

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**16 FEBRUARY 1999**

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

Absent:                               Councillor Michael E. Trinacty

In attendance:                       Ms. Sarah Keddy, The Register  
  Mr. Bob Stewart, Town Solicitor (arrived 7:40 p.m.)

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

2.   **Approval of Previous Minutes**

The minutes of January 12, 1999 have not yet been circulated, and will be reviewed for approval at the regular Council meeting in March.

For the information of Council, the following meetings have been held:

I.	Recreation	Jan. 13, 1999; circulated
II.	EMO Standing Committee	Jan. 18, 1999; circulated
III.	Tree Committee	Jan. 18, 1999; to be circulated
IV.	Police Working Committee	Jan. 20, 1999; circulated
V.	Recreation	Feb. 3, 1999; to be circulated
VI.	Police Working Committee	Feb. 4, 1999; circulated
VII.	Finance	Feb. 15, 1999; to be circulated

3.   **Business Arising**

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

4.   **Committee Reports**

(a)   **Licensing & Bylaws Committee**

Councillor Morse reported that the month of January's Licensing & Bylaws Committee meeting was cancelled due to the fact that the new Municipal Government Act had not been released.

(b) Berwick Future Development Committee

Councillor Morse noted that at the last scheduled meeting of the Berwick Future Development Committee meeting in January was postponed due to the limited number of members being available. The next meeting is scheduled for on February 23, 1999.

(c) 1999 Flag Day

Councillor Morse attended the 1999 Flag Day Parade and Ceremony, held in Wolfville on Sunday, February 14, 1999. It was well attended, and Councillor Morse was pleased to be able to pass on greeting on behalf of the Mayor and Town Council. Councillor Morse stated that Council, along with the Recreation Department, should lobby strongly to ensure that the event comes to Berwick next year.

(d) 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Committee

Councillor Morse reminded those Councillors who had chaired subcommittees or organized special events during the 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations to submit a short summary of the activities they were involved with. Deputy Mayor Munday has submitted his report for the New Year's Eve Gala Dance.

(e) Fire Committee

Councillor Clarke reported that he had attended the Berwick & District Volunteer Fire Department's monthly meeting in February. The members are keeping abreast of First Responders development. It appears that anyone interested can participate in the courses required to become qualified. The Province covers the insurance for this activity.

The Department forwarded to Council a list of repairs and upgrades required to the Fire Hall, put together by the Building Committee. Mayor Prall noted that a copy of the list would be circulated to Councillors.

(f) Valley Solid Waste Authority

Councillor Clarke noted that the Authority has been very busy with the construction of the Eastern Management Centre well underway. The site for the Western Management Centre is being prepared, and information for composting carts and compost handling is being collected. The program should be fully functional by the end of June 1999. There is a workshop being put on by the Authority tomorrow, which is to have a presentation come out of it for Councillors for up-to-date education.

The Town of Bridgewater has approached the Authority expressing interest in becoming a member. It is a policy of the Authority to gain approval of each of the municipal units currently in the Authority for inclusion of other municipal units. After a brief discussion,

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Clarke and seconded by Councillor Whittier that the Town of Berwick approve the inclusion of the Town of Bridgetown within the Valley Solid Waste Authority.**

**Motion Carried**

Councillor Clarke stated that by July 1<sup>st</sup> there would be updated information on how to dispose of heavy cardboard. It will probably be accepted into the new recycling bag. Box board (i.e. cereal boxes) is still allowed to go in with regular garbage.

As well, Councillor Clarke attended a recent Berwick and Area Board of Trade meeting to update the membership on the progress of the Natural Gas proceedings.

