

1. Council Convenes - O Canada - The Council meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Warden Keith Hunter. Everyone joined in the singing of our national anthem.
2. Roll Call - The roll was called by Connie Scott, Executive Secretary. All Councillors, except Councillors G. Read and K. Redmond were present. Regrets were received from Councillor Read, who was on vacation, and Councillor Redmond, who was ill. Also in attendance were Rennie Bugley, Chief Administrative Officer, Steve Ferguson, Deputy Clerk, and Andrew MacDonald, Director of Finance.
3. Approval of Agenda (Additions/Deletions) - The agenda was approved with the following amendments: Additions: 13.1 DOT - Riverbend Drive Deletions: 12.6 Tourism Presentations
4. Approval of Minutes
  - 4.1 March 15, 2006 - The minutes of the March 15, 2006 session of Municipal Council were circulated in advance of this meeting.

**It was moved by Councillor K. Langille, seconded by Councillor E. Gilbert the minutes of March 15, 2006 be approved as presented.**

**MOTION CARRIED #06-161**

5. Business Arising from the Minutes
  - 5.1 Action List - March 15, 2006 Council Meeting - Provided for information.
  - 5.2 Action List - March 1, 2006 - The list of actions taken from the March 1, 2006 was circulated.
6. Delegations and Presentations

Volunteer Recognition - Warden Keith Hunter welcomed representative volunteers and their guests to the meeting. A celebration luncheon was held with the Volunteers before the Council meeting. The Warden indicated that over a billion dollars of services provided annually by volunteers in Nova Scotia, and expressed how fortunate the people of Cumberland are to be served by so many dedicated volunteers.

Plaques, as well as a gift of appreciation from the Municipality of Cumberland, were presented to several dedicated volunteers of Cumberland County. A brief write up concerning the volunteer work of each was read. Warden Hunter also presented a framed certificate of appreciation to each of the guests, on behalf of Murray Scott, MLA for Cumberland South. Cumberland North MLA Ernie Fage was unable to attend the ceremony, as he was in Halifax, but sent along his congratulations and best wishes.

The following were honoured by the Council:

Isabel MacNeil - District 5, Judy Moore - District 6, Ida McCormick - District 8, Youth representative - Justin Ferdinand, and Community Group- Pic N Grin Family from Tidnish. Alice Sanderson - District 9 was named the Municipality's representative Volunteer of the Year, and she will attend the provincial volunteer ceremony in Halifax later in the month.

Several of the guests spoke about how important volunteering is, and urged younger people to get involved in their communities. Warden Keith Hunter thanked them all for attending, and to Shelley Hoeg for the organization and coordination of the event. There was a 10 minute recess to allow for photographs by the media.

7. Public Hearings

- 7.1 Development Agreement for Warren School -Warden Hunter opened the Public Hearing. Jim Coughlin, Planner, appeared before Council to report on the proposed development agreement for the former Sir Charles Tupper Elementary School (Warren School) as a farmers' market and initially for rental storage space. The property is currently designated Residential in the Central Planning Area Municipal Planning Strategy. Public notice was given, and advertisements placed that the Council would hold a public hearing at this Council session. Staff have reviewed the proposal and recommended approval. Mr. Coughlin stated that if Council does give approval, and second reading, staff will then work on a development agreement.

Council heard from the proponent, Ian Ripley, regarding his plans. It was noted that there were members of the public present for the hearing, they declined to comment on the issue. There were no written comments received.

The Warden closed the public hearing.

**It was moved by Councillor K. Langille, seconded by Councillor J. Reid that Council approve second reading of the development agreement for the former Sir Charles Tupper Elementary School (Warren School) as a farmers' market and commercial storage space rental.**

**MOTION CARRIED #06-162**

8. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received since the March 15, 2006 Council meeting:

Coastal Communities Network

1. Advising of the 2006 Conference, April 28 and 29, Tatamagouche Centre, Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia - **It was agreed that the attendance of Councillor K. Langille be approved.**

Northumberland Curling Club

1. John Van de Wiel, Chair, enclosing correspondence from the Pugwash Village Commission committing financial support in the amount of \$15,000.

