

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
8 APRIL 03

Present: Chairman Mayor John P. Prall
 Deputy Mayor Michael E. Trinacty
 Councillor Donald E. Clarke
 Councillor Gary W. Whittier
 Councillor J. Richard Horsburgh
 Councillor Murray Bezanson
 Ms. Linda Parker, Chief Administrative Officer
 Mrs. Stella Settle, Executive Assistant
 Ms. Carol Boylan, Recording Secretary

Absent: Councillor Thomas S. Banks

In attendance: Ms. Sara Keddy, Berwick Register
 Mr. Gordon Spidle
 Ms. Beth Easson
 Judge Donald Hall
 Mrs. Shirley Jackson
 Dr. Jim Gunn
 Ms. Megan Osborne
 Mr. Chris Millier, 4-Site Group (arrived at 7:05)

1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm and welcomed everyone in attendance.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

The following changes were made to the Agenda: Under New Business, to be added and renumbered: 6a) Rezoning Application b) Overview Water Quality Study and c) 2003 Business Directional Signs. Under Correspondence, the following two items were added: 1) Letter from Town of Lunenburg and 2) Letter from Randy Holmesdale, Berwick School. Also, discussion by Councillor Clarke concerning UNSM Executive Meeting and discussion on Provincial Budget was added.

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

Motion Carried

3. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Hearing of no errors or omissions the Chairman approved the minutes of 11 March 2003 as circulated.

4. **Declaration of Election and Administering Oath of Office**

Murray Bezanson took the Oath of Allegiance as Councillor for the Town of Berwick with Judge Don Hall performing the ceremony. Judge Hall noted that the Town will benefit greatly from Mr. Bezanson's presence on the Council. Mr. Bezanson commented that he wants to give a little back to the town that has given him so much.

5. Presentations

(a) Annapolis Valley School Board

Mrs. Shirley Jackson and Dr. Jim Gunn came to the table to make their presentation. Mrs. Jackson began by highlighting and reviewing the new priorities of the School Board and reviewed the goals as presented on the handout. Dr. Gunn commented on the budget and noted that the Board has received budget information from the Province and this is the first time in the eight years as a Board that they don't have to make a major reduction, although there will be an adjustment for any enrollment decrease. The Board expects to run every program that is now in place and not make any cuts, and they may actually be able to make some improvements. The recent arbitration award for teachers has been covered by the Provincial Government. Dr. Gunn then called for questions from the group.

Discussion took place and the following issues were raised.

Violent acts in schools – the Board is seeing more acts of violence at an earlier age. This issue was brought to light a few years ago when incidents took place at schools in the U.S. and Alberta.

Enrollment drop in school – the main reasons for this is because people are having fewer children and are having them later in life. The grade primary numbers are a big indicator of what enrollment will be.

The issue of teacher retirements this year was raised. There will be enough teachers retiring that there shouldn't have to be layoffs, although a lot of new people won't be hired because of the number of term people presently employed by the Board and they will have first chance at the positions that become available. The question was raised as to whether there would be enough teachers to fill the term positions, and Dr. Gunn noted that there is presently a problem getting substitute teachers and also recruiting French teachers is a problem. This is due to the popularity of the French immersion program.

This issue was raised about the Board's relationship with municipal units and the local schools relationship with the municipal units. Dr. Gunn said that a relationship with municipal councils is important to them and it is important for us to understand each other. It was also noted that a town that has a school within their boundary may have a different relationship with that school, ie. Berwick and Berwick School, that one that does not. There was also a concern that the municipalities are being "downloaded" by the Province.

Discussion took place concerning the Board's relationship with the Department of Justice to which Dr. Gunn replied that the relationship is good and the Board's priorities tie in with the Department of Justice's objectives.

The new smoking rules at the schools were discussed and Dr. Gunn said that they are working and that although there were problems at first, they have now been solved. The RCMP School Liaison workers and the Addition Services workers in the schools are doing a great job.

Mayor Prall thanked Dr. Gunn and Mrs. Jackson for their input and for attending the meeting.

