

**MINUTES OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**13 JANUARY 2004**

Present:           Chairman       Mayor John P. Prall  
  Deputy Mayor Donald E. Clarke  
  Councillor Gary W. Whittier  
  Councillor Michael E. Trinacty  
  Councillor J. Richard Horsburgh  
  Councillor Murray Bezanson  
  Councillor Danny Lecky  
  Mr. Craig Burgess, Recreation Director  
  Ms. Linda Parker, Chief Administrative Officer  
  Ms. Michelle Millett, Recording Secretary

In attendance:                       Ms. Sara Keddy, Berwick Register  
  Mr. Bruce Morse (arrived at 7:45)

1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.
2. **Approval of the Agenda**  
The Agenda was approved as circulated.
3. **Approval of the Previous Minutes**  
Hearing of no errors or omissions the Chairman approved the previous minutes of 9 December 2003.
4. **Presentations**
  - (a) **Safe Communities Coalition Presentation ~ Catherine Kirsten**  
Ms. Kirsten was not present at the time the meeting started. Ms. Millett later received a voice mail apologizing for her absence due to a storm that evening.
5. **Recommendations from Other Committees**
  - (a) **Occupational Health and Safety Manual**  
Mr. Burgess explained the background of the Town's Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee and the Occupational Health and Safety Manual that was presented to Council. He noted that the manual was a "living and working" document that would change and be updated on a continual basis. He requested that the Town of Berwick's Occupational Health and Safety Manuals be taken by Councillor's and reviewed prior to the February Council and signed off by each Councillor as read by each one on a sheet located at the front of the binders. Ms. Parker noted the importance of the document and reminded Councillor's of their liability in the case of any serious accident or injury for which the Town or Berwick Electric Commission was found to be not compliant with the Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety Act. Mayor Prall thanked everyone involved in the development of the document.

6. **Business Arising**

(a) St. Eudora Rebekah Lodge Tax Exemption 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

Ms. Parker had been in contact with Mrs. Cox, Secretary for the St. Eudora Lodge members and made her aware of the motion before Council this evening for second reading.

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve second and final reading of the amendment to the Tax Exemption and Reduction By-law to add the St. Eudora Rebekah Lodge to Appendix "A" of the By-law.**

**Motion Carried**

(b) Communications Strategy

Ms. Parker reviewed her report noting that computer and file management training would be provided by the Town to Councillor's to enhance communication with staff, but not supplies for computers under the strategy. Councillor Lecky commented on the privacy of e-mail and thus its importance to Council as a communication tool.

Mayor Prall brought to fellow Councillor's attention the responsibility of each Council member to deliver messages to the citizen's of Berwick regarding current issues and said that visitations with Town residents could be used as a means to communicate messages or information from the Town to the public. Councillor Whittier had talked with the Pineo's directly regarding their letter of complaint to Council in December 2003 regarding the RCMP. He noted that they were sincerely pleased to have Councillor Whittier come to their home to discuss the issue with them directly. Councillor Trinacty requested that Councillor's have printed documentation to take during visits to ensure that correct and similar messages were delivered to the residents. Deputy Mayor Clarke said that other methods of communication such as focus groups, neighborhood meetings, and small "Town Hall Meetings" could also be used to deliver messages.

Ms. Parker noted that some direction and priority setting would be involved by Council to decide the order of bulletins to be issued to the public for informational purposes.

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the Communication Strategy as presented.**

**Motion Carried**

7. **New Business**

(a) PAC Citizen Appointment

Mayor Prall noted that it was rare to have more than one candidate/applicant for a citizen committee appointment, as was the case, for the opening on the

Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) with the resignation of Allan Shay. The Chair of PAC, Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer had met to discuss the two applications and recommended the appointment of Ms. Polly Scott. Councillor Lecky asked why both candidates could not be on the committee and Councillor Whittier agreed. Discussion ensued regarding the issue of having both candidates join the committee and Ms. Parker checked the Municipal Government Act to ensure that PAC citizen representation was at the discretion of Council. Ms. Parker reminded Council that there should be equilibrium between Councillor's and citizen members of the committee.

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded to appoint Polly Scott and Joan Levak as Planning Advisory Committee members.**

**Motion Carried**

- (b) Valley Waste Resource Management Authority (VWRMA) By-law  
Councillor Horsburgh reviewed the report noting to Council that most of the suggested amendments to the by-law were housekeeping items. He noted that he was aware of a complaint that had been lodged against VWRMA by a private hauler of residual waste. Ms. Parker added that she had been informed that the Town of Kentville had received a complaint from a hauler of residual waste regarding the price of tipping fees at VWRMA as compared to other regional fees. Discussion ensued regarding the disposal of residual waste, tipping fees, and the structure of income for VWRMA. Councillor Clarke noted that hauling outside the region was a cheaper option for the Authority, not available to residents, and that tipping fee's for the residents and municipalities had not been budgeted to decrease. Ms. Parker noted that residuals collected and moving through VWMA are issued "credits" from the Province. During the discussion, it was noted that lower tipping fee's would discourage illegal dumping and be of benefit to the wider population served by the VWRMA.

Councillor Horsburgh suggested that Mr. Maybee, General Manager of the Authority be invited to a Council meeting to answer Councillor's questions and discuss the budget with the Town of Berwick Council individually prior to the joint session to be held in February 2004.

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve first reading of the amendments to the Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management By-Law.**

**Motion Carried**

## **8. Correspondence**

- (a) UNSM Letter re Proposed Municipally-Controlled Assessment Agency  
Ms. Parker reviewed the letter with Council. Mayor Prall noted that Minister Barnett had scheduled a tentative visit with Council in the near future and

perhaps this item could be discussed during his visit. Ms. Parker noted to Council the issue of taxation without representation regarding this matter. Councillor Bezanson commented on the continual down-load of costs by the provincial government to municipal government.

(b) Federation of Canadian Municipalities Letter

Mayor Prall noted his impression of the commitment of Prime Minister Martin to rural municipalities and his agreement with him regarding building on existing infrastructure. Councillor Whittier told Council of the thrill he experienced to be in the same room with the Canadian Prime Minister and the pride he felt at having our Mayor for the Town of Berwick, John Prall, be chosen by his municipal colleagues to address an issue with the Prime Minister. He noted to Council how fortunate Berwick was to have a Mayor that was so well-respected and admired that he had been chosen to represent Town's through the UNSM Town Caucus structure to all levels of government.

(c) Town of Kentville Letter

Ms. Parker noted that there would ultimately be some public accountability regarding the proposed regional policing document.

(d) Town of Annapolis Royal Letter

For the information of Council.

(e) VWRMA ~ Joint Council Presentation

For the information of Council.

**9. Council Priority Setting**

A Memo was distributed that discussed another priority setting exercise to be on the agenda for the January 2004 Committee of the Whole meeting by Ms. Parker (see attached). She requested that Council perform another priority setting exercise to set direction for staff for the next six months.

**10. In Camera Session**

The Council moved "In Camera" at 7:52 p.m. to discuss a confidential issue. The Municipal Council Meeting was called back to order at 8:27 p.m.

**11. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting of Council would be held the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2004.

**12. Hearing of no further business the Chairman adjourned the Council meeting at 8:28 p.m.**

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John P. Prall  
Chairman

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Michelle Millett  
Recording Secretary