

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**  
**13 JULY 1999**

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

Absent:                       Councillor Donald E. Clarke

In attendance               Mr. Andy Paterson, Kings Transit Authority  
                                  Mr. Ron Reeves, KTA Representative  
                                  Ms. Arlene Lively, Register  
                                  Mr. Bob Stewart, Town Solicitor

1.   The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.
2.   **Approval of Agenda**  
      Mr. Ramsay requested the addition of two items under New Business: (1) Recommendation from Berwick Electric; and (2) Taxi License Request. The agenda was approved as amended.
3.   **Approval of Previous Minutes**  
      Hearing of no errors or omissions the Chairman approved the previous Council minutes as circulated for the following dates:  
          Regular Council               8 June 1999  
          Special Council               23 June 1999  
          Special Council               29 June 1999
4.   **Kings Transit Authority Presentation - Mr. Ron Reeves and Mr. Andy Paterson**

Mr. Paterson reviewed the Kings Transit Authority Annual Report for the fiscal year of 1998-1999 for the information of Council. Also reviewed was a chart noting historical fares and operational data. A brief discussion followed with Council. Mr. Paterson also advised Council that the KTA has moved to a new location, that being the old train station in Kentville. The Board is anticipating that it will take approximately two years to see final results in relation to working with Acadia Bus Lines. Mayor Prall thanked Mr. Reeves and Mr. Paterson for their presentation and they left the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

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Council took a short break at 7:25 p.m. in order for the Licensing and Bylaw Committee to hold a short meeting. Regular Council reconvened at 7:32 p.m.

**5. Business Arising**

Any Business Arising topics will likely be covered under Committee Reports.

**6. Committee Reports**

(a) Licensing & Bylaws

Councillor Morse reported that a letter had been received from Star Taxi requesting a renewal of its Taxi License for all three vehicles.

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Morse and seconded by Councillor Whittier to accept the request from Star Taxi to renew its license for all three vehicles.**

**Motion Carried**

(b) Future Development

Councillor Morse advised that the Committee met on June 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss the direction and review the purpose of the Committee.

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Morse and seconded by Councillor Banks that the Berwick Future Development Committee be re-established as an independent community based group, with invited Council representation.**

**Motion Carried**

It was also decided that there would be a new Chairman elected as well as a limit of two Councillors to sit on the Committee. To re-establish the Committee in such a way will better enable the group to access funding from groups such as the Kings CED Agency.

(c) Tree Committee

Councillor Banks reported that the Tree Committee is planning the first Arbour Day to be held October 16<sup>th</sup>. The next scheduled meeting to continue planning for Arbour Day is scheduled for July 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Regan is working on setting a standard for the Town for tree work near power lines, as the Province does not have a standard in place.

(d) Recreation

Councillor Banks noted that at the last Recreation Committee meeting the summer staff was present to introduce themselves, meet the Committee, and talk about their duties for the summer. Approximately a month has passed since the Visitor Information Centre moved to the Museum building. Signs

are being adjusted for the VIC for better visibility. Things are going well although there are several issues that need to be addressed. Councillor Banks will contact Mr. Eaton from the Apple Capital Museum Society to discuss the joint venture. The playgrounds have been inspected, with recommendations made by the inspector. New swings and tot seats have been ordered.

(e) Personnel

Councillor Trinacty reported that a Hiring Policy has been approved by the Committee. It requires minor adjustments and will be brought forward for Council's consideration at the next Council meeting. The Public Works Department is considering changes to its Foreman and STP Operator positions. After a brief discussion,

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Trinacty and seconded by Councillor Banks to approve the changes in the terms of references for the Foreman, STP Operator, and two labourers' positions as presented.**

**Motion Carried**

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Trinacty and seconded by Councillor Whittier to proceed as soon as possible to place an advertisement to fill the vacant position in the Public Works Department and establish a Hiring Committee.**

**Motion Carried**

After a brief discussion regarding the new rates for employee medical and dental plan premiums,

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Trinacty and seconded by Deputy Mayor Munday that the Town of Berwick renew the medical and dental insurance with the UNSM as per the rates outlined.**

**Motion Carried**

Councillor Trinacty discussed a memo regarding a wage rate increase for the Parks and Maintenance employee. After a short discussion,

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Trinacty and seconded by Councillor Banks to approved the wage rate adjustment for the Parks and Maintenance position by 2% per hour, from \$9/hour to \$9.18/hour, retroactive to May 3, 1999.**

**Motion Carried**

Councillor Trinacty also reported that many policies and benefits are being reviewed for all employees. The Personnel Committee hopes to bring these policies forward at the next Council meeting for consideration.

