

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**10 MARCH 1998**

Present:                   Chairman     Mayor John P. Prall  
  Deputy Mayor Michael J. Munday  
  Councillor Bruce H. Morse  
  Councillor Donald E. Clarke  
  Councillor Michael E. Trinacty  
  Councillor Gary W. Whittier  
  Councillor Thomas S. Banks  
  Judith Mitchell, Town Clerk

In attendance:                                 Mr. Lloyd Smith, Mister Webpage Ms. Sara Keddy, Berwick  
  Register Mr. Bob Stewart, Town Solicitor

1.                   The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

2.     Guest Speaker

(a)    Mr. Lloyd Smith. "Mister Webpage"

Mr. Smith addressed Council on the possibilities available to update and redesign the Town's web page. Could set up something like an Introductory page, a Mayor's Message, list of Councillors and Staff, Mission Statement of the Town, etc. Would also be a good opportunity to promote the Town's 75th Birthday Celebrations and let the rest of the world know what Berwick is up to. May also wish to make an arrangement with local businesses to tie in to the Town's web page, or to indicate that Mister Webpage is the official designer on behalf of the Town (if Town chooses to do so). Mr. Smith concluded his presentation by distributing some information about Mister Webpage, along with a proposed price for re-designing a web page and keeping it up-to-date.

(b)    Mr. Lloyd Smith. Atlantic Airwave Images

Wearing his other hat, Mr. Smith took a few minutes to update Council on another project which might be of interest to the Town. Atlantic Airwaves Images is a small broadcast company which looks at providing wireless FM information services to motorists travelling along the highway, via transmitter. Any messages would have to be non-commercial, high quality, and of a public service nature; for example, Tourism information, Parks and Recreation

facilities nearby, Welcome to Berwick by Mayor and Council, Chamber of Commerce, etc. The motorist would tune in to 89.9 FM, and the signal would last approximately five to ten minutes (just while the motorist is driving through the immediate vicinity). A transmitter and broadcast system could be rented for a week, or longer. May also require Department of Transportation's permission to erect signs on the Highway. Mr. Smith left some literature and some prices on this broadcast service; it may also be another way to promote 75th Birthday events (if Budget allows).

Councillor Bruce Morse, Chairman of the 75th Birthday Committee, thanked Mr. Smith for attending and for providing a vast array of information. (Mr. Smith left at 7:40 p.m.).

3. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Hearing of no errors or omissions, the Chairman approved the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of February 10, 1998, as circulated.

4. **Business Arising**

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

5. **Committee Reports**

(a) **75th Birthday Committee**

Councillor Morse reported on a meeting held on March 4, 1998, which was well attended. Would like to advise that the Historical Sub-committee has contacted Mr. Lester Bligh and Mr. Larry Buchanan. Mr. Tracy Ritchie is on the Promotions Sub-committee. Looking at ways of promoting Birthday events with Ms. Sara Keddy and Mr. Kirk Cross.

Councillor Morse advised that he had attended a recent Legion Meeting at the request of Mr. Don Jones. They were very interested and some Legion members expressed an interest in becoming more involved. An "ad" was put together to be forwarded to the Legionnaire Magazine and the Torch Magazine, to promote the Town's 75th Birthday.

The next meeting of the 75th Birthday Committee has been scheduled for April 1, 1998 at 7 :00 p.m. The Recreation Department is putting a list of events together; now that people are advising the Committee of upcoming events, feels should be able to achieve goal of 75 events.

(b) Social Services

Councillor Banks reported that the last meeting of the Social Services Committee had been held in February, and that the Province was slated to take over delivery and administration of all Social Services' programs commencing April 1 st. "Pretty well out of our hands at this point." Have been monitoring costs quite closely, and saving dollars wherever possible, however, it is too early to tell if the annual cost will be within budget or not.

Councillor Banks also read aloud a portion of the Acting Director's Report, (Mr. Kie MacIsaac's), as follows:

. . it is important for me to acknowledge the significant contribution made by your Council and Committee members. It has often been stated that bigness doesn't guarantee efficiency and effectiveness, and I've been impressed during the past 10 months with the value of small Councils in their role in monitoring and setting social policy. As we transfer the administration of Social Services to the Province, will the input of local elected officials be lost? Or will the Province utilize this valuable community input?

Social issues such as family violence, child protection, and financial assistance require a basic understanding by community leaders; and it is essential that solutions to these difficulties be part of the local community fabric. . ."

(c) Kings CED Agency

Councillor Banks advised that a representative from the Kings CED Agency would like to come and address Council about the benefits offered to the Town by their involvement with the Agency. A Sustainable Development Fair is being planned for June; expect to have a panel of Mayors and other guest speakers. Also raised the issue of trails and noted an upcoming conference on community-owned and operated trails. (Councillor Banks indicated he would pass this information along to the Recreation Chairman).

