

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
11 MARCH 2003

Present: Chairman Mayor John P. Prall
 Deputy Mayor Michael E. Trinacty
 Councillor Gary W. Whittier
 Councillor Thomas S. Banks
 Councillor J. Richard Horsburgh
 Ms. Linda Parker, Chief Administrative Officer
 Ms. Carol Boylan, Recording Secretary

Absent: Councillor Donald E. Clarke

In attendance: Mr. Ken MacPherson, Register
 Andy Patterson, General Manager, Kings Transit
 Ron Reeves, Kings Transit Authority
 Pam Hill, Kings County Senior's Safety Program

1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and welcomed everyone in the gallery. A special welcome was given to Ken MacPherson of The Berwick Register who has given the Town great support and is now returning to his previous position in Middleton.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

The following additions were made to the Agenda under Correspondence: a) Letter from T.A. Olive and b) Letter from Fire Marshall's office. Approved as circulated with changes.

3. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

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

4. **Presentation**

(a) **Ron Reeves – Kings Transit Authority**

Mr. Patterson thanked Council for the opportunity to speak to them regarding their 2003-2004 Budget, and proceeded to review his report. One budget item that concerns the Authority is the fuel price and the fact that fuel prices have risen since these projections were made.

Mayor Prall noted that it was a good report and called for questions. Questions that arose were regarding the number of employees to which Mr. Patterson noted there were 18.5 employees (one employee is tied to Acadian Lines). Further expansion in Kings County was brought up to which Mr. Patterson replied that there were none planned in the future, although he would like to see Digby County come into the Authority. The transfer of \$75,000 to a reserve was discussed and the fact that this was good financial planning on the Authority's part. The issue of accessibility was raised and discussed. This is very expensive and something has to be done in Kings County in the next five years. The Authority is a real success story and Mayor Prall thanked Mr. Patterson and Mr. Reeves for their presentation.

(b) Pam Hill – Kings County Senior’s Safety Program

Ms. Hill thanked Council for allowing her to make her presentation. She explained The Kings County Senior’s Safety Program in detail. Her role is to act as liaison between the seniors and other groups. An important part of her job is The Vial of Life. Vital information on the senior is completed and put in the vial and placed in the fridge with a sticker placed on the fridge noting that it is available. Firefighters, Emergency Personnel, RCMP, etc. are educated on this program and know to look for the information if required.

Ms. Hill has been working in a volunteer position since August of 2002. She is a strong believer in the program and contributes many hours to the cause. Her office space is donated by Camp Aldershot, and a vehicle, insurance and gas supplied by various corporate sponsors.

She has spent the last few months making proposals to groups in the hopes of receiving funding. Dale McLeod of the Halifax Division of the RCMP is going to speak on behalf of the eight Senior Safety Coordinators regarding funding. This meeting is to take place as soon as possible.

Mayor Prall responded to Ms. Hill that her request would be considered at upcoming budget deliberations after which time we would respond to her request. He also thanked Ms. Hill for her presentation.

5. Recommendations from Committee of the Whole

a) Traffic Authority Position

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to appoint the position of Superintendent of Public Works as the Deputy Traffic Authority for the Town.

Motion Carried

b) Interest Rates Charged on Overdue Taxes

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the interest rate charged on overdue taxes be set at 12.7% per annum (1.0% Per month compounded) for 2003/04.

Motion Carried

c) Personal Tax Exemption

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that the Personal Tax Exemption for 2003/04 be set at a household income of \$18,000 and exemption amount of \$200.00 or the amount of taxes payable, whichever is less.

Motion Carried

d) Berwick Princess Tea Committee Budget

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the 2003 Berwick Princess Tea Committee budget in the amount of \$1,610.00.

Motion Carried

e) VWRMA 2003/04 Budget

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the VWRMA 2003/04 Operating and Capital Budget in the amount of \$7,366,297, of which The Town of Berwick’s Contribution is \$148,000.

Motion Carried

6. **Recommendations from Other Committees**

(a) **EMO Advisory Committee**

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the EMO Readiness Plan as prepared by the EMO Planning Committee.

