

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL
MEETING 13 JANUARY 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: Ms. Sara Keddy, Berwick Register
 Mr. Bob Stewart, Town Solicitor
 Ms. Suzanne Atkinson, PAC member
 Mr. Jim Keith, PAC member
 Ms. Anne Drummond

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

2. **Guest Speakers**

(a) Ms. Suzanne Atkinson, Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)
 Ad Hoc Sign Committee Report: Sign Proposal Submission

Ms. Atkinson, as a member of the Town's Planning Advisory Committee, and Ad Hoc Sign Committee, had examined the need for changes to existing Sign Bylaws which are regulated by the Municipality of the County of Kings, but which affect both entrances and exits to the Town of Berwick. In particular, seasonal tourism businesses are disadvantaged because they are not permitted to post directional business signs to attract tourists to seasonal businesses situated within the Town itself. Ms. Atkinson spoke at length on the need for an innovative and creative presentation to be made to the Council of the Municipality of Kings to allow an exception to be made for the Town of Berwick, because it is the only town in the valley that Highway # 1 does not pass through; neither does Highway # 101. Ms. Atkinson concluded her presentation by asking for support from Berwick's Town Council to approve the Sign Proposal Submission of the Ad Hoc Sign Committee, and further, to support the Ad Hoc Sign Committee in its intent to do a formal presentation for the Council of the Municipality of the County of Kings to enable five standardized blue and white signs to be erected near the Board of Trade's business sign, in time for the 1998 tourism season. The submission also includes a protocol on how such signs would be regulated.

After a brief question and answer session, IT W AS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Trinacty that representatives from the Ad Hoc Sign Committee approach the Council of the Municipality of the County of Kings on behalf of the Town of Berwick, to erect seasonal tourism signs at the Highway #1 entrance to the Town, as set out in the Sign Proposal Submission prepared by the Ad Hoc Sign Committee. (A copy of said submission is attached to the formal copy of the Minutes)

Motion Carried

Ms. Atkinson noted that a letter of support from the Town may be required, as well. Council agreed to have the Clerk issue one, if the need arises.

(b) Mr. Gerald Fulton: ProQosed Golf Course in. Weston

Mr. Fulton was present at Council to do a brief information session to update Councillors on a Golf Course he was proposing to develop in the Weston area, just outside of Town. At the time, Mr. Fulton had a re-zoning application before the Municipality of the County of Kings' Council, and was scheduled to appear at a Public Meeting on January 26th to assess public opinion on the matter. Mr. Fulton indicated that he owned a 1300 acre dairy and cash crop farm in Weston and was considering development of an 18-hole golf course, subject to rezoning of the land in question from Agricultural to Recreational use. Councillors asked several questions to clarify what was being proposed, and thanked Mr. Fulton for attending.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

(a) Hearing of no errors or omissions, the Chairman approved the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of December 9, 1997, and the Special Council Meeting of January 6, 1998; as circulated.

(b) For the information of Council, the following minutes were distributed as follows:

i.)	Licensing/Bylaws Committee	December 10, 1997; circulated
ii.)	Berwick Electric Commission	December 17, 1997; circulated
iii.)	Police Commission	December 17, 1997; circulated
iv.)	Personnel Committee	January 6, 1998; circulated
v.)	Recreation Committee	January 7, 1998; circulated
vi.)	75th Birthday Committee	January 12, 1998; to be circulated
vii.)	Planning Advisory Committee	January 13, 1998; to be circulated

4. **Business Arising, from Previous Minutes**

Any items to be discussed as business arising will arise under Committee Reports.

5. Committee Reports

(a) **Licensing & Bylaws**

Councillor Morse advised that the Licensing & Bylaw Committee was scheduled to meet next Tuesday to review the draft Municipal Government Act and asked that Committee members be sure to review this material prior to next week's meeting. Councillor Morse also indicated that he had received a letter of concern from the manager of the Atlantic Save-Easy Grocery Store regarding fish trucks parking in front of the store to sell seafood from the back of a truck. This issue will also be brought up at the next meeting.

