

(b) 75th Birthday

Councillor Morse advised Council that a nice "thank you" advertisement will be placed in the local paper in January, to thank all those who helped and participated in the various events during the 75th Birthday Celebrations, along with a special thank you to all Councillors who worked very hard at several events. Councillor Morse was hopeful that some of the events done this past year will continue in the future.

Deputy Mayor Munday reported on the New Year's Eve Gala. Tickets are now on sale with approximately 50 out of 250 sold to date. The price is \$15 each, or \$30 per couple. A light buffet meal will be served, with music provided live by Frank Lowe & Country Time. The major prize to be won that evening is an overnight stay at the Blomidon Inn in Wolfville, in addition to approximately \$500 worth of prizes and sponsorships. All Councillors are urged to attend, as this is the big closing event for the 75th Birthday Celebrations. The Dance Subcommittee is holding its final meeting, prior to the event, on December 15th at the Legion.

(c) Berwick Future Development

Councillor Morse noted that an excellent first meeting of this Committee was held on November 24th. There was a well-rounded discussion with lots of good ideas circulated around the table. A replacement for Mr. Colin MacDonald is required, as the public representative for the Town of Berwick on the Kings CED Agency. The next scheduled meeting of the Berwick Future Development Committee is on December 15th, with Kings CED Agency's Executive Director, Mr. Robin Marshall, to be in attendance to bring us up-to-date on what each Sectoral Committee is all about.

(d) Kings CED Agency

Councillor Banks reported that the Agency has approved a policy of returning unspent seed funding to the funding partners, either by cheque or by credit against the following year, effective as of 1 April, 1999. An update on the Retirement Campaign shows that over 45 families have moved to the area. The Agency is trying to change the name of the program which would indicate that the campaign is more broadly-based than attracting retirees only to the Valley area. There has been a good response from overseas, particularly Germany and Europe.

(e) Tree Committee

Councillor Banks advised Council that the next meeting of the Tree Committee will be scheduled in January 1999, at which time an arborist from the Town of Wolfville will be invited to speak to the Committee about the efforts of the Tree Committee in Wolfville. In the meantime, several Elm trees and a large Ash tree have been taken down.

(f) Recreation Committee

Councillor Banks reported that the Citizens' Advocacy Group is asking to use more office space in their present location. The Recreation Director, Councillor Banks and Mayor Prall are planning to take a closer look at the space available to see what arrangements can be made. The Director is looking at a different set-up with the summer staff and may require the space during the summer months.

The Santa Claus Celebration weekend went off very well. The tree lighting, caroling and the parade_ all had good weather. The weather was less than ideal for the sleigh rides, but all who came out had a good time. This event was held at the United Church Campgrounds, which proved to be a great location.

The next scheduled meeting for the Sports Hall of Fame Committee has been cancelled. Will keep Council informed once the meeting is rescheduled. For the information of Council, please note that the Recreation Department Office will be closed as of December 23 and will re-open on January 4, 1999.

(g) Fire

Councillor Clarke reported to Council that the Fire Department Executive met last evening. A preliminary discussion was held about the EMC's possibility of placing a facility onto the Berwick & District Volunteer Fire Department Fire Hall to house the ambulance and lease the space on a cost-recovery basis. The hope is that improvements to the Fire Hall could be part of this project. As well, the Town of Berwick is considering the possibility of housing an EMO room for the western end of Kings County. Councillor Clarke was pleased to report that all the designated drivers of the fire trucks have recently been certified for air brake licenses.

The Fire Department met recently with the Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society (STARS). Talk centered on the type of training that would be required to work with an air ambulance. Firemen have been actively searching for suitable helicopter landing sites in this area, one in Town and one on the South Mountain. This may require some assistance from the Town to keep the area

clear of snow, etc. The STARS group would bring equipment and personnel to an accident scene so that treatment is almost equivalent to an Intensive Care Unit. The estimated time to any accident in Nova Scotia is approximately 80 minutes. It makes sense to have an area nearby where they can land; requirements are 110' x 110', firm and level ground, free of hazards, and near an access road. Councillor Clarke has a contact number to obtain further information.

(h) EMO Standing Committee

Councillor Clarke noted that this Committee had met with Mr. Keith Crosland, Western Zone Controller of EMS NS. The Fire Department Executive were unable to attend that meeting but are very interested in participating. The Town of Berwick does have an existing EMO Plan, however, parts of it need to be revised and updated. The Province has a very specific process on how to plan for local emergencies, per the Emergency Measures Act.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Clarke and seconded by Councillor Morse that the EMO Standing Committee be assigned the functions of the Emergency Advisory Committee and of the Emergency Planning Committee for the Town of Berwick, as discussed with Western Zone Controller, Mr. Keith Crosland.

