

(b) 75th Birthday Committee

Councillor Morse advised that the July meeting was cancelled as not enough were in attendance to make up a quorum. The yellow 75th Birthday Banner was carried in the Gala Days Parade. Deputy Mayor Munday gave a brief update on the Dance Committee Meeting for the 75th; plan to meet again on September 29th at 7:00 p.m.

(c) Kings c.E.D. Agency

Councillor Banks informed Council that he and Mayor Prall had attended a recent meeting of the Western Kings Sectoral Committee, regarding establishing a museum at the site of the recently donated H. E. Margeson building on Commercial Street, in Berwick. The Committee agreed to apply for approval of seed funding in the amount of \$1,500. Also plan to meet with the Education Sectoral Committee and the Tourism Sectoral Committee for a further \$1,500 each; \$4,500 possible seed funding in total, subject to the necessary approvals, and priorities of the Kings CED Agency Executive.

(d) Fire Committee

Councillor Clarke advised that there wasn't a great deal to report. Had attended one Executive Committee where questions were raised on how the Budget process is perceived. It's important that the Town let the Berwick and District Volunteer Fire Department know that they are appreciated in how they administer their Budget. (Councillor Clarke also noted he had some specific questions he would check with the Clerk on later).

(e) Valley Solid Waste Authority

Councillor Clarke reported that at the August meeting discussion focused on release of Capital from each of the Municipal Units that make up the Authority, (specifically Town of Berwick's share of \$1 million). Also attended SNC Lavalin's presentation of facility design work for the new Solid Waste Management Centre in the Eastern zone (Kings County). Spent a full day answering questions and trying to give SNC Lavalin some direction. The Municipality of the County of Kings is offering to take part in the collection process; (note - the InterMunicipal Agreement allows for Municipal Units to participate).

At the most recent meeting on September 2nd: a lot of discussion on compo sting and use of compo sting carts to collect organics in order to meet the Department of Environment's organic bans. Issue will soon need to be decided to determine the type of collection needed and design of the facility.

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Recently, the Department of Environment Minister indicated that the closure of the Meadowview Landfill could be as early as June 1999: that really accelerates the time lines/deadlines the Authority is currently facing, such as building two recycling facilities and shipping out residual waste.

(f) Recreation

Councillor Trinacty reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Recreation Committee is tomorrow night. Hasn't met since July and that was to meet and introduce the summer staff. It's been a very busy summer at the Recreation Department: the number of participants was up in practically every program, and there was a larger staff this year. Lots of program issues to keep everyone busy. Mostly positive issues, but there were some matters that required special attention from the Recreation Director. For this year, with extra staff, didn't limit the number of Day Camp participants as has been done in other years. More participants means more work, and some little changes need to be worked out. Now gearing up for Fall Programs.

Very successful Gala Days this year despite glitches in the weather. Tremendous support from all departments, particularly Public Works, Berwick Police, Berwick Electric, and Recreation Departments. Important to acknowledge the loyalty and support of Town Staff, at all levels. Councillor Trinacty also noted that, in the spirit of the 75th Birthday Celebrations, the taber for the strongman contest had been painted to denote the 75th as well as Gala Days, by last year's winner (and apparently, this year's winner, as well).

Therefore, IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Clarke and seconded by Councillor Trinacty that the Town should send a letter of thanks from the Mayor and Council to the Gala Days Committee for doing a great job of promoting the Town's 75th Birthday.

Motion Carried

(g) Tourism Action SubCommittee

Councillor Whittier brought to Council's attention a recent suggestion made by the Tourism Action SubCommittee to change the name of Commercial Street to a new, more apple-related name, in keeping with the theme of Berwick as the Apple Capital of Nova Scotia. Although the issue had been raised before, Councillor Whittier was somewhat concerned about what needs to happen next. Should Council say "yes" or "no"; or should it go to the Recreation Committee for a specific recommendation back to Council. After discussion, it was agreed to include the issue in the next Newsletter and seek feedback from the residents at large. (May also post it to the

Town's web page and ask for e-mail responses). In addition to the need to gauge public opinion, Councillor Trinacty wondered if it should be left to the Recreation Committee to work out the logistics, such as: time to come up with a name; time to announce and implement new street name and change all the addresses. He acknowledged it would require a certain amount of time to allow for change-over from an existing street name to a new one. It was also noted that New Minas and Middleton also have "Commercial Streets"; it's hardly unique to Berwick.

(h) Personnel Committee

Councillor Trinacty advised that the Personnel Committee had met in early September to review timelines from various outstanding items. Immediate items on the agenda are: setting a policy for non-elected Committee representatives and appointees. Have to deal with that for the October meeting so a policy can be implemented by November 1st. Also looking at Occupational Health and Safety requirements for written work procedures, and decisions around employee benefits. (Any suggestions or ideas on appointees, let Councillor Trinacty know).

