

ATTENDING

Mayor Don Clarke, Chair
Deputy Mayor Mike Trinacty
Councillor Ty Walsh
Councillor Rod Reeves
Councillor Derrick Jamieson
Councillor Adam Lutz
Councillor Chris Goddard
Jen Boyd, Chief Administrative Officer
Lisa Buchan, Director of Finance
Tim Harding, Director of Public Works
Katie Verrette, Manager of Community Dev.
Krista Longmire, Executive Assistant

Also in Attendance:

4 Members of the Public

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMENDED

6. Correspondence

c. Welcome package letter

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2024 BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.

MOTION CARRIED

4. PRESENTATION

a. Becca Green-LaPierre & Roger Tatlock, Basic Income Guarantee (BIG-NS)

Becca Green-LaPierre from the Kings County Community Food Council and Roger Tatlock from Basic Income Nova Scotia Society are asking Town Council to write letters to the Prime Minister and Premier asking for federal and provincial/territorial governments to work together to create a national livable basic income guarantee. Also, a letter to the Premier and all MLAs, requesting that the province of Nova

Scotia establish an all-party committee of the legislature to research and design the implementation of a livable basic income guarantee for all Nova Scotians.

Becca Green-LaPierre & Roger Tatlock left the meeting at 6:58 pm.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. RFD002-2024: Virtual Meeting Policy

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT Council approves the Council & Committee Videoconference policy with the following amendments.

5.1 ii "and/or";

5.2 - three Council Meetings and three Committee of the Whole Meetings;

5.3 - Audience members attending virtually agree not to record the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

b. RFD004-2024: 2024 Municipal Election

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT Council delegates its powers of the appointment of a Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer to the Chief Administrative Officer under section 4 (1C) Municipal Elections Act.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT Council delegates to the Chief Administrative Officer its authority to make, revise, and amend the tariff of fees and expenses and provide for a method of rendering and verifying accounts for payment relating to the Municipal Election 2024 as per section 139 (1A) Municipal Elections Act.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT Council approves the use of the permanent register of electors established and maintained by Elections Nova Scotia as the basis for the list of electors for the Town of Berwick (section 30 (2) (c) Municipal Elections Act).

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT Council set the other advance poll day for the 2024 Municipal Election as Thursday, October 10, 2024, per section 114 (4) (b) Municipal Elections Act.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT Council agree to a full electronic method (internet and phone) for the 2024 Municipal Election.

MOTION CARRIED

c. RFD005-2024: Temporary Borrowing Resolution – Refinance Debenture 29-A-1

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT Council approve the Town of Berwick’s temporary borrowing resolution to refinance the amount of \$95,000 for the BEC Dam Remediation and \$291,250 for the Fire Hall.

MOTION CARRIED

d. RFD006-2024: Kings Transit Authority Budget

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT Council approve the 2024/25 Kings Transit Authority Operating and Capital Budgets as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

e. RFD007-2024: Valley Waste Operating and Capital Budgets

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT Council approve the 2024/25 Valley Regional Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority Operating and Capital Budgets as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

f. Council Remuneration Review

CAO Boyd reviewed the Council remuneration review and survey results. A survey was conducted by staff of several comparable municipalities. In addition, a 2022 survey conducted by AMANS provided data from all municipalities in the province. Staff are still gathering information on commission remuneration, parental leave policies, and childcare policies to present at the Committee of the Whole meeting with an updated policy document. An updated comparison table to show the number of elected officials in each of the comparable municipalities will also be provided at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

g. Draft V2 2024/25 Operating and Capital Budgets

Director Buchan gave an overview of version two of the 2024-25 Operating and Capital budgets for Council consideration, highlighting the key changes from version one. Currently, the draft 2024/25 Operating Budget V2 is presenting a shortfall of \$191,000. The original public budget engagement session was postponed due to

poor weather conditions and will now be held on February 20th, 2024. A budget survey was launched to solicit feedback from residents to help inform the budget process. Results from the survey and public session will be presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Kings County Senior's Safety Society

A letter of support was received from the Kings County Senior's Safety Society (KCSSS) asking that the Town again recognize the impact and importance of the KCSSS to the well-being of the Town of Berwick. A grant of \$2,000 has been included in the 2024/25 budget for the grants to organizations.

b. Kings County Community Food Council – The Great Big Crunch

An invitation to Council to participate in the "Great Big Crunch" on March 7, 2024, at the Berwick and District School. The Great Big Crunch raises awareness of the importance of healthy food at school. The Town of Berwick is an Endorser of the Coalition for Healthy School Food. All Council members were in favor of this, and a calendar invitation will be sent once the time is set.

c. Welcome Package

An email was received from the new resident of the Town of Berwick about a welcome basket that she received. Manager Verette commented that this initiative was done by a resident to welcome their new neighbours. It was very well received, and Verette hopes to continue with something similar for all new residents. She did point out that this would be different than the Welcome Wagon program which is in partnership with the Valley REN.

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Clarke attended a meeting with the Valley Region – Deputy Minister's Roundtable on Immigration and Population Growth to discuss attracting, welcoming, and supporting newcomers to the area. CAO Boyd will send Council an update from this meeting.

7. IN-CAMERA

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR MEETING BE ADJOURNED TO IN-CAMERA AT 8:47pm

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE IN-CAMERA BE ADJOURNED TO THE REGULAR MEETING AT 9:33 pm.

MOTION CARRIED

8. ADJOURNMENT

**IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR MEETING
BE ADJOURNED AT 9:33 PM.**

MOTION CARRIED

Approved by Town Council March 12, 2024.

As recorded by Krista Longmire, Executive Assistant