

Town of Berwick

Council

Minutes of the Meeting

February 13, 2007

Attendance

In attendance	Deputy Mayor	Beth Easson	Chair
	Councilors	Anna Ashford-Morton Richard Horsburgh Mike Trinacty Don Clarke Gary Whittier	
	CAO	Bob Ashley	
	Staff	Craig Burgess	Recreation
	Guests	Byron MacDonald Tiffany Mockford Debbie Smith	Kings CED NSCC NSCC
	Media	Sarah Keddy	County Register
Absent with Regrets	Mayor	John Prall	

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:52pm

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as circulated with the addition of the following:

- 7(c) Purchasing Policy
- (d) "Buy Local" banner
- (e) Planned power outage

3. Accolades

Deputy Mayor Easson read a letter sent to the Town from Erle Dolsen, commending the Town of Berwick for its excellent upkeep of snow removal on the sidewalks throughout the Town.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the previous January Council Meeting and January's Special Council meeting were approved as circulated.

5. Presentations

(a) Annapolis Valley Regional School Board ~ Mr. Norman Dray

Mr. Dray passed out, and reviewed, his report.

Among other points, Mr. Dray highlighted that the Board is working on emergency planning, and noted that the children's safety is of utmost importance to the AVRSB. He also noted that the Board has developed a Manual for tragedy situations.

Mr. Dray reported that the Board has developed a new plan for traffic control at Berwick School, but is in the preliminary stages.

Mr. Dray commented on the fact that enrollment is down with the Board, as well as many other areas. Specifically, the history of Berwick School shows that, generally, if a student moves out of the school, the vacancy is usually filled with someone new moving in.

Mr. Dray received some general questions from Council.

Councillor Trinacty congratulated Mr. Dray and his Board on the Healthy Food Program which is now in place in our schools.

(b) Town of Berwick Website – Calender of Events ~ Mr. Craig Burgess

Mr. Burgess presented the Community Calender which he and his Assistant, Carol, have created and set up on the Town of Berwick Website. He explained that groups are encouraged to contact the Recreation Department to begin the minimal procedure in obtaining a password so the group is able to begin to log on to the calendar and post their respective events.

Council was pleased with the progress and start-up of the Community Events Calender. Mr. Burgess noted that there are still a few details that need to be ironed out, but ultimately the calendar was been very well received.

5. Committee Updates and Recommendations

(a) Planning Advisory Committee – Report

Councillor Trinacty reviewed his report. He noted that building activity was typically low in January.

Councillor Trinacty reported that PAC continues to explore ways to make the Town more “development friendly” with enhanced service. He noted that PAC may develop some “workshops” for potential developers and people/firms related to this field. Mr. Trinacty also explained that PAC may explore some changes to policies with regard to development.

Councillor Trinacty reminded Council that due to the “Committee shuffle”, Deputy Mayor Easson will now be chairing the PAC Committee, and confirmed that he would still be sitting on the committee.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council refer the proposed amendments to the Town of Berwick’s Land Use Bylaw, with regard to the Animal Control issue, back to PAC for clarification

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council approve the appointment of Mr. Joe McGrath as a citizen representative to the Planning Advisory Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

(b) Police Services Advisory Committee – CAO Report and Recommendations

Mr. Ashley reviewed his report. He explained that more precise data about the terms and conditions of the RCMP contract is necessary for Council to make a fully-informed decision to withhold contractual payments. He suggested that we contact the Department of Justice and request they attend a PSAC to communicate and clarify the terms of the RCMP contract.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council refer the PSAC Motion of January 23, 2007 back to the Police Services Advisory Committee with direction to gather more information on the precise terms and conditions of the Town's contract with the Department of Justice for RCMP policing.

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Ashley discussed the following points and the following motions were moved and seconded.