(d) Fire Committee

Councillor Clarke noted that the Fire Committee's meeting with the Fire Commission and the B.D.V.F.D. Executive, which was scheduled for February 19, 1998, has been re-scheduled for April 2, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. Councillor Clarke indicated that he had attended the Executive Meeting on March 2, 1998: touched briefly on First Responders and the Town's request to not offer First Responders' service for insurance/liability reasons. Need to discuss this issue at the April 2nd meeting and clarify the level of service to be rendered and the implications from a liability point of view, as well as any statutory protection. The Town's Solicitor and Insurance Agent should also be asked to attend this meeting.

(e) UNSM Meeting on Sable Gas

Councillor Clarke reported on a meeting he had recently attended concerning whether or not municipal units should be prepared to be involved in applying for franchises to distribute gas. There is a real concern that areas of the province without access to gas will be left behind and will be unable to attract industry and business. Thinks UNSM will encourage Province to allow equitable distribution; may also be recourse to Municipal Units to collect fees for costs of having pipeline underground, per Statutes. (Councillor Banks felt that instead of piping gas, the use of gas generators should be encouraged to drop the price of electricity that way. Councillor Clarke noted that NSPI is currently looking at ways to replace coal with gas).

(f) Valley Solid Waste Authority

Councillor Clarke advised that the Authority is making progress: getting basic information from staff and dividing area into two sections: East and West. Probably will have a common waste management strategy: biweekly blue bag recycling with organic collection on alternate Weeks. May see something tangible in the not too distant future.

(g) Personnel Committee

Councillor Trinacty reported that the majority of staff have been trained in First Aid and have taken initiatives to do that, per Occupational Health and Safety requirements. Have been looking at developing a Hiring Policy for the Town, to be implemented for future hirings. Plan to examine Performance

Appraisals at the next meeting. Job Descriptions have been completed for all staff, and are at various stages of approval.

(h) Recreation Committee

Considering development of a Welcome Wagon program, to meet all newcomers to Town: both seniors and younger groups. Councillor Trinacty advised that the Committee is still looking for names for Volunteer Week. Have ten or so to date, expect to be making a selection soon from all names submitted. March Break Programs will start next week: filling up quickly. Apple Blossom Princess Tea has been scheduled; currently in the process of recruiting candidates. (Let the Recreation Director know if you are aware of someone who may be interested). Entered a team in the First Annual Municipal Curling Challenge: happy to announce that Berwick won the event. The winning team was made up of John Prall, Brenda Trinacty, Mike Trinacty, and Donald Clarke. The trophy is in the display case in the corridor in the Town Hall building.

(i) Streets Committee

Councillor Whittier reported that the Superintendent is away attending a week-long Wastewater Collection Course in Bridgewater. Otherwise, it's business as usual clearing up the mess after all the storms; trying to keep up with the brush that came down in the winter storms. Also working with the Berwick Electric Commission to do tree work, when weather permits. Work on street sweeping and patching potholes has begun, but again, depends upon the weather.

(j) Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)

Deputy Mayor Munday advised that PAC last met on February 18th with Dr. Christie and Mr. Kirk Hicks in attendance. Dr. Christie had a query about what he was able to do within the parameters of the existing Development Agreement for his property on Brown Street which previously housed two apartments and two professional offices. Mr. Kirk Hicks, Surveyor, spoke to PAC about irregularities and conflicting data on maps and plans regarding various street widths within the Town. Will have to do some research on the matter to better define where the problem areas are situated. Ms. Suzanne Atkinson updated PAC on the Ad Hoc Sign Sub-committee's presentation to the Council for the Municipality of the County of Kings. Feels it was

positively received, however, was sent to PAC for consideration and will have to come back to County Council in April for a decision.

Deputy Mayor Munday also advised that, as a follow-up to the Public Meeting held on January 21, 1998 to discuss future uses of the Willow Avenue area, the PAC had made a motion on the matter, as follows:

Therefore, IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Morse that upon recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee, that Council uphold the 02-zone for Parks and Recreational Zoning on Willow Avenue; and that the Town's Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw not be amended to accommodate any rezoning requests; and further, that the application to re-zone the property of Mr. Brian and Michael Morse on Willow Avenue from 02- Recreational Zone to AI-Agricultural Zone be denied.

Motion Carried

(k) Finance Committee

Deputy Mayor Munday reported that there had been ongoing meetings of the Finance Committee in conjunction with the Collective Bargaining Process. As far as the Town's financial situation, it appears to be in fairly good shape to January 31, 1998. Outstanding tax appeals and social services costs may still have an impact. If good weather continues, may realize a savings on the cost of salt.