(b) **75th Birthday Committee**

Councillor Morse updated Council on efforts to date: Public Meeting planned for January 19th in the School Gym; apple stencil and lettering to be painted into the ice at the Arena; a Banner to be put up commemorating the Town's 75th Birthday; graphic designers preparing samples for a Logo; also getting some special 75th lapel pins made up.

Require a decision of Council on a request from the curator for the Old Kings Courthouse Museum to borrow the pictures of all of the Mayors of Berwick, past and present, which currently hang in Council Chambers. The Museum is doing an exhibit on Berwick from the end of January to mid-April. All present agreed to the request.

Also require approval to purchase an advertisement in the brochure for the 1997/98 Atlantic Ringette Championship, which will be the first official event for the 75th Birthday Celebrations. After brief discussion,

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Whittier and seconded by Councillor Banks that the Town pay for an advertisement in the 1997/98 Atlantic Ringette Championship brochure, not to exceed \$100.

Motion Carried

The Town will also be giving pens to all of the Ringette participants at the Championship events. Finishing touches are being put on the plans for the Public Meeting on January 19, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. in the School Gym. Councillor Morse urged everyone to make an effort to attend.

(c) **Social Services**

Councillor Banks advised Council that a meeting has been scheduled with Ms. Janet Moore and Mr. Kie MacIsaac to review caseloads and recent costs for social services on January 23, 1998 at 1 :30 p.m.

(d) **Kings CED Agency**

Councillor Banks informed Council that he had been unable to attend the meeting on the 20th because of his schedule, however, he and the Deputy Mayor had attended the pre-Christmas dinner meeting put on by the Kings CED Agency. There is some concern that many of the efforts to address economic development seem targeted toward the Wolfville - Coldbrook corridor, and few effects are being seen or felt in the Western Kings area. It may prove difficult in future to continue to justify the expenditure of municipal dollars.

(e) **Fire Committee**

Councillor Clarke indicated that the Berwick and District Volunteer Fire Department was still in the midst of transitioning from the old executive to the newly elected executive. The next meeting is slated for the first Monday in February; the official Swearing-In Ceremony for new officers will take place on February 23, 1998 with Mayor Prall officiating.

(f) **Solid Waste Management**

Councillor Clarke reported that the Valley Solid Waste Authority for Region 5 was now underway: there have been three full days of meetings so far. The Authority came into being officially 60 days after the signing of the InterMunicipal Agreement in October 1997. There has been a lot of orientation for new Committee members to bring them up to speed on the Solid Waste issues; (at least half of the Committee members are new). Now getting down to business, and expect to be coming back to Council fairly soon with budget recommendations. The proposed Organics Ban in November 1998 is also cause for real concern. Will need composting facilities of some sort, and possibly a transfer station. There is a feeling of urgency and a need to get things underway fairly quickly, and inform the Municipal Units accordingly.

However, it is difficult to prepare a budget while many of the operating plans are still very much undecided. Next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 1998 at 9:00 a.m. in Middleton.

(g) **Recreation**

Councillor Trinacty advised that the two vacancies on the Recreation Committee had been advertised, recruited, and canvassed; and that two candidates had been found who were interested in sitting on the Committee.

Therefore, IT W AS MOVED by Councillor Trinacty and seconded by Councillor Banks that Ms. Marilyn Hatfield and Ms. Theresa Steadman be appointed to fill the vacant seats on the Recreation Committee for the remainder of the existing one-year term, (i.e. to November 1998).

Motion Carried

Other items recently discussed at the Recreation Committee level are as follows:

- Additional non-structured program time in the gym planned for school-aged kids for after school "drop in", (while split shifts are on, anyways).
- In conjunction with 75th Birthday Committee, pursuing recognition of local volunteer work; considering sending one Berwick nominee to the ' Annual Volunteer Banquet' in Halifax.
- Tourism Action Subcommittee starting to get off the ground; looking at budget dollars, etc.

In response to a recent breakdown of equipment, IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Trinacty and seconded by Councillor Banks to approve the Capital expenditure of \$219 plus tax for a new Compact Disc player for the Recreation Department.