Motion Carried

Councillor Clarke explained that as the EMO Coordinator, Mr. Stephen Palmer is charged with meeting with the EMO Standing Committee and local emergency services/Department Heads to ensure that the Town's EMO Plan is current. There are several tasks to be done, such as a hazardous material analysis, list of contact people, identify resources in and around Berwick, etc. In an actual emergency, the EMO Coordinator remains off-site and manages personnel and resources. In addition to the Coordinator, the Town also requires an On-Site Manager to direct the incident; the two managers work very closely together.

There are several courses available that need to be taken advantage of rather quickly. Several Councillors and Department Heads took part in an EMO Seminar at the Municipality of the County of Kings, with presentations by Mr. Crosland and Mr. Perkins of EMS NS. There is interest in a western EMO Centre for Kings County; there may be funds available from the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program for some equipment, but not for capital.

(i) Valley Solid Waste Authority

Councillor Clarke reported on the progress of the VSW A to date. Many Tenders for various contracts have been completed. Concrete will be poured starting next week at the Kentville site. An Organics Seminar was held on Friday in Middleton. As well, a decision was made to have composting carts supplied to 100% of the residents in the region. Details have yet to be worked out. However, it has become obvious that to comply with due diligence for the Organics Ban, the Authority will need to ensure that carts are available. Not sure at the moment how organic materials will be handled; several options may be put forth by the private sector. The Authority needs to determine volumes before doing anything more extensive. Interest levels in the area seem to be high, but a lot of follow-up is expected with the public.

Regarding the Organics Ban that went into effect on November 30th, it is the responsibility of each Municipal Unit as to how they plan to handle it, but as members of the Region, the Department of Environment will not lay charges given that a plan is being developed and implemented by the VSW A. At the moment, it is somewhat confusing for residents to have garbage collection on Tuesday of each week, and the blue bag pick-up on alternate Thursdays. Once the Region assumes these functions, the schedules should be more coordinated and cohesive.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 18th for determining budget priorities for the next fiscal year. Not as much funding will be spent in 1998/99 as anticipated in the approved Budget, but it will be spent eventually; it is a matter of timing.

(j) Personnel

Councillor Trinacty reported that the Personnel Committee meeting scheduled for last evening was postponed until January. There were no new issues to be brought forward.

(k) Public Works

Councillor Whittier informed Council that the company Video Industrial has been in Town for the past two weeks cleaning roots out of the sewer line. The Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade is moving along. The contractor has completed the new road along the west side of cell 3. Two large manholes have been installed between the building area and the existing out fall structure. The footings for the filtration building are to be poured and the frost walls are

to be installed. Mayor Prall noted that he had spoken to the contractor at the STP Upgrade and he felt that the rafters would be up before Christmas. The Public Works Department is helping to build a float for the Santa Claus parade. A new logo has been designed and put on the sides of the Department's trucks: looks very attractive.

Have received a large number of responses to the survey regarding changing the name of Commercial Street. Two letters were received which indicated that residents would prefer to have the street name remain unchanged. After a brief discussion,

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Whittier and seconded by Councillor Clarke that the name of Commercial Street is to remain as it is.

Motion Carried

Councillor Clarke raised a concern which had been brought forward at the Management/Labour Relations Committee meeting, regarding the amount of sand being used in snow/ice control on Town streets. It was agreed that the actual bills for shipments would be scrutinized to determine what the trend has been over the past five years.

Councillor Banks inquired if there was anything that could be done about water pooling on the new sidewalk on Orchard Street and on West Main Street at Foster Street. Councillor Whittier will ask the Public Works Superintendent to have it looked into. As well, the Orchard Street sidewalk will be checked by the Town's Engineer, the contractor, and the Superintendent.

(1) Finance

Deputy Mayor Munday advised Council that the Finance Committee will be meeting tomorrow evening. There is one outstanding item, that being a letter from the Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs. After a brief discussion,

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Trinacty that the Town enter into an Agreement with the Minister of Housing & Municipal Affairs for Grant-in-Lieu of Tax on Farmland Acreage for the 1998/99 fiscal year; with the Mayor and Clerk authorized to sign such an Agreement.

