



3. **Guest Speakers**

(a) Picture Plant Productions: CBC Movie of the Week

Ms. Elizabeth Guildford, Production Manager, spoke at length about a movie to be made in Berwick this summer at the site of the United Church Campgrounds. Also present to fill in additional details of the movie production schedule were Locations Manager, Mr. Chano Tarlao, and Executive Producer, Mr. Bill McGillivray.

The movie is a period piece set in the 1930's and is based on a story by Nova Scotian playwright, George Elliott Clarke, centered on a romantic tragedy that starts in a black community in Africville, and then moves to various sites that include a gypsum mine and a slaughterhouse. There are many rural open settings that lend themselves well to Berwick and area, especially the apple orchards while in blossom. Casting for the movie will be done in Nova Scotia and Toronto. Air date for the movie on CBC television will be next January.

It is expected that movie preparations will commence mid-May for two to three weeks, followed by ten days of filming over two weeks with a large crew (50 or more) present: work week will be Sunday night to Friday night. Extras may be recruited locally, via advertisements. As well, will also require flaggers, security, provisions, fuel for generators, lodgings, etc.; including local barnyards for the animal handler to work out of. Will probably be two tractor trailers of gear once production is underway; and as such, expect to have to call on the Police Department, the Public Works Department, Electric Commission, and Fire Department to stand by or assist. Streets will have to be closed and traffic re-routed for film shoots. Need to ensure that no 20th century noises of traffic are audible while filming. May also have a fire hazard once film lights are set up in the United Church Campgrounds; will likely need a fire truck nearby. As well, may have to upgrade some of the Campground's wiring to accommodate heavier loads during the shooting. Will need to be made aware of construction sites, chainsaws, tractors, etc.: anything that makes enough noise to interfere with filming.

Ms. Guildford indicated that she picked up her daughter from the United Church Campgrounds several years ago and fell in love with the site. The Location Manager said it's the type of undisturbed setting that could pass for anything from the 1880's to the 1940's; it's very well preserved and has large open areas out back. Any modern wiring, etc. will be slightly modified by the Art Department using greenery, and so on. Ms. Guildford also indicated that her company was fully equipped with insurance - an entertainment package policy.

The Mayor thanked all of the Picture Plant representatives for attending Council and filling everyone in on the upcoming project. It sounds like an exciting summer, and we'll help facilitate the project in any way we can.

Mr. Dwight Johnson also offered to make the facilities of the Berwick Curling Club available, if need be, where they are close by and have a large paved parking lot, as well as washroom and kitchen facilities. Ms. Guildford thanked him and noted that the Berwick Arena has also been offered and may be used to accommodate an indoor sound stage. Ms. Guildford thanked Council for making the time to hear about their project, and noted that she and Chano Tarlao would be in touch. (Ms. Guildford, Mr. Tarlao, and Mr. McGillivray left the meeting.)

(b) Schoolboard Update

Mr. Dwight Johnson addressed Council about funding concerns that are a top priority with the amalgamated schoolboard as they prepare for another fiscal year. At the rate of spending, given that all possible cuts have already been made, the expenditure level is exceeding the budget by about \$1 million a year. Expects that by the end of 1999, this deficit will be at the \$3 million mark if funding levels are not increased. The Premier promised that there would be more dollars for education, however, no dollars to date, because of election upheaval and Provincial budget still being outstanding. Feels schoolboard members are fed up and will not tolerate any further cuts to teaching staff or other areas. The amalgamation of schoolboards in the region did not bring savings that were anticipated, particularly with wage settlements, pay equity, and additional expenditures.

Mr. Johnson noted that every schoolboard in the province is running a deficit, and currently have up to \$12 million dollars in deficits. The Annapolis Valley Regional Schoolboard has tried very hard to balance their budget and is better off than any other schoolboard. However, the Province does not seem to recognize that.

Councillor Trinacty asked if the Schoolboard plans to expend \$78 million on a \$77 million budget, and to heck with the consequences? (i.e. \$1 million shortfall). Mr. Johnson indicated that the Schoolboard cannot continue to operate on the dollars allocated by the Province at this time - too many cuts have been taken already. Thinks Province is in a catch-22 situation themselves: don't even know how long they'll be in government. The Mayor concluded that it's a "wait-and-see" situation and thanked Mr. Johnson for bringing the concerns of the Schoolboard to Council's attention. (Mr. Johnson left: 7:50 p.m.)

