



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

16 JUNE 1998

PAGE 2

5. Committee Reports

(a) 75th Birthday

Councillor Morse asked that the other Councillors responsible for specific 75th Birthday events report to Council individually. Councillor Morse reported that he emceed the Apple Blossom Princess Tea, and that the Town's Apple Blossom Float had won the first place award for Artistic Princess Float. The most recent meeting of the 75th Birthday Committee was held last night, and there are quite a number of events coming up, with the summer shaping up to be a busy one.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Morse and seconded by Councillor Whittier that the A VR/Magic 97 "Co-presents Promotional Package" be used to promote the 75th Birthday Celebrations for the weekend of July 3, 4 & 5th, at a cost of \$450, plus applicable tax.

Motion Carried

After a rounded discussion, IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Morse and seconded by Councillor Banks that the Town of Berwick enter into a contract with an entertainment group known as Red Liquorice for a one-day engagement in July for the 75th Birthday Celebrations for a fee of \$1000; subject to acceptable arrangements for insurance coverage.

Motion Carried

Councillor Banks noted that if the insurance arrangements are agreeable, the Red Liquorice group will be here on the evening of July 3rd. Nearby residents will be notified of the event and advised of the noise from the music and games (similar to that of Gala Days). If there is a lot of concern, the event can be moved to the park area, although behind the Town Hall is an ideal location. Also planned for the weekend of July 3rd is the planting of a Community Garden, a Garden Party, Community Yard Sale, Street Parade, Strawberry Social, and a Concert in the Park. A VR will be interviewing Councillor Banks on the morning of July 2nd. It should be quite a fun weekend!

Deputy Mayor Munday informed Council that the New Year's Eve Gala Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on July 13th, to further discuss and firm up more of the details for the final event of the Town's 75th Birthday.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

16 JUNE 1998

PAGE 3

Councillor Clarke updated Council on the May 23rd weekend's events. An ornamental tree was planted commemorating the Town's 75th Birthday; (Councillor Clarke showed the plaque which will be placed by the tree). Mary's Islanders performed and were excellent, the crowd really enjoyed the show. The Town Criers performed as well, and Councillor Clarke felt that a letter should go out to them, thanking them for their participation. Thanks to Deputy Mayor Munday and Mrs. Munday for serving cake, and to Councillor Trinacty for making sure there were enough refreshments available.

(b) Licensing and Bylaws

Councillor Morse reported that the Committee is looking at updating and revising the current Taxi License Bylaw. In the meantime, the licenses of existing Taxi Companies are up for renewal. Therefore,

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Morse and seconded by Deputy Mayor Munday that, upon recommendation of the Licensing & Bylaws Committee, Council approve the request to renew Taxi Licenses for the 1998/99 fiscal year for both Star Taxi and C & S Taxi. Both applicants have met the requirements of the Berwick Police Department.

Motion Carried

(c) Social Services

Councillor Banks read aloud a letter supplied by the auditors, addressed to Janet Moore, stating that the 'actual' 1997/98 cost of social services should be revised to show \$77,003 in the Provincial Social Services Contract with the Town.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Banks and seconded by Councillor Trinacty that, per Provisions 3 & 4 of the Social Service Contract between the Town of Berwick and the Minister of Community Services for Nova Scotia, effective April 1, 1998, that Council request that the cost of social services named in the contract be revised from the 1996/97 amount of \$91,599 to the "actual 1997/98 amount of \$77,003. Such request to be made as soon as possible, with letter of verification attached from the Town's auditors in order to be filed and finalized by the deadline of July 1st, 1998.

Motion Carried

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

16 JUNE 1998

PAGE 4

Mayor Prall noted that credit should be given to Councillor Banks who pursued the issue until it was resolved to the satisfaction of the Town.

(d) Kings CED Agency

Councillor Banks reported that he and the Mayor had attended two CED meetings to discuss different options and ways for the Town of Berwick to access CED funding for local projects. Both also attended the General Annual Meeting. The question has been raised as to whether the funds put into the CED Agency by the Town are a worthwhile expenditure.

More local involvement is needed by residents of the Town, to take an interest and represent the community and the local businesses. Local people need to be present on the Sectoral Committee in order to access project funds. If this were done, the Town is more likely to be eligible to receive funding for projects. Right now, Town Council and the Mayor are expected to carry the responsibility, however, in most other areas this is not the case. The issue has been raised with the Berwick and District Board of Trade, where some interest has been expressed.

