

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
24 FEBRUARY 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
 Mr. Rick Ramsay, Interim Town Clerk
 Ms. Rachel Jones, Recording Secretary

In attendance: Mr. Ron Reeves

1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m. and welcomed Mr. Reeves to the meeting

2. **Kings Transit Authority Presentation - Mr. Ron Reeves**

Mr. Reeves distributed a handout and reported to Council that as of April 1st, 1999, the Kings Transit Authority stops operating as it has been and begins operating as an autonomous group (see copy of handout attached). It will then be responsible to its partners, those being the four municipal units of Kings County. Mr. Reeves reviewed the Intermunicipal Services Agreement and the Budget, stating that members of the Authority shall be appointed by each municipal unit for the period of one year, beginning December 1st to the following November 30th. For continuity, an alternative representative should be selected in case the original representative is unable to attend meetings.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the new set up for the Kings Transit Authority, with Councillors seeking clarification on several aspects, such as legal responsibility, ridership, voting rights, etc. Deputy Mayor Munday asked Mr. Reeves to verify a clause in the Agreement that better defines how the Authority deals with a surplus or deficit at the end of a fiscal year.

Hearing of no further questions, Mayor Prall thanked Mr. Reeves for attending this evening's meeting and providing the report. Mr. Reeves left the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

After a brief discussion,

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Banks to approve the Intermunicipal Agreement for the Kings Transit Authority for April 1, 1999, to include a clause regarding the sharing of a surplus or deficit among the municipal units, as discussed with Mr. Reeves.

Motion Carried

**IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Banks to approve the Kings Transit Authority Budget of \$460,400, with the Town of Berwick's share of 5% being \$8,500.
Motion Carried**

3. RCMP Policing Services

Deputy Mayor Munday reported to Council that the Police Commission Working Committee, including members of the RCMP, have been meeting regularly. A Draft Proposal has been produced by the RCMP, reviewing the policing service already in place as well as the options that could be provided by the RCMP as interpreted from the information gathered from the Working Committee and community.

In order to investigate the options further, a letter must be sent to the Provincial Minister of Justice, asking for approval to continue. If Council agrees to send this letter, this does not finalize the decision to have the RCMP take over policing services for the Town of Berwick. Council can back away from the negotiations at any time, but cannot proceed further without approval from the Minister.

Mayor Prall noted that he had spoken with Chief DeWolfe regarding the Bylaw issue, and the need to have a position dealing with this issue. Several other responsibilities could be included in this position, such as EMO, Occupational Health & Safety, Fire Inspection, etc. Further discussion and research into qualifications and time requirements needs to be done to better define this possible position. Therefore,

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Whittier and seconded by Councillor Morse that Council send a letter to the Minister of Justice requesting approval to proceed with further investigation of the RCMP Proposal.

Motion Carried

Council proceeded with further discussion of the Draft Proposal, regarding the renovations required to house a community policing station and the costs involved, along with the projected costs of municipal policing versus the RCMP contract cost.

4. 1999/2000 Budget Program - Mr. Rick Ramsay

Mr. Ramsay noted that the preparation of an operating and capital budget is the most key action that Council can participate in. It not only determines finances but also sets a plan of action for the Town for the coming year. Mr. Ramsey outlined the plan prepared to complete the Town Budget. It includes all of the Departments providing a draft budget based on the knowledge of their individual budgets at the present time. After this has been submitted to the Town Clerk, a meeting will be held with the Department Heads; the Clerk and the Accountant will then develop a first draft of the Budget. Once Department

Heads, the Clerk and the Accountant are comfortable with the draft, it can be brought to Council to be discussed in public. Once everyone is satisfied a final meeting will be held to approve the final draft. The timeline for final approval is tentatively set for March 31st.

In addition to this, a reporting system will be developed through the Clerk's office to report to Council on a regular basis so that all Councillors know where the budget stands throughout the year. A brief discussion followed regarding the timelines set and the involvement of the staff and other commitments in the Administration Office. All agreed that this process should proceed, therefore,

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Whittier that Council adopt the budget process as proposed by Mr. Ramsay, to begin immediately.

Motion Carried

5. Tender for Auditors

Deputy Mayor Munday noted that at the most recent Finance Committee meeting, it was suggested that tenders be sent out to obtain an auditor for the Town. Mr. Ramsay advised that this process would take at least six to eight weeks to complete. Looking at the various commitments and other tasks being undertaken at this time, Mr. Ramsay advised that it might not be good timing to begin the search for an auditor. He suggested that the Administration Office contact the interested accounting firms to notify them that the issue will be deferred for this year due to time limits and other commitments.

All agreed that a letter would be sent out indicating the Town's position.

6. Hearing of no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

John P. Prall
Chairman

Rachel L. Jones
Recording Secretary