(c) Kings CED Agency: Mr. Marshall

Mr. Marshall thanked Council for inviting him to attend Council, and indicated that he had asked Mr. Colin MacDonald to join him as the representative for Berwick for the past two years. Very pleased to have Councillor Banks as the new elected representative, and Deputy Mayor Munday prior to that.

Mr. Marshall reviewed the 1998/99 Business Plan for the Agency, (a 23-page document distributed well in advance of Council), and focused on three agency projects, particularly how the dollars spent leveraged other dollars:

- (1) the Retirement Project
- (2) the Hall's Harbour Waterfront Development
- (3) Import Substitution and new business ideas

Mr. Marshall indicated that sometimes a community group comes up with a great idea for a project. If it falls within a Sectoral Committee, usually try to help out or provide assistance. The key to all of this is patience: both on my part and other agency employees. It's important to start with a grassroots approach rather than the old "top down" approach to pour money into certain industries. All areas in the province, (except Halifax), are taking the grassroots approach with their Regional Development Agencies. We are just now starting to see the fruit of the past two years of strategizing, laying networks, foundations, etc. Without a great deal of effort, we've been able to partner with other organizations to lever more money, (i.e. 14 to 1).

The Kings CED Agency runs on a \$300,000 base with \$100,000 from Municipal Units, matched by \$100,000 from the Province, and \$100,000 from ACOA (Federal funds). Of the \$300,000, the Agency operates on \$240,000 and sets aside \$60,000 for Special Projects. We handle special project funds through diversification agreements (\$100,000 to 110,000/year), also, special treasury funds. The total dollar value of

projects receiving 'in kind' or financial assistance by the Agency in 1996/97 was \$1.78 million. The full-time job creation estimate is that 44 people had jobs for 12 months. Estimates for the year just ended on March 31, 1998 are that \$1.4 million was leveraged in projects: 33 full-time jobs were created over the 12 month period; with a leverage factor of 14 to 1.

Mr. Marshall's presentation was followed by a brief question and answer period with Council, which focused on the ability to measure "the success" of the Agency to date, as well as particular initiatives (or lack of) for the Western Kings Area, including Berwick.

Mr. Colin MacDonald indicated that he had been on the Board of Trade for a little over two years and assumed the role of appointee for the Town of Berwick on the Kings CED Agency, along with an elected representative. Mr. MacDonald felt that the Town of Berwick had not been as active as other Municipal Units in partnering with the Kings CED Agency. Not sure Council is as up-to-date as they could be, and may be missing the boat. Can get surveys done, etc. If people want to start new businesses up, they should be made aware of what the Kings CED Agency can offer. For example, builders are building for the retirement project and were present at a special meeting last year. All except Berwick.

Mr. Marshall added that "business attraction" as such has not been dealt with in a significant way while the groundwork of the agency was being formed, but was now being identified as one of the top three priorities for the coming fiscal year. The Mayor thanked both Mr. Marshall and Mr. MacDonald for their presentation. (Both left the meeting at 8:14 p.m.)

Clerk's note: Additional copies of the Kings CED Agency's 1998/99 Business Plan are on file in the Clerk's office if any member of the public or business person wishes to receive one.

4. **Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

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

5 **Committee Reports**

(a) Licensing & Bylaws Committee

Councillor Morse advised that the March Licensing & Bylaws Committee meeting had been cancelled due to the Chair attending a funeral and the Town Clerk being out sick.

(b) 75th Birthday Committee

Councillor Morse advised that preparations for the 75th Birthday were starting to come together nicely and that the next meeting would be held on April 27, 1998. The various SubCommittees have been working on individual projects and are quite busy at present.

(c) Social Services

Councillor Banks reported that the delivery of Social Services has now been formally taken over by the Province, effective April 1st. Talked earlier today to Ms. Janet Moore, of the Region. Also plan to meet with the Clerk and Accountant to review any items that may still be outstanding from the past fiscal year, such as settlement billings, and so on. Councillor Trinacty asked about the ability of Council to be kept aware of local Social Services concerns now that the Province has taken it over. Councillor Banks indicated he would keep lines of communication open with Ms. Janet Moore, and will stay in touch.

