

**MINUTES OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 16, 2007**

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

In Attendance:               Mrs. Sara Keddy, Kings County Register  
                                  Erin Beaudin, Kings CED  
                                  Bryon MacDonald, Kings CED

1. The Chair welcomed members of the gallery. He called the meeting to order at 6:58 pm.
2. **Approval of the Agenda** - The Agenda was approved as circulated.
3. **Approval of Previous Minutes** – The Minutes of the previous meeting was approved as circulated.
4. **Presentations**  
    **(a) Hants Kings Business Development**

Ken Crichton passed out the Hants-Kings Business Development Centre Annual Report.

Mr. Crichton highlighted that this has been the best year ever for HKBDC and noted they did over 6.3 million dollars in loans this year.

Mr. Crichton reviewed the Board of Directors, budget, financial statements, and operating funds.

Mr. Crichton reported that as of March 31, 2006 the summary of outstanding loans for Berwick breaks down as follows:

|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| CBDC (7 Loans)  | \$ 294,563.12 |
| WBI (1 Loan):   | \$ 2425.70    |
| SEED (5 Loans): | \$ 47,354.03  |
| DCS (1 Loan):   | \$ 6237.82    |

Mr. Crichton relayed that over the past six years, HKBDC owes their borrowing fund a little over 3 million dollars. He went on to say that this year they have to pay back \$633,000 of that borrowed money. The Board has taken a stance that they can not borrow again until after reducing the borrowed sum. The net effect is the only money lent comes from funds the Centre actually takes in from payouts from loans or principle payments on loans. This would average approximately 2.5-3 million dollars this year.

Mr. Crichton asked to please contact HKBDC if the Town is aware of anyone whom they may be able to assist.

## **5. Committee Updates and Recommendations**

### **(a) Planning Advisory Committee – Report**

Councillor Trinacty reported statistics are showing that that residential permits are down, but only slightly, from 13 last year to 11 this year. Accessory structure permits are down slightly from 13 to 10.

Councillor Trinacty relayed that PAC is still discussing some ideas with regard to the Animal Control Bylaw and nondomestic animals. Mr. Millier is making revisions to the draft agreement and the Committee hopes to make a recommendation to Council in February, 2007.

Councillor Whittier inquired if there was discussion on dogs at the PAC meetings while discussing the Animal Control issues. Councillor Trinacty confirmed that there had not been.

Councillor Whittier indicated he feels there should be a “poop-scoop” bylaw. He feels it is a problem to the Town with regard to smell and appearance.

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded** that PAC review the Dog Bylaw to include a “poop and scoop” program.

**Motion Carried**

The Chair indicated that PAC have been discussing development in the Town and investigating ways in which it may make it easier for developers. Mr. Trinacty informed Council that Berwick’s processes are not that much different than other municipalities. He said that Mr. Millier discussed that developers that are experienced would actually find our Town’s processes less intimidating than some other municipalities.

Mr. Trinacty indicated that PAC discussed holding a workshop for developers, real estate agents, etc. with regard to development in the Town of Berwick. He summarized by saying that PAC wants to be more helpful with way the Town deals with people who want to develop in this area.

Councillor Trinacty relayed that Shimin Wu, a Master student of Urban Planning, had delivered a very creative and excellent presentation on Berwick's Northern Gateway. He says our role now is to explore what we can do to proceed with this project or parts thereof.

Councillor Morton suggested we look at Shimin's ideas for signage. Ms. Morton related that the big blue sign, as you enter Berwick, needs to be replaced in the very near future.

Councillor Whittier suggested that we incorporate the United Church Campgrounds on this sign, as he feels the campground is a historical draw to the Town.

Discussion ensued on the Gateway and the consensus was that Ms. Wu's ideas should not go on a back burner and the Town should explore what is feasible within the project. Councillor Clarke suggested that we hold a public presentation on the Gateway for feedback and views.

The Mayor agreed and suggested that we should specifically encourage public input regarding the appearance around the new Fire Hall location.

### **(b) Recreation Committee – Report**

Councillor Horsburgh reviewed the Recreation Advisory Committee Report and went over the "Highlights" section in the report.

Councillor Horsburgh stated that the deadline for submissions for Volunteer of the Year is March 2<sup>nd</sup>. At that time there will be a committee formed to review the applicants and to nominate someone to represent Berwick at the Provincial Awards.

