

1. Council Convenes - O Canada - Warden Keith Hunter called to order a meeting of Cumberland Municipal Council on Wednesday, March 21, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers of the E. D. Fullerton Municipal Building in Upper Nappan, NS. "O Canada" was sung.
2. Roll Call - The roll was called by the Council Secretary, Constance Scott. All Councillors were present. Also in attendance were Deputy Clerk Steve Ferguson, and Accountant Andrew MacDonald.
3. Approval of Agenda (additions / deletions) - The agenda was approved as amended, with the following additions: 9.2 Status Report on Source Water Committee, 9.3 Gas Station Report 10.4 Recreation grants, 11.2 Fire Protection Report, 12.4 amendment to Solid Waste Bylaw 14.2 Restoration of Old pictures. The following items were deleted: 4.1 minutes, 6.1 Exhibition presentation, 7 Public hearings.
4. Approval of Minutes
 - 4.1 March 7, 2007 - The minutes of the March 7, 2007 meeting were not available, due to illness of the secretary. They will be provided as soon as possible.
5. Business Arising from the Minutes-
 - 5.1 Action List - March 7, 2007 - The action list from the March 7, 2007 Council meeting was approved as circulated.
 - 5.2 Action List - February 21, 2007 - This was provided for information.
6. Delegations and Presentations -
 - 6.1 Cumberland County Exhibition - Representatives of the Cumberland County Exhibition called to express regrets that they were unable to attend the meeting. A copy of their proposal for funding will be sent to the Municipality before March 31, 2007.
 - 6.2 Community Transportation - Warden Hunter welcomed and introduced Paul Hill, Chair for SPAR Community Health Board and Todd Benson, Coordinator of CHB's in Cumberland. These gentlemen spoke about a county-wide transportation service for people in the various communities outside of the Amherst Area. People with medical appointments would have priority for the service, and the service would operate in one area one day (Parrsboro area for example), and a different area on each of two other days. Two days would be for people in the area surrounding Amherst. The SPAR CHB is working with the Community Committee that has developed this project. The Committee has commissioned Saint Mary's University to do a study to evaluate different aspects of the service. They have \$12,000 in place, and need another \$2,000 to pay for cost of the study. Council was asked to make a grant of \$2,000 for this study.

The gentlemen were thanked for their presentation and were advised that Council has a policy of not making decisions related to financial requests at the same meeting, but assured them that their request will be discussed at the next meeting of Council April 4.
7. Public Hearings - There were no public hearings scheduled.
8. Correspondence - The following correspondence was received since the last meeting of Council. This was provided for Council's information.

Cumberland Health Care Foundation

1. Phyllis Cameron, Chair, Expressing appreciation to county staff for its 2006 contribution to the Light the Way Appeal.

Cumberland Health Care Auxiliary

1. Jean A. Miller, Treasurer, Highland Fling, requesting prize donations for the Buttons draw event. *Ms. Scott has two baskets of Cumberland County products prepared for the Fling.*

CBC Radio Canada

1. Francie Le'tourneau, in response to Council's request for CBC Coverage (NS) for the North Shore of Cumberland; advising that this area presently receives coverage from both Moncton (AM Band) and Charlottetown (FM Band); advising that a coverage study is currently underway and that provision of this service remains a priority within this region.

Mayor of Springhill

1. Mayor Guy Brown, Springhill, requesting that CAPSO discuss the possibility of having one flag raising at one time at one location for all five municipal units. *Council agreed that Cumberland has been hosting this event for a number of years and will continue to have a service here.*

Economic Development - Office of the Minister

1. Richard Hurlburt; Minister, expressing appreciation to Warden Keith Hunter for attending the trade show held in Springhill on February 17, 2007.

9. Planning Issues

9.1 Planning Policies and regulations for Wind Turbines - County planner Jim Coughlin addressed Council regarding the planning policies and regulations for wind turbines. He indicated that, after public consultation, it would be better to have a fixed minimum setback distance of 300% of the height of the wind turbine.

Regarding the suggestion that 300% is not enough, Mr. Coughlin stated that a larger distance would be arbitrary and there is no strong planning reasoning for it. Most of the county now is not regulated, except in Joggins and the central area around Amherst. These new standards would apply to new projects only. There will be a public hearing on April 18, 2007.

It was moved by Councillor J. Kellegrew, seconded by Councillor John Reid that Council give first reading to the amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw regarding renewable energy and wind turbines, dated March 15, 2007, and that a public hearing be scheduled and advertised for April 18, 2007 prior to Council's second reading and approval of these planning documents. It was further agreed that the people who provided input on this issue be specifically invited to the public hearing.

MOTION CARRIED #07-037

- 9.2 Status Report on the Source Water Protection Committee - Jim Coughlin informed Council that we have run an advertisement for county reps to serve on this committee. Mr. Coughlin was uncertain when the Town of Parrsboro is going to re-activate the Committee.

It was agreed that a Nominating Committee meeting be held a few minutes before the next Council session to select appointments to the Source Water Protection Committee.

- 9.3 Gas Station Report - Jim Coughlin reported that the Minister "took away" the deadline to settle this issue, but the clock is ticking towards the URB hearing. There haven't been any steps taken to change the direction the County is going. It would be more appropriate for the Town of Parrsboro to take the first step, withdraw their appeal and ask the Municipality to handle the matter by development agreement.

