

# **Town of Berwick**

## ***Council***

### **Minutes of the Meeting**

**June 9, 2008**

#### **Attendance**

In attendance

Mayor John Prall  
Deputy Mayor Don Clarke

Chair

Councillors Richard Horsburgh  
Anna Ashford-Morton  
Mike Trinacty  
Gary Whittier

Absent with Regrets

CAO Bob Ashley  
Minutes Chantal Pineo-Atwood

Media Sarah Keddy

Kings County  
Register

#### **1. Call to Order**

The PAC Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

#### **2. Approval of Previous Minutes**

The Minutes of May 6, 2008 were approved as circulated.

#### **3. Approval of Agenda**

The Agenda was approved as circulated.

At this time, Mayor Prall congratulated the Hall of Fame Committee for an excellent evening.

#### **4. Economic Development Advisory Committee Update**

Councillor Trinacty reviewed the Berwick Economic Development Strategic Plan and highlighted the workplan and priorities for 2008-2009. The priorities are as follows:

- Development of the Northern Gateway
- Create a commercial infill
- Create a business attraction strategy
- Provide linkages to businesses
- Town beautification
- Support the KMCC Committee

Discussion occurred with regard to the Committee holding an “Economic Development Launch”. Businesses and the public would be invited to attend. The EDC would provide updates on the new fire hall, KMCC, Board of Trade, and perhaps have a guest speaker.

**IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED**

**THAT**

**Council support and accept the two documents provided by the Economic Development Committee for 2008.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Councillor Whittier suggested putting a flyer out in the mail (condensing the highlights of the two documents)

**3. Ongoing Business:**

*a. Operating Budget*

Mr. MacLean reviewed the Operating Budget and noted that the document is now a balanced budget with the Residential rate set at 1.585 and the Commercial rate at \$3.40.

Mr. MacLean noted that at this point, he did not have final numbers confirmed with the RCMP but does have 5% built in to the budget and hopes this is suffice.

Councillor Trinacty complimented the staff on a job well done with the budget.

Deputy Mayor Clarke pointed out that he liked the way the options were laid out this year and found it much less frustrating.

The following recommendation for Council’s consideration was put forth:

**IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED**

**THAT**

Council approve the Town 2008/09 Operating Budget totaling \$3,475,900.00 with the following levies:

Res Tax Levy \$1.585 per hundred of assessment

Comm Tax Levy \$3.400 per hundred of assessment

Sewer Levy \$0.110 per hundred assessment (residential and commercial assessments)

**MOTION CARRIED**

**4. Committee Updates and Recommendations**

*a. Berwick Electric Commission – Recommendations*

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded**

**THAT**

Council approve the Temporary Borrowing Resolution in the amount of \$380,000 to provide interim financing for the Dam Remediation.

**MOTION CARRIED**

*b. COTW – Recommendation*

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded**

**THAT**

Council approve the immediate payment of Roscoe Construction Limited Invoice #11744 in the amount of \$3089.37 plus \$113.00 for repairs to and flushing of sprinkler system, for a total of \$3202.37.

**MOTION CARRIED**

*c. PAC Update – Recommendation*

Councillor Trinacty reviewed the PAC report and the ICSP Workplan Budget.

Mr. Ashley noted remarked that he was willing to take a few weeks sabbatical to complete the Literature Review piece. This has a budget amount of \$5000.00 which the Town would save by Mr. Ashley completing this, plus the advantage of the knowledge he will gain with respect to the project.

Mr. Ashley noted that the Town will use gas tax refund monies for some of the project.

Councillor Morton suggested approaching the Berwick School to see if the teachers/children would be interested in a branding competition, slogan and/or picture. This could also be used under the public input piece.

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded**

**THAT**

Council adopt the 4-Phase Workplan and accompanying budget for the Town's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Councillor Trinacty reviewed the Irvine rezoning. The rezoning matter conforms with everything it has to with regard to the MPS. The Public hearing is scheduled for July Council.

