

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
9 MAY 2000

Present: Chairman Mayor John P. Prall
 Deputy Mayor Michael J. Munday
 Councillor Michael E. Trinacty
 Councillor Donald E. Clarke
 Councillor Thomas S. Banks
 Councillor Bruce H. Morse
 Ms. Linda Parker, Acting Town Clerk
 Mrs. Rachel Turner, Recording Secretary

Absent: Councillor Gary W. Whittier

In attendance: Ms. Sara Keddy, Register
 Mr. Bob Stewart, Town Solicitor

1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

One item from the 36 Canadian Brigade Group was added under Correspondence. Hearing of no other additions,

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Banks and seconded by
Councillor Clarke to approve the Agenda as amended.**

Motion Carried

3. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Hearing of no errors or omissions the Chairman approved the previous Council minutes from 19 April 2000 as circulated.

4. **Recommendations from Committee of the Whole**

a. **Larsen Packers Easement Agreement**

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Clarke and seconded by
Councillor Banks that the Mayor and Acting Town Clerk be
authorized to sign the Easement Agreement with Larsen Packers.**

Ms. Parker noted that a letter had been received from the Town's Solicitor stating that he saw no legal reasons to prevent the Town from signing the Agreement. Councillor Trinacty voiced his concern regarding the fact that a sewer agreement was still not signed between the Town and Larsen's, however they were pressing to have the Easement Agreement in place as soon as possible. Mayor Prall addressed these concerns, noting that the Town has already taken measures to ensure that the Town's concerns have been addressed, and that the Municipal Government Act provides for further guidelines for sewer operations. All agreed that an agreement should be in

place, however it would not affect the Easement Agreement. Ms. Parker noted that there were other outstanding issues with the Larsen property that could be resolved at the same time as the sewer agreement.

Motion Carried

b. Meadowview Landfill Site Closure Costs

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Morse that the Town's share of the closure and post closure costs for the Meadowview Landfill Site be included in the approved three-year capital budget for 2000-2003 to be funded as set out in the budget; and that due to the borrowing requirement being too onerous for the Town, a request be forwarded to the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, on an exception basis, to approve a borrowing term of ten (10) years in accordance with Section 3150 of MARM.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the Town's requirement to pay the closure costs associated with the Landfill site, as determined by other parties. The suggestion was made that the Town's portion of the funding be given as a grant, with the amount being reviewed each year as the portion may change depending if the project is under or over budget. The question arose as to when the Town began using the Landfill after its opening, and if the Town's funding should be prorated for this. Ms. Parker noted that the information regarding the capacity of the Landfill site when Berwick started using it is not known and that information is not available.

Motion Defeated

Further discussion followed, with Ms. Parker clarifying the issue that the funding for this project, whether the money is given as requested or as a grant year by year, must be properly arranged through the Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs. The issue is not what will be paid, but to put the funding mechanisms in place. Therefore,

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Trinacty and seconded by Councillor Banks that due to the potential cost of the Meadowview Landfill Site, that the borrowing requirement being too onerous for the Town, a request be forwarded to the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, on an exception basis, to approve a borrowing term of ten (10) years in accordance with Section 3150 of MARM; and that those potential costs be included in the Capital Budget for 2000-2003.

Motion Carried

c. Grants to Organizations

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Banks and seconded by Councillor Clarke to approve the policy statement that the Town of Berwick will consider, within the financial capacity of the Town, requests for financial assistance from local organizations that supplement the provision of municipal services.

A short discussion took place regarding the possibility of the Town becoming inundated for financial assistance requests, and that the majority of such requests should be going to community organizations instead.

Motion Carried

d. Minor Ball Association

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and seconded by Councillor Banks to allow the Minor Ball Association the use of the electrical building not in current use, as a canteen in Rainforth Park. The building is to remain the property of the Town of Berwick.

Motion Carried

e. Health Care Resolution

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Banks and seconded by Deputy Mayor Munday to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Federal Government has included an amount of 2.5 Billion Dollars for health care and education over the next four years in the 2000 budget;

WHEREAS this amount is insufficient for either health care or education;

WHEREAS the Federal Government has unprecedented surplus revenue;

WHEREAS the Provincial Health Ministers state that \$10,000,000,000 is required to restore health care to a reasonable level;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Berwick petition the Federal Government for a substantial increase in the transfer payment for health care;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Federal Government do what it has to do to ensure universal health care in Canada.

Motion Carried

5. Recommendations from Other Committees

a. Police Services Advisory Committee

Councillor Trinacty reported that at the last meeting of the Committee, it was agreed that a bicycle lane would be investigated for installation on Commercial Street, with the exclusion of the main business core between Cottage and Union Streets. The purpose is to allow for safer cycling, as well as to promote a friendly bicycle atmosphere and to promote education. This issue will be referred to the Public Works Department and the Traffic Authority for a report to be brought to the May Committee of the Whole meeting.

6. Preliminary Voter's List

Deputy Mayor Munday declared a conflict of interest with this issue and left the meeting for the duration of the conversation. Ms. Parker reviewed her report that was distributed at the meeting which outlined the possible options of preparing a preliminary voter's list for the municipal election being held in October 2000.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Morse and Councillor Banks to approve the use of the Provincial List of Electors from the provincial election held in July 1999 for the preparation of the preliminary list of electors for the municipal and school board elections to be held on October 21, 2000; and to approve the hiring of Mrs. Sheila Munday and Mrs. Gail Murray to prepare the preliminary list of electors by July 31, 2000; record all revisions identified during the revision period from July 31, 2000 to August 15, 2000 and prepare the final list of electors to be used on ordinary polling day on October 21, 2000 at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.

A brief discussion followed regarding the use of the provincial list versus the federal list, and that the provincial list has similar polling districts to what is required for the municipal election, which will more easily facilitate the production of an accurate list for the Town of Berwick.

Motion Carried

Deputy Mayor Munday returned to the meeting.

7. **Visitor Information Centre**

Ms. Parker reviewed the report on the ETTA Agreement of Undertaking for the benefit of Council. Mayor Prall noted that a meeting that was held with representatives from the Museum and Town regarding the shared space and staffing which went very well.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Clarke and seconded by Councillor Banks that the Agreement of Undertaking with ETTA be signed by the Town of Berwick as soon as possible.

A discussion followed to clarify the details of the agreement and the Town's responsibility. It was also noted that it is not mandatory for municipal units to be paying members of ETTA, although all are eligible to receive funding. Staff was instructed to research this further.

Motion Carried

8. **Correspondence**

- a. A copy of a letter was received by the Town of Parrsboro to the Minister of Education, the Honourable Jane Purves, noting the Town's concern regarding the announced cuts to the education funding in Nova Scotia's 2000/2001 fiscal budget. The letter also included a copy of a resolution regarding this issue which was passed by the Parrsboro Town Council. It was agreed to circulate the resolution with the May Committee of the Whole Agenda Package for consideration.
- b. A fax was received from the 36 Canadian Brigade Group, detailing an upcoming military training exercise. The event will take place from the 19th to the 22nd of May in Windsor, Kentville, and Berwick. The purpose of the notification is to inform the Town that there will be vehicles and personnel moving through the Town during the noted times, and to provide a contact list for additional information if required. For the information of Council. A copy of the correspondence will be forwarded to the Berwick RCMP office.

9. Hearing of no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

John P. Prall
Chairman

Rachel L. Turner
Recording Secretary