Motion Carried

(m) Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)

Deputy Mayor Munday noted that the Committee met on November 30th with the new members in attendance for a short orientation of what the PAC is all about. Several recent matters were covered, as well as discussion on some outstanding matters. The new members seemed very interested in participating. From discussion at the meeting

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Trinacty that Council write a letter to the Municipality of the County of Kings in support of amending their Sign Bylaw to allow Berwick to erect a five-sign structure for Seasonal/Tourism businesses adjacent the Commercial Street/Highway 1 intersection; as recommended by the PAC. (NOTE that the PAC is in the process of finalizing a draft Administrative Policy as to how such a sign would be controlled and regulated by the Development Officer).

Motion Carried

(n) Police Commission

Mayor Prall informed Council that at the last Police Commission meeting, a rounded discussion took place regarding Restorative Justice, prompted by the handouts given at the NSAPB Conference in Halifax in November. This option should not be seen as a cure-all, but it can be effective for both youth and adult offenders, to make the offender take responsibility for his/her actions, as well as to bring the offender and victim face-to-face. The goal is to cut down on the costs of incarceration and reduce the likelihood of repeat offences. The Town sincerely hopes it will not come to the Municipal level to be funded.

Mayor Prall attended the NSAPB Conference on November 20th and 21 st, along with Commissioner Keith and Chief DeWolfe. A presentation was made on the White Paper on Policing, and on Restorative Justice. Later on, participants broke into two groups for discussion: Municipal Policing and the RCMP. Town of Berwick representatives were in the Municipal Policing group and spoke of concerns with escalating costs and training levels. The session was hosted by Mr. Charles Parlee, who was on the hot seat for most of the meeting. As for the RCMP group, accountability to advisory boards was the issue of debate. Mr. Dwight Bishop indicated that the RCMP are learning very quickly that Municipal policing requires a higher level of accountability,

while still maintaining the arms length concept. Mr. Dennis Kelly provided a slide presentation on the White Paper. The PANS contract was signed off this afternoon by both Parties, and is in effect until March 31, 2001. The two parttime officers with the Police Department have had their employment extended to March 31, 1999.

Mayor Prall informed Council that the Gymnasium Roof construction is now complete. The final costs have not yet been calculated, but will be forthcoming.

(0) Berwick Electric Commission

Mayor Prall reported that the Spicer Park upgrade is ongoing. Have been running into water in some parts, which makes it a slower process.

Mayor Prall, Councillor Clarke, and the Electric Commission Superintendent attended a Natural Gas meeting held in Stellarton. Mayor Prall stated that it seems that one company will likely be awarded province-wide distribution of the natural gas. It is unclear whether each municipality, or the province as a whole, is the measurement for natural gas being required to reach 62% of all residents. This will not be a mandatory service for residents; can participate fully or partially, depending on their needs. Statistically it appears that using more appliances operated by natural gas may reduce energy requirements by up to 40% more than those using electricity.

IT WAS MOVED by Mayor Prall and seconded by Councillor Whittier that the Town recognize the need to act swiftly to represent the best interests of both the Town of Berwick and the Electric Commission to take advantage of gas distribution, by whatever methodology seems appropriate upon further investigation (by Mayor Prall, Councillor Clarke, and Superintendent Don Regan).

Motion Carried

Note that the deadlines as set out in the new Regulations are as follows: (per Don Regan)

Dec. 15, 1998	Deadline for filing Notice of Intention as an Applicant
Jan. 4, 1998	Deadline for filing Notice of Intention as an Intervenor
Jan. 29, 1998	Deadline for filing actual Application for Gas Distribution

In the meantime, the UNSM/RDA are looking at what the four main Gas Distribution Company's are able to offer Municipal Units, in exchange for

municipal support at the formal hearings. Not clear yet which way is the best way to proceed.

(p) Mayors/Warden/CAO's

Mayor Prall reported that as of the latest meeting, the fire inspection service has not been resolved yet. Regarding First Responders, the four Municipal Units have not taken on this responsibility. The Committee also discussed the Berwick Futures Development Committee, an update on the natural gas meeting in Stellarton, and EMO Plans. /

The Municipal Airport is being looked at by the Municipality of the County of Kings, for some feedback on who uses it and how valuable is it to local communities (or not). The Municipality of the County of Kings is now considering enacting a Deed Transfer Tax, as both the Towns of Wolfville and Berwick have it in place. The Lockup issue is ongoing; boundaries for fire service are of concern for the Town of Kentville: Fire service was discussed, as to how fire departments are assessed. The revised Municipal Government Act has just been passed, with a final copy yet to be received. Flag Day for 1999 will be held in March in the Town of Wolfville. It will be held in Berwick in the year 2000.

