

1. **Council Convenes - O Canada** –Warden Hunter called to order the February 16, 2011 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. All Councillors were in attendance. Also in attendance were Rennie Bugley, CAO, Stephen Ferguson, Director of Policy and Research, Penny Henneberry, Director of Planning and Development, Robert Streach, Director of Public Works, Andrew Macdonald, Director of Finance and Maggie Pitts, GIS Analyst.

At this point in the meeting a moment of silence was held for Ms. Opal Black, a former Councillor for the Town of Oxford.

3. **Approval of Agenda (Additions/Deletions)** - The agenda was approved with the following additions and deletions:
 - Additions:** 11.5 – Women in Local Government; 11.6 – Recreation Grants; 13.2 – Nomination Committee Report; 14.1 – Application re: Village of Pugwash; 15.3 – Spring Workshop UNSM; 16.4 – Snow Loads; 16.5 – National Energy Committee; 16.6 – Tantramar Radio Update

Deletions: #7, 10

Item 12.2 was moved to 6.2

4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - 4.1 Minutes from January 19, 2011 Council Session – The Minutes of January 19, 2011 were approved as circulated.
5. **Business Arising from the Minutes**
 - 5.1 Action List, January 19, 2011– There was no discussion on this item.
6. **Delegations and Presentations**
 - 6.1 Municipal Website Presentation – Ms. Maggie Pitts, the Municipality’s GIS Analyst explained the process of the re-creating of our Website. It began with a Committee of staff who provided input into the project and then working in conjunction with the Web Developer of the Association of Municipal Administrators who was contracted to design a site for us. Ms. Pitts also explained that staff will be updating items as they are relevant and that the site will continue to be a living document with items changing on a daily basis. The Municipality’s site is now up and running, and will be fine tuned in the coming months. Thank you’s and congratulations were extended to the members of the Committee.
 - 6.2 Biggs Drive – Mr. Robert Streach, Director of Public Works provided a slide show presentation on the history of Biggs Drive Wastewater Treatment Plant and the recently completed project for said Waste Water Treatment Plant. He advised that the dedication and knowledge of staff were part of the reason of the success of this project for coming in under budget and on time.

Mr. Streach thanked each of the employees of the Public Works Department for the effort and dedication that they provided during the Biggs Drive Waste Water Treatment Plant Construction.

Warden Hunter and Councillor Read thanked the Public Works employees for their work ethic and expertise that is recognized throughout the County as being exemplary.
7. **Public Hearings**

This item was deleted.

8. **Correspondence**

From	Summary
ABL Environmental	Tom Austin, President, commending Robert Streach and the Public Works Staff for their exceptional efforts on the Biggs Drive Project. COPY ENCLOSED
AMANS	Dan MacDougall, President, providing the AMA's views on the Capped Assessment Program. COPY ENCLOSED
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	G.A. Chouinard, Regional Director, Oceans and Science Branch, advising that of proposed additions of species to the list of Wildlife Species at Risk under the Wildlife Species at Risk Act. COPY ENCLOSED
Brookside Curling Club	Greg Wilson, President, thanking Council for the emergency grant in the amount of \$7,000 to remediate a serious mould problem.
CREDA	A copy of CREDA's Mid Year Performance Review was attached for our records.
PVSC	Advising the Board of Directors has approved the 2011/12 budget for PVSC of \$17,100,152.00. Also advising that this is a net reduction of 0.4% compared to the 2010/11 budget. Also advising that they will be holding five briefing sessions across Nova Scotia to discuss the strategic Plan and budget and to hear from municipal stakeholders. COPY ENCLOSED

9. **Planning Issues**

- 9.1 **Building Code Amendments** – This was provided as information. These changes require the Municipality to purchase a new set of the Building Codes which will cost approximately 2 to 3 thousand dollars. This amount will be included in next year's budget.

10. **Strategic Planning**

This item was deleted

11. **Financial Reports/Issues**

- 11.1 **2011/2012 Assessments** – Mr. MacDonald provided this as information. He advised that the disparity between Capped and Market Value is growing.
- 11.2 **Tax Collection Report** – Mr. MacDonald advised that there is approximately 2.2 million outstanding (1.1 Mil of this is previous years's) with a 92% rate of this year's tax levy being collected.
- 11.3 **Low Income Exemption Policy** –

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Warden Kellegrew, seconded by Councillor Read to adopt the **Low Income Exemption Policy** which is as such:

Municipality of Cumberland Policy

Low Income Tax Exemption Policy

Section 69 of the Municipal Government Act allows Council to establish a Policy for granting an exemption from tax for a person whose income is below a specified amount. This policy will establish the amount of the tax exemption, who is eligible and the process for applying for the exemption.

“Income” means a person's total income from all sources for the calendar year preceding the fiscal year of the Municipality, and includes the income of all other members of the same family residing in the same household, but does not include an allowance paid pursuant to the *War Veterans Allowance Act* (Canada) or pension paid pursuant to the *Pension Act* (Canada)

1. **Amount of Exemption**

When the income of the person, spouse and other household members combined is less than \$16,425 the exemption shall be \$145.

When the income of the person, spouse and other household members combined is between \$16,426 and \$18,600 the exemption shall be \$90.

2. **To Qualify for the Exemption**

The exemption shall apply only to property of a ratepayer occupied by him or her as his or her principal residence.