(g) Recreation Committee

Councillor Banks reported that the Apple Capital Museum Society made a presentation to the Recreation Committee and expressed great interest in the possibility of having the Tourist Bureau move its location to the ground floor of the Margeson Memorial Museum. Therefore, after brief discussion,

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Banks and seconded by Councillor Clarke that the Tourist Bureau temporarily move its location to the Margeson Memorial Museum for the 1999 season, reserving the option to move back to the current location. (Note: this is a trial move to be reassessed at the end of the tourist season).**

**Motion Carried**

The Recreation Committee would like to suggest to Council that the funds collected from the development of Orchard Hill Estates be paid to the Town in a lump sum up front, rather than over a period of time. Deputy Mayor Munday advised that the developer, Mr. Murray Saunders, would have to develop an average lot in order to get an initial assessment, and then use that number for the remaining lots to calculate the total fee owed to the Town in lieu of green space.

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Clarke and seconded by Councillor Whittier that Council accept Mr. Saunders' proposal to submit a lump sum, based on an average lot and assessment.**

**Motion Carried**

All agreed that Deputy Mayor Munday would contact Mr. Saunders in order to proceed with this plan.

(h) Tree Committee

Councillor Banks reported that the Tree Committee had a very good meeting with Mr. David Slabotsky from the Town of Wolfville. Mr. Slabotsky talked about Wolfville's tree planting program and Arbour Day. Councillor Banks is proposing to set up a small tree nursery within Town.

(i) Kings CED Agency

Councillor Banks reported that there is no additional seed funding available for this fiscal year. The Agency is attempting to complete a skills inventory of plumbers, carpenters, electricians, etc. available locally, to be put together in a listing to entice businesses and individuals to this area, as a way of advertising what there is to offer in Western Zone of Nova Scotia. The Agency will be approaching the Town at a later date for assistance in funding this project.

(j) Public Works

Councillor Whittier noted that this has been the best year for the snow removal budget in years! The Sewer Treatment Plant upgrade is well under way with the construction of the buildings completed.

(k) Finance

Deputy Mayor Munday noted that the invoices for the work on the STP are beginning to come in. Without taking those costs into consideration, the Town's Budget is in a reasonably good position for this time of year.

(i) Temporary Borrowing Resolution

The Town needs to renew its Temporary Borrowing Resolution for next year. After a brief discussion,

**IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Banks that Council renew the Temporary Borrowing Resolution with the Royal Bank of Canada in the amount of \$400,000 for the fiscal year 1999/2000.**

**Motion Carried**

Also looking to the Municipal Finance Corporation regarding Debenture funding for financing the Sewer Treatment Plant upgrades and other capital projects.

(ii) Valley Solid Waste Authority

The Valley Solid Waste Authority has tentatively determined its budget at \$5,632,422 for the next fiscal year. As partners to the Authority, the Town must approve their borrowing. Of their budget, The Town of Berwick's share is 2.72%, or \$249,959. Therefore,

**IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Clarke to approve the consolidated debt of the Valley Solid Waste Authority in the amount of \$5,632,422.**

**Motion Carried**

**IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Whittier to approve the Town of Berwick's share of the Valley Solid Waste Authority's borrowing, in the amount of \$249,959; in two stages, the first being May 1, 1999 and the second beginning November 1, 1999. This is a ten-year debenture.**

**Motion Carried**

(iii) Request from Curling Club

The Berwick Curling Club is hosting the Lotta Truck Provincial Mixed Curling Championships in March and has approached the Town for sponsorship to assist in advertising and promotion. After a brief discussion,

**IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Banks to donate \$300 to the Berwick Curling Club for advertising of the Lotta Truck Provincial Mixed Curling Championships.**

**Motion Carried**

(iv) Henson College

Material has been circulating from Henson College regarding municipal courses for grass roots democracy, etc. An endowment fund has been set up to help defray the costs of conferences. The fund has reached its goal and can begin to be used. Henson College has asked for a donation to help maintain the fund. Finance Committee has deferred this request to be considered in the 1999/2000 Budget. The Clerk asked for thoughts on how the fund's mandate can be best used and how it can help. Please forward any information to the Administrative Secretary to be forwarded to Henson College.

