

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING - OCTOBER 15, 1996

Present:

Chairman

Mayor John W. Rainforth

Deputy Mayor Michael J. Munday Councillor Bruce H. Morse Councillor John P. Prall

Councillor Michael E. Trinaety Councillor Ronald G. Reeves Robert Stewart, Solicitor Judith Mitchell,
Town Clerk

Absent:

Councillor Gary W. Whittier

In attendance:

Sara White, Berwick Register

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7: 00 p. m.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a)

Hearing of no errors or omissions, the Chairman approved the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of September 10, 1996 as circulated.

(b)

The following minutes were circulated for the information of Council:

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

Public Police Commission Finance Committee Recreation Committee Berwick Electric Commission Planning
Advisory Committee

September 18, 1996 October 1, 1996 October 2, 1996 October 3, 1996 October 3, 1996

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a)

Municipal Legislative Review

The discussion Paper on the proposed Municipal Government Act put forth by the Municipal Legislative Review Committee was discussed at

length. It was noted that some degree of concern had been raised at the recent UNSM Conference on various aspects of the report; particularly election of Wardens, establishing Community Councils expanded authority to clean up Dangerous/Unsightly Premises, declaration/filing of all Election expenses. Of particular concern to

the Town is possible dissolution of the Fire Commission; the question

of liability of Fire Department volunteers under the Fire Prevention Act; and the omission of any reference to treatment of electric utilities in the event of amalgamation. It was agreed that a letter be sent outlining Council's concerns.

Any further items to be discussed will arise under Committee Reports.

,4.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a)

Social Services

Councillor Morse updated Council on the latest Social Assistance statistics for the months of August and September. It appears that General Assistance is costing significantly more this year than last.

The Director of Social Services suggests the Town meet with

Department of Community Services to discuss cost-sharing caps, as budget targets have been exceeded year-to-date. After discussion, the Clerk was directed to set up a Social Services Committee meeting with the Director to assess the financial position to date and make plans accordingly.

Councillor Morse also read a letter received from Ms. christine Pynch advising how the Valley Agricultural Labour Office worked in conjunction with social Services, as well as information on the Home Care program.

(b)

Kings CED Agency: Environment/Land Use Committee

Deputy Mayor Munday advised that a letter had been sent to the Kings CED Agency informing them of a conflict in meeting dates; no response to date. The Environment/Land Use Committee will be meeting tomorrow evening at Wheelock Hall, Acadia University. Both Deputy Mayor and Clerk/Development Officer plan to attend.

(c)

Planning Advisory Committee

A re-zoning request has been received from Berwick Building supplies, seeking to re-zone the Darrell E. Corbett property, situated at 145 Union Street, from R1 to C3 to permit future expansion and to square up the Berwick Building Supplies lot somewhat.

Therefore, it was moved by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Trinacty to re-zone 145 Union Street, the Darrell E. Corbett property, from R1 (Single Family Residential) to C3 (Commercial Warehouse) to facilitate future plans of Berwick Building Supplies.

Motion Carried

A Public Hearing will be held at 6: 30 p. m. on Tuesday, November 12, 1996, just before Council.

,Deputy Mayor Munday also noted that the Planning Advisory Committee has decided to meet on a regular basis monthly to attend to outstanding and/or upcoming planning issues.

(d)

Fire Department

Councillor Prall reported that the Department was operating well and there was nothing new to report at this time.

(e)

Regional Solid Waste Committee

A meeting has been scheduled for tomorrow, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., in Kingston, with a workshop in the afternoon. At the last meeting, Councillor Prall advised that some concerns had been expressed over the way reports were being compiled and prepared by vaughan Engineering. Letters to the Chair, Mr. Paul Thomsen, have resulted in a small group meeting with Vaughan Engineering to explain the difficulties. The September meetings minutes were circulated for the benefit of Council.

