

1. **Council Convenes - O Canada** –Warden Hunter called to order the May 15th, 2013 session of Cumberland Municipal Council at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers of the E. D. Fullerton Municipal Building, Upper Nappan. O Canada was sung.
2. **Roll Call** - The roll was called by Shelley Hoeg, Executive Assistant to the CAO. Councillors in attendance were: Deputy Warden Don Smith, Councillor Kellegrew, Warden Hunter, Councillor Gillis, Councillor Welton, Councillor Baker, Councillor Rector, Councillor Gilbert, Councillor McLellan and Councillor Fletcher. The CAO and many staff were in attendance.
3. **Approval of Agenda (Additions/Deletions)** –The Agenda was approved with the following additions/deletions:

Additions: 6.4 – Cape Chignecto (DNR), 15.5 – JFI Funding

Deletions: 7, 10, 12,

4. **Approval of Minutes**

4.1 **Minutes from April 24, 2013 Council Session**

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Welton, seconded by Councillor Fletcher to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2013 Council session as presented.

MOTION CARRIED #13-092

5. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

5.1 **Action List, April 24, 2013** – There was no discussion on this item.

6. **Delegations and Presentations**

6.1 **L.A. Animal Shelter** - Marilyn Williams, of the L. A. Animal Shelter advised that the Shelter is declaring June the month of Animal Awareness. Two main events will take place; an open house being held June 1 as well as a flag raising on that same date and an Animal Awareness Expo on June 22nd being held at the Lion's Club in Amherst.

6.2 **Street Light Update – Black and MacDonald** – Shane Melanson of Black and MacDonald was on hand to provide a presentation to Council regarding Street Lighting. Mr. Melanson advised that the Province has mandated that by June 30th, 2013, each municipality must file a report with the minister setting out the following:

The number of non high mast roadway lights it owns and the location of the lights, and whether the Municipality intends to take ownership of any non-high mast roadway lights owned by NSPI.

The replacement of conventional roadway lighting that will be made every 6 months, beginning on September 30, 2013 to comply with the restrictions set out.

NSPI is updating their inventory list and is replacing old damaged fixtures with LED's. Council was advised that if a municipality decides to purchase and maintain their own LED streetlights, NSPI will want compensation for any new LED's installed by NSPI. NSPI has until Sept 30, 2013 to report to the Minister their schedule to convert. NSPI has provided a tentative 7 year rental rate freeze to the municipalities and a potential price drop on rental rates after 7 years. The UARB has determined the standard.

Questions posed by Councillors were: What is the cost of LED fixtures? Will NSPI and Aliant let us install our own street light fixture on their poles? Would we finance the project, cost of interest, how many years would the municipality want to take to complete the full conversion, will insurance cost apply to municipal owned street light fixtures, what would be the type of maintenance contract?

Mr. Melanson advised that the total annual cost is \$175,621 right now. If we owned them the cost would \$25,056.00 annually.

Rental cost over 20 years \$3,757,543.42
Total cost of LED ownership – 1,712,000.00
Difference - \$2,045,500

Mr. Melanson feels that Black and McDonald can provide piece of mind to the municipalities by providing maintenance.

Mr. Melanson then answered any further questions that Council had.

Warden Hunter thanked Mr. MacDonald for his informative presentation.

6.3 **CJSMA Organization Review** - Mr. Pat Hartling of SPL Human Capital Resources, was on hand to

provide this presentation.

Mr. Hartling began by thanking Council for the opportunity to present this information and advised that there will be a take home portion to this presentation.

Mr. Hartling would like input from Council on what they would like to see happen as part of the CJSMA Organization Review. Mr. Hartling feels this is an opportunity to set some direction on how the organization works with its' partners and would like Council to think of what has worked well in the past and what they would like to see in the future.

- 6.4 Cape Chignecto – DNR – Harold Carroll, Director of Parks and Recreation, Department of Natural Resources, also present was Keith Black of DNR. Mr. Carroll advised that DNR will be reviewing a management plan for the park as it is over 10 years old. DNR may add a block of land to the park and the management plan will not be completed until that decision is made. DNR has had discussion with the Cape Chignecto Management Board and DNR will be setting up a Management Advisory Committee which may include most of the members of the previous board. This committee will help guide the management process.

