

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
12 JANUARY 1999

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

In attendance: Chief Alan DeWolfe
 Mrs. Connie Morse
 Constable Dave Brown
 Corporal Harvey Churchill
 Constable Gerry Tucker
 Mrs. Debbie Joudrey
 Mr. Joe Ross, PANS
 Mr. Burt McNeil (local Union Representative)
 Mr. Kenneth Granter and son
 Mrs. Marilyn Nauss
 Ms. Sarah Keddy

1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all those in attendance.

2. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Hearing of no errors or omissions, the Chairman approved the minutes of December 8, 1998; as circulated.

3. **Business Arising**

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

4. **Committee Reports**

(a) **Police Commission**

Chief DeWolfe provided a brief history and update on the progress of negotiations with the RCMP for alternative policing services. The entire policing profession has fought for increased standards and has come a long way, but with the higher standards comes increased costs.

Chief DeWolfe noted that in October 1998, when gearing up for a budget for 1999/2000, there were a lot of unknown factors and costs. At that time it was suggested to Police Commission that alternative policing services be investigated (i.e. RCMP). That suggestion led to initial conversations and a

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presentation by the RCMP in early December. A recommendation was put forward from Police Commission to Council to enter into negotiations in order to more fully explore the RCMP option.

The meeting opened up to a question and answer session:

Mr. Ross: I don't have specific questions at this time, but I want to ensure that Council has the correct facts and figures. Wondered if there will be an opportunity to meet with Council to outline some concerns that the police have?

Mayor Prall: The Working Committee is made up of members of Council and the public to ensure that all concerns are raised. There may be a more appropriate time to meet once the Working Committee is established. There are already priorities in place, to look after the welfare of the current employees. Must remember that this is not a done deal, we are looking into the possibilities and are looking for an equal or better service depending on the cost involved.

Chief DeWolfe: All staff and Commission members have been encouraged to raise the issue with the public, in order to have concerns of the residents brought forward. A member of the Board of Trade will be participating on the Working Committee. It is very important to keep the process on the table and available for public input. Other members of the public are already on the Town's Police Commission. Mr. Charles Parlee and Mr. Byron Rafuse from the Department of Justice are also on the Working Committee.

Mr. Ross: Aside from meetings with Council, will the Union have an opportunity to meet with the Working Committee to discuss the issue?

Mayor Prall: That can be considered at a later date.

After brief discussion,

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Trinacty and seconded by Councillor Whittier that Council strike a working Committee to be made up of: Police Commission, one additional Councillor, one representative from the Board of Trade, the Police Chief, and the Town Clerk; to meet with representatives of the RCMP to define the specific requirements of Berwick in regards to policing. Note that two representatives from the Provincial Police and Public Safety Services will be made available for resource to the Working Committee; and that Deputy Mayor Munday is to sit in for Mayor Prall in his absence, as Acting Chairman.

Motion Carried

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It was noted that the Town still has the option to back away from the RCMP Proposal at any time that it feels that the best interests of the Town are not being met.

Mayor Prall suggested that the additional Councillor to sit on the Working Committee be determined this evening. Both Councillor Morse and Councillor Clarke expressed interest in being on the Committee. Council participated in a confidential vote, with Chief DeWolfe acting as scrutinizer. Councillor Clarke was voted in by a majority.

Chief DeWolfe and the members of the public left the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Ms. Keddy was in attendance for the remainder of the meeting.

(b) Licensing & Bylaws

Councillor Morse noted that the next Licensing & Bylaws Committee meeting is scheduled for later this month. The Committee hopes to be able to review the new Municipal Government Act at that meeting.

(c) Berwick Future Development

Councillor Morse noted that the next Berwick Future Development Committee meeting is scheduled for later this month. The Committee is proceeding nicely.

(d) 75th Birthday

Councillor Morse noted that the 75th Birthday of the Town of Berwick is officially over. A sincere thank you is extended to all Councillors who helped with the Celebrations. Councillor Morse is in the process of recording the events in order to have a summary and 'wrap up' article in the Register from Ms. Keddy.