(c) Committee of the Whole - Recommendations

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council approve the \$400,000.00 Operating Fund Line of Credit with the Royal Bank of Canada

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council designate that 1/3 of remuneration paid to Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors and Commissioners pursuant to Town Policy #5.001 in the calendar year 2007 be deemed a non-taxable allowance for expenses incident to the discharge of duties.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council approve the addition of Deputy Mayor Easson to the approved list of signing officers and the deletion of Councillor Don Clarke.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council approve the Royal Bank Borrowing Resolution in the amount of \$1,500,000.00 providing interim financing for the New Fire Hall.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council approve the selection of the following individuals to form the 2007 Berwick Princess Committee consisting of Clarice Pottie, Laura Langille, Deputy Mayor Beth Easson, Carol Boylan-Hartling and volunteers.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council approve \$6000.00 to go towards funding the Geotechnical Investigation that is being done at the future site of the Kings Mutual Centennial Century Centre.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council approve \$385.00 contribution to the "Kick Off" fund.

MOTION CARRIED

(d) Kings Partnership – Fire Task Force Update – Councillor Don Clarke

Councillor Clarke reported that the Task Force has spent a lot of time discussing this issue and this has been presented to Kings Partnership. Councillor Clarke suggested it would be nice to give Council the opportunity to review the report. Experts are suggesting that the units adopt a Valley Fire Authority. There would be an Advisory group developed but the Valley Fire Authority would govern the firefighters of the County.

Councillor Clarke emphasized that one of the primary concerns is occupational health and safety to the firefighters. He also noted he feels that the people are well served now, by the Commissioners.

Councillor Trinacty indicated that he feels it would be disturbing to upset what we currently have, but remarked that we should do this cooperatively and we do not move along independently and suggested this is something we should work towards as a larger body.

Mr. Ashley informed Council that he would report Berwick's Council opinions back to the CAO's.

6. Ongoing Business

(a) Committee Rotations

Mr. Ashley reviewed his report. He noted that rotation of committee membership has benefits. It gives citizens in their role as elected representatives more and different opportunities to learn about and influence a variety of local affairs.

Mr. Ashley explained that the remaining term of participation in committees will be the same as the councilors and mayor's terms of office, terminating after an autumn election in 2008.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council confirm and approve the new Chair and membership appointments to committees in which the Town of Berwick's elected officials participate, as enumerated in the attached table.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilor Participation in External and Internal Committees

Before	After	Notes
PLANNING	PLANNING	
CHAIR→TRINACTY	CHAIR→EASSON	
Prall	Prall	
Clarke	Clarke	
Easson	Trinacty	
POLICE SERVICES	POLICE SERVICES	
CHAIR→WHITTIER	CHAIR→ASHFORD-MORTON	
Prall	Prall	
Horsburgh	Horsburgh	
Trinacty	Whittier	
RECREATION	RECREATION	
CHAIR→HORSBURGH	CHAIR→WHITTIER	
Prall	Prall	
Ashford-Morton	Horsburgh	
Whittier	Easson	
	Ashford-Morton	
FIRE	FIRE	
CHAIR→CLARKE	CHAIR→CLARKE	
Prall	Prall,	
	Whittier	

FINANCE/ADMIN	FINANCE/ADMIN	
CHAIR→CLARKE	CHAIR→TRINACTY	
Ashford-Morton	Ashford-Morton	
Prall	Prall	
Easson	Horsburgh	
ELECTRIC (set by statute)	ELECTRIC	
CHAIR→PRALL	CHAIR→PRALL	
Clarke	Clarke	
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
New	Prall	
New	Trinacty	
REMO	REMO	
New	Prall	
New	Easson, Vice Chair	

Before	After	Notes
KINGS PARTNERSHIP	KINGS PARTNERSHIP	
Prall	Prall	
Clarke	Trinacty	
Easson	Clarke	
VALLEY COMMUNITY FIBER	VALLEY COMMUNITY FIBER	
Clarke	Clarke	
KINGS TRANSIT	KINGS TRANSIT	
Horsburgh	Horsburgh (AAM if time can change)	
VALLEY WASTE	VALLEY WASTE	
Horsburgh	Horsburgh	
KCED Board of Directors	KCED Board of Directors	
Prall	Easson	
Board of Trade Clarke		
Clarke	Easson	
Regional Library Board		

6. New Business

(a) Town of Berwick and Berwick Board of Trade

Mr. Ashley reviewed the Agenda for the upcoming meeting taking place on February 20, 2007. He noted that Linda Ramsay was the new President for Berwick Board of Trade.

