

**MINUTES OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**October 10, 2006**

Present:       Chair           Mayor John P. Prall  
                                  Deputy Mayor Donald E. Clarke  
                                  Councillor Mike Trinacty  
                                  Councillor J. Richard Horsburgh  
                                  Councillor Beth Easson  
                                  Councillor Anna Ashford-Morton  
                                  Mr. Bob Ashley, Chief Administrative Officer  
                                  Mrs. Chantal Pineo-Atwood, Recording Secretary

In Attendance:               Mrs. Sara Keddy, Kings County Register  
                                  Heather Killen, Valley Today  
                                  Berwick Food Bank representatives  
                                  Ms. Naomi Blanchard, Kings Para Transit

Absent with Regrets       Councillor Gary W. Whittier

1.   The Chair welcomed members of the gallery. He called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

2.   **Welcome Media**

The Chair welcomed all media and introduced Heather Killen of Valley Today. He thanked Sara Keddy for her continuous relationship with the Town and noted he was looking forward to working with both of them in the future.

3.   **Approval of the Agenda** - The Agenda was approved as circulated.

4.   **Approval of the Previous Minutes**

The Council minutes of September 12, 2006 were approved as circulated.

5.   **Accolades / Presentation**

(a) **Al Howard – Cross Walk Guard**

Mayor Prall congratulated Mr. Howard on his 14 years of outstanding service and ultimately, his retirement and expressed how much he would be missed. The Mayor explained that Mr. Howard brought forward new changes to keep the children and citizens of Berwick safer at the Commercial Street crossings and he was admired for those ideas. The Mayor emphasized that he always felt confident when Mr. Howard was at the crosswalk and always knew it was very well guarded.

A Certificate of Appreciation and a gift was presented to Mr. Howard from the Town.

## **5. Presentations**

### **a) Kings Para Transit**

Naomi Blanchard put forth an information package. She explained that Kings Para Transit was a point to point service. Ms. Blanchard noted that they have made a couple of changes one being a name change. They are now called, Kings Para Transit. It is a parallel service to Kings Transit which is currently volunteer run and has been in operation since 1998. Ms. Blanchard explained that in 2004 there was a mishap on the part of the former Executive Director, and it was a considerable period of adjustment to recover from that problem. She went on to explain that they now have a much larger Board, 9 board members 3 permanent employees and a fleet of 3 vehicles. The objective is to ensure that there is access to transportation for the physically disabled and seniors. They now have 49 clients currently using the service from Berwick, 26 of those would be classified as seniors and the others (23) are disabled 9 of which are in wheelchairs.

Ms. Blanchard remarked that as part of Kings Para Transit's had been putting forth a great promotional effort. She also indicated that they have just bought a third van, as they have just secured a contract with the Annapolis Valley School Board. This van will be taking students to the Adult Day Services program. The next priority is to have a further 3<sup>rd</sup> wheelchair vehicle, as there would not be a back up vehicle if the current one broke down.

Ms. Blanchard relayed the fact that the Town of Berwick had not financially supported them this year or last year and asked the Town to rethink this. She expressed that she recognizes the financial constraints that everyone has but not withstanding the fact that transit is a municipal responsibility.

Ms. Blanchard referred to the Financial Report in her package and indicated that the bottom line highlights that they had, in an 11 month period ending March, 2005, a deficit of \$53,000 and now they have gotten the deficit down to \$29,000 in the space of a year.

Ms. Blanchard informed the Mayor and Council that the CAO's have suggested that Kings Para Transit sign an Agreement that monies for Kings Para Transit flow through Kings Transit, which she feels is a great idea. She also noted that they have an agreement in principle amongst the CAO's and the Province to look at a cost share study that would review how we can collaborate with Kings Transit.