Deputy Mayor Munday reported that the New Year's Eve Gala Dance was a big success, with approximately 160 people attending. There were twenty prizes valued at a total of \$1400 given away. Local businesses were very generous in supporting the event. An official notice will be published in the Register thanking all businesses and organizations for their support.

Mayor Prall complimented Councillor Morse on a job well done in organizing the 75th Birthday Celebrations. Council agreed and had a round of applause for Councillor Morse.

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(e) Recreation

Councillor Banks noted that the next Recreation Committee meeting is scheduled for tomorrow evening.

(f) Trees

Councillor Banks noted that the next Tree Committee meeting is scheduled for next Monday.

(g) Kings CED Agency

Councillor Banks reported that there is no final figure available for the amount of seed funding which is remaining. The figure may be available at the next Kings CED Agency scheduled to be held on the 20th of this month.

(h) Fire

Councillor Clarke reported that there has been talk regarding the EMO Plan, although there has not been an opportunity to review the plans for an Emergency Centre. The Fire Department has inquired if there is a possibility of accessing a part-time secretary, which may be available, if the RCMP provide policing services to the Town. As well, the Department is requesting permission to have janitorial services provided (as part of the Town's janitorial services) to help after larger functions upstairs.

(i) Valley Solid Waste Authority

Councillor Clarke noted that the Authority reviewed its operating budget of approximately \$3 million for the 1999/2000 fiscal year. Berwick's share of that amount is \$94,079, with the first year of operation containing a large educational component to help educate all residents regarding the entire process. This number is a percentage based on the population and assessment values. Councillor Clarke noted that the composting carts are a large cost, at approximately \$85 each. There is a proposal to service cottage properties by providing approximately 20 drop off locations on the way to the local lakes and cottage areas so that residents can utilize the service more easily. There are three streams – organics, recyclables, and residual.

After brief discussion,

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Clarke and seconded by Deputy Mayor Munday that the 1999/2000 budgets for the Valley Waste-Resource Management Authority be tentatively approved as follows:

1999/2000 Operating Budget – global	\$5,895,697
1999/2000 Capital Budget – global	\$5,737,627

Berwick’s share of these will be, tentatively:

2.82% of Operating Budget, Municipal Unit’s Portion: \$ 94,079

Eastern Transitional Operating Budget –

Berwick’s Collection: \$ 1,400

2.82% of Capital Budget, Berwick’s share: \$161,801

Motion Carried

(j) Personnel

Councillor Trinacty advised Council that Personnel Committee did not meet during the month of January.

(k) Hall of Fame

Councillor Trinacty noted that this group would be meeting next week. It is moving along well, and the Committee is discussing holding an event in early spring. Any input from Councillors and/or the general public is welcome.

(l) Public Works

Councillor Whittier updated Council on the progress of the Sewer Treatment Plant upgrade. The timetable for completion is to have the fuzzy ball technology in place by the end of February, and the ultraviolet technology in place by the end of January. The Public Works Department has completed some internal renovations to the shop building to make the environment more workable.

Councillor Whittier noted that the salt/sand ratio is similar to past years, although the Department has altered it slightly due to Council’s request to do so. Video Industrial comes into Town each year to clear the lines, and the sand being used on the roads does not play a large part in that.

(m) Finance

Deputy Mayor Munday reported that the roof construction on the Gymnasium is completed. There were several items of dispute, which have been reviewed and are in addition to the initial quote. After a brief discussion,

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Banks that an additional sum of \$1,512, plus HST, be paid to the Gymnasium Roof Contractor for extras, that were over and beyond the original quotation.