(d) Kings CED Agency

Based in part on the presentation made earlier this evening by Mr. Robin Marshall and Mr. Colin MacDonald, Council discussed the Kings CED Agency's role to date for Berwick and area; as follows:

Councillor Morse: How much do we pay?

Councillor Banks: \$10,000 a year.

Councillor Whittier: So how do we take advantage of what they can offer?

Councillor Banks: For new businesses just getting going, they can provide free advice.

Deputy Mayor Munday: I was on CED Board for three years: tried to get more activity and involvement from the Board of Trade and local business people there was real apathy. In other areas, it's the businesses and citizens that are active and coming up with ideas. It's not just up to the Councillors to do it all.

One of the stumbling blocks is that if the Town is involved, recipients look to the Town for funding. Need to follow grassroots mandate and get grassroots businesses involved.

Councillor Banks: I agree. But people need to know more about it.

Councillor Clarke: Has there ever been any talk about an Industrial Park for the Town of Berwick?

Councillor Whittier: Kentville's Industrial Park was an incubator park to get business into the general area and on its feet.

Deputy Mayor Munday: However, the Town of Middleton had a park that went bust.

Councillor Clarke: Just wondered if the idea's ever been considered.

Councillor Whittier: Years ago, the areas back of Autumn Drive and back of the tracks on South Street were looked at. Now it would need to be next to Highway #101. Although, there are lots of areas for sale in the Berwick Fruit Farm's location.

Deputy Mayor Munday: Would need to either get rid of the buildings, or undergo expensive conversions to upgrade them. Would take a lot of money.

Councillor Whittier: If a person's already in business, can the Kings CED Agency do anything for them?

Councillor Banks: No, primarily for new businesses.

Councillor Whittier: Why not draft a letter from Town Council (to new businesses) to let them know that the Kings CED Agency is there and available?

Mayor Prall: I feel the Board of Trade should be doing that.

Councillor Whittier: No, I think it should be the Town that does it.

Councillor Banks: I wouldn't mind doing that: working up a form letter. We need to get information out to new businesses that are just in the start-up stage.

(Possibly to include a Kings CED Business Directory and 1998/99 Business Plan.)

It was agreed that Councillor Banks would draft the letter, as offered.

(e) Fire Committee

Councillor Clarke updated Council on a recent meeting held April 2nd that included the Town's Fire Committee, the B.D.V.F.D. Executive, the Fire Commission, and the Town's Solicitor. It was an informative and productive meeting. It helped to identify some of the complex issues facing fire department's today, particularly liability issues. Need to set a future meeting with the Insurers present. The budget meeting will be held in May; and a tour of the Fire Hall is in order.

(f) Valley Solid Waste Authority

Councillor Clarke noted that the Authority has made considerable progress toward launching the initiatives set out in the Strategy. However, a somewhat ambitious Capital Budget of \$6 million has been tabled, with Berwick's share being 2.83% or \$174,641 for the fiscal year of 1998/99. Need to find out more about what's involved with that before recommending it to Council for approval.

The authority is looking at dividing Region 5 into two management centres: an East zone and a West zone, with further divisions into four to allow for recycling and other programs. Don't want to get into siting a landfill as yet, instead, examining options for shipping residual waste to an alternate landfill site in another region.

Not sure yet what Municipal Units will stop paying for when new Authority costs have to be assumed. There may be some overlaps. Also have to consider the Capital Budget in the context of revenues to be raised by the Authority to help offset the debt. Next meeting will be around the end of April.

Councillor Trinacty noted that the County is adopting a Blue Bag program, and wondered if this would affect the existing Blue Box program. Councillor Clarke indicated that it will stay the same for now, but long-term, plan to change to a Blue Bag program for the region in accordance with the long-term Strategy, and to meet the increasing Bans set out by the Department of Environment. The Authority has been proceeding quite slowly but are moving much more rapidly now: so the switch to blue bags may happen sooner rather than later.