Councillor Horsburgh indicated that the Apple Dome Committee is nearing a commitment as to what it wants to do and he feels we will probably see a "phase" type of operation. Decisions will be forthcoming in the near future as to what phases are feasible with the money the committee presently has.

Councillor Horsburgh explained there the Recreation Department is planning a community wide volunteer event to get more people volunteering.

Letters have gone out for the Sports Hall of Fame nominations of Athletes, Builders and Teams. The deadline is March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Councillor Horsburgh reported that work is still ongoing with regard to the web-based Community Calendar. Letters have gone out to the different community organizations requesting feedback, because without the feedback, the Calendar can not happen.

## **6. Ongoing Business**

### **(a) Kings Para Transit – Letter of Support on Capital Funding**

Mr. Ashley reported that discussions have been taking place between the 4 CAO's in the County, the Kings Para Transit organization and Kings Transit. The subject has been possible types of relationships between the transit services offered by the Para Transit organization and how they might align with the conventional services offered by Kings Transit.

Mr. Ashley indicated that the Town had been contacted by Kings Para Transit to provide a letter of support for their application to Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations for funding under the portion of the Federal Gas Tax funding program for public transit that has been identified for use by community transit organizations like Kings Para Transit. The Kings Para Transit request would not have any impact on the separate Gas tax funding allocations for the Town as a whole, or for Kings Transit.

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded** that Council issue a letter of support to Kings Para-Transit for capital funding under the community transit component of the Federal Gas Tax program administered through Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations.

**Motion Carried**

### **(b) Pork Farm Crisis – Update from Mayor Prall**

Mayor Prall confirmed that he phoned Brook Taylor, Minister of Agriculture, today.

Minister Taylor indicated that he is keeping a watch on the industry. One of the many priorities is hydro for the farm buildings and making sure hogs are not starving.

Mayor Prall informed Council that MLA Mark Parent and MLA David Morse are trying to push to get the KALCO legislation under review so they can do the legal searches to put law in place, although it is still a long way for the farmers to go.

Mayor Prall noted that there is a transition fund available to farmers. The farmer can call on government if they wish to enter into another field of farming. The government will have funds for infrastructure and turn-around costs, etc.

Councillor Whittier asked if there was anything, as Council, they could do for pork producers.

Councillor Trinacty suggested a "Buy Local Campaign".

Councillor Whittier recommended hanging a banner as you enter into Berwick emphasizing to buy locally.

Councillor Morton highlighted the fact that, although it's very unfortunate, big business is dictating what is going on in our country and that is the bottom line, so we have to start

somewhere and support our local businesses, and shop within our Town boarders.

Mr. Ashley offered perhaps Council may want to invite someone from the Federation to outline a project that we could carry out.

Mayor Prall expressed that Council could ask the other 31 towns to get involved in a Provincial campaign to support the failing hog industry.

Much discussion ensued about local product, shopping locally, food taxes and finding ways to educate people on buying locally and local products.

## 7. **New Business**

### **(a) Canada Games Fund – Sports Tourism Committee**

There is a balance remaining in the Canada Games Fund in the approximate amount of \$25,000.00. The Canada Games Committee would like to retain this money to arrange a STC (Sport Tourism Committee) for promoting sporting and tourism events and to ultimately draw people to our area.

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded** that Council allow any surplus from the 2011 Canada Games Bid to remain in a reserve, until such time as the STC can present a business plan and strategy on how best this reserve may be utilized to promote the Valley.

**Motion Carried**

### **(b) Upper Clements Park Letter – support letter**

A letter concerning Upper Clements Park and the Hanse Society along with the municipal councils and Annapolis County's bid to support the ongoing operation of Upper Clements Park through a suitable Lease arrangement between the Hanse Society and the Province.

The economic impact of this park to Annapolis County is quite critical. The park's spin-off's are very beneficial to surrounding areas, as well. We had a request from the Warden of Annapolis County asking Berwick to join in support with other Councils.

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded** that Council send a letter of support for Hanse Society's continued operation of Upper Clements Park.

**Motion Carried**

**8. Next Meeting Date – February 13, 2007**

**9. Adjournment**

Hearing of no further business the Chairman adjourned the Council meeting at 8:23 p.m.

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Mayor John Prall  
Chairman

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Chantal Pineo-Atwood  
Recording Secretary