Mr. Black advised that they have 8 employees (current employees of Cape Chignecto) that as of Monday, will start work as employees of DNR. There are currently two vacancies and these will be advertised shortly. The Park will have 10 permanent staff.

Any questions can be directed to Mr. Black out of the Parrsboro office of Department of Natural Resources.

Warden Hunter thanked Mr. Carroll and Mr. Black for providing this information to Council.

7. **Public Hearings**

This item was deleted.

8. **Correspondence**

The following is a synopsis of correspondence received since the last Council session.

INFORMATION:

Marie Osborne – Providing a letter of support of the Amherst Rambler Organization requesting Council continue to support the Amherst Ramblers in their future endeavors.

ACTION

Bonita M. Mercer – providing a copy of a letter of concern to the Minister of Transportation regarding the condition of the West Apple River Road. Advising the road is undermined and badly eroded and is being continually breached by the tides.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Baker to forward a letter to the Minister of Transportation supporting Mrs. Mercer's concerns regarding the West Apple River Road.

MOTION CARRIED #13-093

9. **Planning Issues:**

- 9.1 First Reading of a Plan Amendment for the Central Plan Area - Ms. Henneberry, Director of Planning and Development advised of the following:

An application from Leo Anthony was received on 4 April 2013 requesting to rezone a portion of a larger parcel of land located at 353 Willow Street from Commercial C1 to Residential R-2. The property is owned by Gordon Milner who has provided a letter of permission for Mr. Anthony to apply for the rezoning. This request is an amendment to the planning maps and not a text amendment to any of the current uses permitted in either zone.

The request received is to rezone a parcel of land to allow for a residential development. The parcel of land in question is currently a portion of a larger lot at 353 Willow Street. The Central Area Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw documents were adopted in 2004 and this area is both designated (future land use) and zoned (current rules) as Commercial. Any amendment to the Municipal Plan, which is a statement of future land use intent, requires a Public Information Meeting and this meeting was duly advertised in the Amherst Daily News and held on 30 April 2013. The only attendee of this meeting was the applicant.

The Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) tells us what the future uses, through areas known as

designations, are to look like and the Land Use Bylaw (LUB) tells us what zones and regulations we can use to achieve this ‘look’ or intent. Specific zones are used to represent the various designations. Sometimes there are exceptions to the rule through the use of Development Agreements, but this option does not apply in this case.

The MPS tells us what zones apply to any designation and in this case the MPS Commercial Designation and proposed Residential Zone do not match so we need to look at - is this requested change reasonable.

If we were to go from residential to commercial in an area bordered by residential, the case would be difficult to make as new commercial uses can sometimes have a negative impact on residential uses. (Note: The current uses permitted in each zone are attached to this report.)

This request is from commercial to residential so again we look at surrounding uses and compatibility - there is only one commercial use bordering the proposed lot and it is diagonally across the street. Other nearby uses include residential and a small farm. The case for this change does appear to be compatible with current existing uses and will blend in well with these existing uses which are key components to this request.

Another factor to examine is the principle of infilling. This is the practice of developing vacant land in an area with existing uses. Infill reduces sprawl and reduces potential costs of services (increased density lowers municipal servicing costs). This presents a good example of the use of infilling.

As part of this amendment process the NS Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal has also been asked to provide comment which is a courtesy request for information due to a change in use through a plan amendment.

Available Options

1. Amend the MPS and LUB as attached
2. Reject the application

Recommendations and Next Steps

Staff recommends Option 1 – Amend the MPS and LUB maps as attached to this report.

If Council accepts this recommendation the following motion would be required:

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Kellegrew, seconded by Deputy Warden Smith that Council give First Reading to concurrently amend the Central Plan Area Municipal Planning Strategy Map ‘Figure A’ and Land Use Bylaw Map 5 by amending the maps as attached to this report and to proceed to a Public Hearing.