Councillor Trinacty encouraged everyone to come.

(b) N.S. Utility and Review Board Application on Local Governance

Mr. Ashley went over his report. He indicated that The Municipal Government Act, 1998, c.18 requires an application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board to confirm or alter the number of councilors and the boundaries of the polling districts and their number. He noted that the requirement stipulates years as 1999 and 2006 and every eighth year thereafter.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council confirm and approve the present size of its governance structure (Mayor plus six Councillors elected at large), and that notification of this status quo be sent to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

and

THAT

Council direct staff to make arrangements with the NSUARB for a suitable date and time to hold a public hearing on the subject.

MOTION CARRIED

(c) Purchasing Policy

Mr. Ashley reviewed his report. He highlighted that on face value, a proposed deal between the RCMP and the Town/Fire Commission partnership appears simple – the Town/Commission partnership develop a facility and become landlords, and the RCMP become tenants. But behind this simple picture of landlord, tenant, building and lease, the committee is discovering many layers of technical complexity. Mr. Ashley went on to review some of these areas.

The prime time to put a proposal before the RCMP is before March 31, 2007 (the ending of their fiscal year). This is when opportune spending niches – which are transferable, may arise across Canada. The Town of Berwick will forfeit this opportunity by waiting too long.

For many reasons, including the fact that the likelihood that a tender process would yield an array of proponents at the caliber of Catalyst is remote, highlighted by discussions the Town has had with administrations from Grand Falls and Sackville, NB, with expert RCMP staff and with the project manager, Mr. Ashley suggested that Catalyst Consulting be reviewed by the New Fire Hall Committee as consultants, regarding these technical issues which have come before the Committee.

Mr. Ashley noted that Council's decision to pass the following recommended Resolution does not authorize the CAO to contract Catalyst Consulting. Rather, the resolution readies the CAO to act without delay to approve the town's share of the fees, should the NFHC decide to hire the firm.

The alternative to professional consulting is for the Committee to research, plan, and negotiate the building and the RCMP lease agreement itself. The likelihood for an optimal outcome, given the absence of specialized expertise, is very low, even to the extent of placing the policing component of the overall project in serious jeopardy.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

In the event that the partnership of the Town of Berwick and the Berwick and District Fire Commission, through their representative agents in the New Fire Hall Committee, decide to procure the professional services of Catalyst Consulting, Council shall grant the CAO permission to authorize the Town's share of the fees, up to, but not exceeding \$18,000.00.

MOTION CARRIED

(d) "Buy Locally" Banner

Discussion ensued about the design of the banner with regard to pictures and lettering. It was agreed that the Town engage The Bus Boys, Custom Graphics Division, to supply the banner. Council authorized the cost of the banner, being \$1083.14 plus applicable taxes.

(e) Power Outage

Discussion ensued about the time of the planned power outage on February 13, 2007. There had been a couple of phone calls from citizens commenting that they did not feel this was a good time for a power outage. The time the outage occurred was 5:00am.

(f) Curt Palmer and The Briar

Council suggested and agreed to forward a letter to Mr. Palmer, congratulating him on his win at the Tankard and his forthcoming trip to the Briar.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting of Council will be March 13, 2007.

8. Adjournment

Hearing no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:01pm.

Beth Easson, Deputy Mayor
Chair

Chantal L. Pineo-Atwood
Recording Secretary