Motion Carried

(h) **Personnel**

Councillor Trinacty updated Council on recent activities of the Personnel Committee: Town now has "Casual Day" on every Friday, in the General Office and Recreation Office, in support of the Berwick Food Bank; Personnel Committee is reviewing its Terms of Reference; other Committees will also be asked to review their Terms of Reference in due course; Job Descriptions have been developed by Department Heads

now need to bring them to individual Committees or Commissions for approval; any finalized items or policies will be filed in a Policy Binder in the Town Clerk's office.

There is a vacancy on the Police Commission, will be advertised, and if no response, then recruiting will take place. Also need to fill an Accounting Clerk's position in the General Office, due to turnover of existing staff. Would like to see position filled by the end of the month.

Lengthy discussion of the structure of the Personnel Committee took place at the last meeting; will probably discuss it later on this evening.

(i) **Streets**

Councillor Whittier advised that "it goes without saying what we've been doing: plowing and sanding and ice control." Now chipping branches from the last ice storm. The Public Works Department employees were called out during the ice storm to move snow so the Berwick Electric Commission could gain access to the Taylor Road. As well, the Aerators, Lift Stations, and Drumshear Building had to be thoroughly checked over after the last power outage on Friday evening, to make sure they functioned properly. The Streets Department mixed up its second lot of salt and sand mix last week to keep up with the icy conditions. A meeting of the Public Works Committee is scheduled for January 26, 1998 at 6:30 p.m. to meet with Hiltz & Seamone, and the Department of Environment to discuss possible Sewer Treatment Plant upgrades.

G) **Planning Advisory Committee**

Deputy Mayor Munday advised Council that two issues were currently before the Planning Advisory Committee: (1) the Sign Proposal from the Ad Hoc Sign Committee which had been dealt with earlier this evening, and (2) the re-zoning issue on Willow Avenue for 02-Recreational Land to AI-Agricultural Land. To help facilitate a decision later on, a Public Meeting was being set for January 21, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. at the Berwick School to get public input on the whole matter. A decision would then be made at the next regular PAC meeting, after the Public Meeting.

(k) **Finance**

Because of a scheduling conflict, the Finance Committee meeting for December was cancelled at the last minute, and re-scheduled for January 27, 1998.

(1) Mayor's Report

Mayor Prall informed Council that he and his wife had attended the New Year's Levee at the Berwick Legion, as well as at the Town Hall in Wolfville. The Levee in Wolfville was very well attended. It may be worthwhile for the Town of Berwick to consider offering this next New Year's Day.

(m) Berwick Electric Commission

Mayor Prall advised that water levels at the dam had been very low - hope they are up now, but haven't heard officially. There's a meeting of the Cooperative of Municipal Electric Utilities planned for January 16, 1998 in the Town of Lunenburg. Mayor Prall commended the staff of the Commission for an excellent response to the ice conditions and power outages on Friday night; Berwick was without electricity for less time than had been originally anticipated. A lot of hard work by dedicated Berwick Electric Commission employees.

(n) Police Commission

Mayor Prall indicated that Mr. Charles Parlee, of Policing Services, was in attendance at the most recent Police Commission meeting in an advisory capacity. Talked about workshops coming up for Police Commissioners in February, with a second workshop scheduled for March. All Police Commission members are encouraged to attend.

6. Correspondence

(a) Received from Premier Russell MacLellan, a letter indicating that, at the request of the UNSM, a joint provincial/UNSM review has been undertaken to look at the three issues of education funding, social services funding, and responsibility for bridges; and that this review is nearing completion. The Premier writes that. . . "When this joint review was initiated, we recognized the importance of undertaking a comprehensive review of the services that have shared municipal & provincial roles and funding. . . provincial/municipal roles and funding for services will be given in any actions taken in response to the results of the review. . ." For the information of Council.

(b) Received from Mr. Brian VanRooyen, of the Valley Waste-Resource Management Region, an Application for Approved Program Funding from the Resource Recovery Fund Board Inc. The application contains a list of Eligible Projects and Funding Criteria; deadline for application is February 27, 1998. Any request for funding must

be sent to Mr. VanRooyen by January 31, 1998 and must be consistent with applicable regional plans. For the information of Council.