(g) Personnel Committee

Councillor Trinacty advised that he was very pleased with the progress on a number of hiring policies. The initial draft has been completed on a Hiring Policy. Exit Interview Policy is awaiting feedback from Department Heads. The Performance Evaluation Policy is also in the works. The Department Heads have agreed to

establish a Working Committee to review policies and report back to the Personnel Committee.

(h) Recreation Committee

Councillor Trinacty announced that Berwick, in conjunction with St. Croix, would be hosting two Exhibition Baseball Games in August: very pleased with that. Have a new program offered through the Recreation Department: a Book Club for the Town. (Anyone who is interested can contact the Recreation Department for more details).

The Royal Bank is sponsoring a Community Sport Hero project to identify local players at the local, provincial, or national level. For the Apple Blossom Princess for Berwick, only one candidate has come forward to date: Miss Jamie Corbin. The Wardrobe Showing will be held May 3rd, at 7:00 p.m., in the Town Hall Gym. Also plan to hold a Volunteer Week Reception on April 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Gym. Would like to extend a personal invitation to each and every one of you to try and attend.

The Recreation Director resigned, effective May 1 st, to resume employment in Clare. Agreed at the Personnel Committee to offer the job to the next short-listed candidate from six months ago: Ms. Jill Bishop.

Therefore, IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Trinacty and seconded by Councillor Whittier to accept the resignation of Ms. Joanne Lebens with regret.

Motion Carried

It was noted that during her six months with the Town as Recreation Director, Ms. Lebens did an excellent job: we'll be sorry to see her go, but wish her the best of luck in her new position. Ms. Jill Bishop has been filling in for a maternity leave position at the Town of Windsor, and previously had worked with the Town of Lockeport and the Town of Canso. Ms. Bishop is originally from the Paradise area, and trained at Acadia University along with Ms. Joanne Lebens and Ms. Brigitte Edwards.

Therefore, IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Trinacty and seconded by Councillor Whittier that Ms. Jill Bishop be employed as Recreation Director, effective May 4, 1998, on a six-month probationary period, with starting salary as agreed, and full salary and benefits upon successful completion of the probationary period.

Motion Carried

(i) Tourism Action SubCommittee

Councillor Whittier reported that the SubCommittee was looking at signage within Berwick, as well as a number of tourism issues. Re-naming Commercial Street is one of the suggestions. Would be nice to somehow reflect our apple history by the street names. However, would require plenty of notice to change an existing street name.

Need to dress up street signs around Town with some sort of apple logo. Would also like to see an entry sign from Highway # 101 entrance similar to that on the other entrance to Town from Highway # 1, which is much nicer.

Mr. Bob Stewart noted that the Main Street Programme had commissioned a report around 1983 that had some sign logos in it. As well, would caution that any residents or businesses would have to be advised of a change in street name well before it took place, (would affect letterheads, stationery, invoices, cheques, etc.).

G) Streets Committee

Councillor Whittier advised that Spring Cleanup will be held from May 11 th to May 22nd. The Public Works Department is busy cleaning up sand and debris from the streets, chipping brush, and hauling leaves that have been placed on the curb. The Superintendent has applied for two grants for summer students through Summer Career Placements and the Nova Scotia Employment Program for Students. No response to date. Presently working on the Operating Budget for 1998/99 and developing a five-year plan for Capital Budget projections.

(k) Finance Committee

Deputy Mayor Munday reported that it had been a busy period for Finance with a meeting March 30th and another one earlier this evening. Reviewed the Town's Financial Statements and Capital Expenditures to February 28, 1998. Not in too bad shape, a lot will depend on year-end entries and outstanding Social Services costs. Need to write off uncollectible Business Occupancy Taxes, most of which are several years old now.

\_IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Trinacty that \$1454.23 be written off in uncollectible Business Occupancy Taxes for the 1997/98 fiscal year as follows:

Chit Chat Coffee Shop	\$425.52
Gareth Elderkin: Fitness Advantage	739.18
Gareth Elderkin: Fitness Gym	209.54
Joseph Lightizer: J & P Country Workshop	<u>79.99</u>
	<u>\$1454.23 Total</u>

Motion Carried

Deputy Mayor Munday indicated that the Finance Committee has directed the Clerk to ask each Department Head to prepare a five-year Capital Plan for their respective departments, so that one global plan can be developed as a five-year strategy. The Town used to do this, but it went by the wayside with Amalgamation hanging over us. Need to get back on track.