Councillor Horsburgh questioned whether they are satisfied with the checks and balances that they now have in place preventing the instance that happened with the Executive Director would not happen again. Ms. Blanchard responded by saying that they now have a tremendous amount of oversight that was never there before and many changes have been made. She also noted that the former Executive Director is paying them back and this money is going directly to pay down debt.

Councillor Trinacty asked whether their annual funding from Provincial government is stabilized. She relayed that the Province makes an annual commitment and a contract is signed. Ms. Blanchard confirmed that the company gives them quarterly statements which then allows them another quarterly infusion of cash.

Discussion ensued about hours of operation.

Deputy Mayor Clarke asked if they had a reserve account set up for replacement buses in case the need arose. Ms. Blanchard replied that she believed there is, in the current budget, a reserve account for this purpose.

Discussion ensued about different points within the Financial Statement.

The Chair thanked Ms. Blanchard for her presentation, and congratulated her on her hard work.

6. **Proclamation** – The Chair indicated that there as a Canada’s Citizenship Week Proclamation in the Agenda for the Council’s information.

7. **Committee Updates and Recommendations**

- (a) **Planning Advisory Committee**

Councillor Trinacty reviewed his report. He informed that one of the most interesting points of the last PAC meeting was the Food Bank concern. He reported that they went over the process and the steps to date and more importantly tried to resolve the issues that were outstanding, being the rezoning of the property and the agreement to give them the land. Councillor Trinacty confirmed that both Committees have cleared the air and the staff are meeting with the Food Bank Sub-Committee on Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Councillor Trinacty relayed that there was quite a lengthy discussion on the Animal Bylaw issue. He indicates that the Committee has asked Chris Millier to come back with what would be required for some updates with regard to the Land Use Bylaw and how we may be able to control using some various land use methods for keeping livestock in town.

Councillor Trinacty reported that there was also continued discussion on future plans for Berwick around commercial and industrial. It was reviewed where we are going with changes to the Municipal Planning Strategy fit with the larger community sustainability plan that we need to create for the gas tax.

- (b) **Committee of the Whole**

- Public Works – Tender for Backhoe Loader

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded** that Council approve and accept the tender put forth by LaHave Equipment for the Backhoe Loader.

**Motion Carried**

6. **New Business**  
(a) **Regional Emergency Management Organization – Berwick’s Representation**

Mr. Ashley reviewed his report indicating that in July, 2006, Wolfville, Kentville, County of Kings and Berwick passed the Regional Emergency Management Organization Bylaw.

It institutes several sub-organizations – An Advisory Committee, Management Co-ordinator, and a Regional Emergency Planning Committee. The Planning Committee is where the elected officials plug in to the REM Organization. Under the new bylaw each of the four partners appoints two representatives to the Planning Committee. It is recommended that the Mayor be one of the reps on this committee as they, and the Warden, are the only individuals that can declare a state of emergency.

Mayor Prall agreed it would be beneficial for him to be on the Committee and he confirmed he would be willing to serve on this Committee.

Mayor Prall then looked to Council for a Councilor to serve on the Board. Councillor Trinacty suggested that Deputy Mayor Clarke serve as the second representative.

Mr. Ashley highlighted that this does not replace our REMO Committee here at the Town. This is for the County only.

Discussion took place as to County vs. Town with regard to REMO.

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded** that Council approve Mayor Prall to serve as the Town of Berwick’s representation on the REMO Planning Committee.

**Motion Carried**

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded** that Council approve Deputy Mayor Clarke to serve as the Town of Berwick’s representation on the REMO Planning Committee.

**Motion Carried**

**(b) Kings Innovation Council**

Mayor Prall extended the invitation given by the Kings Innovation Council for a presentation called “Innovation 101”. The guest speaker will be Dr. Lance Secretan and promises to be very motivational.

8. **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting of Council will be held November 14, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Prall indicated that he would be away on this date.

9. Hearing of no further business the Chairman adjourned the Council meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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Mayor John P. Prall  
Chairman

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Chantal Pineo-Atwood  
Recording Secretary