Also had a request for an Management/Labour Relations meeting, between the Public Works' CUPE Union and the Town. Need to have initial meeting, but need to select two elected officials, preferably someone who sat on the Negotiating Committee. The Clerk and Superintendent will be expected to attend the MLR meetings as resource people. After discussion,

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Trinacty and seconded by Councillor Whittier that Mayor Prall and Councillor Clarke be named to be official members of the CUPE Management/Labour Relations Committee, with the Clerk and Superintendent to attend as resource persons.

Motion Carried

Councillor Trinacty concluded his report by noting that the Administration Staff would all be taking computer courses this fall in preparation for the eventual replacement, and conversion to, a new computer system operating on a Windows platform in late fall/winter.

(i) Public Works Committee

Councillor Whittier informed Council that a new sign welcoming people to the Town of Berwick, Apple Capital of Nova Scotia, had been erected on the approach to Town from the Highway 101 interchange. As well, the new "apple" street signs are up in the main downtown core of the Town.

The Public Works Committee met earlier this evening to look at Sewer Treatment Plant sand filtration results from the pilot project at the lagoon. Even with sand filtration, may have to add chemical treatment with alum and polymers to meet the disinfection standard. Algae counts and suspended solids will be reduced in winter, but have to be able to respond to heavy periods as well. Now looking at the feasibility of Japanese 'Fuzzy Ball' technology from a company called Schreiber. Don't have enough time to do another pilot project: will have to fly down and take a look at an existing operation, then finalize the design, and go to tender. Fuzzy Ball filters in plants in the United States do fats, starches, and sewer; but not all three in one site, like the Town's Sewer Treatment Plant. Not determined yet whether chemical addition will be required with the 'Fuzzy Ball' technology.

The sidewalk on Orchard Street should be going to tender shortly; considering the north side and/or the south side. Not fully decided yet. Patching and paving will also soon get underway.

Most of last week, Streets Department was busy working on preparations for Gala Days. The Streets Department have purchased a new 1998 Dodge pickup for shop use.

Regarding a Truck Policy for leaving the Dump truck overnight in a resident's yard to be loaded, a new Truck Policy has been formulated. Will still leave the truck, but charge \$40 per load. There will be an Application Form for any residents who wish to use the truck. Usage will be limited to personal use for residents only: no contractors, no commercial usages, no acceptance of banned materials. Town will pick up brush and chip it at their leisure, not set up chipper at the side of the road.

Therefore, IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Whittier and seconded by Councillor Banks that Council adopt and implement the Truck Policy as recommended by the Public Works Committee, (as follows):

- Available to Town residents only;
- Person wanting to book Truck should pick up Application Form from Town Office or Public Works Office;
- Fee for Truck will be \$40 per load;
- Fee is to be remitted with the completed Application Form to the Town Office;
- Staff will forward paid up and completed Application Forms to the Public Works Superintendent;
- Superintendent retains the right to refuse materials not in conformance with current list, (i.e. refuse application and refund fee);

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- If suitable, Superintendent will contact applicant and arrange booking;
- Truck is not available during Spring/Fall Cleanup.

Motion Carried

.Note - Truck Policy should not affect the Leaf Pickup; the annual Leaf Pickup will be done by Schedule with certain areas assigned for designated pickup times.

(j) Finance

Deputy Mayor Munday indicated that the Finance Committee had not met since setting the tax rate in July, but would likely be meeting before the month is out. Tax bills will be coming out on October 1 st this year with a due date of October 31 st.

(k) Planning Advisory Committee

Deputy Mayor Munday advised that while there were some tentative items that may be coming before the Planning Advisory Committee, no concrete items yet, and no meetings booked.

(l) Police Commission

Mayor Prall reported that the Building SubCommittee had spent some time looking at the existing building being used for a Police Station to see if it's suitable for renovations from a structural point of view; also looking at alternate plans. Ongoing plans may involve a structure that could accommodate both the Police Department and the Fire Department. That's still under consideration, no decisions have been made yet one way or another.

Had an altercation with the Police car over the weekend: had to get a replacement car in temporarily. Used the replacement in the Gala Days Parade.

(m) Electric Commission

The Electric Commission is looking at possible replacement of underground cable in Spicer Park .area reported Mayor Prall. Examining the costs involved and the timing and scope of such a project: may be able to split cost three ways between the Electric Commission, the local cable company, and the phone company. Plan to meet on September 16th to examine the issue. (Councillor Trinacty asked if there was an existing problem with some of the electric power lines or pedestals in Spicer Park. The Mayor indicated he was unaware of any specific problems, but that Councillor Trinacty should contact the Electric Superintendent if he was aware of any particular problems).

The Public Hearing on the Rate Application will be heard by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board in Council Chambers at 10:30 a.m. on September 10, 1998. All members of the public are welcome to attend: has been advertised for three consecutive weeks. The Mayor noted that the cost of power provided by the Electric Commission was generally well below NSPI's rates, and even after an increase, will still be below the existing NSPI rates.