(b) Union Street Café

Megan Osburne made her presentation concerning the Union Street Café's request. Discussion followed and Ms. Parker noted that this is something new for Berwick and Council must be aware that this may set a precedent. It was agreed to refer this item to the Planning Advisory Committee and they would be asked to make a recommendation to Council on the matter. The 4-Site Group will prepare information on this item prior to the Planning Advisory Committee's meeting on May 6th and have it available for that meeting. A decision on this issue will be made at the meeting of Town Council on May 6, 2003.

6. New Business

(a) Rezoning Application – Chute Property

The second reading of the application for rezoning the Chute property took place and

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that Council proceed with the second notice of the publication of the second notice of the rezoning notice.

Motion Carried

Deputy Mayor Trinacty reported that in connection with this issue, The Planning Advisory Committee is in the process of reviewing the R1 and R3 zoning designations.

(b) Overview Water Quality Study

Chris Millier of the 4-Site Group explained what has taken place with regard to the study. All water tests conformed to standards, although five did not meet guidelines, but were not general to the area.

Beth Easson reported that Berwick has excellent water, and that she is doing ongoing sampling and will compare these results to the baseline data collected to date. Uranium was found in one well and the water is not fit for drinking. These residents have been advised to drink bottled water until such time as more test results are completed and when those results are received a decision will be made as to how to proceed.

The results of the Study will be completed in November of 2003 and an update will be given to Council at that time.

Mr. Millier commented on a report received today from Hiltz and Seamone and this report contains a map which identifies where the water lies and at what depths and at what quantities underneath the Town of Berwick. This report is on file in Ms. Parker's office and is available to anyone who wishes to review it. The resource as it exists now is very stable and of high quality and we are not compelled to move in the direction of the Town having its own water supply at this time. The only time another study would be required would be if a large scale user came into Town. The assessment of the quality of the water is an ongoing issue; the quantity will be there. The reason for Berwick having such a good water supply and good water is due to geographic location between the north and south mountains.

Sara Keddy of The Register asked the question of where the sites for municipal wells would be located if a municipal water system were put in place. These areas were identified as follows: 1) In South Berwick on the north side of the highway 2) On Willow and Main

Streets by the cemetery 3) Outside Berwick on the north side of Highway #101, west of extension of Commercial Street, between Parker Condon Road and Highway #101, west of Route #360 and 4) At the western boundary of Town between developed areas behind The Berwick School toward the Peat Bog.

Beth Easson's report is on file in Ms. Parker's office and if anyone would like a copy they can see Ms. Parker and she will see that they get one. Mayor Prall thanked Mr. Millier and Mrs. Easson for their work preparing this report.

(c) 2003 Business Directional Signs

Ms. Parker reviewed this item. Only one business, Candle Inn the Window came forward to use the sign; there wasn't very much interest. Staff followed the policy in place advertising the usage of the sign and also sent a letter regarding the sign to The Board of Trade. It was suggested to approve the request from Candle Inn the Window and perhaps when others see it, there will be more interest.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that the present sign be removed and the new sign erected in it's place.

Motion Carried

(d) UNSM Executive Meeting Report

Councillor Clarke reviewed items discussed at a meeting he attended Friday, April 4th. Some issues discussed were the rising assessments, particularly in Chester, Lunenburg and Victoria County, uniform assessments, and a report concerning the Municipal Act Elections Review. There was also discussion of separate school board elections. Other issues brought up were the Spring Workshop, First Responders and the Provincial Budget with the key issue being the mandatory contribution to education.

7. Correspondence

- a) Larsen Packers
- b) Kings County Kings Opportunity Fund
- c) Canadian Oil Heat Association
- d) UNSM Spring Workshop
- e) Minister of Justice and Attorney General
- f) Nova Scotia Emergency Measures Organization
- g) Municipal Symposium 2003

Mayor Prall called for questions on the correspondence. Discussion took place on the letter from the Canadian Oil Heat Association and staff will refer this to The Berwick Electric Commission for a response.

Deputy Mayor Trinacty is concerned about the letter from the Provincial Government concerning the Town's EMO plan.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to respond to the inaccuracies of the Minister's letter and advise of recent upgrades completed to the Town of Berwick's EMO Plan.

Motion Carried

8. **Adjournment**

Hearing of no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.

John P. Prall
Chairman

Carol L. Boylan
Recording Secretary