Motion Carried

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that a meeting be arranged with the Commanding Officer of 14 Wing Greenwood and the Mayor and Town's EMC to discuss the role the Base would play in the event of a disaster occurring in the Town of Berwick.

Motion Carried

Ms. Parker reported to the Committee that Dan Noebert is interested in continuing in his position as the Town's EMO Representative. He now has more stability in his career and will be able to fulfill his duties. She will set up a meeting with Mr. Noebert and Rick Ramsay as well as one with Mike Innis and she will meet with Mr. Noebert and Keith Crossland.

The correspondence received concerning our rating was discussed and noted that our rating is "poor". Now that Mr. Noebert is back and work has been done, our position should improve in this regard. Ms. Parker noted that the next step in the process for the Town's EMO was to do a Training Needs Analysis. Ms. Parker also gave an update on REMO. The REMO Readiness Plan is complete and the next steps are the development of a REMO By-law and Inter-municipal Services Agreement. . The Chief Administrative Officers have been meeting in this regard and expect to have drafts prepared for Councils' consideration in May.

(b) **Planning Advisory Committee**

Councillor Trinacty reviewed his report.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that the lands of LM Chute Limited, known as Lot 3A, Orchard Street be rezoned from Residential Single Family R-1 to Residential Multi-Unit R-3.

Discussion followed. Mayor Prall is not comfortable with the recommendation. If this lot is rezoned to R3 and the deal to purchase the lot doesn't take place, the present owner could put up to 7 units on the lot. Also, it would be much easier for the lot next to it to be rezoned as R3.

Discussion at the Planning Advisory Committee meeting involved changing R3 zoning so it would not allow so many units.

The timeline to change the by-law took place and Councillor Whittier noted that we should not discourage people from building in the town; we should think about the particular lot in question, not the ones around it.

Discussion took place on how this Committee could proceed and Councillor Trinacty explained the options available to the Committee.

Ms. Parker noted that if Council decides to change the R3 zoning, all property owners in Town owning R3 lots will have to be notified and there will be a Public Hearing.

Motion Carried

7. **Business Arising**

- (a) RCMP Expanded Policing Jurisdiction – Client Survey
Ms. Parker reviewed her Report. Discussion followed.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that pending approval by the Minister of Justice and County of Kings, Town Council approve an extension to the expanded Policing jurisdiction pilot until the RCMP Policing Review for Kings County has been completed.

Motion Carried

Ms. Parker relayed information received recently advising that preliminary discussions indicate that the cost per officer is going from \$86,000 to \$90,000. This information was sent to us to assist in the budget process and is not confirmed.

8. **New Business**

- (a) Councillor Banks – Request for Leave of Absence

Councillor Banks reviewed his request with the Committee and then left the meeting while discussion took place.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that Councillor Banks be granted a leave of absence during the period April 1, 2003 to November 1, 2003.

Motion Carried

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that Councillor Banks' leave of absence during the period April 1, 2003 to November 1, 2003 be with pay.

Motion Carried

- (b) UNSM By-law Amendments

Mayor Prall reviewed the Report concerning the proposed amendments to the UNSM's By-laws. He further reviewed the input of the Town Caucus Group in these amendments. Mayor Prall noted that this is a great step forward to get representation at the UNSM level. Councillor Trinacty noted the tremendous effort put forth by the Town Caucus Group and the great amount of work Mayor Prall and Linda Parker have put into this.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to give favourable consideration to the recommendations as identified by the Town's Caucus.

Motion Carried

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to empower the Town Caucus to recommend the proposed changes to the UNSM By-laws.

Motion Carried

9. **Correspondence**

- a) Correspondence from Emergency Measures Organization was dealt with earlier in the meeting.
b) Correspondence from the Fire Marshalls office is for review only – no discussion was necessary.

Council took a short break at 8:15 p.m. to go into an in camera meeting to discuss matters of a confidential nature. Regular Council reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

10. Hearing of no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm

John P. Prall
Chairman

Carol L. Boylan
Recording Secretary