

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
10 SEPTEMBER 2002

Present: Chairman Mayor John P. Prall
 Deputy Mayor Michael E. Trinacty
 Councillor Donald E. Clarke
 Councillor Gary W. Whittier
 Councillor J. Richard Horsburgh
 Councillor Bruce H. Morse
 Councillor Thomas S. Banks
 Mr. Don Regan, BEC Superintendent
 Mr. Gary Gould, Public Works Superintendent
 Mr. Roger Ryan, Accountant
 Ms. Linda Parker, Chief Administrative Officer
 Mrs. Rachel Turner, Recording Secretary

In attendance: Mr. Ken MacPherson, Register
 Mr. Bob Best
 Mrs. Madeline Rice
 Mrs. Charlton
 Mr. Dwight Johnson

1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all the guests in attendance.
2. **Approval of Agenda**
The Chairman added the following items: 7(d) Community Strategic Plan, and 8(b) Regional Policing in Kings County. Hearing of no further changes the Chairman approved the Agenda as amended.
3. **Approval of Previous Minutes**
Hearing of no errors or omissions the Chairman approved the minutes of 9 July 2002 as circulated.
4. **Presentation**
 - (a) **Apple Dome Committee**
Mr. Best provided an update on the progress of the Apple Dome. Mayor Prall thanked Mr. Best for the presentation and commended him on the success of the project to date. Mr. Best left the meeting at 7:10 p.m.
5. **Recommendations from Committee of the Whole**
 - (a) **Purchase of Backhoe**

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the purchase of a Nova International/New Holland backhoe in the amount of \$67,000 plus HST.
Motion Carried**

(b) TBR – Backhoe

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the Temporary Borrowing Resolution issued by Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 for the Backhoe for Transportation Services.

Motion Carried

(c) TBR – Landfill Closure and Post-Closure Costs

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the Temporary Borrowing Resolution Renewal issued by Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations in the amount of \$260,800 for the Landfill Closure and Post-Closure costs.

Motion Carried

(d) FCM National Housing Policy Options Team

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to contribute an amount of \$34.24 to the FCM National Housing Policy Options Team.

Motion Carried

(e) Annapolis Valley International Children’s Games Association

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to provide a donation of \$439.00 to the Annapolis Valley International Children’s Games Association.

Motion Carried

(f) Friends of the Cornwallis River Society

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to donate \$100.00 to the Friends of the Cornwallis River Society in support of their efforts to maintain the Cornwallis River.

Motion Carried

6. Recommendations from Other Committees

(a) Planning Advisory Committee

(iii) Autumn Drive

Deputy Mayor Trinacty reported on the problem of civic numbering on Autumn Drive.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that the straight road known as Autumn Drive be renamed, with the loop coming off of that street maintaining the name of Autumn Drive.

Motion Carried

Council requested that the Planning Advisory Committee research a Street Naming Policy and bring back a recommendation at a later date.

(iv) Civic Numbering Coordinator

Deputy Mayor Trinacty reported that it had been brought to the attention of the Planning Advisory Committee that there are a number of errors and inconsistencies in the civic numbering assignment throughout the Town. Currently, staff is managing the assignment of civic numbering, although the 4Site Group has offered to take over the responsibility for any future civic numbering assignment at no additional cost to the Town. A complete review of the civic numbers and any errors that currently exist would be a separate project and would be an extra cost to the Town. The 4Site Group is capable of completing this task should Council wish to accept their offer. There is some work yet to be done to determine what information has already been gathered from other departments in the Town, which may reflect in the amount of work involved with such a project.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that The 4Site Group be requested to take on the responsibility of the civic numbering coordinator for the Town of Berwick, at no additional cost to the Town.

Motion Carried

(i) Business Directional Signs

Deputy Mayor Trinacty reviewed the report circulated at the meeting regarding the background of the business directional signs. A proposal from the Planning Advisory Committee regarding these signs was never formally approved by Council. Minor amendments were made by the current PAC in order to bring them up to date and are being presented at this meeting for Council's approval.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the Town of Berwick Business Directional Signs Regulations.

A general discussion followed regarding the guidelines, including the number of signs allowed, the types of businesses allowed to purchase the signs, and the fee charged for sign installation. It was noted that there is a larger directional map and signage being considered for the north entrance to the Town for the next fiscal year, which may allow for some businesses to advertise to help offset the cost of the sign.

Motion Carried

(ii) Business Directional Sign Fee

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to charge a fee of \$150 to businesses wishing to place their business directional signs on the Town's sign posts on Highway 1.

Motion Carried

Deputy Mayor Trinacty noted that this information will be required to be placed in the formal policy format and staff was directed to do so. The information will come back to Council again for approval in the policy format.

Councillor Whittier noted that the Town's welcome signs at the north and south entrances would be improved if they could be lighted during the nighttime hours. Staff was instructed to research the available options and costs involved.

7. Business Arising

(a) Tender Award – Traffic Signals

Mr. Regan reviewed the report and outlined the traffic signal portion of the report. Ms. Parker reviewed the parking options for both scenarios of installing traffic lights or maintaining the stop sign system. The Town will be required to eliminate eight parking spots if the stop sign traffic control system is retained as well as the removal of the brick wall in front of the Royal Bank to improve visibility at that corner. Under the option using semi-actuated traffic signals, the Town would eliminate five parking spaces in the vicinity of the intersection, and the Royal Bank would be able to keep the brick wall in front of its business.

