

MINUTES OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 12, 2005

Present: Chairman Mayor John P. Prall
 Deputy Mayor Michael E. Trinacty
 Councillor Gary W. Whittier
 Councillor J. Richard Horsburgh
 Councillor Beth Easson
 Councillor Anna Ashford-Morton
 Councillor Donald E. Clarke
 Ms. Linda Parker, Chief Administrative Officer
 Ms. Michelle Millett, Recording Secretary

In attendance: Mr. Jason Smith, Berwick Register
 Mr. Barry Corbin, Western Kings District Health
 Mr. Jim Gunn, Annapolis Valley School Board
 Mr. Hartt MacKinlay, Western Kings Memorial Health
 Society
 Mr. Bruce Morse
 Mr. Paul Holland
 Mr. Charles Frasor, Western Kings Memorial Health
 Society
 Mr. Dave Logie, Annapolis Valley Health
 Mr. Curt Palmer, Western Kings Memorial Health Society
 Mr. Preston Ilsley
 Mr. Bob Federer
 Ms. Coleen Dagnell
 Mr. Dwight Johnson, Annapolis Valley School Board
 Ms. Wendy Bedingfield, Valley Canada Games Working
 Group
 Ms. Brenda Robertson, Valley Canada Games Working
 Group

1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.
2. **Approval of the Agenda**
The Agenda was approved as circulated.
3. **Approval of the Previous Minutes**
The Chairman approved the minutes of March 8th, 2005 as circulated.
4. **Presentations**
 - (a) **Annapolis Valley Regional School Board ~ Jim Gunn**
Dr. Jim Gunn reported on past and future activities taking place in various schools that included annual science, art, and heritage fairs. He mentioned the

success of the Alternate High School in New Minas, new behavior intervention strategies, and increased advance placement program availability. He discussed the initiation of pre-primary educational pilot projects with spaces for 18 to 20 students per selected school.

An issue of great importance to Dr. Gunn continues to be the AVRSB smoking policy. He reported that the most recent policy was a step toward the solution, but would not serve as a long term solution. He continued to believe that smoking cessation and prevention are issues of utmost importance in our educational system.

Dr. Gunn relayed information on the school's role in Pandemic Planning, upgrades to Central and Western Kings. In response to questions from Councillors, he commented briefly on "bullying", the capping of split classes, and the number of available French Immersion classrooms. He relayed that negotiations with CUPE representatives had been completed.

Mayor Prall wished Dr. Gunn all the best in his retirement and thanked him for the years of service to the School Board and his informative presentations to Council over the years.

(b) Annapolis Valley Health ~ David Logie

Mr. Logie relayed that the purpose of his presentation was to ensure that the Western Kings Memorial Health Society (WKMHS) not be subjected to municipal property taxation. He reminded Council of the challenge faced by the Town when the hospital closed in 1999 and the facility was able to continue operations as a Health Centre. He brought Council's attention to Public Meetings at that time and public wishes to have health services delivered from the building, which is also a War Memorial. He noted that were the WKMHS required to pay property taxes the delivery of health care through the facility would be severely compromised.

(c) Valley Canada Games Working Group ~ Wendy Bedingfield

Deputy Mayor Trinacty introduced Ms. Bedingfield, the spokesman for the Valley Canada Games Working Group. She began by telling Council that in 2011 it would be Nova Scotia's turn to host the Canada Games.

She noted Games as attracting up to 6000 followers including 800 media personnel. She discussed other communities that had hosted the Canada Games including Grand Prairie, Alberta, and relayed the infrastructure and financial legacy left once the games had concluded. Ms. Bedingfield drew attention to the funds injected into host communities.

Ms. Bedingfield reported that a number of groups in the Annapolis Valley had come together under this working group to respond to the required bid process to

host the Canada Games. She discussed the various phases prior to actual bidding and noted that four groups in Nova Scotia were bidding to host the games. These areas included Antigonish/Port Hawkesbury, HRM, Truro/New Glasgow and the Annapolis Valley. Ms. Bedingfield reported that the group was now working on Phase III that involved a demonstration of support in the area that would be due by the end of May.

Ms. Bedingfield thanked the group for their support noting especially, Mike Trinacty's contribution as Chair of the group and the support of Craig Burgess from the Town of Berwick. She relayed that it was estimated that the total bid cost would be in the area of \$10,000.

5. Business Arising

- (a) Tax Exemption & Reduction By-law ~ Western Kings Memorial Health Society
Ms. Parker reviewed the report.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that Council approve second and final reading of the Tax Exemption & Reduction By-law and repeal the Partial Tax Exemption By-law.

Motion Carried

- (b) Taxi Cab By-law

Ms. Parker reviewed the report.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that Council approve second and final reading of the Taxi Cab By-law.

Motion Carried

A brief discussion ensued regarding the financial impact on Taxi operators and it was concluded that this base level of insurance was the minimum required to operate a taxi.

6. Recommendations from Other Committees

- (a) Committee of the Whole

Ms. Parker read the following motions from the March 22, 2005 meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

- (i) Pre-Approval 2005 Debenture Issues

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that Council approve the Municipal Finance Corporation's Pre-Approval Resolution for the Fire Rescue Truck in the amount of \$52,906 and the Penstock Replacement (Berwick Electric Commission) in the amount of \$275,000 over a period not to exceed ten years.