Mayor Prall agreed to approach Murray Saunders and Colin MacDonald to determine their interest in attending the Sectoral Committee meetings for the West Kings Area, and updating Council accordingly.

(e) Fire Committee

Councillor Clarke reported that he had attended the monthly Executive Meeting of the Fire Department. They are still pursuing the First Responders issue; things are happening at the Provincial level. It may be a matter of training levels and legislation. There are many excellent volunteers on the Fire Department who would like to see this extended level of service available. A meeting is planned for early July with Randy Edwards of Frank Cowan Insurance and the Fire Department, with liability issues to be discussed, as well as risk management concerns.

A mock evacuation exercise was held at the nursing home on Commercial Street, involving the Berwick Fire and Police Departments, Ambulance Service and the EMO Coordinator (Stephen Palmer). Very well done; emergency providers are well prepared in the event of a disaster, however the Police Department could use better radios.

There will be a Fire Commission meeting on the 18th to look at the 1998/99 Budget requirements.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

16 JUNE 1998

PAGE 5

(f) Sable Gas

Councillor Clarke attended a seminar in Middleton, with two guest speakers from Alberta, to discuss the availability and access to natural gas, and what situations to be aware of. At this point, it doesn't seem as though the Provincial Government is setting up a petrochemical industry. There's no reason why almost everyone couldn't have access to natural gas if cooperatives were permitted to get franchises, or have municipal units set up gas utilities. Councillor Clarke, Dennis Kehoe, Dan Watters and a representative from the Town of Wolfville plan to ask someone from the Province to come to Kings County and talk to the municipal units about what the Province's plans are. As a local government, it is very important that we ask the right questions of the Provincial Government.

(g) Valley Solid Waste Authority

Councillor Clarke advised that the Authority had interviewed several engineering firms in response to a Request for Proposals. The firm of SNC Lavalin was selected to get underway on researching and designing two management centres. In the meantime, the Municipal Units in Region 5 are still operating as individual units; and the Town of Berwick is still contracting from the Municipality of Kings for solid waste services.

The Municipality of the County of Kings is switching to a Blue Bag program to make recycling services more widely available. For Berwick, it will likely mean a biweekly pickup. The cost of this new program is expected to be lower than the Blue Box program.

Therefore, IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Clarke and seconded by Councillor Trinacty that the Town of Berwick approve the conversion of the existing Blue Box Program to the new Blue Bag Program, as provided by the Municipality of the County of Kings for a fee of *\$9,000/year*; (down from the previous cost of \$11,100 per year for Blue Box). Estimated start up time: circa September 1998.

Motion Carried

(h) Personnel

Councillor Trinacty reported that Mrs. Alexis Grant attended the last Personnel Committee meeting to talk about Performance Appraisals and provided good background information and discussion. Further discussion is required regarding

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

16 JUNE 1998

PAGE 6

what is needed with the Department Heads and staff. Would like to extend a special thank you to Mrs. Grant who is the Human Resource Officer at ACA Co-Operative in New Minas. She did an excellent job.

(i) Recreation

Councillor Trinacty stated that all summer staff positions have been filled, including those at the Tourist Bureau. The Recreation Department has been very fortunate in receiving grants this year; also received a grant for 9 weeks for a 75th Birthday Coordinator. The summer program brochures have gone out. The Budget for the Department is ready to be submitted to the Finance Committee. Electronic mail! Internet software is in the process of being installed. As mentioned earlier, the Apple Blossom Float won an award for Most Artistic; thanks to all who worked so hard to complete it.

Each year, we entertain a request from the Slo Pitch group through the Berwick and District Community Association to have a Beer Tent in operation during their annual tournament. After brief discussion,

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Trinacty and seconded by Deputy Mayor Munday to approve a request to erect a beer tent at the Annual Ball Tournament for the weekend of August 6th to 9th, provided the same conditions are met as required in previous years.

Motion Carried

(j) Public Works

Councillor Whittier reported on the activities of the Public Works Department. Although overkill to mention the Apple Blossom float again, the Streets and Recreation Department worked very hard on the float, as usual.

The Department is busy working as usual at this time of year: electric work to aerators at the lagoon; replacing overhead wires; the flail mower is on the Holder machine to mow ditches; and the yellow centre line on Commercial Street has been repainted. Councillor Trinacty expressed a concern regarding the odour coming from the lagoon in the early morning and inquired if the STP upgrade would improve this. Councillor Whittier responded that it may help a little bit, but all lagoons have an odour of some kind. Depends on the weather and level of oxygenation. The upgrade will make the

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

16 JUNE 1998

PAGE 7

outflow to the Cornwallis River that much cleaner by means of disinfection; won't really affect the odour problem.