(v) Audit Process/Long Term Planning

Tenders will be sent out over the next month to retain an auditor for year-end. The current auditors are aware of this process. As well, all Town Departments have been asked to look at long range planning for the next three to five years, along with debt service program. Priorities and goals need to be set.

(l) Police Commission

Deputy Mayor Munday (acting as Chairman in Mayor Prall's absence) reported that the Working Committee with the RCMP has met twice. The RCMP provided a Draft Proposal and there has been very good discussion from both parties regarding the Proposal. The Working Committee will be meeting (excluding the RCMP members) to fine tune the Draft prior to meeting with the RCMP members again.

(m) Mayor's Report

Mayor Prall reported on several items. Mrs. Mitchell is out of the office for an extended period, which has raised several questions. Mr. Kevin Whitehouse at the Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs has been contacted and has provided some suggestions. Issues are being dealt with and hope to get some assistance in the Clerk's office in the very near future.

The next Mayors/Warden/CAO meeting is scheduled for 2 March 1999, with Berwick hosting at the Old Orchard Inn in Wolfville.

Mayor Prall would like to have articles from each of the Councillors by the next Council meeting so that the next newsletter can be produced and distributed in early spring.

MacKenzie, Morse and Brewster, along with the Royal Bank and the Board of Trade are hosting a breakfast on Thursday morning to present the Federal Budget. Mayor Prall and Mr. Roger Ryan, Town Accountant, are attending on behalf of the Town.

Mayor Prall asked that in the absence of the Clerk, to check with the Administrative Secretary to coordinate meetings to help the schedule run smoothly.

5. **Correspondence**

- (a) A letter was received from Mr. Ted Nicholson, of the Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom Festival, thanking the Town for its support of the Festival through the Booster contribution. The letter also advised the Town that the contribution for 1999 remains the same at \$1,100. Mr. Nicholson and Mr. Claude O'Hara, Vice President, have requested an opportunity to meet with Council to answer any questions Council may have. Councillor Whittier suggested that Council meet with them, as there has been talk of withdrawing the Town's participation in the Apple Blossom Festival Princess and Parade. A request will be made for them to attend March Council meeting.

The Recording Secretary 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 Banks that the Bills and Accounts for the month of January 1999 be approved in the amount of \$300,203.37.**

**Motion Carried**

7. **New Business**

- (a) **Parliamentary Procedures Workshop**

Mayor Prall noted that a workshop dealing with Roberts Rules of Parliamentary Procedure is being held in Halifax on March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. It is a very good workshop and if anyone is interested in attending please notify Mayor Prall.

(b) Speed Ridges at Commercial and Main Street

Councillor Banks reported that he is waiting to hear from the company with the machinery that makes the ridges in the runways at CFB Greenwood, to know when they will be in the area.

Council took a short break at 8:20 p.m. and reconvened at 8:23 p.m.

8. Committee-of-the-Whole

Council went into Committee-of-the-Whole at 8:23 p.m. to discuss matters of a confidential nature. Regular Council reconvened at 9:02 p.m.

9. Any Other Business

(a) Interim Town Clerk/Treasurer

**IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Whittier that the Town of Berwick enter into a contract to hire Mr. Richard G. Ramsay, through Richard G. Ramsay Management Consultants Inc. as interim Town Clerk/Treasurer and Development Officer based on the proposal submitted; and to do a needs assessment of the administrative structure; to begin February 22, 1999 for a period of six weeks ending April 2, 1999.**

**Motion Carried**

(b) Atlantic Theatre Festival

Councillor Whittier raised the fact that the Atlantic Theatre Festival is having financial difficulties and is attempting to raise enough funds to ensure its survival. Is the Town in a position to consider a donation? Although the Festival is in Wolfville, it does bring a lot of business and tourism to the Valley area. After a general discussion it was decided that the decision to donate funds to the Festival would be deferred for consideration at Budget time.

10. Hearing of no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.