Regarding the recent Insurance package entered into with Frank Cowan Insurance, it appears that a further \$1,427.35 is due in premiums for an addition of the Fire Department's new van and deletion of the old fire truck and the addition of the Pierce Pumper.

Therefore, IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Clarke to approve payment of an additional \$1,427.35 for minor adjustments to Vehicle Insurance Coverages for the Fire Department.

Motion Carried

In response to a query, it was noted that the Frank Cowan policy is still \$8,200 cheaper than the other quote, and only marginally more than last year's cost, with \$2 million coverage.

Based upon a request from the Recreation Director to increase Petty Cash by an additional \$50 for a float/cash drawer:

IT W AS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Banks to permit the Petty Cash for the Recreation Department to be increased by \$50 for use as a float.

Motion Carried

The Chairman of Finance discussed a recent Salary Review for Non-Union staff and Councillors and Police Commissioners. It was identified that salary levels need to be addressed now, rather than wait for the PANS and IBEW Collective Agreements to be settled which could take until July or August or later. Not a matter of settling on a flat percentage for everyone because several positions required an outright adjustment. As well, the 3% rollback will have to be reimbursed. A motion was made to approve the Wage Implementation Schedule. However, it was agreed to discuss the matter in more detail during Committee-of-the- Whole before recommending for approval; thus, the motion was withdrawn.

(1) Planning Advisory Committee

Deputy Mayor Munday informed Council that the Sign Proposal as put forth by the Ad Hoc Sign SubCommittee was still an outstanding issue. Felt from a discussion with Ms. Suzanne Atkinson and articles written in the Berwick Register that there's some conflicting information. A negative spin has been put on it, although initially it

was seen to be a positive project. Now, the Municipality of the County of Kings Planning Advisory Committee indicates that they are awaiting a presentation from the Ad Hoc Sign SubCommittee. The Town's PAC Committee needs to follow up on this and get it sorted out: appears to be a possible communication problem. The Deputy Mayor agreed to contact Ms. Atkinson and follow it up from there.

Other items outstanding from the PAC: subdivision development project with Mr. Louis Chute and Mr. Murray Saunders; which is hinged to the STP Upgrade. Still waiting to hear further directions from Dr. Christie concerning his development agreement. The Mayor noted that an announcement from Mr. Mike Landry on a new Golf Course may be forthcoming in ten days or so; financing in place and checking with the Department of Environment on any regulations that may affect the project.

(m) Police Commission

The Mayor updated Council on recent changes at the Police Department: Constable Dunfee is now gone to Kentville's Police Department, effective April 6. The Commission hired Constable Tucker to fill the full-time position that Constable Dunfee left vacant. Now trying to fill the vacant Term Position to December 31, 1998: search is ongoing. A Building Committee has been struck with Mr. Charles Parlee of Provincial Department of Policing Services, Constable Lafosse as PANS representative, and the Mayor and Mr. Danny Grant as Police Commission members. Need to look at the existing building, as well as other options, in order to meet Provincial Police Audit requirements and Occupational Health and Safety requirements. Hope to renovate the existing building but that may not be possible given its age and structure. The Mayor acknowledged that there are other users in the building in addition to the Police Department who would also have to be considered.

(h) Study Group on Policing

The Mayor advised that the Study Group on Policing has been scheduled to meet later on this week on April 16th in Wolfville. Looking at sharing of services. Not much more to be done, other than what's already been done. Not sure what to expect from this next meeting.

(i) Volunteer of the Year: Mr. John Hiltz

The Mayor announced that Mr. John Hiltz had been selected as Berwick's Volunteer of the Year for his various contributions to the community over the years. Looking forward to attending a Volunteer Banquet and Reception in Halifax on Friday, April 17th. Mr. Hiltz and his family all plan to attend for this significant award. The Town will host a Volunteer Reception for all volunteers on April 23rd, as previously mentioned by the Recreation Chairman, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Gym.

j) Berwick Electric Commission

The Mayor reported that Mr. George Baker, P. Eng. has now completed the Rate Study for the Berwick Electric Commission, and it has been approved by the Commission. Once the formal Affidavit and Petition have been sworn, the Rate Study Application for Hearing will be forwarded to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, for their approval. The Rate Study contains modest increases that still leave most rates well below NSPI power rates.