Nova Scotia Community College

1. Requesting Council's participation in its' strategic planning process. *Mr. Bugley provided an update, he met with the principal yesterday, to provide input, and to inquire as to whether there might be partnership opportunities with one of County's high school.*

Pugwash Village Commission

1. Allan MacEachern, Chair, requesting that the Irishtown Road be given immediate priority for repair.

Minudie Heritage Association

1. Alice Sanderson, Chair, advising of a Community Partnering Incentive Proposal to the Canada Nova Scotia Skills and Learning Framework, requesting a letter of support and a monetary contribution. **It was moved by Councillor J. Reid, seconded by Councillor E. Gilbert that correspondence be sent to indicate that Council approves in principle the proposed partnership between the Minudie Heritage Association and the Canada Nova Scotia Skills and Learning Framework.**

**MOTION CARRIED #06-163**

Cumberland African Nova Scotia Association

1. Debbie Currie, Event Planner, advising of the details of the CANSA Homecoming 2006, requesting a monetary donation and a donation of prize items; also inviting the Warden to the Opening Ceremonies slated for Monday, July 31, 2006, 5:00 p.m., St. Charles School. (ACTION) *Defer to Budget deliberations.*

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

1. Richard Hurlburt, Minister, providing an introduction to Council as Minister, indicating that he will act as a strong advocate on behalf of municipalities and that he plans to meet with all municipalities in the Province.

9. Planning Issues

- 9.1 JAPAC Status Report - Jim Coughlin, Planner, reported that the Joggins Area Planning Advisory Committee is ready to take a draft of the document to community, and have scheduled a public meeting for April 24, 2006. The committee is trying to support the community with environmental, economic and heritage matters. Following the meeting, the Committee will have to review the plan to make ready to take to Council for first reading.
- 9.2 Pugwash PAC - Received correspondence from the Pugwash Village Commission regarding the number and composition of the Pugwash PAC. This has been addressed by staff, and the correspondence was included in the meeting material.

10. Financial Reports/Issues

- 10.1 Recreation Grant Requests - It was moved by Councillor K. Langille, seconded by Deputy Warden Kellegrew that Council approve the following recreation grant, as recommended by the district Councillor:

**Organization: Cumberland Service Team, Scouts Canada**  
**Amount: \$400 - Dist #6, \$200 - Dist #2**

**MOTION CARRIED #06-164**

**It was moved by Councillor G. Langille, seconded by Councillor J. Reid that a grant in the amount of \$7600 be made to the Wallace and Area Recreation Committee, for the purpose of installing lights around the ball hockey rink, to be funded by the District 5 Subdivision Funds.**

**MOTION CARRIED #06-165**

**It was moved by Deputy Warden Kellegrew, seconded by Councillor Gilbert that a recreation grant be made in the amount of \$100 to assist with the sponsorship of a CANU Writer's Workshop, to promote literacy in the community.**

**MOTION CARRIED #06-166**

**It was moved by Councillor K. Langille, seconded by Councillor E. Gilbert that the following grants to organizations be referred to budget deliberations:**

**Gathering of the Clans**  
**Malagash Community Club (maintenance and**  
**Malagash Heritage Assoc. (Summer student and maintenance)**  
**Malagash Hall (renovations)**

**It was noted that financial statements would be requested as part of the application process.**

**MOTION CARRIED #06-167**

- 10.2 Long Range Capital Budget - Information relative to several projects to be included for discussion as part of a long range capital budget was circulated. Several additions were noted: Spring Cleanup - for all bulk goods, as well as the Pugwash Harbourfest.

- 10.3 Low Income Exemption - At the last regular meeting of Council, held March 15, 2006, notice was given that the County's Low Income Exemption Policy would be reviewed and revised at the April 5, 2006 meeting of Council.