10. Financial Reports/Issues

10.1 Recreation Grant Requests **It was moved by Councillor John Reid, seconded by Councillor Welton that the following recreation grants be approved by Council, as recommended by the district Councillor:**

Group/Organization	District	Amount
Cumberland 4H Horse Classic Team competition in Calgary - have done fundraising - Further information (district of residence) was requested - will be discussed at next Council meeting.	7	\$400
Maccan Legion Community Centre	2	\$250
	9	\$250
Cumberland Minor Hockey Association 155 County Players @ \$30 per county participant	Various	\$4,650

MOTION CARRIED #07-038

10.2 Joggins Sewer Upgrade - **It was moved by John Reid, seconded by Councillor J. Kellegrew that Council accept the low bid tender of ACL Construction Ltd. in the amount of \$1,454,831.95 be accepted as the successful tenderer for the Joggins Sewer Upgrade.**

MOTION CARRIED #07-039

John Reid thanked Councillors and staff for their support and assistance leading up to the tender award for this project. Many people have worked very hard to see this project become a reality, and Councillor Reid expressed his appreciation.

10.3 CAP Legislation - **It was moved by Councillor Gerald Read, seconded by Councillor Kellegrew that Council approve the resolution with respect to assessment CAP, as presented by UNSM and which is as follows:**

WHEREAS the Province implemented the CAP Assessment Program (CAP) in 2005 to help protect property owners against dramatic assessment increases by limiting or “capping” the annual increase in eligible property assessments; and

WHEREAS under this legislation the cap was to be set annually by Cabinet through regulation; and

WHEREAS the base year for the program was set at 2001, and the cap for subsequent years set at 15 percent in 2002 and 2003, and 10 percent from 2004 to 2007; and

WHEREAS in 2005 the UNSM established a position to oppose the capping of assessments without an income test because it undermines the fair market value assessment system which is recognized worldwide as the most appropriate method of assessing and taxing property owners; and

WHEREAS in 2006 the Province passes legislation to remove the requirement to set the cap annually through regulation and to establish a fixed annual cap rate based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) beginning in 2008; and

WHEREAS the Nova Scotia CPI has ranged from 1.6 percent in 2001 to 2.1 percent in 2006; and

WHEREAS this new rate of CPI was supported by all three political parties with absolutely no consultation with municipalities; and

WHEREAS a cap at CPI would no longer be considered “dramatic assessment increases” and would thus undermine the original intent of the program to protect property owners from dramatic increases in assessments; and

WHEREAS UNSM commissioned Deloitte to prepare a report on the impacts of moving the cap from 10 percent to the rate of CPI; and

WHEREAS the report indicated that at an estimated CPI of 2.3 percent, the number of eligible properties receiving the cap (assuming all apply) would increase by 155 percent from 120,000 to 306,000; and

WHEREAS this increase would result in municipal tax rates increasing on average by 5.7 percent to make up for lost revenues caused by the cap; and

WHEREAS as tax rates rise to offset the lower assessment base, the tax burden will shift from capped properties to uncapped properties; and

WHEREAS those municipalities with fewer uncapped properties will have less of a decrease in their Uniform Assessments resulting in these municipalities shouldering a larger share of the burden to pay for Provincial mandatory contributions to education, housing and corrections;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that while the UNSM continues to oppose assessment capping in any form, the Mayors and Wardens strongly urge the Province to rescind the cap at CPI and to continue setting the cap at 10 percent subject to a means test for principle residences only, until 2010 at which point it will be reviewed by the Province and UNSM.

MOTION CARRIED #07-040

- 10.4 CREDA funding - It was moved by Councillor J. Kellegrew, seconded by Councillor Gilbert that Council approve Option E for CREDA funding, which includes a total increase in funding of \$10,000 (from all municipal units)

MOTION CARRIED #07-041

11. Operational Services Reports/Issues

- 11.1 Draft Fire Services Bulk Purchasing Policy - This item was deferred to next meeting, staff were requested to do some modifications for the Association. After that is done, it will be brought back to the Council.
- 11.2 Fire Training Responses - Responses from each of the fire departments were received, and will discuss at the next meeting, and move forward with suggestions in a positive way.

12. Committee/Other Reports

- 12.1 UNSM Board of Directors - Contact information for the Board of Directors was provided.
- 12.2 Agricultural Sector Resolution - It was moved by Councillor K. Langille, seconded by Councillor G. Read that Council support the Agricultural Sector Resolution, as submitted by the UNSM.

MOTION CARRIED #07-042

- 12.3 CREDA Minutes - Circulated in Councillors mailboxes, for information only.
- 12.4 Amendment to Solid Waste By-Law - It was moved by Councillor K. Langille,

seconded by Councillor Kellegrew that first reading of the Amendment to the Solid Waste By-Law be held, as recommended by the Policy and By-Law Committee.

MOTION CARRIED #07-043

13. Old Business - There was none

14. New Business

14.1 NS Sports Hall of Fame Recognition - It was moved by Councillor Kellegrew, seconded by Councillor K. Langille that a letter of recognition be sent to Muriel Fage, for her contribution to the sport of curling.

MOTION CARRIED #07-044

14.2 Preservation of Old Photos - It was moved by Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Welton that Council hire a student this summer to research and provide names of former Councillors in photographs, and have the pictures preserved and placed in appropriate frames...

MOTION CARRIED #07-045

14.3 Upcoming Events - April 4th is Volunteer Recognition Day, and the Open House - Municipal Day is April 26, 2007.

14.4 OH & S Committee - It was moved by Councillor K. Langille, seconded by Councillor G. Read to approve the \$6,500 for the Occupational Health and Safety Committee, to be funded from next year's budget.

MOTION CARRIED #07-046

14.5 Winter Games Participants - It was moved by Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor J. Reid that a letter of congratulations be sent to the following youth of Cumberland, who participated in the recent Canada Games: Kate Scallion, Miles Dalton, Lynette Cole, Zack Carson.

MOTION CARRIED #07-047

15. Information Items - None

16. Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

17. God Save the Queen

Warden

Chief Administrative Officer

Recording Secretary