MOTION CARRIED #13-094

10. **Strategic Planning**

This item was deleted.

11. **Financial Reports/Issues**

- 11.1 **Community Development Grants** – Emily Burke, Recreation and Physical Activities Coordinator advised of the following applications:

Millvale Community Hall

This group is requesting funding to help with the costs associated with running the hall for the year, in addition to repairs that are required, including new siding or paint for two sides of the building. This is the only community hall in the community. There are many functions held in the building, including musical nights, birthday and anniversary parties, coffee houses and more. The new siding has been quoted around \$4,800.00. We have given this group funding in the past, \$800.00/year since 2008.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Welton, to approve a Community Development Grant in the amount of \$4,800 to the Millvale Community Hall from District 6 Funds to assist with the costs of running the hall and for siding the hall.

MOTION CARRIED #13-095

At this point, Warden Hunter declared a conflict of interest sat in the gallery. Deputy Warden Smith took over Chair of the meeting.

Piece by Piece Autism Association

This group is requesting funds to help sponsor their “Walk the Walk – Stepping in the Right Direction for Autism” taking place June 15, 2013 at Dickey Park in Amherst. All funds raised will stay in the community by providing local programming and financial help to attend educational conferences and workshops in the form of mini-grants, which are awarded to families to help them help their children. PPAA is a not-for-profit organization run by a voluntary board of directors. The event has been budgeted at \$2,810.20. Sponsorship options are listed below. Last year, we supported this group with \$1,000.00.

Sponsorship Type	Amount	Benefits
Friend	\$250.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsor name in black text on Walk the Walk t-shirts • Sponsor name on Walk the Walk website • Recognition of your sponsorship during regular announcements • Recognition in additional thank-you materials released post event
Leader	\$500.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logo (placed 2nd) on the Walk the Walk t-shirts • Logo (placed 2nd) on event posters, promotional collateral, on-site signage and printed materials • Logo (placed 2nd) on Walk the Walk website with live link to your website • Recognition of your sponsorship during regular announcements • Recognition in additional thank-you materials released post event
Ambassador	\$1,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logo (placed 1st) on the Walk the Walk t-shirts • Logo (placed 1st) on event posters, promotional collateral, on-site signage and printed materials • Logo (placed 1st) on Walk the Walk website with live link to your website • Recognition of your sponsorship during regular announcements • Recognition in additional thank-you materials released post event

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Gills, seconded by Councillor McLellan to provide a \$1,000 community Development Grant (\$100 per District) to Piece by Piece Autism Association for their “Walk the Walk”.

MOTION CARRIED #13-096

Deputy Warden Smith turned the Chair back to Warden Hunter.

Oxford Marksman Association

This group is looking for funding to help with the costs associated with improving their outdoor shooting range to make it more attractive to people considering recreational shooting and also ensure it meets the standards when it is inspected by the Provincial Firearms Office. Planned improvements include new range benches, target stands, signage and more. The project has been estimated at just over \$2,500.00. They are seeking **\$1,200.00** in assistance. We supported this group last year in the amount of \$3,154.89, also for upgrades.

**Councillor Rector recommends \$1,200.00 be debited from District 7 Community Development Funds.*

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Rector, seconded by Councillor Fletcher to provide a Community Development Grant to the Oxford Marksman Association from District 7 funds, in the amount of \$1,200 (contingent upon receipts being received for last year’s grants) to assist with the costs of enhancements to their range.

MOTION CARRIED #13-097

Village of Pugwash

The village is requesting funds to help with the costs associated with their Canada Day celebrations this year. The events, including a parade, fireworks and musical entertainment, are free to the public. They have estimated the event to cost \$4,700.00. They are seeking **\$1,000.00** in assistance. They have also received a \$1,500.00 federal grant to aid with the costs.

**Councillor Gillis recommends \$1,000.00 be debited from District 4 Community Development Funds.*

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Gillis, seconded by Councillor Kellegrew to provide a \$1,000 Community Development Grant to the Village of Pugwash out of District 4 funds,

for their Canada Day Celebrations.

