

ATTENDING

Mayor Mike Trinacty, Chair
Councillor Derrick Jamieson
Councillor Ty Walsh
Councillor Adam Lutz
Councillor Johanna Kwakernaak
Councillor Justin Serino
Councillor Chris Goddard
Jen Boyd, Chief Administrative Officer
Katie Verrette, Manager of Community Development
Aaron Dondale, Director of Public Works
Lisa Buchan, Director of Finance
Krista Longmire, Executive Assistant
Chrystal Fuller, BCP & C (Via zoom)

ALSO ATTENDING

2 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.

8. IN-CAMERA

Deputy Mayor Lutz would like to add an item to in-camera

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.

MOTION CARRIED

4. REVIEW ACTION ITEMS

CAO Boyd gave an update on the Action Items from the previous meeting. She mentioned that currently there is no appeal at the end of the Code of Conduct process for a Councillor once a decision has been made by Council.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approval of 2023/24 Audited Financial Statements

Councillor Jamieson reported that the Audit Committee met with Auditor Lawrence Lake to review the Town's 2023/24 audited financial statements.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT Council accept the audited 2023/24 audited financial statements as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

b. First Reading – Development Agreement Lot 1-AC Commercial St.

Deputy Mayor Lutz reported that the Planning Advisory Committee recommended that the development agreement on Lot 1-AC Commercial Street be forwarded to Council for first reading. Planner Chrystal Fuller reviewed the Development Agreement, highlighting the significant changes to the site plan from the previous agreement.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT Council give first reading to enter into a development agreement with 3264285 Nova Scotia to permit the development of 120 units in four multi-story buildings on Lot 1-AC, Commercial Street and forward the application to a public hearing.

MOTION CARRIED

Chrystal left meeting 7:00 pm

The public hearing date was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 13th at 6:30 p.m.

c. RFD001-2025 – Stormwater Management

Director Dondale reviewed the Stormwater Management Plan tender that closed on December 20th which received 7 submissions. After a review of the submissions and scoring system, it was determined that CBCL most closely aligned with the criteria the Town was seeking in the specifications. Director Dondale will inquire with CBCL to change one of the meetings with staff and council to include a public engagement component.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED that Council award the work scope as outlined in BER2024-017 Town of Berwick Stormwater Management Plan to CBCL for the contract amount of \$94,995.00, excluding HST.

MOTION CARRIED

d. 109 Marsters Avenue Unsightly Property Update

CAO Boyd gave an update on this property which was first addressed in 2022-23. An order was placed on the property on November 14, 2023. The property owner appealed the order to Council on December 12, 2023. At that time Council overturned the order and staff was to work with the property owner to find accepted storage options. Further communication with the property owner on the progress has been unsuccessful. Council directed staff to prepare another order on the property to bring back to the next meeting for review.

e. Development Officer Appointment

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT Council appoint Ning Liang as a Development Officer for the Town of Berwick, pursuant to Section 243 of the *Municipal Government Act*.

MOTION CARRIED

f. Information Report – 2025/26 Draft Operating Budget V1

Director Buchan began the presentation of the 2025/26 Draft Operating Budget, Version 1. Buchan noted that a representative from Property Valuation Services will attend the Committee of the Whole meeting on January 28th to give an overview of the 2025 property assessments in Berwick. CAO Boyd, Director Dondale, and Manager Verrette also presented the sections of the operating budget relevant to their departments.

Members of the public left the meeting at 8:27 pm.

Concerns were addressed about the projected timeline and the presentation to the public. Version one of the operating budget reflects a deficit of \$180,000 and maintains the current tax rate. Extensive discussions followed regarding items for which staff were seeking direction for changes to future operating budget versions. A one-cent reduction in the tax rate was mentioned by a councillor and more detailed costing of the Parks Coordinator and Bylaw Officer were requested but to keep it outside of the budget at this time. Council will review the current budget documents and provide direction to staff on areas of the budget that could be reduced or other options to achieve a balanced budget.

6. CORRESPONDENCE – no report

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

The report was circulated.

8. IN-CAMERA

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR MEETING BE ADJOURNED TO IN-CAMERA AT 11:04 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE IN-CAMERA BE ADJOURNED TO THE REGULAR MEETING AT 11:11 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT COUNCIL APPOINT CRYSTAL MCCORMACK TO THE TOWN'S ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE UNTIL NOVEMBER 2026.

MOTION CARRIED

THAT COUNCIL APPOINT BOB FOWLER TO THE BERWICK ELECTRIC COMMISSION.

MOTION CARRIED

9. ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 11:15 PM

MOTION CARRIED

Approved by Town Council **February 11, 2025**

As recorded by Krista Longmire, Executive Assistant