Mr. Regan noted that the traffic lights would be on default for a green light on Commercial Street until traffic detection loops indicate a vehicle on Union Street. At that time, the green light will go through the sequence to change to red. The timing will be set with the assistance of Mr. Golding and can be adjusted as necessary. The crosswalk automation will follow the same process. As for the Opticom pre-emption system, Mr. Regan felt it was unnecessary but could be purchased and installed at a later date.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the option of installing semi-actuated traffic signals at the intersection of Commercial and Union Streets, and that the tender be awarded to Electromega to provide the required hardware.

Mr. Regan noted that there would be at least a 10-week delay for delivery once the equipment is ordered. Ms. Parker commented that the traffic study that was completed in 2001 indicated that these lights would be required to accommodate the growing traffic in five years' time. Mr. Johnson inquired as to what feedback the Town received from the letters that were sent to the businesses in that area in July. Only one letter was received from Mr. Johnson regarding the issue. The street painting is in line to be completed by September 20th if there is a decision made this evening.

Members of the public expressed concerns that there seems to be a lack of police visibility and members present in the Town recently. It was also noted that the Fire Department should be notified regarding the decision regarding the Opticom pre-emption system as soon as it is known. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the two options and the report filed by Mr. Golding.

Motion Carried

Ms. Parker noted that, in the interest of good communication, a letter should go out to those same businesses informing them of the decision and outlining the process that will take place.

9(c) Minas Basin Pulp and Power

Mr. Regan reviewed the issue and correspondence received from Minas Basin Pulp and Paper. At this time, the company is looking for political support to build a co-generation plant. If this goes ahead, they will no doubt also be looking for support in purchasing electricity from them at a later date. With such a project located in Hantsport, it most likely makes the delivery of natural gas to the valley at a much sooner date than would otherwise be expected. Valley Natural Gas Committee is an ad hoc committee from the local RDA's and representatives from municipal councils as well.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to send a letter of support to the Minas Basin Pulp and Power Company Limited regarding the construction of a co-generation electrical facility.

Motion Carried

7(b) Tender Award – Half Ton Truck

Mr. Gould reviewed the report and provided clarification on the bids received. The higher bid from Valley Ford Sales and the bid from Bruce Chev Olds are for vehicles that are comparable and more suitable for the requirements of the Public Works Department than the lowest bid.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to accept the bid from Bruce Chev Olds for a half-ton truck, in the amount of \$21,600 plus HST.

Motion Carried

(c) Fall 2002 Debenture Funding

Ms. Parker reviewed the issue, noting that it had been referred from the Committee of the Whole meeting due to the indefinite final amount. The final figure for the debenture issuance has been determined at \$333,800.00.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the Resolution for the Pre-Approval of Debenture Issuance Subject to Interest Rate for long term funding of the Landfill Closure and Post-Closure costs and the Backhoe for Transportation Services.

Motion Carried

(d) Community Strategic Plan Update

Ms. Parker noted that staff has met to get the Community Strategic Plan started. There will be a promotional blitz happening at the end of next week. A logo is being developed to use along with this endeavour, a public meeting has been scheduled for October 2nd with more details to follow, advertisements will be placed in the Register, posters will be placed throughout the community, a letter from the Mayor will be sent out to all households, the information will be posted on the website, and the sign at Main Street Video will be utilized. It is a very exciting project and the hope is to drum up the same excitement and enthusiasm within the community over the next several weeks.

8. New Business

(a) Special Council Meeting

Ms. Parker noted that at the last Committee of the Whole meeting, there had been some interest expressed in having a special Council meeting, or a strategy session, to discuss a number of issues concerning Councillors. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to schedule the meeting on October 15th at 6:30 p.m.

(b) Regional Policing in Kings County

Ms. Parker reviewed the report and the forthcoming resolution and workplan as prepared by the Chief Administrative Officers, Mayors and Warden of Kings County. After a brief discussion it was agreed to forward this issue to the Police Services Advisory Committee for information and input. A recommendation will come forward to Council from that Committee.

A brief discussion followed with respect to policing issues and items to take forward to the upcoming meeting of the Police Services Advisory Committee.

Due to the lateness of the hour it was agreed to hold the meeting until 9:20 p.m. and revisit the remaining agenda at that time.

9. Correspondence

(a) Dwight Johnson Letter

Ms. Parker reviewed the issue and the letters sent to Council from Mr. Johnson outlining a number of concerns that he and others in the Town have. Mr. Johnson noted that his first request was a meeting with the Mayor, which did take place. It was agreed that some of the concerns came from misinformation and others resulted from a difference of opinion. Mr. Johnson also noted that his concerns stem from considering a new building for business and has been approached to move his business out of Town. He wants to ensure that he is getting value for the dollar should he decide to remain in the Town. He went on to further outline the concerns in his letter of August 23rd.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the line of communication between the Town, residents and businesses. An open forum would be very beneficial in order to meet with those who have expressed their concerns to Mr. Johnson so that the Town is able to address them specifically. Mr. Johnson agreed to speak with the others in the group he represents and determine if they are willing to meet with Council. A date will be set up for that meeting once Mr. Johnson contacts the Town with this information.

The remaining item of correspondence was referred to a future meeting due to the lateness of the hour.

10. Hearing of no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

John P. Prall
Chairman

Rachel L. Turner
Recording Secretary