

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**  
**12 MARCH 2002**

Present:           Chairman       Mayor John P. Prall  
  Deputy Mayor Michael E. Trinacty  
  Councillor Gary W. Whittier  
  Councillor Bruce H. Morse  
  Councillor J. Richard Horsburgh  
  Ms. Linda Parker, Chief Administrative Officer  
  Mrs. Rachel Turner, Recording Secretary

Absent:                           Councillor Donald E. Clarke  
  Councillor Thomas S. Banks

In attendance:                 Mr. Ken MacPherson, Register  
  Ms. Debi Karrel, Assessment Services  
  Mr. Ron Reeves, KTA  
  Mr. Andy Patterson, KTA  
  Mr. Erik Twohig, RESL  
  Mr. Don Regan  
  Miss Jill Sampson  
  Miss Melanie Trinacty

1.    The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:57 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.
2.    **Approval of Agenda**  
      Mayor Prall noted that the Kings Transit Authority representatives would make their presentation first, and that the RESL representative would be Erik Twohig. Under Other Business, an addition of item (a) Horticultural Trade Show Update. Hearing of no other changes,

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the Agenda as amended.**  
**Motion Carried**

3.    **Approval of Minutes**  
      Hearing of no errors or omissions the Chairman approved the previous Council minutes of 12 February 2002 as circulated.
4.    **Presentations**
  - (a)   **Kings Transit Authority – Ron Reeves and Andy Patterson**  
      Mr. Reeves and Mr. Patterson presented the proposed budget for the Kings Transit Authority for 2002/03. It was noted that the budget included the Wolfville to Greenwood route only. The Annapolis extension and the trial route to Canning have separate budgets and the Town of Berwick is not financing either of these projects. Mr. Patterson noted that they may be looking at a small loss this year.

Berwick's share of the budget is 5% or \$8,350. The proposed wage increase for staff is 3%. The Capital Reserve Fund was exhausted with the purchase of the two new buses and will begin to build again in the upcoming fiscal year. Ms. Parker noted that it would be more

useful for Council to have the actual year-end forecast figures provided rather than the approved budget to compare with the proposed budget. Mr. Patterson reported that the Board has taken the position not to present the actual expenditures and revenues to the municipal units. Quarterly financial reports are provided to the Town's representative at the regular meetings. Mayor Prall thanked them for their presentation and Mr. Reeves and Mr. Patterson left the meeting.

(b) Assessment Services – Debi Karrel

Ms. Karrel provided a brief background of the region's Assessment Office. The area covered runs from West Hants to Digby, with approximately 72,000 accounts. The total assessed value of the properties is approximately \$5 billion. An information handout was distributed, giving comparisons between 2001 and 2002. General discussion of the assessment process followed. It was noted that the issue of business occupancy tax is still being reviewed by the Province. Ms. Parker noted that this is an issue that municipal units continue to wait for a decision on. Mayor Prall thanked Ms. Karrel for the presentation, who then left the meeting.

(c) Renewable Energy Services Limited – Erik Twohig

Mr. Twohig reviewed the test results from the Town's wind generation test site, noting that they are not seeing high peaks, rather more consistent wind speeds, but not at an optimum level. General discussion followed regarding the industry and other sites throughout the province and the rest of the country. It was noted that the Provincial Energy Strategy is good news for the remaining municipal units with their own electrical utilities. Mayor Prall thanked him for his presentation and Mr. Twohig and Mr. Regan left the meeting.

5. Recommendations from Committee of the Whole

(a) Smoke Free Indoor Public Places Bylaw

Ms. Parker reviewed her report on the proposed amendments to the Smoke Free Indoor Public Places Bylaw. In addition to the noted changes, Committee of the Whole also recommended to Council the deletion of the reference to the Town of Kentville and the County of Kings in Section 8.

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded to delete the reference to the Town of Kentville and the County of Kings in Section 8.**

**Motion Carried**

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded to add Sections 5 and 6 as written in the recommendation.**

Ms. Parker noted that the RCMP has agreed to assist us in the enforcement of the Bylaw for a three month period to help all businesses come online. A further discussion of enforcement processed for business owners/staff and the Town's responsibility to prevent smoking in public places followed.

**Motion Carried**

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Ms. Parker read Mr. McInroy's comments regarding the inclusion of private clubs in the Bylaw, noting that he does not recommend that inclusion.