6. **Correspondence**

- (a) Received the following Reports &/or Studies. If anyone from Council wishes to review them and advise the Clerk of their response, please advise accordingly.
- (1) Nova Scotia Culture Sector Strategy (role of libraries)
 - (2) Social Assistance Restructuring Initiative: Rebuilding the System: a discussion paper
 - (3) Nova Scotia Civic Address File Project (NSCAF)
 - (4) Discussion Paper: Amendments to the Direct Sellers' Licensing & Regulation Act
 - (5) Federal copy of "New Canada Act" as proposed by the Office of the Leader of the Opposition

These reports are filed in the Clerk's office if anyone is interested.

- (b) Received from the Mayor of the Town of Windsor, Mayor Maxine Whynot, a copy of a letter to the Federal Government asking that properties owned by the Federal Government or Crown agencies pay full property taxes and not grants-in-lieu-of-taxes. Mayor Whynot writes. . . "There is absolutely no justification or rationale for the Government of Canada not to pay taxes on its properties on the same basis as all other property owners. To do otherwise places all other property owners in the situation of subsidizing their Federal Government and this is not right." and "Municipal governments are in many ways the most important level of government in our democratic system. They also have a smaller tax base to depend on, so to many of municipalities, grants-in-lieu-of-taxes consist of a formidable portion of their taxes." For the information of Council.

(c) Requests for **declarations of special events:**

- (1) Terry Fox Day: Sunday, September 20, 1998; for CANCER RESEARCH;
- (2) Leave a Legacy Week: week of October 25th; for Canadian Association of Gift Planners: Leave-A-Legacy Committee (Donalee Moulton);
- (3) Air Cadet Week: September 27th to October 4th.

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After brief discussion, Council agreed to proclaim all three of the events, as requested.

All remaining correspondence was of a routine nature or forwarded to Committees for action.

7. **Bills and Accounts**

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Morse that Bills and Accounts for the month of July 1998 be approved in the amount of \$121,547.64.

Motion Carried

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Whittier that Bills and Accounts for the month of August 1998 be approved in the amount of \$116,347.46.

Motion Carried

8. **New Business**

(a) Roles and Responsibilities of Municipal Units/Province

The Mayor tabled some information recently received from the UNSM advising that a "Joint Review of Municipal/Provincial Roles and Responsibilities" had been formed and that a short Discussion Paper was attached. Mr. Rick Ramsay has been engaged as a facilitator and would be meeting (on a very quick timetable) with Clerks/CAD's region by region, and then with Mayors/Wardens/and Elected Officials region by region. Each Council is invited to present a written submission to the regional session, deadline October 8, 1998.

After discussion of the scope of the review and the opportunities it afforded to address some of the perceived inequities between the Province and Municipal Units and between rurals and urbans, (particularly, the precarious positions of small towns in Nova Scotia since Service Exchange was enacted), it was agreed to hold a Special Council meeting prior to October 8th to discuss the matter at length.

(b) Regional Development Authorities Funding

The Mayor noted that he had received a letter from Minister Manning MacDonald concerning the future of Regional Development Authorities (RDA's), such as the local RDA, the Kings CED Agency. His letter focuses on three specific questions:

- (1) Does your Council support the continuation of funding to your RDA?
- (2) (2) Would you support a second five-year program of core support to RDA's?
- (3) (3) What suggestions do you have to improve this program?

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This letter had been circulated earlier to all on Council. After brief discussion, it was agreed that this issue needed to be examined at length, and should be put on the agenda of the Special Council Meeting to discuss Roles and Responsibilities.

Therefore, it was agreed to conduct a Special Council meeting on September 21 st at 7:00 p.m. with a two-item agenda: (1) Roles & Responsibilities; and (2) RDA Funding.

(c) Mayor's Newsletter

Mayor Prall advised all present that the next newsletter would be coming out soon for distribution in the October 16th billing. Deadline for all Councillors to submit their information: by October 13th Council meeting.

(d) HST Rebate on Electricity Purchases

The Clerk advised Council that she was still waiting on a program quotation to extract information to process HST rebates. With a system that may be undergoing replacement as early as October/November, this appears to be a great deal of time and expense in order to generate an HST Rebate, (which have been estimated to be approximately \$28 on average). Special consideration has to be given to pro-rate accounts, identify landlords, customers that have ceased service, etc. For all practical purposes, it would be easier for the Department of Finance to send out their own representative with a lap top to extract and process the information themselves. Council agreed that this was a complicated and expensive process for a Rebate that had been put into place by the Province without checking the practicalities of the administration required to administer it at the local level.

9. Next Regular Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13th, at 6:00 p.m.

10. There being no further business, the Mayor adjourned Council at 8:20 p.m.

John P. Prall
Chairman

Judith Mitchell
Town Clerk/Treasurer

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