Motion Carried

(n) Planning Advisory

(i) Orchard Street Subdivision

Deputy Mayor Munday advised that the PAC had met on January 4th. The issue of Orchard Street Subdivision was discussed. Deputy Mayor Munday reviewed the location of the subdivision, along with the option of the Town to have 5% of the acreage left open for green space, to be used for recreational purposes. Discussion centred on the two options, either land or funds, which the Town can decide to take. The Recreation Committee has been discussing the possibility of connecting all of the Town owned land to create a walking trail. After a rounded discussion,

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Whittier and seconded by Councillor Clarke to accept the amended recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee to accept cash in lieu of parkland for the Orchard Street Subdivision, as proposed on drawing #98-101-01, entitled "Orchard Hill Estates", option 2. In addition, that the street names be approved, as amended, to Gravenstein Drive, Golden Russet Avenue, and Spartan Avenue. Further, that the Subdivision concept be approved, in principle, with details of construction and phasing to be worked out in due course by subdivision agreement; under the provisions of the Town's Subdivision Bylaw.

Motion Carried

It was suggested that the Recreation Committee, or representative of the Committee, should attend Planning Advisory Committee meetings when discussion the issue of subdivisions and the land available to the Town as parkland.

(ii) Berwick Building Supplies Sign Request

Deputy Mayor Munday noted that much of the last PAC meeting dealt with the topic of bylaws, signs and the variety of signs within Town limits. All agreed that the Sign Bylaw needed to be updated. After a lengthy discussion at Planning Advisory Committee,

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Banks that upon recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee, that Council decline the request from Berwick building Supplies to erect a new projecting sign on the side of an existing stacked sign.

Deputy Mayor Munday reviewed the entire process that this issue has taken. Council entered into a lengthy discussion regarding the process as well as the existing Sign Bylaw and the option available to merchants and businesses within the Town. It was requested to have the motion re-read and to have a vote by show of hands. Councillor Whittier declared a conflict of interest and abstained from voting. **By a vote of yea – two and nay – three, the Motion was defeated.**

Mayor Prall noted that a motion was required on how Council needs to proceed on this issue. Council discussed the type of sign being requested by Berwick Building Supplies, and again reviewed the documentation provided by BBS for the request for the sign. After a rounded discussion,

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Clarke and seconded by Councillor Trinacty that Council notify Mr. Nichols of Berwick Building Supplies that he be allowed to erect the sign requested, as shown in the diagram provided, as long as it does not extend any further than shown in the illustration.

Motion Carried

(o) Electric Commission

Mayor Prall updated Council on the process of the Natural Gas issue. The Town of Berwick has applied for a distribution franchise, along with five other groups. There are, at this time, approximately 50 – 60 groups and individuals that have applied for intervenor status. A business plan is being developed. Several meetings have been held with local groups and businesses to determine the interest level. The Town has not yet committed itself and has until January 29th to submit the business plan. After further discussion,

IT WAS MOVED by Mayor Prall and seconded by Councillor Clarke, upon recommendation of the Berwick Electric Commission, that Council allow the Superintendent to be seconded to the Town for the purpose of preparing a Gas Distribution Application; to be filed by January 29th 1999 with the Nova Scotia Utility & Review Board.

Motion Carried

5. **Correspondence**

The Town Clerk read aloud several items of correspondence, for the information of Council. All other correspondence received was of a routine nature or passed on to Committees for action.

6. **Bills and Accounts**

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Whittier that Bills and Accounts for the month of December 1998 be approved in the amount of \$175,544.66.

Motion Carried

7. **New Business**

(a) **Intersection at Commercial and Main Streets**

It was reported that a new crossing light has been installed at the intersection of Commercial and Main Streets, in order to make the crosswalks at that intersection more visible to motorists.

Council took a short break at 9:30 p.m.

8. **Committee-of-the-Whole**

Council reconvened and went into Committee-of-the-Whole at 9:35 p.m. to discuss matters of a confidential nature. Regular Council reconvened again at 10:15 p.m.

9. Hearing of no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:16 p.m.

John P. Prall
Chairman

Rachel L. Jones
Recording Secretary