MOTION CARRIED #13-098

Healthy Parrsboro & Area Committee

This group is seeking funding to help with their Annual Seniors Christmas Dinner this year. The event provides a social opportunity for seniors who may become lonely to gain new friends and catch up with old friends, in addition to providing a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. The attendance numbers have been dropping, which the committee has attributed to ticket costs. They are hoping to reduce the price from \$14.00 to \$10.00, which will hopefully increase their attendance. They are currently averaging 100 seniors attending. They are seeking **\$500.00** in assistance. They have also applied to the Town for the same amount in assistance. In 2011 we helped this group, giving them \$300.00 (\$200.00 from District 8, \$100 from District 10).

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Gilbert to provide \$250 each from Districts 8 and 10 Community Development Funds (\$500 total) to the Healthy Parrsboro & Area Committee for their Annual Seniors Christmas Dinner.

MOTION CARRIED #13-099

Wentworth Valley Community Hall Association

This group is requesting funding to help with the costs associated with hosting their Annual Reunion/Open host in August. This event gathers residents, past and current, to celebrate the history of the area and acquaint those attending with the story of the building and its worth as a community heritage site. The event has been budgeted at \$1,750.00. They are seeking **\$1,500.00** in assistance. We gave this group \$800.00 to help with this event last summer, of which they have submitted receipts showing use of \$767.68.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Kellegrew to provide a Community Development Grant in the amount of \$800 from District 6 funds to assist with the Annual Reunion/Open House of the Wentworth Valley Community Hall Association.

MOTION CARRIED #13-100

Nova Scotia Hereford Club

This group is looking for funding to help with the costs associated with hosting the 2013 Maritime Hereford Association Annual Jr. Show and meetings. In particular they are looking for funding to help with purchasing prizes for the juniors in the show. They have estimated the event to cost \$1,200.00 and have received a grant from the Town of Oxford for \$300.00 and from the NS Hereford Association for \$400.00. They are seeking \$500.00 in assistance.

***Councillor Rector recommends \$500.00 be debited from District 7 Community Development Funds.**

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Rector, seconded by Councillor Gilbert to provide a Community Development Grant in the amount of \$500 to the Nova Scotia Hereford Club to assist with costs associated with hosting their Annual Reunion/Open House.

MOTION CARRIED #13-101

Harbourfest Cake Auction – IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Gillis, seconded by Councillor Gilbert to provide a grant of up to \$300 from District 4 Community Development Grant funds for the Harbourfest Cake Auction.

MOTION CARRIED #13-102

- 11.2 Tax Sale Adjournments – Mr. MacDonald, Director of Finance and Administration advised that we have 7 properties that have gone to tax sale at least three times and we have received no bids.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Gilbert, seconded by Councillor Welton to advertise the seven properties for tender during the last weeks of May with the closing date the beginning of June.

MOTION CARRIED #13-103

- 11.3 Tax Sale Update – Mr. MacDonald, Director of Finance and Administration advised that a tax sale was held on April 25, 2013. 25 properties went for sale and two were sold. One of which was redeemed the next day.

- 11.4 Tax Reduction and Exemption Policy – Director of Finance and Administration, Andrew MacDonald

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Kellegrew, seconded by Councillor Welton to approve the inclusion of Account #'s 00209929 (Camp Pagweak), 00487112 (Brookside Curling Club), 04530365 (Between the Hearts Renewal Centre) in the Tax Reduction and Exemption Policy approved properties.

MOTION CARRIED #13-104

11.5 2012/2014 Budget Approval –

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Warden Smith, seconded by Councillor Gillis, that the following operating budget totaling \$17,319,848 be approved as presented:

Operating Budget

Revenue

Taxes	\$ 15,539,527
Grants in Lieu of Taxes	298,700
Services provided to other governments	77,516
Other revenue from own sources	501,550
Unconditional transfers from other governments	870,225
Conditional transfers from Federal or Provincial governments or agencies	<u>32,330</u>
	<u>\$ 17,319,848</u>

