

MINUTES REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING 8 JULY 1997

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

In attendance:

Sara White Keddy, Berwick Register Robert Stewart, Town Solicitor Jake Hatfield, C.H.A.R.G.E.
2 staff members: CBC Television

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

2. Guest Speaker: Mr. Jake Hatfield, c.H.A.R.G.E.

(i.e. Citizens Helping Addicted Recovering Gamblers Everywhere)

Mr. Hatfield addressed Council for approximately 20 minutes on the issue of VL T' s (Video Lottery Terminals), and expressed particular concern about the number of VL T machines in Kings County and the social problems he attributes directly to the presence of VL T' s in the community. Mr. Hatfield cited statistics, a petition that has been circulated, and complaints about how the Province has set up, implemented, and profited from commercialized gambling. He called for municipal units to put the issue to a plebiscite vote, in conjunction with the Municipal Election already scheduled for October, so that the public can decide if they want VLT's or not.

Councillor Trinacty asked Mr. Hatfield if his organization had approached the Province directly to ban the VLT's. (No). Or are you asking the four municipal units of Kings County to approach the Province?

Mr. Hatfield replied that, "All we want is the opinion of the people in Kings County, and to do that we need the four units of Kings County to do a plebiscite to let the people vote on it and let the people decide if they want VL T' s or not."

The Mayor then advised that Council had only just received the information (provided by Mr. Hatfield), and would need time to look through it in more detail and then come

back to it at the next regular meeting of Council. Mr. Hatfield then presented the Mayor with a copy of the petition, and left the meeting at 7 :20 p.m.

(Clerk's note: The petition was entitled, "Tired of Your Community Being Robbed by Government Controlled Gambling Machines?". The question was worded as follows: "The health, financial, and well-being of our families and friends is important. We, the undersigned, want a plebiscite in our area to have VL T' s voted out of your community."

While the petition contained many names from the four municipal units in Kings County, it also contained names from Digby, Halifax, Dartmouth, Rawdon, Blandford, Hubbards, Bridgewater, Granville Ferry, Windsor, Middleton, Lawrencetown, New Ross, Lower Sackville, Chester, Annapolis Royal, Meteghan, Yarmouth; and from places in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Ontario, and Alberta.)

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

(a) Hearing of no errors or omissions, the Chairman approved the minutes of the Regular Council of June 10, 1997 and the Special Council of June 25, 1997, as circulated.

(b) The following minutes were distributed as noted:

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| (i) Fire Committee | June 12, 1997; circulated | |
| (ii) Recreation Committee | June 18, 1997; circulated | |
| (iii) Berwick Electric Commission | June 20, 1997; circulated | (iv) Finance Committee June 20, 1997; circulated |
| (v) Public Police Commission | June 25, 1997; circulated | |
| (vi) Recreation Committee | July 02, 1997; to be circulated | |
| (vii) Public Works Committee | July 07, 1997; to be circulated | |

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

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

5. Committee Reports

(a) Social Services

Councillor Morse advised that a Social Services Committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday evening, July 10, 1997, at 6:30 p.m. The monthly Social Assistance report has not been received to date.

(b) Planning Advisory Committee

Deputy Mayor Munday reported that a P.A.C. meeting will need to be scheduled in mid-August to look at some upcoming issues. Nothing else to report at this time.

(c) Solid Waste Management: Region 5

Councillor Prall indicated that the interim committee on Solid Waste Management for Region 5 had met on Monday, (however, he was unable to attend). Of the eight Councils affected by the draft Intermunicipal Agreement for Region 5, the majority have not signed as yet and are meeting to discuss various concerns; largely to do with voting powers.

(d) Fire Prevention Advisory Review

Councillor Prall advised that correspondence had been sent to Mr. Kelly, inviting him to attend the September Council and discuss the new changes recently proposed. Will confirm attendance once an affirmative reply has been received.

(e) Recreation

Councillor Trinacty reported that the Recreation Director is working in conjunction with the Berwick Police Department to look at screening of volunteers; starting to make local groups and organizations aware of the process. Forms are available at the Police Department.

There have been recent changes on the Recreation Committee's structure. Councillor Trinacty advised, that due to the resignation of one appointed member, he would like to move that Mr. Barry Corbin be appointed to sit on the Recreation Committee on an interim basis. Seconded by Councillor Whittier.

Motion Carried

Councillor Trinacty then advised, that with great regret, the Recreation Committee had accepted the written resignation of the Recreation Director, who plans to leave mid-September. A hiring process has been initiated by placing an ad in the Chronicle-Herald. No detailed timeline has been established yet, however, hope to have an opportunity for the new person to spend some transitional time with the current Director. Councillor Trinacty noted that we wish our departing Recreation Director all the best and hope we can find someone as capable to carry on with the Department.

(f) Streets

Councillor Whittier highlighted recent activities of the Public Works Department for the previous month. The crosswalks were done with thermoplastic lines last week. The directional sign requested by the Recreation Department had been erected on the corner of Cottage and Commercial Streets, next to the Fire Hall. Fencing work in the "A" ballfield of Rainforth Park has now been completed. The Public Works Committee met yesterday to finalize operating and capital budgets for the 1997/98 fiscal year. Are now planning to start on some tree work; will have to fit it around vacations, where possible. Would also like to report that funding was approved for a nine-week Summer Career Placement Grant starting July 1, 1997; have hired J.C. MacDonald for the student position.