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded**

**THAT**

A portion of lands of Bernie and Shirley Irvine located at 137 Brown Street (PID 55237937) be rezoned from residential Single Family R-1 to Residential Two Family R-2 to enable the development of a semi-detached dwelling.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Discussion ensued with regard to the current vacancy on PAC. Council directed staff to review the previous submissions and pick from who is interested.

d. *RCMP Police Services Advisory Board – Report and Recommendation*  
Mr. Ashley reviewed the report.

It was a general consensus by Council that we need to begin to start looking at other options if our municipality is unable to negotiate/bargain with the RCMP. Other options may included a Valley Police Force, HRM or Provincial Police Force. It was noted that municipalities should get together to discuss the issues at hand.

Mr. Ashley noted that June 20<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for resolutions for UNSM.

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded**

**THAT**

Berwick's Town Council supports the development of a Provincial Association of Municipal RCMP Advisory Boards.

**THAT**

Berwick's Town Council register strong support to the Department of Justice to invite meaningful municipal representation at the negotiating table for a new RCMP contract in 2012 when the current contract expires.

**MOTION CARRIED**

*e. Mayor's Update on Minister M. Scott Meeting*

Mayor Prall reported that the meeting between Minister Scott and the Town went well. Minister Scott assured the Town that the Province will look at the width of the bridge and the underlying blockage. They also agreed that the Town would have some input on future design. Mayor Prall noted that Minister Scott was sympathetic to our cause as it is the main entrance into the Town.

Mr. Ashley indicated that there would be no "new" bridge. It was inspected in 2006. The Province will fix the "bounce" and the surface. The Minister suggested adding a sidewalk. Mr. Ashley added that we can make the area more attractive with landscaping through Fred Whynott's (Department of Transportation) permitting.

Mr. Ashley summarized that the Province wants to see a plan from us and we can then engage in talks with regard to sharing of costs.

Councillor Trinacty pointed out that Economic Development can start the leg work on some designs.

## **5. Councillor Reports**

*a. Valley Waste Resource Management – Councillor Horsburgh*

Councillor Horsburgh noted that the new recycling program is going very well. The VWRM budget has been passed by the two County's.

Councillor Horsburgh noted he has done a Preliminary Report with regard to the surplus. He indicated that the issue that caused problems about the budget was the handling of the surplus and communication. In response to this, the Valley Waste Working Group was formed. This group will be looking at better ways to complete the budget. Councillor Horsburgh indicated that if there is a surplus this year, it will be handled differently, as the partnering municipalities will need to be approached as to how the surplus is to be handled.

Councillor Horsburgh thanked Mr. Ashley for all the work that he has done with regard to Valley Waste.

Discussion ensued with regard to the surplus.

## **6. New Business**

*a. Kings Transit Authority – Letter of Support for Michelin*

Mr. Ashley reviewed the letter that he drafted for Kings Transit Authority with regard to public transit service being extended to the Michelin plant in Waterville. Mr. Ashley noted that he was not sure if this issue was still on the table or not. In the event that it is, Council passed the following motion:

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded**

**THAT**

Council supports the initiative of support in this letter to Kings Transit Authority.

**MOTION CARRIED**

*b. UNSM Energy Resolution*

Mr. Ashley reviewed the UNSM Resolution of Provincial Energy Policies. The following Motion was put forth:

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded**

**THAT**

The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities deliver an emphatic message to the Province on the urgent need to undertake a critical reexamination and reconstruction of existing energy regulations and policies which obstruct, delay, or prohibit the development of viable alternative energy solutions for all communities in Nova Scotia.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Mr. Ashley will send this report to the other municipalities and ask them to put it before the respective Councils.

*c. Correspondence – Digby Ferry*

Digby has forwarded a letter to the Town asking for municipal support by way of letter, for the continuance of the Digby Ferry. Mr. Ashley will compose a letter, as per Council's direction.

*d. Active Transportation*

Councillor Trinacty noted that Stacy Derouches is our Community Champion. Stacy has been trained to assess our community with regard to active transportation. At some point we would like him to speak to Council.

## **9. Adjournment**

The Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.