Expenditures

General Government Services	\$ 3,069,336
Protection Services	5,168,612
Transportation Services	408,501
Environmental Health Services	2,443,454
Public Health	161,362
Environmental Development Services	883,272
Recreational & Culture Services	412,160
Education	3,458,116
Financing & Transfers	<u>1,315,035</u>
	<u>\$ 17,319,848</u>

MOTION CARRIED #13-106

Area Rates

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Warden Smith, seconded by Councillor Fletcher, that the village, sewer, school enhancement, Jackson's Point Road Improvement and Street Light rates, as listed on page 13 and 14 of the 2013/2014 budget document, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED #13-107

Due Date

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Warden Smith, seconded by Councillor Fletcher, that the due date for the 2013/2014 levy be June 30, 2013.

MOTION CARRIED #13-108

Capital Budget

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Warden Smith, seconded by Councillor Fletcher, that Council approve the following 2013/2014 capital budget totaling \$4,889,534:

General Government Services

Municipal Building Design, Construction Administration	\$ 13,500
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Protective Services

Southampton Fire Hall Roof	60,000
Westchester Heavy Hydraulics	35,000
Advocate Utility Vehicle	25,000
Breathing Apparatus	35,000
2 Tankers	575,000

Transportation Services

Sidewalk- Hospital to Town Boundary	240,000
Spencer's Island Slipway	31,400

Environmental Health Services

Public Works Truck - Replace 1996 Chev.	42,705
SCADA Software Updates	12,000
Maccan Sewage Treatment	1,108,698
Maccan Lift Station	448,976
Amherst Marsh Sewer Lift Station	100,000
Maccan Water	225,000
Pugwash Water	350,000

Environmental Planning Services

Planning & Development	
Software	50,000

Economic Development/Tourism

Highway Signage	30,000
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Energy Authority Projects

Wind	112,400
Geothermal	1,302,055
Solar	11,400
Sustainability	16,400

Recreation & Cultural Services

Pugwash Community Centre	65,000
	<u>\$ 4,889,534</u>

Capital Budget

Funding Sources

Current Revenue	\$ 839,627
Reserves-General Rate	303,911
Reserve-Sewer Systems	314,705
Gas Tax	1,654,570
Building Canada Fund	1,329,304
Province of NS	75,161
Long Term Debt	224,287
ACOA	21,000
Other Municipal Units	118,469
Other	8,500
	<u>\$ 4,889,534</u>

MOTION CARRIED #13-109

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Warden Smith, seconded by Councillor Baker, that a borrowing resolution in the amount of 2.6 million dollars, for the purpose of defraying 2013/2014 operating expenditures be approved.

MOTION CARRIED #13-110

Mr. Bugley, CAO, extended thanks to all staff, in particular the Finance Department, for their excellent work during the budget preparation process.

Deputy Warden Smith mirrored those sentiments.

12. **Operational Services/Reports Issues**

This item was deleted.

13. **Committee/Other Reports**

13.1 Rural Caucus - Warden Hunter advised that a meeting was held May 8th, 2013 and was well attended. Councillor Gillis felt the meeting was informative, in particular the items of Fracking and REN's.

13.2 UNSM Spring Workshop – Councillors who attended the Spring Workshop were pleased with the content of the Spring Workshop. Warden Hunter advised that the session were all very well attended.

14. **Old Business**

14.1 Sidewalk Support – Emily Burke, Recreation and Physical Activities Coordinator, advised that to gage public opinion of the proposed sidewalk project from the Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre (CRHCC) to the Town of Amherst sidewalk grid, surveys were distributed amongst

stakeholders. This included Municipal employees, hospital employees, Lakeside Manor residents and community members. Below are the summarized results of the survey findings:

1. Do you **currently use** walking and/or a motorized scooter as a transportation method to get to/from the Town of Amherst to Lakeside Manor/The E.D. Fullerton Municipal Building/The Cumberland Regional Health Care Center?
 - 4/17 Municipal employees said yes, 13/17 said no
 - 6/8 Lakeside residents said yes, 2/8 said no
 - 6/12 hospital employees said yes, 6/12 said no
 - 16/34 community members said yes, 18/34 said no