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded to accept first reading of the amended  
Smoke Free Indoor Public Places Bylaw.**

**Motion Carried**

Ms. Parker noted that there will be advertisements in the Register over the next few weeks informing the public of the Bylaw coming into force. A sample educational package was presented which will be hand delivered to the businesses and clubs in the Town, providing no smoking signage, several copies of the Bylaw and a memo from the Mayor.

(b) Town Caucus Terms of Reference

Ms. Parker noted the recent media articles regarding the UNSM and Town Caucus which were distributed to Councillors for their information. The UNSM Spring Workshop is dedicating one afternoon to discussion of the structure of the UNSM. All Councillors are strongly encouraged to attend, and hotel reservations have been made for the entire Council. Those who plan to attend should confirm with the CAO or Deputy Clerk.

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the Town Caucus Terms of  
Reference.**

**Motion Carried**

(c) 2002/03 Budget Workplan

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the workplan for the  
preparation and approval of the Town of Berwick's 2002/03 Operating  
Budget and 2002/05 Capital Budget.**

**Motion Carried**

(d) Overdue Tax Interest Rate

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded that the interest rate charged on  
overdue taxes be reduced to 12.7% per annum (1.0% per month  
compounded).**

**Motion Carried**

(e) Tax Billing Policy

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the Tax Billing Policy.**

**Motion Carried**

(f) Business Occupancy Tax Write Offs

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded to write off the outstanding business  
occupancy taxes totaling \$705.29.**

**Motion Carried**

(g) Operating Fund Line of Credit

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded to renew the \$400,000 Operating Fund Line of Credit with the Royal Bank.**

**Motion Carried**

(h) Personal Tax Exemption

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded that the household income level of \$18,000 and personal tax exemption amount of \$200 remain unchanged for the taxation year 2002/03.**

**Motion Carried**

(i) The 4Site Group

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded that the Town of Berwick enter into preliminary discussions with The 4Site Group to renew its contract with the Town for a four-year term beginning April 1, 2002.**

Ms. Parker noted that, of the surveys sent out to determine service levels and performance by The 4Site Group, 7 out of 21 were returned. All but one rated the service as excellent, the exception noting that the time frame for completing planning requests were lengthy. However, those processes are legislated and generally out of the control of the Town. The 4Site Group has indicated that they are very interested in a four year contract but that some of the fees would be increased. This may require a review of the Town's Planning and Development Fees Bylaw.

**Motion Carried**

Ms. Parker noted that she will enter into formal negotiations with The 4Site Group and bring back a proposal for the consideration of Council.

(j) 2002 Princess Tea Committee

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the budget in the amount of \$1,615 for the 2002 Berwick Princess Tea Committee.**

**Motion Carried**

**6. Business Arising**

(a) Planning and Development Control Services

This report was reviewed during the Recommendations from Committee of the Whole.

(b) Regional Emergency Measures Organization (REMO)

Ms. Parker reviewed the report, noting that by considering a regional EMO plan, it would lessen the demands on agencies and resources that would be expected to be tied up during a

local emergency. Instead of attending four different planning committee meetings and spreading those resources, all parties would work together on one plan. Further discussion centred on the cost savings for the Town to participate in a regional plan.

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the REMO initiative in principle and that the Town participate in any initial discussions to explore its feasibility and functionality.**

**Motion Carried**

**7. Other Business**

(a) Horticultural Trade Show

Ms. Parker reviewed the memo circulated at the meeting regarding the upcoming Horticultural Trade Show. All Councillors are encouraged to attend and support the Mayor in this endeavour.

**8. Correspondence**

It was noted that all three items of correspondence were requests for funding. It was agreed to address these during the upcoming budget process.

- Mayor Prall noted that at the recent Mayors/Warden/Chief Administrative Officer's meeting the issue of the annual Flag Day was raised. The Town of Kentville has decided to withdraw from the joint efforts of the municipal units to host their own Flag Day and do more within their own community and school. The County of Kings has also noted that they are considering doing the same, in order to include more of its communities. Council agreed that they would prefer if the municipal units worked together for a joint celebration, however, if this does not continue, Berwick will continue to host its own celebrations.
  - Councillor Morse requested further information regarding farm, forest and commercially exempt properties as discussed during the Assessment Services presentation. Ms. Parker will provide that information to Council.
9. Hearing of no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

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John P. Prall  
Chairman

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Rachel L. Turner  
Recording Secretary