

Present:

Chairman

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING - APRIL 08, 1997

Mayor John W. Rainforth Deputy Mayor Michael J. Munday Councillor Bruce H. Morse Councillor John P. Prall Councillor Michael E. Trinacty Councillor Ronald G. Reeves Robert Stewart, Town Solicitor Judith Mitchell, Town Clerk

Absent:

Councillor Gary W. Whittier

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 March 11, 1997; as circulated.

(b)

The following minutes were distributed as noted:

(i) (ii) (ill) (iv) (v) (vi) (vii) (viii) (ix) (x)

Personnel Committee

Public Police Commission Recreation Committee Berwick Electric Commission Finance Committee

Recreation Committee

Fire Committee

Planning Advisory Committee Streets Committee

Personnel Committee

3.

Mar. 13/97, circulated Mar. 18/97, circulated Mar. 19/97, circulated Mar. 26/97, circulated Mar. 26/97, circulated Apr. 02/97, circulated Apr. 03/97, circulated Apr. 07/97, not circulated yet Apr. 08/97, not circulated yet Apr. 08/97, not circulated yet

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Any items to be discussed will arise under Committee Reports.

4.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a)

Social Services

Councillor Morse reported that for the month of March 1997, the monthly social Services cost was below budget expectations even though the number of General Assistance recipients remained constant. The cost containment initiatives that were recently implemented have started to show benefits. Programs and recipients will continue to be monitored closely in conjunction with the provincial Dept. of Community Services.

(a)

Social Services continued

of note, the Municipal Council of Kings county has approved the secondment of Municipal Director, Mr. Wayne Hyson, by the Province of Nova Scotia, effective April 14, 1997. The council has appointed Mr. Kie MacIsaac (presently Homes for Special Care Worker) as Acting Director until all delivery of social services is taken over by the Province; or April 1, 1998; whichever happens first.

(b)

Personnel

councillor Morse advised Council that the Personnel Committee had met twice in the past month, and he had three items of business to attend to. After a brief description of each, the following motions were put forth:

(i)

Returning Officer

_under Section 4, subsection (1) of the Municipal Elections Act, it was moved by councillor Morse and seconded by Councillor Reeves that Council appoint the retired Clerk, Mr. Edwin Jones, as the Returning Officer for the Town of Berwick, as recommended by the Personnel Committee.

Motion carried.

(ii)

Fulltime Accountant

It was moved by Councillor Morse and seconded by Councillor Prall that the position of Accountant become a fulltime position effective April 9, 1997, with salary of \$32000jannum; increasing at the end of one year to \$33000jannum with the assumption of certain duties. Per the recommendation of the Personnel committee.

Motion carried.

(iii)

Seasonal Parks Maintenance Person

In response to a recently placed advertisement for employment, and interview process, resulting in a recommendation by the Recreation Committee, and a subsequent recommendation by the Personnel

Committee; it was moved by Councillor Morse that Mr. Martin Cudmore be hired to fill the position of Seasonal Parks Maintenance Person, effective April 14, 1997. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Munday.

Motion carried.

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(c)

Kings C.E.D. Agency

Deputy Mayor Munday advised Council that he had not been able to attend the last C. E. D. meeting due to a prior commitment; however, keeping up to date by reviewing all of the minutes. For the most part, the agency is finishing off business for the 96/97 fiscal year and winding up any outstanding matters. Nothing new to report.

(d)

Planning Advisory Committee

Deputy Mayor Munday reported on a recent meeting of the Planning Advisory Committee to consider an application received from Larsen Packers Limited to re-zone 344 Main street (formerly known as the Ralph Chase property) from "R1", single Family Residential to "M2", Heavy Industrial. Basically, Larsen's have no plans to develop the property, but would like to have their parcel of land uniformly zoned. After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Morse that upon recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee, council give Notice of Intent to rezone the property of Larsen Packers Limited, situated at 344 Main street, from single Family Residential (R1) to Heavy Industrial (M2) .

Motion carried.

It was noted by Deputy Mayor Munday that a Public Hearing should be scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13th, 1997, just before council. All agreed.

(e)

Fire

(i)

Fire Truck

councillor Prall reported that the new fire truck had been received amidst fanfare and ceremony. Another motion will be required, however, to finalize the financial arrangements. (To be dealt with under Finance.)

