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Minutes of the Special Council Meeting - Jan. 15, 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

1.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

2.

Committee of the Whole:

Council went into Committee of the Whole at 5:12 p.m. to discuss a confidential matter, and returned to Council at 5:30 p.m.

3.

K.M.R.A.C.: Study

The Mayor reported on a recent meeting of the Kings Municipal Reform Advisory Committee (KMRAC) that ended with a directive for Berwick and Wolfville to go back to their respective Councils to seek further input as to whether to proceed on a full-fledged study that would include Unitary Government (i.e. - Municipal Amalgamation). Both Berwick and Wolfville expressed interest and support to proceed with a detailed study of IntraMunicipal Shared Services, however, Kings County and Kentville wished to proceed with a full study of: (1) Unitary Government, (2) District Service Commission, and (3) Shared Services.

Council then discussed at length some of the problems posed by studying Municipal Amalgamation when every municipal unit in Kings County has clearly indicated that they have no wish or desire to see Municipal Amalgamation take place in Kings County. The province has released Bill No. 28 which makes Municipal Amalgamation a voluntary process, based on a majority of Municipal Units within a county agreeing to voluntarily amalgamate. In September, when KMRAC last met, the Province was still considering forced amalgamations. This

is no longer the case, according to the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

In addition, the Forced Amalgamations of Cape Breton and Metro have been getting a great deal of negative press. Even though their Amalgamation Studies indicated savings, they have yet to be realized in the bigger Regional Units. This also influences public opinion on whether Municipal Amalgamation is such a good idea. The local residents in Berwick have not expressed to Council any wish to participate in a Regional Municipality, but rather, just the opposite.

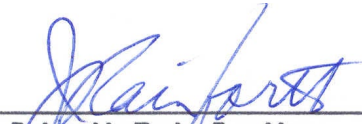
As well, the Town of Berwick has a "finite number of resources, both "financial and personnel, and has already made a commitment towards unifying Policing Services in the next "few months.

After lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the Town of Berwick is better served to look at SharinQ and SellinQ of Intra-Municipal Services. than to participate in a study of Municipal Amalgamation.

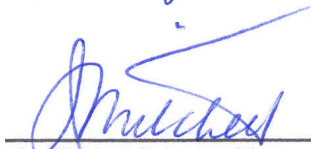
The Mayor to compose a letter to the the Chairman of the K.M.R.A.C., Mr. Agar Adamson, expressing Council's concern and reiterating their position.

4.

There being no "further business, Council adjourned at 5:48 p.m.



John W. Rainforth
Chairman



Judith Mitchell
Town Clerk