The applicant shall complete the affidavit regarding the household income for the previous calendar year. A Councillor, a Commissioner of Oaths or the Municipal Clerk must witness the applicant's signature on the affidavit.

3. **To receive the Exemption**

An application for a fiscal year shall be submitted by December 31st of that fiscal year.

General

- (1) County Staff shall annually send out a reminder letter and an affidavit form to all persons who received the exemption the previous year.
- (2) The operating budget shall make allowance for this exemption on a yearly basis.
- (3) Should a person's total tax bill for that year be less than the exemption for that year, then the exemption will be equal to the full amount of the tax bill for that year.
- (4) The Municipality requires a copy of the prior year's Canada Revenue Agency Notice of Assessment for all household members prior to approving an application.
- (5) The deadline for applications and any other pertinent information shall be advertised, at least once, in the local paper.

Clerk's Annotation for Official Policy Book

Date of Notice to Council Members
of Intent to Consider (7 days minimum): January 19, 2011

Date of Passage of Current Policy February 16, 2011

I Certify that this Policy was adopted by Council as indicated above.

Municipal Clerk

Date

MOTION CARRIED #11-011

11.4 **Remittal(s)** – Staff are recommending the following remittals. They are as follows:

- AAN 09460284 - \$658.46
- AAN 10099171 - \$134.38
- AAN 10099161 – \$134.38
- AAN 10099153 – \$215.22
- AAN 10180961 – \$202.08

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Reid, seconded by Deputy Warden Kellegrew to approve a remittal for AAN 09460284 in the amount of \$658.46.

MOTION CARRIED #11-012

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Read, to approve the following remittals:

AAN 10099171 - \$134.38

AAN 10099161 – \$134.38

AAN 10099153 – \$215.22

AAN 10180961 – \$202.08

MOTION CARRIED #11-013

- 11.5 Women in Local Government – Council has supported this initiative in the recent past. UNSM is now requesting a three year funding commitment towards the Bursary Program of which the Municipality has already provided funding for year one in the amount of \$600.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor MacNutt to approve funding in the amount of \$450 for fiscal years 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 to the Women in Local Government Bursary Program.

MOTION CARRIED #11-014

- 11.6 Recreation Grant Requests – Requests were received from the Oxford Skating Club, International Women’s Day Committee, and Cumberland Care Kits.

IT WAS MOVED BY Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Gillis to approve a recreation grant request in the amount of \$1200 to the Oxford Skating Club with the funds coming equally from Districts 4, 5, and 6.

MOTION CARRIED #11-015

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Read, seconded by Councillor MacNutt to approve a recreation grant of \$10 from each District for a total of \$100 for each of the two requests of International Women’s Day Committee and the Cumberland Care Kits.

MOTION CARRIED #11-016

Cumberland Credit Union Midget Female Ramblers Hockey Team – Council was advised that this team has been selected by Hockey Nova Scotia to host Provincials this coming March and are looking for any donations to assist them with the tournament.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Reid, seconded by Deputy Warden Kellegrew to purchase a gold sponsorship for the Midget Female Hockey Provincials, which amounts to \$500.

MOTION CARRIED #11-017

Special Olympics Amherst – Council was advised that the costs of having athletes travelling to the Nova Scotia Provincial Summer and Winter Games creates a struggle financially for Special Olympics.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Gillis, seconded by Deputy Warden Kellegrew to provide a recreation grant of \$300 per district to Special Olympics Amherst for a total recreation grant of \$3,000.

MOTION CARRIED #11-018

12. **Operational Services/Reports Issues**

- 12.1 Update Dangerous/Unsightly – Mr. Cottingham, By-Law and Solid Waste Administrator, advised that ownership of the Long Hill property has been established and the property has been posted. The Owner has begun to remove the material and has assured Mr. Cottingham that he will continue to remove the material as weather permits.

13. **Committee/Other Reports**

- 13.1 Library Board Report - This item was provided as information.
- 13.2 Nominating Committee Report – **IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Warden Kellegrew, seconded by Councillor Donkin, that the Policy and By-Law Committee have the responsibility of dealing with the divestiture of Municipally owned properties added to its Committee Mandate.**

MOTION CARRIED #11-019

14. **Old Business**
 - 14.1 Application re: Village of Pugwash – This was provided as information.
15. **New Business**
 - 15.1 Video Conferencing – Council was advised that we are participating in this pilot program and updates will be provided as they become available.
 - 15.2 Council/Staff Liaison Committee – This item was deferred to a future meeting.
 - 15.3 UNSM Spring Workshop – This workshop is being held May 11 – 13th, 2011 at Digby Pines. Any Councillors wishing to attend are requested to confirm this with the Executive Assistant.
16. **Information Items**
 - 16.1 Thinker's Lodge Funding Announcement – Provided as information.
 - 16.2 Age of Sail Funding Announcement – Provided as information.
 - 16.3 FCM Attendance – Councillors were requested to provide their study tour selections to the Executive Assistant.
 - 16.4 Snow Loads – CAO Bugley advised that information will be posted for the public concerning snow loads.
 - 16.5 National Energy Committee – Warden Hunter advised that the Energy Committee will be presenting to the National Energy Committee in Halifax on February 28th, 2011.
 - 16.6 Tantramar Radio Update – This was provided as information.
17. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned 2:33 p.m.
18. **God Save the Queen**