The crosswalks are being painted now, and will continue (weather permitting). There was some discussion regarding Spring Clean Up, and if there should be a cut off time. The Department does minor clean up during the summer months when time permits. Councillor Whittier noted that they are planning to do a schedule for Fall Leaf Pick Up, arranged by street, and send it out with the electric bills. Once a particular street is completed, it won't be done again.

(k) Planning Advisory

Deputy Mayor Munday reported that on May 20th, Mr. Richard Harvey of the Municipality of the County of Kings met with the Ad Hoc Sign Committee, Planning Advisory Committee and Board of Trade to discuss the Sign Proposal. The County's PAC has recommended that the proposal be passed on to the County Council, and it will be looked at on the basis of a Pilot Project, for early next year. Such a trial proposal for one year will allow PAC to assess the impact and feedback. The Ad Hoc Sign Committee is now being called the Berwick Sign Committee.

Mayor Prall informed Council that he has been trying to meet with Mr. Mike Landry and Warden Ray Leslie to discuss the issue of the Golf Course. The Municipality has specific zoning regulations for a golf course which is not a permitted use in an agricultural zone. Mr. Landry's financial supporters do not wish to proceed until the County's position is clear regarding the other proposed Golf Course.

(1) Finance

After brief discussion, per outcome of a ruling from the QEII decision,

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Trinacty to reimburse the 3% rollback to any applicable Town or Electric Commission employees.

Motion Carried

Deputy Mayor Munday reported that the Finance Committee and the Berwick Electric Commission met with Mr. Alan Barkhouse of KPMG on Friday afternoon to discuss the Town's financial statements. The Town had a \$2,141,779 budget with a surplus of \$322. Went over the financial statements very thoroughly: some concerns were

legal fees (negotiations, Berwick Police Department), new Holder machine purchased. All Departments operated within budget, except as noted.

Berwick Electric Commission had a \$2,215,051 budget and ended up with a deficit of \$8,400 operational loss, loss of peak (due to low water levels in November) and work on Bucket Truck to meet certification standards for Occupational Health and Safety requirements.

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Banks that the Year-End Financial Statements for 1997/98 be approved as presented:

Town of Berwick Surplus	\$ 322
Berwick Electric Commission Deficit	\$(38,395)

Motion Carried

Budget meetings are scheduled on an ongoing basis with a full review in early July. Discussed with KPMG that Audit Services will be put out for Tender in the Fall.

(m) Berwick Electric Commission

Mayor Prall noted the deficit of <\$38,395> as previously reported. The surplus has dropped from \$268,000 to \$221,000; still in pretty good shape. However, we are in need of a rate increase. The Rate Study is currently before the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSURB). NSURB deadline for queries is July 22, with the Hearing date not yet set. Will likely be early to mid-September.

(n) Police Commission

Constable LaFosse has tendered his resignation, which was accepted by the Commission. Chief DeWolfe is now advertising for two term positions. The Department needs to be built up again, along with the morale. The Mayor noted that the Berwick Police Department continues to do a very good job.

The Mayor reported on several meetings he had attended recently, with a brief update on each of them. Specifically, there has been interest in re-instating the Apple Capital Society with the hopes of starting a local museum in Town. Seems to be growing interest and some public input. Hope to see more Councillors at the next meeting.

The first newsletter sent out from the Mayor received positive feedback. Would like to have input from Councillors and each Department for the next one. Will continue to include them with the electric bills and also put it on the website. Hoping to send the second newsletter out near the end of July.