It was moved by Councillor Welton, seconded by Councillor G. Langille that Council approve the following Low Income Exemption Policy:

Low Income Tax Exemption Policy

Introduction

*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)*

Terms of the Policy

Amount of Exemption

- *When the income of the person, spouse and other household members combined is less than \$15,000 the exemption shall be \$100.*
- *When the income of the person, spouse and other household members combined is between \$15,001 and \$17,000 the exemption shall be \$50.*

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.*

To receive the Exemption

*An application for a fiscal year shall be submitted by December 31<sup>st</sup> of that fiscal year.*

General Information

*County Staff shall annually send out a reminder letter and an affidavit form to all persons who received the exemption the previous year.*

*The operating budget shall make allowance for this exemption on a yearly basis.*

*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.*

*The Municipality may ask for verification of income, prior to approving an application.*

*The deadline for applications and any other pertinent information shall be advertised, at least once, in the local paper.*

MOTION CARRIED #06-168

10. 4 - Summer (Student) Employment - There was discussion relative to the time-lines and restrictions imposed by programs funding student employment for the summer. **It was moved by Councillor G. Langille, seconded by Councillor Welton that staff advertise for two positions for (student) summer employment: Subdivision Assistant and By-Law and Policy Development Clerk.**

**MOTION CARRIED #06-169**

11. Operational Services/Reports Issues

11.1 REMO Clarification - Statements made in a recent article in the Citizen by Parrsboro Mayor Doug Robinson regarding REMO were clarified. The Town of Parrsboro had a representative (the CAO) at all committee meetings, and Zone Controller Dominic Fewer also did a presentation to the Town Council. The Town chose not to participate at this time in the Regional Emergency Measures Organization, but was definitely not excluded. If at some future date Parrsboro does decide to 'come on board', there is a formula, and provisions for other units to join.

11.2 Road Paving Application - Regarding this issue, staff were requested to do a field inspection of several roads that may qualify for funding under the Provincial capital paving program. The number of building lots, frontage, as well as a cost estimate based on the last three roads that were paved, were examined. A priority list has been submitted to the Province in the following order: Fundy View Drive, Charles Street, School Street. It was confirmed that before any work is done, a majority of residents on the street must agree, and there is a process to follow with respect to cost sharing. It was further suggested that a meeting be held with the local Department of Transportation representatives.

12. Committee/Other Reports

12.1 River Hebert School Closure - There is a CCRSB Committee of the Whole meeting tonight at 60 Lorne Street in Truro at 7 p.m. Dr. Michael Corbett will present the report he and Dr. Mulcahey researched with respect to rural schools. Last week the Province of Nova Scotia placed a moratorium on school closures until their own study with respect to the process is done. This will provide a reprieve for the two schools in Cumberland County that were being reviewed, but it was felt that the presentation tonight should go ahead as planned, and Councillors were encouraged to attend.

12.2 Wentworth School Closure - as above.

12.3 School Closure Process - as above.

12.4 County Consultants Study Re. Small Rural Schools - Dr. Michael Corbett will be sending a revised report (electronically) for distribution nationally.

12.5 Global Pandemic Influenza - Jim Hannon has been providing one of the leadership roles on the Pandemic Flu Plan for Cumberland, and has reported on actions, meetings attended etc. The Cumberland Health Authority is taking the lead role on this project. It was noted that the Town of Parrsboro declined to participate in discussions on a regional basis with regard to Pandemic Flu.

**It was moved by Councillor E. Gilbert, seconded by Councillor K. Langille that the Town of Parrsboro be invited to participate in Pandemic Flu meetings.**

**MOTION LOST**

12.6 Tourism Presentation - **It was moved by Councillor G. Langille, seconded by Councillor J. Kellegrew that a letter of congratulations be sent to Ron Robinson on receiving the prestigious President's Award at the recent Central Nova Tourist Association Annual General Meeting.**

**MOTION CARRIED #06-170**

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13. Old Business

- 13.1 Department of Transportation - It was moved by Deputy Warden J. Kellegrew, seconded by Councillor G. Langille that correspondence be sent to Lee Crowel at the DOTPW to express Council's concern with the condition of River Bend Drive. The road was recently paved to Department's standards, but it is not holding up the way it should.

**MOTION CARRIED #06-171**

14. New Business

- 14.1 Proposed Governance Model for Assessment Services - This was included for information, will be discussed at a future meeting.

15. Information Items

16. Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

17. God Save The Queen

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Warden

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Clerk

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Recording Secretary