

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**13 APRIL 1999**

Present:           Chairman     Mayor John P. Prall  
  Deputy Mayor Michael J. Munday  
  Councillor Gary W. Whittier  
  Councillor Michael E. Trinacty  
  Councillor Donald E. Clarke  
  Councillor Thomas S. Banks (arrived 8:30 p.m.)  
  Mr. Rick Ramsay, Acting Town Clerk  
  Ms. Rachel Jones, Recording Secretary

Absent:                           Councillor Bruce H. Morse

In attendance:                 Mr. Don Regan, Berwick Electric Superintendent  
  Mr. Bob Stewart, Town Solicitor  
  Ms. Sarah Keddy, Register

1.    The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:09

2.    **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Ramsay requested several additions to the agenda under New Business: (d) PAC Rezoning Motion; (e) VSWA Inter Municipal Agreement; and (f) Temporary Borrowing Resolution for STP. Mayor Prall requested an addition under Business Arising, (a) Natural Gas Update, and an addition under Correspondence, (e) Bentley School. Ms. Jones noted that the first item under Correspondence has been omitted from this evening's meeting, to be brought forward at a later date.

3.    **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Hearing of no errors or omissions the Chairman approved the minutes of the previous Council meeting held 9 March 1999, as circulated.

4.    **Business Arising**

(a)   **Natural Gas Hearings**

Mr. Regan updated Council on the Natural Gas Hearings currently being held in Halifax. Today witnessed the presentation of evidence by the Town of Annapolis Royal. Mr. Regan expressed his disagreement with a statement made at the hearings, which questioned the degree of commitment by the municipal units applying for a franchise. The Municipal Finance Corporation has taken the application seriously enough to approve financing for the Town. Mayor Prall noted that there had been a meeting between Town, the Municipal Finance Corporation and the Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs. Municipal Affairs has not made any decisions yet regarding this issue. It was noted that an award of a franchise must be conditional upon the decision from the Department of Municipal Affairs regarding the allowable debt ratio. Cost examinations are to validate the application. After a brief discussion,

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Clarke and seconded by Councillor Trinacty that the Town make formal application for a full distribution class gas franchise, with acceptance conditional upon the approval of Council.**

**Motion Carried**

Discussion followed regarding the process of the hearings, the testimony of the Town, and the additional 1-800 number costs that have been proposed.

**IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Clarke that the Town of Berwick not participate in the additional cost of a 1-800 information line regarding the Natural Gas Hearings.**

**Motion Carried**

Mr. Regan left the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

## **5. Committee Reports**

(a) Fire

Councillor Clarke reported that there had been no Fire Department meeting in April. Mayor Prall noted that the Fire Commission/Fire Department would need to meet to discuss the budget process. Councillor Clarke agreed to arrange that in the near future.

(b) EMO

Councillor Clarke noted that the EMO Committee was scheduled to meet yesterday but was postponed after discussing the progress with Mr. Palmer.

(c) VSWA

Councillor Clarke reported that the Valley Solid Waste Authority met on March 25<sup>th</sup> to award the collection contract to G.E.'s All Trucking of Bridgewater. The details of collection are yet to be finalized but at the moment it appears that pickup will be every two weeks with each household allowed four bags of residual garbage, four bags of recyclables and a compost cart at that time. The educational component is in full swing, gearing for a July 5<sup>th</sup> start up with the new system. Information is going out to residents in the mail. There will be an information session for Councillors at the Kings County Council Chambers on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

(d) Personnel

Councillor Trinacty updated Council on the discussion of a possible new position dealing with Bylaw Enforcement. The time requirements seem to be different than originally anticipated. Further discussions on this position are on hold pending the

outcome of Mr. Ramsay's needs assessment as well as the Town's negotiations with the RCMP.

Also being considered is a reorganization of some of the job descriptions in the Public Works Department. Mr. Gould is working on that issue.

Councillor Trinacty noted that the Planning Advisory Committee had received a resignation from Ms. Suzanne Atkinson, due to changing job locations. An advertisement will be in the Register tomorrow noting the vacancy and asking for applications from residents. Application forms are available at the Town Office.

