

Town of Berwick

Regular Council Meeting- Minutes of the Meeting

June 11, 2019 6:30pm

Attendance

In attendance	Don Clarke, Mayor	Chair
	Deputy Mayor Jane Bustin	
	Anna Ashford-Morton	
	Mike Trinacty	
Councillors	Rod Reeves	
	Ty Walsh	
	Barry Corbin	
	Mike Payne, CAO	
	Jerry Wood, Finance Director	
	Debbie Elliott, Director of Community Development & Recreation	
	Chantal Pineo, Executive Coordinator	
Present:	George Floris	
	Pat Jodrie	
	Graham Baxter	
	Brandon Benedict	

1. Call to Order

The Council Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The previous Council Minutes were approved by motion of Council.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved as circulated with the following additions:

- REMO Flood preparedness plan approval
- Kings Transit
- Planning discussion on Morse and Jonny's
- July 1st Weekend celebrations
- Dr. recruitment suggestion
- Fitness Centre
- Hall of Fame reminder

- Kings Point to Point (Report submitted by citizen representative, Chris Goddard, was reviewed by the committee)

4. Presentation: Valley Wildcats

Mr. Baxter and Mr. Benedict offered an update on the team and highlighted that there is current negotiations going on between the organization partnering with Acadia which is very exciting news for the team and managers. The draft will be held in Edmunston this year. Mr. Benedict noted that a game to open up the Gala Days Weekend, on September 29th, should not be an issue.

5. Correspondence:

Honorable Chuck Porter, Minister of Municipal Affairs

There were no questions of the letter to provide notice of changes for fiscal year 2020-2021 and beyond.

6. New Business:

a. Declaration of Climate Change

Mayor Clarke asked Council to give this some thought and to look around to see what is going on around us. Council suggested drafting a statement surrounding climate change and to form a committee. Councillor Corbin, Councillor Reeves and Deputy Mayor Bustin will form this committee. Chantal will suggest a meeting time and send an appointment.

b. REMO Flood Preparedness Plan

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Municipal Council adopt the Kings REMO Flood Preparedness and Response Plan, dated March 2019.

MOTION CARRIED

c. *Kings Transit – Operating Reserve*

Mr. Bannon, General Manager of Kings Transit, forwarded a request for a lump sum of \$4,150 to be paid to Kings Transit as Berwick's share to create an Operating Reserve of \$83,000. Council agreed to pay our share in the amount of \$4,150 but will not agree, to an operating reserve.

d. *June Planning Meeting*

Michael Morse has enquired about approvals to construct a residence on property he owns that abuts unto Willow Avenue. That area is currently zoned agricultural.

Mr. Morse's property does not meet the minimum requirements for an approved residential lot. Our current regulations stipulate that the minimum lot frontage is 400' and the minimum lot area is ten (10) acres. All lots must abut Willow Avenue; a lane/driveway cannot serve as legal frontage.

In order to consider this request several issues will have to be explored: The Town would have to consider amending the MPS and LUB. It may consider the creation of a new 'Willow Avenue Residential Zone' with new minimum requirements regarding the size of residential lots. Any changes that the Town might make to agricultural policies will likely be of interest to the Province.

Residential development within the Town must be connected to the Town's wastewater system that does not currently extend the length of Willow Avenue. It is anticipated that the Town will not want to extend the wastewater system. Any minimum lot requirement changes that are considered must be large enough to accommodate septic fields.

All other parts of the current Agricultural zone would remain unchanged.

Council agreed to notify Mr. Morse to submit a formal application and proposal to PAC and Council would look at same.

Consideration of a request from Jonny's Cookhouse in South Berwick to connect to the Town's Wastewater System

Jonny King of Jonny's Cookhouse in South Berwick is requesting consideration to connect to the Town's wastewater system. He recently doubled the size of his operation (kitchen and bathrooms), upgraded his septic field and installed two commercial grease traps. At their expense they would install 900' of piping to connect to our wastewater system and would pay the Town an annual sewer fee.