(e)

Fire continued

Fire Prevention Act Review

(ii)

(f)

Councillor Prall informed Council of a recent meeting held with the Fire committee, the Berwick & District Volunteer Fire Dept., and the Fire Commission to look over the Discussion Paper on the Fire Prevention Act Review. On second thought, it appeared that many of the proposed changes in the new Act would impact more severely on Municipal Units than Volunteer Fire Departments, per se. Especially issues of expanded powers, legislated responsibilities, and the increased liabilities that Municipal Units may be exposed to.

Fire Inspection duties currently carried out by the Province will become the responsibility of Municipal Units. A system of Inspections will have to be put in place, and records kept on file of inspections, reports, orders to remedy, prosecutions, court orders, statistics, and "any other information the Fire Marshal deems necessary". Councillor Prall suggested that the Fire Committee have a special meeting with Councillors to review the implications in more detail and to prepare a submission to the Province by the deadline of April 18th. (Clerk to set up meeting) .

Recreation

(ii)

(i)

Apple Blossom Tea

Councillor Trinacty advised that the Apple Blossom Tea was scheduled for 2: 00 p. m. on Saturday, April 19th, at the Berwick Legion. Candidates for Berwick this year are Miss Holly Wentzell, Miss Heather Walsh, and Miss Rose Spencer.

Tourism SubCommittee Report

Councillor Trinacty presented the Final Report of the Tourism SubCommittee for consideration of Council. The Report identifies Tourism Goals, Objectives, and Strategies for the Town of Berwick for the next four years; based on their goal, "To promote Berwick as a Healthy, Friendly Place to Live, Work, and Play, and as the Apple Capital of Nova Scotia." councillor Trinacty then outlined the objectives, as follows:

#1:

To gain support of the Recreation Committee for our plan. (done).

To improve signage to the Berwick Tourist Bureau.

To develop an inventory of facilities, services, and activities in the Berwick Area.

#2: #3:

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(f)

Recreation continued

(ii)

Tourism SubCommittee Report continued

#4: #5:

#6: #7: #8:

#9:

#10:

- To develop an information package for the Town of Berwick and Area. To use the Tourist Bureau as a distribution centre for information on Berwick and Area.
- To encourage the promotion of the Apple Industry.
- To publicize this project and committee goals.
- To identify and verify sources of funding for various projects.
- To coordinate efforts of the Town of Berwick, Board of Trade, Service Clubs, Organizations, and the Tourist Bureau.
- To develop an evaluation process for this plan.

Each objective is followed by several strategies to realize the goals as set out. Councillor Trinacty reminded Council that this is a "fluid" document, and not cast in stone. It allows a good starting point to enable the process to get underway. If the Final Report is approved by Council, then the Tourism SubCommittee will have completed their task and will be disbanded. A new Tourism Action SubCommittee would then have to be put in place to carry out the Strategy. For simplification purposes, it was noted that "Berwick and Area" would be defined as all those situated within the telephone exchange area of 538.

After some discussion and clarification of some of the suggestions put forth in the Strategy, it was moved by Councillor Trinacty and seconded by Councillor Morse to accept the Final Report of the Tourism subCommittee as recommended by the Recreation Committee. The Recreation Director to action this Report immediately.

Motion carried.

councillor Trinacty noted that there will likely be lots of opportunities ahead to broaden the scope of the Report, if need be, or to incorporate suggestions from other departments.

(g)

Finance

(i)

Fire Truck

Councillor Reeves discussed the purchase of the Fire Truck in 1/3 shares by the Town, the BDVFD, and the Fire District of Berwick (ie. Fire Commission), as well as the implications for ownership of the fixed asset and registration and insurance of the vehicle itself. According to the legal opinion of the town solicitor, it should be acceptable to have the truck registered in the name of the Fire Commission, and insured in the name of the Town with the Fire Commission named as Additional Insured. To clarify ownership, a Memorandum of Agreement should be put in place outlining the dollar share of each of the parties and the physical shares of the vehicle. (ie. the Fire Commission owns the truck chassis and the Town/BDVFD own the Fort Garry Pumper). (Mr. Stewart to draft this agreement and have ready for signatures.) This will protect all three parties in the event that the Province changes status of any of the Commissions or Boards at some future time.

Councillor Reeves also mentioned the cost of acquiring the vehicle, which was slightly more than planned for, when the December motion was approved in the amount of \$76000 for the Town's share. Therefore, it was moved by Councillor Reeves and seconded by Deputy Mayor Munday, that the Town's portion not exceed \$76920 in total, based on a 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 splitting of costs between the Town, the BDVFD, and the Fire Commission for the purchase of a 1996 Fort Garry Pumper Truck with a pierce Custom Chassis.