The Mayor noted that the Hydroelectric Generator will be running for sometime: water levels are high; the dam is full to overflowing. However, can't expect to regain the peak amount that we lost in November: once it's set, it's up for the coming year.

6. Correspondence

- (a) Received from John and Louise Rainforth, a thank you letter to Council and Staff in appreciation for their kindness at the time of their daughter Kristin's accident and subsequent death. "We truly believe that the ongoing thoughts and prayers of both Kristin's friends, and our friends and colleagues, are making it possible for us to cope with this unbelievably sad time. Cards, visits, flowers, and other kind acts have helped us to realize just how many people and organizations do care. Again, thank you so much." For the information of Council.
- (b) Received from Ms. Marlene Connell, Secretary of the Berwick and District Community Association, (i.e. the Arena), a thank you letter for putting the 75th Anniversary Crest on center ice prior to the Atlantic Ringette Championships, especially given the late hours. She also writes: "Many comments regarding the Anniversary Crest have been received by players, parents, coaches, and spectators. The crest is very impressive and is likely a first for the Berwick Arena. It certainly was a good way to kick off the 75th Anniversary Celebrations. ..." For the information of Council.
- (c) Received from The Writer's Development Trust, a request to officially declare April 23, 1998 as Canada Book Day. "Give One, Get One, Read One" is the motto, and it is planned for April 23rd to correspond with UNESCO-declared "World Book Day".

After discussion it was noted by Councillor Trinacty that proclaiming a day or week in honour of an organization or event may well be the only way Council can show support now that funds are so limited. Deputy Mayor Munday asked where do you draw the line with these requests? Councillor Trinacty felt it should be drawn whenever it costs money.

Therefore, IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Trinacty and seconded by Councillor Morse that April 23rd be declared Canada Book Day as requested and that a Proclamation be put up in the Town Hall to that effect.

Motion Carried

- (d) Received from The Screening for Wellness Campaign, (a mobile breast screening clinic operated in local communities in Western Nova Scotia), a request for financial support to help pay for operating costs for mobilized van in support of mobile breast screening. This funding campaign has been launched at the request of the Western Regional Health Board.

After discussion of the issue, it was agreed to defer it to the Finance Committee for consideration under Grants-to-Organizations in the upcoming Budget. It was noted that it was an important issue to consider, but was complicated because of the "people services" versus "property services" aspect that is generally the rule of thumb on funding requests.

- (e) Received from former Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Wayne Adams, the latest draft of the NSDOE's Composting Facility Guidelines, a 22-page document. This information is on file in the Clerk's office if anyone wishes to read it or request a copy. For the information of Council.
- (f) Received from the Department of Community Services, a letter from the Honourable Francene Cosman advising that the Province has now assumed responsibility for delivering Social Assistance Services in Nova Scotia, effective April 1, 1998, and asks for continued cooperation in this effort. She adds that, "Your support and insight has been most helpful, and I look forward to an ongoing dialogue as we proceed to improve social assistance programs in Nova Scotia." For the information of Council.
- (g) Received from Mayor Walter Fitzgerald, president of the UNSM, a Memorandum of Understanding with the Province, dated April 7th, 1998, noting that an agreement has been reached on the three key issues of bridges, social services, and equalization grants. However, the education issue is still unresolved at this point.

The Memorandum notes that responsibility for Bridges will remain with the Province; a phased reduction of Social Services' costs is planned as follows: 15% cut in 1998/99, 20% in 1999/2000, 25% in 2000/2001, 25% in 2001/2002, and 15% in 2002-2003. However, these reductions in cost will be linked to a future review of roles and responsibilities, to be undertaken by the Province and the UNSM. Equalization Grants will be restored to full funding in 1998/99. (Town of Berwick's is currently nil).

After discussion of the impact of the phased reduction schedule, it was agreed to seek clarification from the UNSM to see if subsequent percentages were based on the original contract figure, or reduced social services figures. (Clerk to follow up).

