished but not painted yet. The soccer field has been delayed somewhat due to rainy weather, but is still being worked on. The path has been sanded to improve the quality.

(i)

_(m)

_Councillor whittier also commented on the growth of soccer as a sport province-wide, and in particular, in this community. Local soccer players now number 310; five years ago there were only 50.

Streets

Councillor Whittier advised that it was business as usual at the Streets Department with emphasis on Fall Cleanup, the Leaf Program, and Patching and Paving. The park has a section of fence down due to a motor vehicle mishap. Seventeen more trees have been planted: Maples and Lindens. pleased to report that recent test results of B. o. D. levels at the Sewer Treatment Plant are excellent, showing a 99% reduction from influent to effluent.

(j)

Finance

Councillor Reeves advised that the next Finance Committee meeting will be held in early December, after meetings with the Province to discuss rising social Assistance costs. At that time, will be carefully reviewing the financial position to try and keep growing costs under control, when possible.

(k)

Kings Transit Authority

Councillor Reeves reported on a recent meeting of the Kings Transit Authority. The financial position is a little behind; will make a full report at next month's Council. Kings Transit Authority Chairman is off due to illness; may have to make changes to the Board on either an interim or permanent basis.

(l)

Police commission

Mayor Rainforth indicated a meeting has been scheduled next week to discuss Initiatives in Policing with the province. The Full Study Group of Regionalized Policing meets on November 21, 1996. May be presented with a number of options to discuss.

Berwick Electric Commission

The Mayor advised that the seven Municipal Electric Utilities recently met in Kentville at the Town Office.

A very good meeting with presentations from N. S . P . I. and from a Meter Company. It appears that with deregulation of electric utilities, there may be more choices in future about where to buy power. Also discussed diversifying, and possibility of joining Ontario's Association of Municipal Electric Utilities.

5 .

CORRESPONDENCE

,(a)

(d)

Received a letter from Annapolis Valley- Hants MP, Mr. John Murphy, offering his support that municipal units be included in any future Infrastructure Renewal Program. (This is in response to a letter from Council). Also enclosed was copy of Mr. Murphy's letter to the Prime Minister echoing the same "strong support for the renewal of the Canada Infrastructure Works program". For the information of Council.

(b)

Received a letter from Minister of Finance, Mr. William Gillis, in response to the Town's letter, "expressing support for a new national..... infrastructure program jointly funded by federal, provincial and municipal governments".. .. For the information of Council.

(c)

Received a letter from Minister of Community Services, Mr. John MacEachern, to follow-up on Premier Savage's promise to set up "a one-tier provincially operated social service delivery structure over the next 12 to 18 months". The letter goes on to say that "this initiative collectively offers us a real opportunity to move to an equitable and efficient single-tier social service delivery system (in N. S .) . This will provide predictable costs by fixing municipal contributions at an agreed-upon level". For the information of Council.

Received from the CAO of the Municipality of Pictou County, copies of two letters; the first to Department of Health Minister Bernie Boudreau, requesting that the Minister of Health and his Department initiate immediately the formation of Community Health Boards with the powers at set out in the "Blueprint for Health Reform"; and until such community boards are in place, Provincial funding-Tor all support services now present be increased to provide for the needs of those not able to or not wishing to avail themselves of very expensive institutionalized care; but rather, to care for their own at home or to remain in their own homes. For the information of Council.

Their other letter is directed to Mr. William Gillis, Minister of Finance, and advises that, "the municipal Council (of pictou County) strongly opposes the Blended Sales Tax and have expressed concerns that this tax will have a tremendous financial impact on all residents of N. S . , as it will affect the pricing of essential commodities such as gasoline, electricity, and heating oil". 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 Deputy Mayor Monday that the attached list of bills and accounts in the amount of \$68,644.78 be approved for payment.

7.

There was short break at 8: 00 p. m . prior to going to Committee-of-theWhole at 8: 04 p. m. to discuss matters of a confidential nature. Regular Council resumed at 8: 38 p. m.

8.

NEW BUSINESS

(a)

He_th/Dent_ Coverage

Due to rising costs in price of coverage, and the need to be included in a more stable group 7 it was moved by Councillor Reeves and seconded by Deputy Mayor Munday to move to a Health and Dent_ coverage plan provided by Blue Cross through the UNSM Group/W.F. Morneau; effective December 1, 1996; Town to cover premiums as discussed.

Motion carried

9.

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

John W. Rainforth Chairman



Judith Mitchell
Town Clerk