(f)

Streets Department

In the absence of Councillor Whittier, Councillor Prall read aloud the written report of the Public Works Superintendent. video Industrial have been cleaning main sewer lines for the past several weeks: now finished. Patching and paving will commence next week, weather permitting. Fall Clean Up will run from october 15 to 25 this year; followed shortly after by the Leaf Program. Storm sewer jobs are currently underway on Main and Maple; and East Main Street. The Electrical Consolidation Building sited near the Lagoon is also underway.

The flail mower purchased earlier this year is working very well. Recently mowed the power line right-of-way, from the old railway bed to Larsen's Packers, at the request of the Berwick Electric Commission.

(g)

Recreation

The work on levelling the Soccer Field has been started, expect the work will be completed by late fall. The path will be diverted through the church yard temporarily and the site will be clearly marked off limits with construction signs and sawhorses, etc. The Tourism SubCommittee is back on track with regular meetings; will be developing some plans for next spring. The Recreation Committee will be sending 2 people to the RANS Conference in Dartmouth on November 14 - 16, 1996.

(h)

Finance

,Councillor Reeves reported on a recent Finance Committee meeting held to discuss the impact of assessment on cost-sharing agreements.

Areas affected include Education ,Corrections / Grants, Library, and possibly intramunicipal services. There are many variables at stake, not just assessment, in some cost-sharing formulas; particularly Education. The Mayor felt it may cost 1 to 2 cents on the tax rate next year; the Deputy Mayor added that in real dollars, the tax rate may do down, but property taxes may still be higher than the prior year.

As far as recent financial statements go ,at almost halfway through the year, all Departments are at or below budget level; other than Social Assistance. Department Heads have done a wonderful job to date.

(i)

Police Commission

Reviewed the Post-Audit Report in detail; the next meeting of the Full Study Group on Regional Policing is scheduled for October 25, 1996.

(j)

Berwick Electric Commission

The Superintendent recently received a request for installation of street lights on willow Avenue, now that this area is within Town

limits. After discussion ,it was agreed to have the Berwick Electric Commission add to existing street lights to bring the street up to the usual street lighting standards. To be done at the discretion of the Berwick Electric Commission Superintendent, given the existing

work load. May require 6 to 8 additional street lights; it appears that 3 to 4 street lights are already in place. Therefore, it was moved by Councillor Morse and seconded by Deputy Mayor Munday to install Street Lights as required on Willow Avenue, as the Berwick Electric Commission's working schedule permits.

Motion Carried

5.

CORRESPONDENCE

(a)

Letter from the United Association of Journeymen & Apprentices of the Plumbing & Pipefitting Industry of the U. S. and Canada, a copy of a letter to Mrs. Eleanor Norrie, Minister of Natural Resources, expressing concern that the Sable Gas Project was done using fabricators and parts from Italy and Korea , rather than the local N. S. workers. For the information of Council

(b)

(c)

(d)

Reply was received from Dr. Jim Smith, Minister of MuniCipal Affairs, in response to a letter from the Mayor outlining concerns over a new Infrastructure program that may eliminate participation at the Municipal Level. For the information of Council

Fax was received from Dr. Jim Smith, Minister of Department of Housing & Municipal Affairs, advisory that he will be travelling to all 55 Municipal units in N. S. to meet with Mayors and Councils to discuss the "issues and challenges facing local government in N. S. ". For the information of Council. Have since been advised that a meeting has been set for Thursday october 17th to meet with the Minister and express any concerns. A notice will be circulated to all on Council.

Building Permit report to end of September 1996: 10 Building Permits issued year-to-date for a construction value of \$599700. Compares to 22 Building Permits this time last year with values of \$1,918,191. (Of course, last year was the exception with three industrial expansions) .

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

There was a short break at 8: 05 p. m. prior to going to Committee-of-theWhole at 8: 08 p. m. Regular Council resumed at 8: 15 p. m.

(b)

Meter: 205 Foster Street

After discussion, it was agreed that the Berwick Electric Commission be given authority to install an additional meter at 205 Foster Street.

8.

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:18p.m.



Judith Mitchell
Town Clerk

John W. Rainforth chairman