2. Do you feel like the current route is safe to use?
 - 6/6 Municipal employees said no
 - 5/5 Lakeside residents said no
 - 5/6 hospital employees said no
 - 20/20 community members said no

3. Would you like to see improvements to the current route? If so, what would you suggest?
 - Sidewalk (32)
 - Bike path (2)
 - Crosswalks (6)
 - Reduction in speed limit from 70km/hr to 50km/hr (3)
 - Traffic lights (4)
 - Lights (4)
 - Wider shoulder (2)
 - Crossing signage (2)
 - Stop sign or lights at off-ramps (1)
 - Guard rail (4)

4. Would you walk from Amherst to the Hospital/work/Lakeside Manor if there was a safely designed route?
 - 6/16 Municipal employees said yes, 10/16 said no
 - 6/7 Lakeside residents said yes, 1/7 said no
 - 9/11 hospital employees said yes, 2/11 said no
 - 28/35 community members said yes, 7/35 said no

Among the comments:

“I am unable to use my walker on the highway but because my apartment windows are facing the highway I can see how dangerous it is for those trying to walk along the side of the road, either coming or going to the hospital or mall. And for the danger to those who use their strollers. It is unbelievable how fast the cars go by. We definitely need a sidewalk.”

“Unlikely. I do not have a need to travel this route by foot. However, many others do, and it would be for their needs that I would suggest the sidewalk may be warranted.

“No I would not since it would take me at least 90 minutes each way to get from my home to the hospital, but I have a vehicle and don’t have a reason to walk. However, I do feel it is important to have a safe route available to citizens who do not have access to a vehicle and do not have another option available to them other than walking. If the sidewalk existed I expect people would use it for other purposes than just to get to the hospital, such as a walking or running route for the purpose of exercise and fitness.”

“No, while I believe it be an exercise feature for good weather I believe that the cost of plowing and maintaining the walk in the summer is too high.”

“Yes, definitely. I would also bike if there was a bike lane with the sidewalk.”

“No, I don’t live in Amherst and own a car. I don’t think making a side walk is any different than walking on gravel. Maybe add crosswalk signs and paint to the highway ramps would go a long way.”

“No, I would have to go out of my way to park at Canadian Tire or the mall. I would then have to cross exit #4 twice on the way there and twice on the way back. I have grave concerns about

crossing the exit ramps. If the crosswalks are set up as designed, it would only be human nature for people to take the shortest route, and not use them. This would lead people to have a very long walk in “NO MANS LAND”, in the interest of public safety alone, I do not agree with this project.

In addition to survey results, we received a signed petition from Blair Lake Road residents (see attached), voicing their support for the construction of a sidewalk from the hospital to Amherst. The petition also included a statement from the owner of the Loch Lomond Campground, which is located on Blair Lake Road, stating that there are approximately 50-60 campers who walk into town to pick up supplies. Further public support came in the form of letters from Maggie’s Place and the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

- 14.2 UNSM Resolutions – UNSM is requesting resolution for the Fall Conference. The CAO will follow up on these.

15. **New Business**

- 15.1 June Council Meetings - It was agreed to hold a Council meeting May 29th, and then on June 19th, 2013. Meetings in July will be held July 3rd and 17th.

- 15.2 Request For Plebiscite - Mr. Ferguson, Director of Policy and Research advised that we have received inquiries from the owners/operators of the Wild Caraway Restaurant located in Advocate, regarding the steps involved in having a plebiscite in the Advocate area on the question of allowing the operation of a lounge. At present Advocate is designated a dry area therefore they are not able to get a license until a plebiscite is held to change the designation to “wet”.

Brenda Moore, Municipal Clerk/Records Manager, was in contact with the Licensing Alcohol and Gaming division of the Nova Scotia government, who advised that there are different types of “Dry Areas”. Although Advocate has a liquor store and the restaurant has a license to sell liquor with meals, it is considered a dry area when it comes to selling alcohol by the glass without food.

