

# Town of Berwick

## *Council*

### Minutes of the Meeting

September 16, 2008

#### Attendance

In attendance

Mayor John Prall  
Deputy Mayor Don Clarke

Chair

Councillors Richard Horsburgh  
Anna Ashford-Morton  
Mike Trinacty  
Gary Whittier

CAO Bob Ashley  
Minutes Chantal Pineo-Atwood

Absent with Regrets

Media Sarah Keddy

Kings County  
Register

#### 1. Call to Order

The Council Meeting was called to order at 6:54pm

#### 2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of August 26, 2008 were approved as circulated, with the exception of Mayor Prall should have been listed under *Absent with Regrets*.

#### 3. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved as circulated, with the following additions:

- a. Memorial recognition of two Town of Berwick employees – 42 years ago
- b. Update on Kings Transit
- g. Policy - Rental of Town Owned Property
- h. Council Honorarium Committee
- i. Invitation of the VCFN – this can go with don's update.

#### 4. Accolades

- a. ***Bob Best, Bruce Beattie and John Nichols – Berwick Community Association Ball Tournament***

Mayor Prall thanked and congratulated Bob Best, Bruce Beattie and John Nichols for the organizing of the Berwick Community Association Ball Tournament, and presented them with a Certificate of Appreciation.

***b. Julia Cox, Atlantic Assembly President – Elect***

Deputy Mayor Clarke presented Ms. Julia Cox with a Certificate of Congratulations with regard to her appointment as Atlantic Assembly President.

***c. Peewee A Provincial Organizing Committee***

Councillor Ashford-Morton presented the Committee with a Certificate of Appreciation for their extensive efforts in organizing an admirable Provincials weekend for Peewee A baseball.

**5. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

***a. E-Voting Bylaw***

**IT WAS MOVED** and seconded

**THAT**

Council approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of a bylaw to authorize the voting by telephone/internet for the 2008 municipal elections.

**IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** and seconded

**THAT**

Council approve adoption of the document entitled Telephone/Internet Voting, Election Policies and Procedures for the year 2008 Municipal Election.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**6. New Business:**

***a. New Fire Hall – Additional Paving***

Mr. Ashley explained the advantages and disadvantages of complete paving of the new fire hall. He further remarked that paving only part of the parking lot instead of all of it was one of the cost saving measures the Fire Services Subcommittee pursued. As we are now about 70% complete with all major components account for, under budget, without the 5% contingency not being used, it has been recommended by the Fire Services Subcommittee that the additional paving be completed.

Deputy Mayor Clarke remarked that this has been a very successful project and feels this is a sensible thing to go forth with.

Councillor Trinacty indicated that he is comfortable with going forward, if the paving is done out of the present budget envelope.

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded**

**THAT**

Council approve a 50% share of additional paving at an estimate total cost of \$68,158.40 to complete full coverage of the new fire hall site's parking lot.

**MOTION CARRIED**

***b. Democracy 250 – Dave Keddy***

Mr. Keddy disbursed a Report on Democracy 250.

Mr. Keddy reviewed the three “Legacy” project ideas which were put forth by EDAC, they were as follows:

1. Democracy (250) Park (on adjoining land next to new Fire Hall)
2. Decorative rock/stone type structure (entry off the bridge)
3. New signage at Northern Gateway entrance, South entrance (and two other entrances if funds available)

After much discussion ensued, Council agreed that the \$5000.00 funding should be applied to a decorative entry project around the bridge whether it be stone, wrought iron, or something similar.

***d. Kings Transit Strategy Update and Invitation to the VFCN – Deputy Mayor Clarke***

**Kings Transit:**

Deputy Mayor Clarke reported a few things which came out of the Retreat, including a strategy session for federal money and what the plan entailed.

Deputy Mayor Clarke also remarked that he attended the regular board meeting and noted that Mr. Peterson was through his term, and Mark Pearl was elected Board Chairman.

Councillor Ashford-Morton noted that she had attended the Board Meeting this evening and discussion ensued with regard to the Tideways bus schedule. The ridership numbers and fares were also reviewed.

Councillor Ashford-Morton explained that for the Michelin Bus Express to evolve, they require a commitment of 80 employees this year.

The monthly deficit that Kings Transit faces was also discussed. There has been a 46% increase in fuel. There was a 20% cushion built into the budget for fuel, so it leaves a deficit of 26%.

Discussion ensued about this growing deficit and the fact that the Town can not afford this if it continues.

Kings Transit wages are lower then the fuel costs.

#### Valley Fiber Community Network

Deputy Mayor Clarke was excited to announce that the Valley Fiber Community Network is now built. The Board has now hired a company (IA&I) to manage and sell the product and to carry on the day to day operations.

#### ***e. LED Program – Discussion***

Council directed staff to engage in the LED Program this year with regard to the Christmas Light Exchange.

#### ***f. Assessment Board Funding – Discussion***

Mayor Prall explained the HST Rebate which we thought we would receive has been turned down. The amount of \$185,000.00 was built in the budget to look after this contingency, but because the incorporation is under the Crown, the rebate is no longer available.

Mayor Prall noted that since we are paying the HST, some will come back to the Province, and pointed out that they have asked that some of that come back to the agents.

#### ***g. Memorial of Town Staff (Previous)***

Councillor Horsburgh explained that in 1966, two Public Works employees were killed on the job. A citizen has requested that a plaque to established at the Public Works building, in memory of these 2 employees.

**IT WAS MOVED** and seconded

**THAT**

A plaque in memory of these two gentlemen who passed away 42 years ago, be placed at the Public Works Building. Total cost is not to exceed \$400.00.

**MOTION CARRIED**

***h. Town Owned Property Rental***

Councillor Trinacty suggested that the Town should rent out vacant spaces to increase profits.

Mr. Ashley indicates that one concern is essentially “competing” with other landlords in town. Should we only rent to non-profit organizations?

Mr. Ashley suggested that this issue be put on the Council’s List of Priorities.

Council directed staff to rent the current fire hall space, after the move to the new station, with the provision, to any renter, that they would have to vacate if the property sells.

***i. Council Honourarium***

Mr. Ashley informed Council that staff planned to form a small task force with 2 or 3 citizens and Councillor Horsburgh (who is not re-offering) for the review of Council Honorarium, and asked for Councils support in same. Council agreed to pursue this committee in this manner.

***j. Announcement***

It was announced that a Blood Donor Clinic was going to be held on September 22 at the Lions Hall.

**7. Ongoing Business:**

***a. Non-Union Salary Adjustments***

After discussion ensued with regard to the recommendations, the following Motions were put forth.

**IT WAS MOVED** and seconded

**THAT**

Council approve the remuneration package for the Town of Berwick’s ten non-union positions as presented and totaling \$12,349 in the current fiscal year, with 4 positions receiving increases in each of the next two fiscal years.

and

**THAT**

Council approve as part of the remuneration package, a pilot closure of the Town Hall offices over the 2008 Christmas period, i.e. December 24 to January 1<sup>st</sup>, with regular office hours to commence, January 2, 2009.

and

**THAT**

Council approve adjusting vacation periods for Chantal Pineo-Atwood and Michael MacLean by one week, upward, from current benefit package.

and

**THAT**

Council approve an increase in contribution to the CAO's pension plan from the current 5% to 6.5% effective April 1, 2009 and to 8% effective April 1, 2010.

and

**THAT**

Council approve the following title changes: 1) Director of Recreation to Director of Recreation and Community Development and; 2) Accountant to Director of Finance.

**MOTIONS CARRIED**

**8. Adjournment**

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.