(e) Public Works

Councillor Whittier reported that the new Fuzzy Filter system has been in operation since April 5<sup>th</sup> and seems to be working well. As with any new construction, there are minor repairs being done to clean up the site. Mayor Prall noted that the Board of Trade would like to set up a tour of the new facility, including their members, the press, Councillors, etc. for May 27<sup>th</sup>. The details will be confirmed at a later date.

(f) Tourism Subcommittee

Councillor Whittier was pleased to report that the sign for Visitor Information to be put at Preston Ilesley's store is almost ready. There will be a small addition to hook on the bottom of the sign that will read "Ahead 1 km" when the official Tourist Bureau is open during the season. Councillor Trinacty noted his concern with having the store's staff properly trained to deal with public inquiries before the sign is in place. It was agreed to approach Councillor Banks to determine what training had been done to date.

(g) Planning Advisory Committee

Deputy Mayor Munday noted that the application for rezoning on Orchard Street would be dealt with later this evening under New Business. The details of the new subdivision being proposed by Mrs. Karla Surette continue to be finalized between Mrs. Surette and Mr. Warden. The zoning and permitted uses of the former Fitzgerald property are being looked into so that the property may be used as a tree nursery for the Town. The seasonal signs have not proceeded, although the Deputy Mayor is attempting to contact the Berwick Inn to solicit interest in participating in the sign.

(h) Finance

Deputy Mayor Munday reported that the Budget process is underway, with year-end figures not entirely encouraging. Requests have been received regarding Police Commission honorariums and for a consultant to assist in getting the computer system up and running. The funding contribution for the Kings CED Agency has been deferred to the Budget process. As well, the Recreation Department is investigating the possible purchase of the lawn tractor used for Parks and Maintenance.

Councillor Trinacty requested an update on the computer situation. Mr. Ramsay reported that Mr. Mike Rueff is currently working in the Town Office and has the majority of hardware problems sorted out. There was a meeting of all of the municipal units here in Nova Scotia who have purchased the Procom Data software, to compile the mutual problems that are being experienced in an attempt to organize the priorities to present to Procom Data.

(i) Berwick Electric Commission

Mayor Prall noted that the main issue of concern for the Electric Commission is the Natural Gas hearings.

(j) Police Commission

The most recent Police Commission meeting was routine, with no further notification from the Solicitor General to allow for further meetings of the Working Committee. The initial process to gather information for the absorption process has begun although there has been no official word.

(k) Tree

Councillor Banks noted that the next Tree Committee meeting is now scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

(l) Recreation

Councillor Banks responded to questions regarding the sign for the new Visitor Information location during the off season. He agreed that the training of the staff should be completed prior to the sign being in place and will confirm this with the Recreation Director. The Committee is in the process of mapping walking routes throughout the Town.

The Volunteer Reception for all of the Berwick and District volunteers is being held April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Gymnasium. As well, the Director will be approaching the Apple Capital Museum Society for assistance in designing and constructing a float for the Apple Blossom Festival. Candidates are being sought for the Town's Apple Blossom Princess. Councillor Trinacty inquired about the Booster Club contribution and explained the concept that operated several years ago, how the Town approached local businesses to raise funds for this cause. Councillor Banks will look into reinstating this process.

**6. Correspondence**

Received a letter and funding proposal from Mrs. Stephanie Vogler, Coordinator, Alternative Transportation Services, informing Council of the group's mandate and to request an opportunity to present to Council a request for funding. This group is a registered non-profit charitable organization established to serve the transportation needs of people with disabilities living in Kings County. This is done by teaming up

- volunteer drivers with the disabled to help them get to work, medical, and recreational appointments. Council agreed to defer the request to Finance for the Budget process, and requested that the funding proposal be circulated to Councillors.
- (b) Received a letter from Warden Ray Leslie, Municipality of the County of Kings, seeking the Town's cooperation as a result of the recent announcement of the Valley Waste-Resource Management relating to the selection of G.E.'s All Trucking to collect refuse throughout the region. As a result of this decision, a total of 17 employees of the County will be directly affected. Warden Leslie has asked for the support of the Town of Berwick by keeping in mind any of the County's employees if job opportunities become available in the Town. For the information of Council.
  - (c) Received the program brochure for the UNSM Annual Spring Workshop, April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 1999. Deadline for registration is April 22<sup>nd</sup>. For the information of Council.
  - (d) Received from Mr. Ken Pineo, a note thanking the Mayor, Council and staff for the fruit basket delivered to him after his surgery.
  - (e) Received a letter and certificate from the Bentley School in Alberta, along with pictures and pins to be circulated to Council, thanking the Mayor for his participation in their special event.