In order to consider this request several issues should be explored: Extending services beyond the Town boundaries can be problematic because tax revenue associated with that property goes to another municipality. Should a higher level policy/strategy be established concerning extensions of services outside of Town boundaries? Should a tax sharing agreement be explored with the Municipality of Kings?

Sewer fee revenue will not contribute any funding to the life cycle renewal cost of the required infrastructure. Anticipated annual sewer fee revenue based on our existing fee structure would be \$432.70. Ownership and maintenance of the proposed infrastructure is a key issue to resolve.

The Town has limited means to control the quality of flows entering into the waste water system once a traditional service is connected. Potential options that might be considered are:

Connect directly to the Town's wastewater system and accept all liquids and solids, bypassing the existing septic field;

Jonny's would continue to use their existing systems and septic field to remove all solids and discharge only wastewater into the Town's wastewater system.

Council believes it's responsible to protect the Town's citizens and not jeopardize our own systems. The value in services is being a tax payer. Perhaps there may be value in having a conversation with the County about this issue, but Council does not want to entertain this under the current situation.

e. July 1st Celebrations

Debbie wanted to remind Council about the July 1st celebrations at the park this year and asked for volunteers to host the events.

f. Doctor Recruitment

Councillor Ashford-Morton explained that Mike Landry is interested in speaking to Council in July regarding hosting a golf tournament with proceeds going to doctor recruitment for our Town. Chantal will schedule Mike for July Council.

g. Fitness Centre

Councillor Trinacty noted that some individuals have mentioned dissatisfaction with regard to the gym being closed on holidays and storm days. Discussion ensued with regard to statutory holidays and the fact that if the gym is closed early in the morning due to a storm, it should be reviewed again later in the morning. Staff will discuss holiday closures.

h. Hall of Fame

Councillor Trinacty reminded the committee that the Sports Hall of Fame is June 15th at the Berwick Lions Hall.

7. Ongoing Business

a. Council Transfer of Funds

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council approves the transfer in the amount of \$120,000 from the General Capital Reserve to offset the Town Hall debenture principal payment for 2018/19 fiscal year.

MOTION CARRIED

b. Interest Rate on Tax Accounts

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council approves the Marketing/Promotion & Community Development priority project of \$30,000 be added to the 2019-20 General Operating Budget with funding from the General Operating Reserve.

MOTION CARRIED

c. Budget 2019-20 Approval

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

The 2019/20 Residential Tax Rate be set at \$1.189 per \$100 of assessed value on residential and resource properties

MOTION CARRIED

The 2019/20 Commercial Tax Rate be set at \$3.481 per \$100 of assessed value on commercial properties

MOTION CARRIED

The 2019/20 Education Levy be set at \$.336 per \$100 of assessed value on residential, resource and commercial properties

MOTION CARRIED

The 2019/20 Capital Budget with Gross Expenditures of \$ 661,020 be approved (refer to Capital Projects 2019/20 and Capital Funding Sources information only attached)

MOTION CARRIED

The 2019/20 Policy NO: 5.018 Policy for Fees without any increase to the 2017/18 rates AND Sewer Services Expenditures of \$ 472,597 be approved (refer to Policy for Fees # 5.018 and 2019/20 Master Budget Sewer Services)

MOTION CARRIED

The Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce grant of \$ 2,000 be approved

MOTION CARRIED

A Kings County Senior Safety Society grant of \$2,000 be approved

MOTION DENIED

Council approve a MOTION TO AMMEND the Kings County Senior Safety Society grant of \$2,000 being approved

MOTION CARRIED

Approve a grant of \$1500 to Kings County Safety Society, plus free room rental for the year 2019-20.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council approve a sum of \$5000 toward the KMCC paving of a parking lot extension.

MOTION DENIED

7. Mayors Update

Mayor Clarke gave an update as to the many events and meetings he has attended such as numerous Apple Blossom events and Power Forward Conference in Ottawa and reviewed upcoming events for the next couple of weeks.

8. In Camera Session

The regular Council meeting entered into an In Camera Session at 9:00pm and returned to regular Council at 9:17pm

9. Adjournment

The Council Meeting adjourned at 9:19pm.