

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
11 MAY 1999

Present: Chairman Mayor John P. Prall
 Deputy Mayor Michael J. Munday
 Councillor Gary W. Whittier
 Councillor Michael E. Trinacty
 Councillor Thomas S. Banks
 Councillor Bruce H. Morse
 Councillor Donald E. Clarke
 Mr. Rick Ramsay, Acting Town Clerk
 Ms. Rachel Jones, Recording Secretary

In attendance: Ms. Sara Keddy, Berwick Register
 Mr. Gary Gould, Public Works Superintendent
 Chief Alan DeWolfe, Berwick Police
 Ms. Jill Bishop, Recreation Director
 Mr. Bob Stewart, Town Solicitor (arrived 8:45 p.m.)

1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Ramsay requested the addition of two items to New Business, (1) Agreement on Internal Trade, and (2) Sewer Hookup Request. Hearing of no further changes,

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Whittier and seconded by
Councillor Banks to approve the Agenda as amended.**

Motion Carried

3. **Approval of Minutes**

Hearing of no errors or omissions the Chairman approved the minutes of 13 April 1999 as circulated.

4. **Business Arising**

(a) **Final Reading of the Proposed Bylaw – Tax Exemption and Reduction**

Mr. Ramsay reviewed the proposed Bylaw brought forward to Council in April.

**IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by
Councillor Trinacty to approve the bylaw known as the Tax
Exemption and Reduction Bylaw, and to include the listing of the
Apple Capital Society under the listing of Schedule A.**

Motion Carried

5. **Committee Reports**

(a) **Licensing & Bylaws**

Councillor Morse reported that the Licensing & Bylaw Committee has not met recently.

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(b) Future Development

Councillor Morse noted that the Committee is coming together nicely, and is working on setting goals and directions within the Committee, regarding advertising and promoting the Town. An overview of the Committee was printed in the Register last week and it has also been added to the Town's web page.

(b) Recreation

Councillor Banks advised that due to his absence last week, the Recreation Committee would be meeting tomorrow evening. One of the topics on the agenda is a map of trails within the Town and the Committee will be looking into millennium funding for assistance with this project.

(c) Trees

Councillor Banks noted that at the last Tree Committee meeting the main topic of discussion was the removal and pruning of trees that had been done and what was yet to be done. Clearing has begun on the nursery lot.

(d) Kings CED Agency

Due to conflicting meeting schedules Councillor Banks noted that he had been unable to attend the last few Kings CED meetings. It would be beneficial to have an alternate person to attend meetings when Councillor Banks is unavailable. Councillor Morse noted that he might be able to identify someone from the Future Development Committee who could help with that.

(e) Fire

Councillor Clarke noted that the Fire Department Executive had cancelled the last two executive meetings. The Annual Ladies Night was held on the weekend with a good turnout. The Department is also awaiting direction from the Town regarding the renovations to the Fire Hall. Mayor Prall noted that he had forwarded the plans that had been drawn up to the Fire Department and had not heard back from them. Councillor Clarke will follow up with this issue.

(f) EMO

Councillor Clarke expects an EMO meeting to be held within the month of May. EHS is still interested in combining a facility with the Fire Department.

(g) VSWA

Councillor Clarke read the summary/highlights of a report from Valley Solid Waste, noting that the staff have moved into new offices and taken delivery of some equipment. There is a feeling from residents that elected officials have washed their hands of the collection issue and Councillor Clarke noted that all Councillors need to be aware and informed of all of the changes in the system in order to answer the public's questions. Efficient handling of demolition and construction materials is still an issue. Under the new collection agreement the VSWA will offer spring and fall cleanups although municipalities can continue to offer their own service with no

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tipping fees applied during the specified time. Advertising will need to be done to educate residents of the new system.

(h) Personnel

Councillor Trinacty noted that the Personnel Committee meeting has been rescheduled for May 31st at 7 p.m.

(i) Hall of Fame

Councillor Trinacty reported that the Committee has been working diligently to put together the first induction ceremony on June 5th at the Berwick Legion. Recognition will be given to past, present and future athletes. Tickets are \$3 at the Berwick Save Easy and Recreation Department. There will also be a public meeting on May 20th at the Arena to get public input into the possibility of a new recreation facility. Invitations have been sent out from Cambridge to Aylesford to community organizations.

(j) Public Works

Councillor Whittier noted that the Town's Annual Spring Cleanup is in progress until May 21st. The Department has received a grant for a summer employee through the Summer Career Placement Program. Councillor Whittier also requested that the Public Works Superintendent review the number of derelict cars on properties in Town and follow up with having them cleaned up.

(k) Finance

Deputy Mayor Munday reported that a Public Budget meeting was held on May 3rd. Mr. Ramsay presented the draft Operating and Capital Budget for 1999/2000. There was public interest and those who attended expressed their appreciation in having the opportunity to review the budget in that manner. Discussion on the Budget will continue later this evening.

(l) Electric Commission

Mayor Prall reported that the upgrade in Spicer Park is ongoing and that work is beginning to landscape the areas that were disturbed in putting in the underground cable. A planned power outage occurred recently in order to upgrade the KVA system at the North Substation. Another outage will be planned during the summer at some point to continue the work on that system. Work is being done to put a system in place to facilitate raising and lowering the logs at the dam to control the level of the pond. The Electric Commission Budget has been set and approved by the Commission.

(m) Police Commission

Mayor Prall advised Council that the process for RCMP negotiations has changed, in that permission from the Solicitor General is not required prior to the beginning of the absorption process. A Working Committee meeting is planned for May 18th to continue with the process, with a public meeting tentatively set for May 26th.