(f) Public Works

Councillor Whittier reported that the grading of East Main Street (to Foster Street) will begin over the next few days. The Department has been very busy with the renovations at the Police Station in preparation for the RCMP take-over of policing services. A contractor has been hired for some of the work.

(g) Finance

Deputy Mayor Munday reported that the Town had met with the auditors on two separate occasions. KPMG has submitted their report to the Town and Deputy Mayor Munday quickly reviewed it for the benefit of Council.

**IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded  
by Councillor Morse to adopt the Financial Statements as  
presented by KPMG for the fiscal year of 1998/99.**

**Motion Carried**

(h) Planning Advisory Committee

Deputy Mayor Munday noted that the last PAC meeting was for information purposes only. A developer presented a proposal for a subdivision and no zoning changes are needed as it stands now.

(i) Berwick Electric Commission

Mayor Prall reported that the Electric Commission has applied to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board to adopt a policy along with NSPI and MTT regarding the installation of poles in new subdivisions. This policy would require the developer to pay for the installation of the poles, whereas the Town is alternating paying for the poles with MTT. There is a payback schedule for the developer over ten years to help recover costs. Therefore,

**IT WAS MOVED by Mayor Prall and seconded by Deputy  
Mayor Munday to approve an application to the Nova  
Scotia Utility and Review Board for a revised Schedule of  
Rules and Regulations for its electric utility and the  
submission to the Board of a petition for that purpose.**

**Motion Carried**

Mayor Prall also noted that the Commission is considering adopting a policy where certain rental properties are to have the electric bill costs included in the rent and the bill remains in the landlord's name at all times, to help reduce the amount of delinquent accounts.

(j) Police

Mayor Prall informed Council that the tentative date for policing service turn over to the RCMP has now been moved to August 1<sup>st</sup> due to the time required for renovations to the Community Office and paperwork to be completed for the pension plans. A special thank you to the Seniors Centre and all of its participants for giving up their quarters during the construction. It has certainly helped the process.

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 June 1999 be approved in the amount of \$124,477.03.**

**Motion Carried**

8. New Business

(a) Polling District

Mr. Ramsay reviewed the report for the benefit of Council. It was suggested that the last part of the first question on the survey should have "If more" deleted to simply read "Why?". After further discussion,

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Morse and seconded by Councillor Trinacty to accept the Polling District Report and implement the survey, as amended.**

**Motion Carried**

(b) Traffic Authority Report

Mr. Ramsay reviewed his report for Council. After a brief discussion,

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Whittier and seconded by Deputy Mayor Munday that Corporal Michael Richard Payne, RCMP, as the local Traffic Authority for the Town of Berwick, upon change of service from the Berwick Police Department to that of the RCMP.**

**Motion Carried**

9. **Any Other Business**

(a) **Peat Bog Fire**

Councillor Morse reported that he and Councillor Clarke were at the Fire Hall on Wednesday evening after the fire broke out at the Peat Bog. The efforts of the firefighters and volunteers were very impressive. Perhaps Council should consider ideas on how to thank the Fire Department and the volunteers for their hard work.

Council took a short break at 8:33 p.m.

10. **Committee-of-the-Whole**

Council went into Committee-of-the-Whole at 8:39 p.m. to discuss matters of a confidential nature. Regular Council reconvened at 9:24 p.m.

11. **Summer Break**

**IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded  
by Councillor Whittier that Regular Council and Regular  
Committees not meet during the month of August unless  
special circumstances arise, which warrant a meeting.**

**Motion Carried**

12. Hearing of no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

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John P. Prall  
Chairman

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Rachel L. Jones  
Recording Secretary