- (h) Received from the Department of Environment, an offer from the Composting Council of Canada to share "Flowers for Diana" compost with groups interested in planting a tree as a tribute to Diana during National Composting Awareness Week: May 4th-10th. Cost for the special compost will be \$50.00. All net proceeds will be put towards the Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. For consideration by Council.

Deputy Mayor Munday felt this request was in poor taste and was further exploitation of a tragic situation. After discussion, it was agreed to plant a tree in remembrance of Princess Diana instead.

(Note: Mayor Sylvester Atkinson of the Town of Middleton will be planting a tree to commemorate Mayor Sam Hayden sometime in May in front of the Town Hall, with Town Criers present. May wish to plant a tree for Princess Diana at this time).

- (i) Received from Mayor Walter Fitzgerald, president of the UNSM, a letter indicating that the \$6 million offset program for HST has been allocated for the 1998/99 fiscal year. Berwick's share will amount to 17,063.09. For the information of Council.
- j) Received from Mr. Robin Marshall, Executive Director of the Kings CED Agency, a written request to the four Mayors/Warden of Kings County to take political action concerning the distribution of the natural gas pipeline in Nova Scotia, and encouraging each Municipal Unit to select a representative to meet with the UNSM and the Province on April 16th, at 10 a.m. in Halifax, at the UNSM Boardroom. For a decision by Council.

Councillor Clarke agreed that accessibility to Sable Gas is a good idea that needs to be pushed. Access to gas will determine the "Have" and "Have not" areas of Nova Scotia in the future. The Mayor agreed to check with Robin Marshall on the level of representation required for this meeting.

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

## 7 Bills and Accounts

IT W AS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Whittier to approve Bills and Accounts in the amount of \$100,464.88.

Motion Carried

## 8. New Business

### (a) Trail or Pathway

Councillor Banks indicated he felt there was a need to have a pathway at the end of Bezanson Drive to allow direct access to the school area; residents would certainly appreciate the development of such a pathway. Councillor Trinacty advised that the Town tried to do this before and ran into a lot of difficulties. Councillor Banks inquired whether or not the Town had ever considered purchasing a piece of land or establishing a right-of-way that would permit a graveled pathway to be put in? Councillor Trinacty indicated, no, but that liability issues and the level of maintenance required to keep such a pathway safe to use year-round were a concern.

Deputy Mayor Munday noted that currently any such use of existing land for a pathway is not sanctioned and done at the risk of the user and the property owner. After further discussion, it was suggested that perhaps Council may find that the Town shouldn't have anything to do with such a pathway, but support it as best we can (if a community group were to proceed with it), Certainly land owners would need to give permission before anyone could consider using their land.

(b) Replacement Flag

Councillor Clarke indicated that he wasn't sure who was responsible for it, but he felt the flag at the Town Hall needs to be replaced. (The Clerk noted that she will follow up on it with the Public Works Superintendent).

(c) Board of Trade Dinner

Ms. Sara Keddy advised Council that the Annual Board of Trade Dinner would be held on April 29th with guest speaker Mr. Dan Conlin talking about the Isle of Haute. As well, Board of Trade luncheon will be Thursday, April 30th at the Seniors' Centre.

9. Council took a short break at 9:50 p.m., followed by Committee-of-the- Whole at 9:55 p.m. to discuss matters of a confidential nature. Regular Council resumed at 10:29 p.m.

10. Any Other Business

(a) Salary Review & Implementation

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Banks that the Wage Implementation Schedule for non-union employees, Councillors, and Police Commissioners be approved with minor adjustments as noted on the Schedule.

Motion Carried

(A copy of the Wage Implementation Schedule to be filed with the formal copy of the minutes).

(b) Town of Berwick Website

The Mayor advised that Mrs. Gloria Armstrong had been working on a webpage for the Town. Was now checking to see what would be involved to have the Website operate from the Recreation Department's computer, once it's ready. After Brief discussion, all agreed to have Mayor Prall proceed with this, (i.e. checking into various providers: Sympatico, GLinx, etc. May want to use same company that Berwick Electric Commission is using.)

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11. There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:31 p.m.

John P. Prall  
Chairman

Judith Mitchell  
Town Clerk