6. **Correspondence**

- (a) Received from Mayor Robert Stead, Wolfville, a copy of a letter sent to Alternative Transportation Services responding to their request for funding from the Town of Wolfville. Mayor Stead writes, "The Council reiterates its position that it is already involved in a joint municipal agreement to provide transit services in the Kings County region and will not enter into agreements with other agencies or constituencies for the provision of such services." For the information of Council.

After a brief discussion,

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Morse to advise the Alternative Transportation Services that the Town of Berwick is not in a position to grant the request for funding at this time, due to an ongoing commitment to the Kings Transit Authority.

Motion Carried

All agreed that the Town's representative for KTA, Mr. Ron Reeves, should suggest a combined effort between the KTA and Alternative Transportation Services at the next regular meeting of the Kings Transit Authority.

- (b) Received from Mr. Gary Long, Town Crier, a letter advising the Town of a Millennium World Town Crier Championship, June 6 – 12, 2000 in Gent, Belgium. Mr. and Mrs. Long are making plans to attend this event as representatives of the Towns of Middleton and Berwick. In doing so, they are asking Council to consider a moderate honorarium to assist in offsetting the cost of transportation to Belgium. Many of the costs while at the event are covered by the organizing committee. For consideration of Council. Council agreed to forward the request to the Finance Committee for consideration in next year's Budget.

7. **Bills and Accounts**

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Banks that the Bills and Accounts for the month of April 1999 be approved in the amount of \$50,423.35.

Motion Carried

8. **New Business**

- (a) Proposed Telephone System
Mr. Ramsay reviewed his report on the proposed telephone system for the Town Hall (copy attached to formal minutes). The cost of the proposed system has been built into the 1999/2000 Budget. Due to the cost of the headsets and question of usage, the

proposal was adjusted to ordering one headset for a trial period. After a brief discussion,

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Whittier and seconded by Councillor Trinacty to approve the Centrex Telephone system as proposed by Maritime Tel & Tel for immediate installation, with the amendment of only one headset included.

Motion Carried

(b) Proposed Mailing System

Ms. Jones reviewed her report on the proposed mailing system, comparing the two quotations between Pitney Bowes and Maritime Mailing Machines (copy attached to formal minutes). After a brief discussion,

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Trinacty and seconded by Councillor Banks to enter into a purchase agreement with Pitney Bowes per their proposal, for immediate installation.

Motion Carried

(c) Internal Trade Issue

Mr. Ramsay advised Council that as of July 1st all municipal units will be covered by an agreement of internal trade. Any purchase of goods and/or services valued over \$100,000 or a construction project over \$250,000 must be tendered and must be sent out electronically as well. The Province has offered to assist the Town in setting this up through their resources. This allows for the tender process to be open and fair, without restricting within the province, region or supplier. There are exceptions to the rule but it is fairly difficult to qualify. Staff will have to become aware of the process as of July 1st. Mr. Ramsay noted that it might be wise to call for proposals rather than tenders, as this can allow for more specific criteria.

(d) Sewer Hookup

Mr. Ramsay reported that he has received a request from a resident outside of Town limits on Highway #1 who is building a house and would like to hook into the Town's sewer lines. The lot in question is fairly close to the line put in on the south side of Orchard Street. After a rounded discussion it was agreed that Mr. Ramsay would forward a letter to the party denying the request at this time. The sewer system is capable of handling additional loads however adding residents out of Town limits raises several questions. Due to current workload and commitments, the Town will explore the issue further at a later date this year.

(e) Operating and Capital Budget

Mr. Ramsay presented a revised draft of the Operating and Capital Budgets (copy attached to formal minutes). The deficit has been reduced to \$84,000. If a tax rate increase were made to cover this deficit, it would be a 9 cent increase now rather than a 14 cent increase from the first draft Budget. Another option might be to increase the commercial tax rate as well.

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Chief DeWolfe circulated a budget document comparing costs for municipal policing versus RCMP services (copy attached to formal minutes). If the Town decides to go with the RCMP services, there will be savings of approximately \$120,000 over the next three years.

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed to put the Budget process on hold until several issues have been resolved, one being the decision about policing services, so that more definite figures can be used. Staff will continue to examine the Budget to determine if any further reductions in expenses or increases in revenues can be found. This item will come forward again at the June Council meeting.

(f) Valley Solid Waste Authority – Intermunicipal Agreement

Mr. Stewart reviewed the changes proposed for the VSWA Intermunicipal Agreement. These changes reflect the new Municipal Government Act, which permits the Authority to be incorporated and changes the ownership of assets. Assets will now be owned by the Authority itself. If any of the participating municipal units withdraw from the agreement they lose any interest in the assets. This raises questions about how this shows on each municipality's books. Mr. Ramsay will contact Mr. Maybee of the VSWA for clarification of this issue and will report back at the next Council meeting.

Council took a short break at 9:34 p.m. Ms. Jones left the meeting at this time and minutes for the remainder of the meeting were recorded by Mr. Ramsay. Regular Council reconvened at 9:40 p.m.

9. Committee-of-the-Whole

Council went into Committee-of-the-Whole at 9:40 p.m. to discuss matters of a confidential matter. Regular Council reconvened at 10:05 p.m. with all Councillors present.

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Clarke that the Town approve a leave for Judith Mitchell until July 12, 1999 on the receipt of an appropriate Doctor's certificate from Ms. Mitchell's Doctor.

Motion Carried

10. Hearing of no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

John P. Prall
Chairman

Rachel L. Jones
Recording Secretary