(g) Finance

Councillor Reeves reported that the year-end was now finalized and audited Financial Statements approved. A memo has been put together for a press release to state how the Town and Electric ended the year. Now working towards setting the Budget; meetings of the Social Services Committee and Finance Committee have been scheduled for later on in the week.

(The Mayor noted that if the Finance Committee meeting goes well, may be able to hold a Special Council meeting on July 16th to finalize the 1997/98 Budget and set the rate.)

(h) Municipal Electric Utility Meeting: Antigonish

The Mayor advised that the Clerk and Electric Superintendent recently attended a meeting of the Nova Scotia Municipal Electric Utilities held in Antigonish. The group of Nova Scotia utilities have recently joined the Ontario Municipal Electric Association, and their Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Tony Jennings, had flown in from Ontario to attend this meeting and explain the benefits of becoming an associate member. They have lots of good publications, training capabilities, lobbying strength, and relevant information on small electric utilities. Also present was Mr. Steve Nelson of Industry Canada who discussed upcoming federal regulatory requirements that will affect municipal electric utilities over the next several years. The Nova Scotia Municipal Electric Utilities are also looking at the possibility of becoming a formal association, and are exploring various legal avenues including a co-operative association.

(i) Police Commission

The Police Commission met recently to approve submission of the 1997/98 Operation and Capital Budgets for consideration of the Finance Committee.

6. Correspondence

(i) Received from Ms. Gale Abbey, the Retirement Project Coordinator of the Kings C.E.D. Agency, a letter indicating that the Retirement Attraction Campaign has attracted 48 qualified leads to date. Of these responses, 43 % have been from the Atlantic Provinces, 24 % from Ontario, and 14% from British Columbia. The balance have been received from across North America, as well as Europe. For the information of Council.

(ii) Received from the Director of Policy & Standards for Land Information Services, Department of Housing & Municipal Affairs" a letter outlining the intentions of the Province to proceed with a Geographic Civic Address Database for the Province. Also enclosed was a fifteen-page questionnaire; many questions were not applicable to the Town because we are not on a computerized GIS mapping system. For the information of Council.

(iii) Received from Ms. Kathleen McNally of Valley Communications Inc., a letter of statistical information for the 911 System, which is now in its fifth year. She encloses the following statistics for the past three years:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Calls</u>	<u>Our Emerg. Agencies</u>	<u>Other Emerg. Agencies</u>	<u>Non-Emerg. Calls</u>
96/97	5066	2559	869	1638
95/96	4549	1725	953	1871
94/95	4610	1528	988	2094

"Although we have increased our call volume by just over 10%, it is impressive to see our non-emergency call volume decrease by 14% from the 95/96 year. We believe this decrease is a result of the general public becoming more aware of the 9-1-1 system and through education on the proper use of this system."

For the information of Council.

(iv) Received from Ms. Suzanne Atkinson, a request for the Town to submit a "well thought out and reasonable" proposal for submission to the Municipality of the County of Kings in order to arrive at a workable solution to the problem of posting Directional Signs to seasonal businesses at the entrance or exit to the Town. Ms. Atkinson enclosed a six -page document with suggestions and technical specifications attached. After brief discussion, it was agreed to refer the request to the Planning Advisory Committee for their input and recommendations.

(v) Received a notice from the UNSM reminding Councillors that the UNSM Conference will be held in Sydney this year from Wednesday, September 17 at noon to Friday, July 18. A hotel listing is attached; anyone planning to attend should advise the Clerk as soon as possible. For the information of Council.

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

. 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 \$71,524.19 be approved for payment.

Motion Carried

8. New Business

(a) Berwick and District Community Arena: Funding Request


Councillor Prall spoke at length on the need for additional financial support for the Arena this year, in the face of Capital Repairs pinpointed by a facility audit. He also spoke of the many spin-off benefits to the Town and local businesses from the variety of sporting activities and tournaments held year-round at this aging facility. It is important to keep the facility mechanically and structurally sound; to that end, would ask that the Council support a request for a \$5,000 grant for the Arena this year. After brief discussion, it was agreed to refer the request to the Finance Committee for due consideration when the Budget is prepared.

(b) Official Announcement: Mayor Not Re-offering

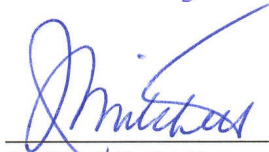
Mayor Rainforth informed Council that he would not be re-offering for the Mayor's position in the October election, and advised that it had been a rewarding experience to have served at the municipal level and to have had the opportunity to represent and promote local community interests whenever possible. The Councillors agreed that he would be sorely missed, but understood the reasons for leaving.

9. Council took a short recess at 8:05 p.m., and then proceeded to Committee-of-the-Whole at 8: 10 p.m. to discuss matters of a confidential nature. Regular Council resumed at 8:18 p.m.

10. There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.



John Rainforth
Chairman



Judith Mitchell
Town Clerk