Motion Carried

(ii) Grants to Organization Policy

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that Council approve the amended Grants to Organization Policy.

Motion Carried

Councillor Easson enquired as to a deadline date for funding requests discussed during the COTW meeting. Ms. Parker relayed that the policy as written allowed Council the flexibility to consider grant request year round and thus she was not recommending a deadline date be included in the policy. It was agreed that the policy wording read that “applicants may make a presentation to Council”.

(iii) Workers Compensation Board (WCB) & Salary Continuance Policy

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that Council approve the Worker’s Compensation Board (WCB) & Salary Continuance Policy.

Motion Carried

(b) Recommendations from Planning Advisory Committee

(i) ShooterBug Signage Request

Deputy Mayor Trinacty reviewed the application with Council.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that Council approve the application for signage as submitted by ShooterBug Photography & Design.

Motion Carried

Mr. Federer, of ShooterBug requested that the Mayor cut the ribbon during the Grand Opening Ceremony of Shooterbug.

(ii) Private Property Drainage Policy

Deputy Mayor Trinacty reviewed the motion.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that Council approve the Private Property Drainage Policy.

Motion Carried

7. New Business

(a) Kings Transit Budget

Ms. Parker noted a change to the 2004/05 budgeted figures in her report from \$14,945 to \$18,500. She relayed that once the increased operating costs, capital contributions, and deficit had been added that this figure would complete Berwick’s portion of the funding to Kings Transit.

She relayed that following 2006/07 a significant increase in the cost of public transit would occur due to the purchase of new buses and resulting increased operating costs. Councillor Easson noted that insurance and training costs had

increased significantly due to the new buses which would arrive May 29, 2005. She relayed that Kings Transit facilities required upgrading to allow for bus maintenance.

Councillor Horsburgh had concerns regarding a 20% increase in salaries. Ms. Parker responded by noting that another staff person had been hired and the crossover time between Mr. Patterson and the new General Manager had contributed to the increase in salaries. Ms. Parker relayed that CAO's had strongly recommended that Kings Transit build an operating reserve.

Discussion ensued regarding the carry over of the deficit from year to year. Councillor Horsburgh felt that Kings Transit should be compelled to live within their budget and Mayor Prall was in agreement. There was discussion as to having a member of Council as the Kings Transit representative as opposed to a citizen representative.

Council was not supportive of the budget as presented. Ms. Parker agreed to pass Council's concerns to the Kings Transit Authority regarding deficit reporting and capital costs. Ms. Parker also agreed to invite Ron Reeves, the Kings Transit representative to May Council to discuss the budget.

(b) Expanded Policing Jurisdiction

Ms. Parker reviewed her report and reported that this was the first time that a complete study of the Pilot Project had been attempted since its inception.

Councillor Horsburgh expressed concerns with extending the Pilot Project with the dissatisfaction expressed by some residents. Mayor Prall responded that two options had been presented by the RCMP and that the Town preferred to have a number of options to choose from, as had been the case in other municipalities. He noted that in order for Berwick to investigate the full range of options a request was required to extend the Expanded Jurisdiction in cooperation with the County of Kings.

Deputy Mayor Trinaety was supportive of the renewal and the need to evaluate the current situation prior to instituting change without knowing the reasoning behind a change. Councillor Easson requested that during the next Public Meeting the public be informed of time frames involving a change in policing.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that Council approve a joint request with the County of Kings to extend the Expanded RCMP Policing Jurisdiction Pilot to March 31, 2006.

Motion Carried

8. Correspondence

(c) Evangeline Trail Tourism Association

Ms. Parker noted the inclusion of the 2005/06 proposed funding formula in this letter from ETTA. She relayed that the Town's portion would be \$1,141 and said that this cost would be included in the budget process.

(b) UNSM Spring Workshop

For the information of Council. Mayor Prall requested that the UNSM Update and Atlantic Mayor's Conference report be provided to Councillors.

(c) FCM

Councillor Easson expressed her reasons for a Town representative to attend the FCM conference in St. Johns. The expense of attending the FCM was discussed and Mayor Prall also thought it important to have a Berwick representative at the June conference. Ms. Parker agreed to investigate the cost of having a Councillor attend the FCM conference.

9. Other Business

Ms. Parker reported that the County of Kings had passed first reading of its proposed Smoking By-law. The County's by-law if passed would be more restrictive than the Town's in that smoking in private clubs would also be prohibited.

Mayor Prall noted that the Town of Wolfville had started a question and answer session following Council and was interested in Council thoughts of instituting such a process.

Councillor Easson reported that following her attendance at the Collaborative Staff/Council Relations workshop, she had a better understanding of the COTW process and greater appreciation of the functional relationship of the Town of Berwick's Council. She encouraged Council to express their appreciation to staff in completion of directives and open communication between staff and Council.

10. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of Council would be held May 10, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

11. Hearing of no further business the Chairman adjourned the Council meeting at 8:56 p.m.

John P. Prall
Chairman

Michelle Millett
Recording Secretary