In order to have this changed Municipal Council has to pass a resolution requesting the Alcohol and Gaming division hold a plebiscite held in the area.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Kellegrew that the Municipality request the Alcohol and Gaming Division of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations conduct a Plebiscite on the question of a lounge for the sale of liquor in the Advocate area as provided for in Section 43 of the Liquor Control Act in order that the residents of that area who are eligible to vote are given an opportunity to participate in the decision making process.

MOTION CARRIED #13-111

- 15.3 Equipment Sharing Program – Emily Burke, Recreation and Physical Activities Coordinator advised that part of her responsibilities as the Recreation and Physical Activities Coordinator includes implementing the Municipality’s Recreation and Physical Activity Strategic Plan. One priority identified in the Plan is to increase physical activity by reducing the barriers that people may face. The barriers may be financial, physical or social. Reducing barriers is also referred to as improving accessibility.

Our plan outlines many strategies to address this priority. One in particular is to provide opportunities for people to participate in activities they might not be able to afford by creating an equipment sharing program. The idea is to acquire and then loan out equipment such as snowshoes, cross country skis, softball gear, beach volleyball kits, etc. The four towns in our County all have, or are planning to have, some sort of program along these lines.

A major challenge for the Municipality in setting up such a program is our large geographic area. Putting equipment in any one location would not provide much benefit to most of our population. We could attempt to address this issue in at least two different ways:

1. We could “piggyback” on the towns’ programs by supplying some funding and promoting the opportunities to county residents.
2. We could purchase one or a few pieces of special equipment adapted for people with disabilities (see examples attached) and loan this equipment out through health care facilities in the Municipality. Typically this adapted equipment is very expensive and beyond the means of most families, so we could be filling an important gap for this segment of our population. This sort of program could be shared with the towns as well.

Before proceeding further, staff would like some direction from Council. We currently have \$1,500 in our budget for the coming year.

Adaptive Equipment

1. **Hippocampe**

This piece of equipment is an all-terrain wheelchair. It allows users to access rough and rugged terrain that a normal wheelchair could not. This can include trails, the beach and even water access. Some models allow the wheels to be removed and a ski kit attached. Prices vary, depending on models, accessories, etc, from \$3,000.00 and up.

1. **Wheelchair for Basketball**

This piece of equipment is an adapted wheelchair to allow individuals with a disability to play basketball. The front bumper is designed so that it will not lock with or be held by the opponent. The angle of the wheel base or “camber” is optimal for each athlete to allow for stability and quick turns. The wheels on the chair often use cables rather than the traditional steel spokes as the cables are 3 times stronger and 50% lighter than steel. The design of the chair takes design aspects from equipment used in many other sports to include cycling (cables and frame design) roller blade and skateboarding (fifth wheel design) and Snowboard bindings (strap at the waist to hold the athlete in the chair). Prices range from \$2,500.00-5,000.00.

1. **Handbike**

A handbike is a type of bicycle powered by the arms, as opposed to the traditional bike which is powered by the legs. There are many different models for this equipment, including upright bikes, recumbent bikes and one-off handcycles (prone position). There is also the option of buying a “clip-on” to transform a wheelchair into a handbike. Prices vary (model dependent) from over \$2,000.00 and up.

These are just a few examples of different types of adaptive equipment. There are numerous others, dependent on the sport preferences and needs of the individual.

Council directed Ms. Burke to continue to investigate this issue and bring information back to a future meeting.

- 15.4 **Joggins Log Building – IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Rector, seconded by Councillor Fletcher to approve the lease regarding the log building in Joggins to the River Hebert Joggins and area Development Association and Joggins Improvement Committee.**

MOTION CARRIED #13-112

- 15.5 **Joggins Fossil Institute Funding - IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Welton, seconded by Councillor McLellan to provide a grant for 2012/2013 in the amount of \$30,000 to the Joggins Fossil Institute.**

MOTION CARRIED #13-113

16. **Information Items**

- 16.1 **Cumberland Development Corporation – Provided as information.**

17. **Adjournment:**

On motion the meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

18. **God Save the Queen**

Warden Keith Hunter

Municipal Clerk Brenda Moore