7. **Bills and Accounts**

- (a)

**IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Clarke that the remainder of Bills and Accounts for the month of February 1999 not shown on last month's report be approved in the amount of \$14,646.69.**

**Motion Carried**
- (b)

**IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Whittier that the Bills and Accounts for the month of March 1999 be approved in the amount of \$367,484.46.**

**Motion Carried**

8. **New Business**

(Councillor Banks arrived at 8:30 p.m.)

- (a) **Proposed Bylaw – Tax Exemption and Reduction**

Mr. Ramsay reviewed the report on the proposed Tax Exemption and Reduction Bylaw (see copy attached). Mr. Ramsay noted that with the new Municipal Government Act only two readings of the Bylaw are required, with the second reading being possible for May Council.

**IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Trinacty to make notice of motion of a bylaw to be known as the Tax Exemption and Reduction Bylaw, to include the listing of the Apple Capital Society under the listing of Schedule B.**

**IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Trinacty to amend the previous motion to include the listing of the Apple Capital Society under the listing of Schedule A.**

**A vote was taken on the amendment.**

**Motion Carried**

**A vote was taken on the amended motion.**

**Motion Carried**

(b) Proposed Remuneration Policy for Council

Mr. Ramsay reviewed the report on the Proposed Remuneration Policy for elected officials and committee members. The report is presented to Council for discussion and consideration to be placed upon the May Council agenda for approval, since the Municipal Government Act requires seven-day notice to Council for any policy adoption.

After discussion, all agreed the only changes to the proposal would be to remove the words "with prior approval of Town Council" from Item #8, and the addition of an Item 9 regarding review of the policy, to be determined at the May Personnel Committee meeting to be brought forward at May Council.

Therefore,

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Whittier and seconded by Councillor Banks to accept the Remuneration and Expenses of Council, Committees, Boards and Agencies Policy as amended.**

**Motion Carried**

(c) Employee Home Computer Purchase Plan

Mr. Ramsay reviewed the purpose of the report, to encourage employees and managers to participate in the plan to increase the knowledge of computers at each individual's own pace in their own home. The last paragraph of the first page should read "bi-weekly pay", the word Municipality to be changed to "Town", as well as the last item on the second page of the report to be stricken. Council agreed with Mr. Ramsay's recommendation to make the policy retroactive to April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1999.

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Whittier and seconded by Councillor Trinacty to accept the Home Computer Purchase Plan Policy as amended, retroactive to April 1, 1999.**

**Motion Carried**

(d) PAC Public Hearing

**IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Clarke to approve that Schedule A, the Zoning Map for the Town of Berwick be amended by rezoning lands as shown as the cross-hatched section on the Zoning Map from Residential Two-Family (R2) Zone to Residential Single Family (R1) Zone.**

**Motion Carried**

Ms. Jones will place an advertisement in the Register stating the passing of the Bylaw amendment, which also advises residents that there is a 21-day appeal period from the date of publication.

(e) Temporary Borrowing Resolution

Mr. Ramsay recommended to Council to authorize a Temporary Borrowing Resolution in the amount of \$13,000 to cover the net HST for the Sewer Treatment Plant project. In doing so, the projected deficit for the Town for the 1998/99 fiscal year will be reduced to approximately \$36,000. After discussion,

**IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Banks to approve the Temporary Borrowing Resolution to cover the net HST costs for the Sewer Treatment Plant.**

**Motion Carried**

(a) Valley Solid Waste Authority

Councillor Clarke presented the revised Inter Municipal Agreement for the Valley Solid Waste Authority, to bring the document in line with the new Municipal Government Act. After discussion it was agreed to defer this issue to May Council so that the Town's Solicitor would have an opportunity to review the document.

9. Hearing of no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:53 p.m.

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John P. Prall  
Chairman

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Rachel L. Jones  
Recording Secretary