- (c) Received a letter from Mr. Peter Barteaux, Project Manager, Department of Community Services, along with a copy of the provincial/municipal Social Services Agreement signed by the Minister of Community Services. Mr. Barteaux writes that, "we are well underway in preparation for April 1, 1998, and I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for your cooperation." For the information of Council.
- (d) Received a copy of a letter from Town Solicitor, Mr. Bob Stewart, to Mr. Paul Shields, Executive Assistant to the Minister of Education, forwarding information on the Town's Infrastructure application for Sidewalks and Storm Sewers on Orchard Street, (which was not funded), and asking that the matter be looked into. For the information of Council.
- (e) Received from Mayor Walter Fitzgerald, President of the UNSM, a Memo outlining a promotion planned for Sunday, February 15, 1998, for FLAG DAY. He writes, "I am co-chairing a 30 minute ceremony on Monday, February 16th at the Halifax Grand Parade from 12:30 p.m. to 1 :30 p.m. to promote the Canadian Flag. There will be participation from a local school choir, military band, our Town Crier, councillors, MP's, MLA's, and the Lieutenant Governor. . . I am writing to urge you to consider hosting a similar ceremony in your community." (Also enclosed are 25 small Canadian hand-held flags.) Deputy Mayor Munday noted that with churches just letting out, such a ceremony, would have a natural audience; may be well worth looking into. After discussion, it was decided to delegate it to the 75th Birthday Committee for consideration.

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 Morse that the attached list of Bills and Accounts be approved for payment in the amount of \$64,190.25
Motion Carried

8. New Business

(a) Golf Course

Council briefly discussed the Golf Course development proposed by Mr. Gerald Fulton, as well as persistent rumours that a Golf Course may be under consideration by certain developers in the Willow Avenue area. After discussion, it was agreed that it was unlikely that two Golf Courses would proceed that close together, and that Council shouldn't be seen to be supporting any proposal until the public had had an opportunity to have their say at the Public Meeting set for January 21st. It was also noted that the Municipality of the County of Kings had a Public Meeting planned for January 26th to discuss the Golf Course proposal for the Weston area, if anyone wished to attend for interest's sake.

(b) Building Permit Statistics

The Clerk/Development Officer filed a report with Council indicating Building permit activity for the past five years: 1993 to 1997, as follows:

	<u>New Res. Construction</u>	<u>New Com. Construction</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ Value of Permits /Calendar Year</u>
1993	14	5	1	20	\$ 897,184
1994	16	6	1	23	\$ 882,326
1995	22	7	2	31	\$ 2,733,131
1996	12	3	2	17	\$ 1,247,120
1997	19	5	4	28	\$ 2,491,120
Total	83	26	10	119	\$ 8,250,841

Generally, the last three years have been very busy; 1995 saw expansion of Avon Foods, Berwick Bakery, and the Larsen Packers' facilities. 1997 statistics include major renovations at the Western Kings Memorial Health Centre facility. Residential construction has been steady, as well.

9. There was a short break at 8:45, followed by Committee-of-the-Whole at 8:50 p.m. to discuss several matters of a confidential nature. Regular Council resumed at 9:50 p.m.

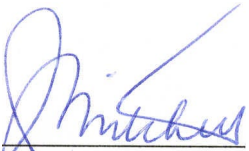
10. Any Other Business

(a) Crosswalk Signs

Councillor Banks aired his concerns that Crosswalk signs at eye-level were obscured by other signs in the downtown area, (near Police Station and Save-Easy Store). Also wondered if the lights on the Crosswalk signs could be made more visible with an on/off button. The Clerk informed Council that the Town had just spent a considerable sum to replace panels and lights to bring the Crosswalk signs into conformance with Provincial Standards. After discussion, it was suggested that Councillor Banks meet with the Police Chief in his capacity as Local Traffic Authority to discuss the issue.

11. There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:56 p.m.

John P. Prall Chairman



Judith Mitchell

Town Clerk/Treasurer