Please note: The Town is now on the web; the website can be seen at  
**[www.town.berwick.ns.ca](http://www.town.berwick.ns.ca);**  
e-mail is available as well at: **[general@town.berwick.ns.ca](mailto:general@town.berwick.ns.ca);**  
**[council@town.berwick.ns.ca](mailto:council@town.berwick.ns.ca);**  
**[jmitchell@town.berwick.ns.ca](mailto:jmitchell@town.berwick.ns.ca);and**  
**[recreation@town.berwick.ns.ca](mailto:recreation@town.berwick.ns.ca) .**

#### Correspondence

- (a) Received from Superintendent Mr. James Gunn, of the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board, a letter congratulating the Town on its 75th Birthday on behalf of Board Members and Staff. For the information of Council.
- (b) Received from the Honourable George Archibald, MLA for Kings North, a copy of a Resolution tabled in the House of Assembly on May 22, 1998 requesting that the Government of Nova Scotia reveal the government plan for the goals of natural gas distribution for the Province of Nova Scotia, particularly where there does not seem to be a plan for (gas) distribution to all regions of the Province. For the information of Council.
- (c) Received from Ms. Ruth Fitzpatrick, owner of Valley Hair Stylists, 227 Commercial Street, a concern about garbage that collects in the parking lot adjacent to the Fire Hall and then blows around the commercial area. She also notes that the area where passengers get on and off the Kings Transit bus by Moody's Groceteria has neither a garbage bin nor a bench for people waiting for the bus to arrive. For the information of Council.
- (d) Received from the Department of Housing & Municipal Affairs notification that the Equalization Grant has been increased by \$7.2 million to a total of \$23.5 million in response to a Memorandum of Understanding Respecting Short Term Policy Initiatives and Comprehensive Review of Roles and Responsibilities agreed upon between the UNSM and the Province in April 1998. However, under the existing Equalization formula, Berwick's share of the \$23.5 million is still zero. For the information of Council.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
16 JUNE 1998  
PAGE 10

- (e) Received from the Honourable Wavne Gaudet, Minister of Housing & Municipal Affairs a letter indicating that the term of Mr. Paul Ward has now expired and that there is now a vacancy on the Board of the Annapolis Valley Housing Authority that should be filled. The Minister goes on to extend "sincere appreciation for the time and effort Mr. Ward put forward"; and asks Council to submit a recommendation for the position, along with a brief biography of the nominee. Council agreed to make inquiries about finding out if Mr. Ward was interested in continuing, and/or finding a replacement.
- (f) Received a four page letter from a community groups called Citizens Helping Addicted Recovering Gamblers Everywhere, commonly known as C.H.A.R.G.E., requesting that Berwick contribute \$58,000 towards an OUTREACH CENTRE to combat VLT use. Mr. Jake Hatfield writes that, "the funding that the Town receives from the revenue taken from VL T' s should be geared to help the gamblers and (their) families in their recovery", and concludes the letter by asking for a written response to their funding request. The last two pages outline a budget for a Kings County Outreach Centre with an overall budget of \$391,250, of which \$204,000 is for staff, and a further \$142,400 is for advertising. Council discussed the request at length; while empathetic to the issue, all agreed this is a Provincial matter.
- (g) Received from the Child Care Connection in Halifax, a request to declare the period of August 23rd to September 10, 1998 "CHILD CARE AWARENESS DAYS" in order to recognize child care practitioners and the valuable work they do in your community. Council agreed to the request.
- (h) Received from the Science & Technology Awareness Network, Centre for Marine Geology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, a request to declare "SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY WEEK" for the week of October 16th to 25th. The letter reads that "Your support of activities will give credence and importance to our endeavours, as well as providing a local and province wide tone to the celebrations." Council agreed to the request.
- (i) Received from the President of the Kings YON Branch, a letter advising that the VON merged with the Kings County Home Support Service in 1997 to bring the staff complement to 112, however, changes in the health care system continue to leave an impact. "There is no community hospital in Kings County and the Valley Regional Hospital has one of the shortest lengths of stay in N. S. This means that clients being discharged are more acutely ill, often still requiring a high level of care at home." As well, "the whole are of 'Respite Care' needs to be addressed as the population ages. All of these activities take money." The letter concludes by **asking Council to make**

**an investment of \$4,000 to assist in providing services to the aging population in Kings County.** Council agreed to pass this request along to the Finance Committee for consideration.