Motion carried.

(ii)

Infrastructure Renewal Program

It was moved by Councillor Reeves and seconded by Councillor Prall that early application be made to the Department of Housing & Municipal Affairs for approval of projects under the renewed Infrastructure Works Program in the 1997/98 fiscal year.

Motion carried.

To be noted that the projects submitted will be as follows:

- 1/ Sanitary Sewer Renewal, Main st., phase II
- 2/ New Pavement: East Main Street
- 3/ upgrade/Renovation of Police Dept. offices

(h)

streets

In the absence of Councillor Whittier *I* who is away on vacation, the Superintendent's Street Report was presented by Councillor Prall. Of interest:

(i)

1/ 2/

3/

Spring Clean-Up will be held May 5th to 16th, 1997.

Purchased cold mix roads avers asphalt to repair **some** of the potholes in the local streets.

The Superintendents of the Public Works Dept. and the Electric commission have made arrangements to send two employees to Truro for additional courses in Arboricultural Work.

Foreman of Public Works, Mr. Bill MacLellan, received a passing grade of 71% in his Waste Water Treatment Class II Operator's Exam (A difficult course. Well done!)

The Public Works Dept. has been busy with ice and snow and flooding, but now that the weather has improved, will be starting to sweep streets.

4/

5/

Police

The Mayor reported that the Police Dept. has had to incur expenditures for ongoing Provincially mandated equipment.

Sidearms have been ordered and should be here soon. (Ordered early to enable officers enough time to adequately train on the range.)

(j)

Electric Commission

The Berwick Electric Commission met at the end of March to approve their 1997/98 Operating and Capital Budgets, which will now be submitted to the N. S. utility & Review Board. This is the earliest that budgets have been approved for the BEC.

There is also a unique opportunity open to the Commission to price out some contract work for the cornwallis Park Development corporation for construction of a line for the new tire recycling plant. The Superintendent is putting together a quote, and the commission will meet quickly to decide the matter.

The new HST came into effect on April 1, 1997. However, the Domestic power billings cover a 60-day

billing period; therefore the next two domestic billing dates of April 16th and May 16th will have power bills that show three taxes. The PST, GST, and HST, each pro-rated for the number of days covered in the billing period. A notice will be sent out in each bill so customers will know why there are three taxes on their bills. From June 1st and after, only HST will apply.

5.

CORRESPONDENCE

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

Received from the Hon. Richard Mann, of the N. S. Economic Renewal Agency, indicating that the existence of local RDA's would now be made official by carrying out three steps: a Municipal Letter, an RDA letter, and an approval by the Minister. Our local RDA is the Kings C. E . D. Agency, so this letter will be passed on to the Deputy Mayor. For the information of Council.

Received from the Hon. John MacEachern, N. S. Dept. of Community Services, a 3-page letter indicating that the process of moving towards an "integrated one-tier social service delivery system for April 1, 1998" was now underway with the selection of a 6-member Project Team. For the information of Council.

Received from the Hon. Dr. Jim Smith, N. S. Dept. of Housing & Municipal Affairs, a letter regarding changes to the Housing Authority Board & structure advising that: "Over the next few months, dept. staff will be working closely with tenants, the Boards, & municipalities which they represent, to decide upon a new board structure, board operating procedures, and transition plans to implement some of the administrative changes required by the new structure. I will be asking UNSM to nominate 2 representatives to this working group. We will update you on this process this fall." The proposed structure for Annapolis Valley will include New Minas, Hants, & Kings offices headquartered in New Minas, to look after 1067 housing units. 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 Councillor Morse that the attached list of Bills and Accounts in the amount of \$332877.02 be approved for payment.

7.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought to the attention of Council at this time.

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8.

There was a short break at 8: 12 p. m. prior to going to Committee-of-the-Whole at 8: 16 p. m. to discuss matters of a confidential nature. Regular Council resumed at 8: 30 p. m .

9.

There being no further meeting at 8: 31 p. m.

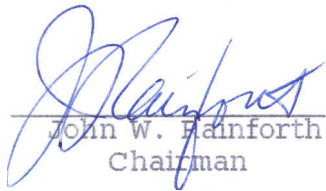
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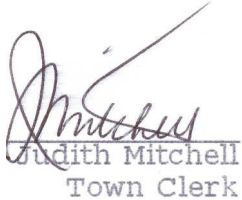
the

Chairman

adjourned

the


John W. Rainforth
Chairman


Judith Mitchell
Town Clerk