5. Correspondence

(a) Received from the Apple Capital Museum Society a thank you letter expressing appreciation for assistance in acquiring the Margeson Building for a Museum site. The secretary of the Society, Ms. Sara Keddy, notes that "work has already started to repair the premises for future use as a museum, and we look forward to working with the Town as the project progresses." For the information of Council.

(b) Received the minutes and highlights of the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board's Annual Meeting, as held on November 4, 1998. The report is 22 pages in length, double-sided, and is on file in the Town Clerk's office if anyone would like to read it or have it copied to them. For the information of Council.

(c) Received from the Department of Finance, a Discussion Paper on the Pension Benefits Act & Regulations for perusal and input. Deadline for submission is January 15, 1999. This Paper is on file in the Town Clerk's office if anyone wishes to read it and respond. For the information of Council.

- (d) Received a letter from the Provincial Office of the Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia, asking that the Town officially inform the local community of a Door-to-Door Campaign through a proclamation, preferably during the first week of January 1999; (i.e. January is Alzheimer Awareness Month throughout Canada). For a decision of Council. All agreed to post a proclamation, declaring the Town's recognition of Alzheimer Awareness Month.
- (e) Received from the General Manager of the Kings Transit Authority, a copy of the preliminary Draft Budget for the fiscal year of 1999/2000 for the perusal of Council. The final budget will be submitted in March 1999. For the information of Council. It was suggested that the Town of Berwick's representative on the Kings Transit Authority Board, Mr. Ro Reeves, be invited to a subsequent Council meeting to review the Budget.
- (f) Received from Mr. Ken Simpson of the UNSM, a follow-up request asking for a contribution of \$1,000 for an FCM Event next July, as part of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference, to be held in Halifax next year. Would appreciate a written response. (Clerk's note: Have an inquiry at the UNSM Office on "in-kind" contributions, such as apples; but Ken Simpson and I have yet to discuss this (telephone tag). For a decision of Council.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Clarke and seconded by Councillor Whittier that the Town agree to a contribution to the FCM Annual Conference; funds or in-kind contribution to be determined at a later date.

Motion Carried

- (g) Received from the Minister of Justice, the Honourable Jim Smith, M.D., a letter authorizing that the RCMP arrange for a presentation to be held for the benefit of the Town concerning alternate policing services. For the information of Council.
- (h) Received from Mr. Lester Bligh, local historian, a letter of concern stating very clearly that he is NOT in favour of re-naming Commercial Street, and that it should be left alone. He writes very eloquently, that. . . "Commercial Street and our other street names have served us well for many years, and the name 'Commercial Street' effectively names what it is, and what it has been for many years. Let us let our forefathers rest in peace. Keep the name Commercial Street." For the information of Council (copy circulated).

Any other correspondence was of a routine nature or passed on to Committees for action.

6. **Bills and Accounts**

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Banks that Bills and Accounts for the month of November 1998 be approved in the amount of \$107,213.65.

Motion Carried

7. **New Business**

(a) **Intersection at Main and Commercial Streets**

Councillor Clarke raised a concern regarding the crosswalks, lighting and speed warnings at the intersection of Main and Commercial Streets. The Clerk advised that these issues would be brought up at the Finance Committee tomorrow evening.

(b) **Berwick Future Development Committee**

Councillor Trinacty inquired if the Recreation Director had been approached to attend the Berwick Future Development Committee meetings, as she is a representative on the TRCH Sectoral Committee of the Kings CED Agency. There is some uncertainty on whether Ms. Bishop should be attending these meetings on behalf of the Tourist Bureau, or perhaps as an alternate. Councillor Morse agreed to check into it.

(c) **Canada Games**

There are five young people from Berwick who will be attending the Canada Games in Newfoundland in 1999. A brief discussion followed regarding sending along some Town of Berwick 75th Birthday lapel pins with the participants to trade with others at the Games.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Trinacty and seconded by Councillor Whittier that Council allocate 100 75th Birthday lapel pins to local youth attending the 1999 Canada Games.

Motion Carried

(c) Christmas Gathering

Mayor Prall notified Council that the Annual Christmas Gathering for Town Council, Committee members, and employees is scheduled for December 18th from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

7. **Committee-of-the- Whole**

After a short break, Council went into Committee of the Whole at 8:58 p.m. to discuss matters of a confidential nature. Regular Council resumed at 9:55 p.m.

8. Hearing of no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:56 p.m.

John P. Prall
Chairman

Judith Mitchell
Town Clerk/Treasurer