- j) Received from the Canadian Postmasters & Assistants Association, a letter asking for the support of Mayors and Councillors in Rural Canada to promote the continued use of rural Post Office, and to take a strong stand against further closure of rural Post Offices. The letter suggests that at little or no added cost, rural Post Offices could be used to access government services, government information, and government programs; for example: SIN kits, Passport Applications, EI applications, paying hydro & telephone bills, etc. In order to facilitate the input of rural Canadians, a WORKBOOD is available to complete and submit (call toll free: 1-888-781-2222).  
For the information of Council.
- (k) Received from the Honourable Robbie Harrison. Minister of Education & culture, a letter advising Council that he is "pleased to confirm government's commitment to freeze municipal education contributions at the 1997/98 level, plus 10% of new expenditures for 1998/99. This will result in an EDUCATION TAX RATE of 38.63c per \$100 of Uniform Assessment." For Berwick, this translates into a mandatory Education Contribution of \$336,582, up from \$289,479. (Clerk's Note: This figure has since been revised to \$330,873, an increase of a mere \$41,394 or 14.3% over last year's figure).  
For the information of Council.
- (l) Received from Mayor Fitzgerald. President of the UNSM, a copy of a letter to Premier MacLellan asking for an opportunity to discuss "a broad, province-wide distribution system (for Natural Gas) so that business and residential users can benefit from significantly reduced energy prices." On behalf of the UNSM, Mayor Fitzgerald urges the Province to support such a system: "We believe that such a system is in the best interests of our Province and is the only solution to ensure that all Nova Scotians are able to enjoy the benefits of the Sable Project. Municipal leaders will support nothing less."  
For the information of Council.
- (m) Received from Mr. Brian Van Rooyen. Regional Waste Reduction Coordinator for the Valley Solid Waste Authority, a letter indicating that the Authority has outgrown its office in Berwick and will be moving to new offices situated in Kentville in the Municipality of the County of Kings' municipal complex, in the basement, effective June 15th. The letter reads that, "On behalf of the Valley Waste-Resource Management, I want to thank the Town most sincerely for all assistance over the past year and nine months. The office space has provided me with a bright and comfortable place to work and Town staff have always been kind and helpful. Please pass on my thanks to Town Council and staff." For the information of Council.

- (n) Received from the Honourable Wayne Gaudet, Minister of Housing & Municipal Affairs, a letter informing the Town that, " in keeping with Premier MacLellan's commitment to municipalities, the impact of the 1998/99 Provincial Budget is a net gain of more than \$7 million for N.S. municipalities. . . The provincial government and the premier in particular are determined that this year represents a turning point in both provincial/municipal funding arrangements and in the relationship between the two levels of government." The letter goes onto note the province's commitment to increase funding for public education, and that after consultation with the UNSM, will base the 10 per cent municipal contribution on \$60 million rather than the full \$82 million. Other changes include reinstatement of the Farm Acreage Grant, increased Equalization Funding, reinstatement of the Department of Transport's Aid-to-Towns program, and increased funding from the Resource Recovery Board for municipalities.

(Clerk's note: Education impact: Expenses up \$41,394; Farm Acreage Grant: Revenue up \$956; Equalization Grant: \$0; Aid-to- Towns:\$0; Library Costs: Expenses up \$935; Resource Recovery Board: possible \$4,000).

For the information of Council. (Note: Council instructed the Clerk to write a letter expressing their disappointment at receiving additional costs in the guise of good news for Municipal Units.)

The balance of correspondent was of a routine nature or passed onto Committees for action.

7. **Bills and Accounts**

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Whittier to approve Bills and Accounts in the amount of \$76,216.24.

Motion Carried

8. **New Business**

- (a) Bylaw Amendments/Adoption: NOTICE OF MOTION

As a followup to recent efforts of the Licensing & Bylaw Committee to update amend, or adopt newer bylaws, the following motions were made:

After discussion, IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Morse and seconded by Councillor Banks that notice of motion be given to Council to adopt a Skateboard Bylaw. (Note: First Reading would take place at July Council, if suitable; Second and Third Readings at the next meeting of Council, if suitable).

Motion Carried

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Morse and seconded by Councillor Trinacty that notice of motion be given to Council to amend the Hawkers & Peddlars Bylaw. (Note: same timeline as previous Bylaw Amendment).

Motion Carried

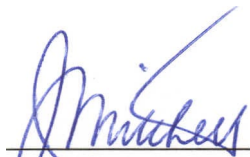
IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Morse and seconded by Councillor Banks that notice of motion be given to Council to adopt a Deed Transfer Tax Bylaw. (Note: same timeline as previous Bylaw Amendment)

Motion Carried

Councillor Banks noted that a new sign was needed to replace the blue 75th Birthday Celebration banner. Also inquired who's responsibility it is to pave the culvert on Bezanson Drive. Councillor Whittier responded that he would speak to Public Works about it.

9. Next Council meeting will be held on July 14, 1998 at 6:00 p.m.
10. There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:42 p.m.

John P. Prall  
Chairman



Judith Mitchell  
Town Clerk