(l) Electric Commission: L TD

Deputy Mayor Munday updated Council on a recent recommendation made by the Berwick Electric Commission to approve their 1998/99 Budget and put financing in place for Long Term Debt. Such financing requires approval from the Town.

Therefore, IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Banks that Temporary Borrowing Resolutions be approved in the amount of \$250,000 for completion of the Berwick

North Substation Project, as requested by the Berwick Electric Commission. Further, that the Mayor and Clerk be granted authority to sign the said Temporary Borrowing Resolution on behalf of the Town.

Motion Carried

The Mayor noted that the intention of the Electric Commission is to amortize the debt over twenty years, rather than the usual ten year period.

(m) Berwick Electric Commission

The Mayor reported that the Superintendent and Electric Commission employees have been busy with the ice storm, the hydro generation station, and the Rate Study. Now that water levels have increased substantially, generation is up: expect to meet original projections. Ice storm has resulted in ongoing repairs, tree trimming, clean-up work, etc. Additional tree work will need to be planned in conjunction with the Public Works Department.

(n) Police Commission

The Mayor indicated that he had attended an introductory seminar in Halifax on February 21st for Police Commissioners, along with most of the other Police Commission members. At the most recent Police Commission meeting, approval was given for Constable Tucker to be hired in a Term Position until December 31, 1998.

6. Correspondence

(Councillor Clarke read the following items of correspondence aloud, as the Clerk had laryngitis and had no voice to speak of).

- (a) Received from Warden Peter Terauds of the Municipality of the County of Annapolis, a copy of a letter to the Minister of Environment acknowledging that the position of Western Zone Controller will be filled by the Province as of April 1, 1998. For the information of Council.
- (b) Received from the Board Secretary of the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board, a request to Council to contribute \$65.00 for the purchase of one metal exhibition frame for displaying student artwork at the Regional Offices.

After discussing the matter, IT W AS MOVED by Councillor Morse and seconded by Councillor Whittier to acknowledge the request and refer it to Finance Committee for consideration at Budget time.

Motion Carried

Some concern was expressed about whether this was actually contributing towards school furnishings, and whether or not the student's work being displayed was that of local Berwick Students.

- (c) Received from the Honourable Wayne Adams, Minister of the Environment, a letter advising that the BANS on the landfill disposal of plastics, steel, and glass food containers originally scheduled for April 1, 1998, has been moved forward to September 1, 1998. For the information of Council.
- (d) A Memo has been received from UNSM President, Mayor Walter Fitzgerald, inviting all members of Council to consider attending A Waste Diversion Conference & Trade Show scheduled for March 23rd to 25th at the Holiday Inn Harbourview in Dartmouth. The theme will be "Disposal Bans **and** Beyond". (If anyone wishes to attend, please let the Clerk know a.s.a.p.).
- (e) Received from the Town Clerk of the Town of Trenton, a copy of a letter directed to the Minister of Community Services, expressing concern over the provincial takeover of delivery of Social Services; i.e.: "that as long as municipal units are required to contribute funding for the social assistance program, we should be permitted to retain our Social Services Committees and participate fully in the decision-making process for our constituents with special circumstances". For the information of Council.
- (f) Received from the Warden of the Municipality of the County of Kings, Mr. Ray Leslie, a letter advising that he has been attempting to set up a meeting with the Minister of Education, Mr. Robbie Harrison, to discuss the mandatory education tax rate, but has been unable to get a meeting before the Provincial Election. Mr. Leslie writes that, "I would suggest that this (Education) cost is the most volatile to affect property taxes in all our Municipal Units. We must have a united voice in communicating during the next few weeks, to encourage the Department of Education to meet the demands of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities". For the information of Council.

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

7. **Bills and Accounts**

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Whittier that the attached list of Bills and Accounts be approved for payment in the amount of \$106,539.24.

Motion Carried

8. There was a short break at 8:37 p.m., followed by Committee-of-the-Whole at 8:42 p.m. to discuss several matters of a confidential nature. Regular Council resumed at 10:17 p.m.

9. Any Other Business

(a) Avon Foods Appeal

After brief discussion, IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Clarke that the assessment appeal of Avon Foods' Appeal Court Decision before the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, be dropped as requested by Avon Foods in writing; and that the Town Solicitor be granted authority to proceed with whatever paperwork is necessary to do so. (Note - Contingent upon Avon Foods also dropping the appeal at the NSURB level).

Motion Carried

10. There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:18 p.m.

John P. Prall  
Chairman

Judith Mitchell  
Town Clerk/Treasurer