

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
17 JANUARY 2001

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

1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and noted that, due to the furnace malfunction at the Town Hall, the meeting was taking place at the Mayor's residence.

2. **Canada Nova Scotia Infrastructure Program**

Ms. Parker reviewed the report (copy filed with minutes), noting that the Town's application for infrastructure funding has been submitted to meet the deadline of January 15th set by the Province. Council is required to ratify the application with a motion. It was also noted that the list of projects that were submitted can be changed or added to, however, to be considered for the first round of funding it was in the best interests of the Town to have an initial application submitted. The projects that are on the list are there due to the Town's debt service ratio, and there are some projects that may not require funding from the Town. The Province strives to ensure an equitable distribution of funds to all municipalities.

A discussion of the attached street inventory followed, noting that some of the streets listed should be higher on the priority list of repair and improvement, specifically Union Street west, Main Street in full, and the upper part of Daniel Drive. Therefore,

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Trinacty and seconded by
Councillor Banks to approve the projects included in the Town's
application under the Canada Nova Scotia Infrastructure
Program.**

Motion Carried

3. **EMO Plan/Audit**

Ms. Parker reported that the Western Zone Controller for EMONS, Mr. Keith Crosland audited the Town's EMO Plan, and the plan's rating has fallen from Fair to Poor. The purpose of discussion this evening is to provide direction and guidance on this issue prior to the full report coming forward at the Committee of the Whole meeting on the 23rd. At this point, the Town would have difficulty showing that due diligence was applied should anything happen within the Town that would require enacting the EMO Plan. The key issue to resolve is who are the main players, such as Coordinator, Information Officer, etc., and to ensure the proper training is provided to those individuals.

Mr. Crosland has indicated that the Plan needs to be restructured to ensure that there is a separate Advisory Committee reporting to the Planning Committee, which in turn reports to Council. These committees are required through the EMO Bylaw. Mr. Crosland also encouraged a regional focus and urged the Town to remove the focus from being run by the Fire Department. To revise the plan and provide the progress and direction that is needed will require a good deal of time and effort on the part of the Coordinator. The Town must determine from the current Coordinator whether he has the time to devote to this project. If required, the Town may have to consider advertising the position with a possibility of providing a small honorarium to get the plan up and running. It was agreed that this person should be outside of all Town Departments and emergency services. A meeting will be set up with Mr. Palmer to discuss this prior to the Committee of the Whole meeting.

4. Feed My Lambs

Mayor Prall noted that Councillors had recently received an invitation by Mr. Greg Hubbert regarding the Feed My Lambs program. This community based program combats child poverty in the area and a meeting has been scheduled at the Somerset School on January 23rd to raise awareness and support of the community and all levels of government. Several local politicians will be in attendance, as well as community leaders and groups. The Committee of the Whole is holding its regularly scheduled meeting that evening and the Mayor inquired if Council wished to change the date of the meeting in order to accommodate this invitation. After a rounded discussion, it was agreed to hold the Committee of the Whole meeting on its usual evening, Councillor Morse would attend the Feed My Lambs meeting as a representative of Council, and a letter of support would be sent with Councillor Morse to be read aloud at the meeting.

(Councillor Trinacty left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.)

5. STP – Larsen Packers Update

Mayor Prall reported that he has been in contact with the Department of Environment (Federal and Provincial levels) and met with Larsen's representatives last week. Larsen's has put an offer of \$200,000 on the table to assist with upgrading the STP instead of being required to pre-treat their waste prior to releasing it into the Town's system. Department of Environment officials have stated that Larsen's cannot continue to release waste at the levels that they currently are, and that the Town may want to consider having Larsen's pay for major upgrades to our system (i.e. another pond). The Town doesn't have any more land in that area to put a fourth pond into operation. To consider another site would include the possibility of additional odour in the Town.

Current test results are showing Larsen's waste at five times the levels they should be. Our engineers suggest that pre-treatment by Larsen's continues to be the best route for the Town to follow. A meeting has been scheduled for next Tuesday to continue discussions with Larsen's, Avon Foods, and the Federal Department of Environment. A meeting will be held with DOE first to bring them up to speed on the issue and determine what type of assistance they can provide the Town.

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6. Council went into an In Camera Meeting at 8:15 p.m. to discuss matters of a confidential nature. Regular Council reconvened at 8:37 p.m.
7. Hearing of no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

John P. Prall
Chairman

Rachel L. Turner
Recording Secretary