

1. **Council Convenes - O Canada** –Warden Hunter called to order the February 1, 2012 session of Cumberland Municipal Council at 12:25 p.m due to inclement weather. 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 Chief Administrative Officer. Councillors in attendance: Warden Keith Hunter, Deputy Warden Gerald Read, Councillor John Kellegrew, Councillor Allison Gillis, Councillor Ron MacNutt, Councillor Kathy Redmond, Councillor Phillip Donkin, Councillor Ernie Gilbert, Councillor John Reid and Councillor Ratchford Merriam. There were also a number of staff in attendance.
3. **Approval of Agenda (Additions/Deletions)** –The Agenda was approved with the following additions and deletions:
 - Additions: 11.3 – Northport Sports Field; 14.2 – Demolition Order; 15.3 – Cumberland Transit
 - Deletions: 9, 10, 12
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - 4.1 **Minutes from January 18, 2012 Council Session**
IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Warden Read, seconded by Councillor Donkin to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2012 Council session with revision to motion #12-001 which should read “that Council forward correspondence to Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations requesting their rationale for the Province’s support and position to cap municipal assessments as compared to the Provincial position that the Federal Government should not impose a cap on health, education, and equalization transfers to the Province”.

MOTION CARRIED #12-013
5. **Business Arising from the Minutes**
 - 5.1 **Action List, January 18, 2012** – Councillor Redmond inquired about the status of correspondence to be written regarding cutting forest around walking trails in Wentworth. Mr. Bugley will follow up on this issue.

Municipal Intern, Emily Lutz, informed Council that #8 is now completed.

Warden Hunter requested an update on the signage issue in the Baie Verte area. The Planning and Development Department is working on this item.
6. **Public Hearings**
This item was deleted.
7. **Delegations and Presentations**
 - 7.1 **Trans Canada Trail** – Due to inclement weather, this presentation was scheduled for the February 15, 2012 Council session.
8. **Correspondence**
There was no discussion on this item.
9. **Planning Issues**
This item was deleted.
10. **Strategic Planning**
This item was deleted.
11. **Financial Reports/Issues**
 - 11.1 **Low Income Exemption Policy** – **IT WAS MOVED by Councillor MacNutt, seconded by Councillor Gillis to approve the following Amended Low Income Exemption Policy:**

Municipality of Cumberland Policy 12-01

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 \$17,033 the exemption shall be \$150.

When the income of the person, spouse and other household members combined is between \$17,034 and \$19,288 the exemption shall be \$93.

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.

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

(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.

4. This Policy is effective upon adoption and replaces any previous Low Income Exemption Policies.

<u>Clerk’s Annotation for Official Policy Book</u>	
Date of Notice to Council Members of Intent to Consider (7 days minimum): <u>January 18, 2012</u>	
Date of Passage of Current Policy <u>February 1, 2012</u>	
I certify that this Policy was adopted by Council as indicated above.	
_____	_____
Municipal Clerk	Date

MOTION CARRIED #12-014

11.2 **Community Development Grant Applications** – Vicki Weaver, Recreation and Physical Activity Coordinator advised Council of the requests received, which are as follows:

Wentworth Community School Council: This community group already provides Zumba classes to the Wentworth area one night per week. They would like to continue, but the instructor requires a minimum of 8 participants, and although they do reach that amount of people quite often, it doesn’t happen every time. They are asking for Council to subsidize the class, so that if they fall short on participants they are still able to hold the class and pay the instructor. They are requesting **\$364** from Council.

Councillor Kathy Redmond recommends that \$500 be debited from District 6 funds.

Northumberland Community Curling Club – NCCC has been providing curling instruction and ice time at zero or nominal cost to area school children and residents of Sunset Residential Center since the club’s inception in December 2007. The club brooms used by these groups were a part of the original equipment purchased when NCCC opened. The brooms are of poor quality and are awkward for the children to use. Many are also wearing out after 5 years of use. The Curling Club is looking to replace the club brooms and they are requesting **\$1,000**.

Councillors Gillis and MacNutt recommend that \$500 be debited from District 4 funds and \$500 from District 5.

Joggins Fossil Institute – The Fossil Institute is planning March Break activities, which will include Pond Hockey Tournament. These not-for-profit events are meant to encourage community spirit and increase recreation opportunities for students over March Break. The hockey tournament will target families in all of Cumberland County, but will have a focus on the Joggins – River Hebert region. Other March Break activities will encourage active and healthy living (e.g. introduction to yoga, planning and planting a garden, healthy cooking & baking, etc.) They are requesting **\$1,450** for this project.

Councillor Reid and Deputy Warden Read recommend \$725 from each of District 9 and 1.

River Hebert and Area Garden Club – In partnership with the Cumberland County River Enhancement Association and the River Hebert Development Association, the garden club will be establishing a small (50 tree) Native (Acadian) Tree Arboretum at the Tidal Bore Park in River Hebert in May 2012. The project will involve the community at large, as well as the River Hebert Elementary School Grade 7 Science class, who will assist with the planting. This project focuses on “species of concern” – species that were once common in the area, such as Yellow Birch, Eastern Hemlock, etc. Once established, the Arboretum trees will provide a local native tree seed bank. They are requesting **\$500** for this project.

River Hebert and Area Garden Club – The garden club would like to establish a community garden at the Villa, the local social housing/ seniors residence in River Hebert. The Villa is a great venue, as it is on Main street and very central, but it will also be a good venue for hosting organic gardening workshops and other food-related community programming, such as food preservation workshops, cooking classes, etc. The group is partnered with the local elementary and high schools, and there is a real focus on the inter-generational transfer of knowledge. They are requesting **\$500** for this project.

International Women’s Day Committee for Amherst, Cumberland County and Area:
 After a very successful event in 2011 (which Council funded for \$100), the committee is once again hosting a luncheon on Friday, March 9th to recognize International Women’s Day. Admission to the event is by free will donation with all proceeds going to support transition house services for abused women and children. There are a number of expenses involved in setting up the luncheon, and they are asking for any assistance that Council is willing to provide.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Donkin to approve the following Community Development Grants:

Wentworth Community School Council	-	\$500 – District 6
Northumberland Community Curling Club	-	\$500 – District 4
	-	\$500 – District 5
Joggins Fossil Institute	-	\$725 – District 1
	-	\$725 – District 9
River Hebert and Area Garden Club	-	\$500 – District 9
River Hebert and Area Garden Club	-	\$500 – District 9
International Women’s Day Committee	-	\$100 - \$10 from each District

MOTION CARRIED #12-015

11.3 **Northport Sportsfield** – Warden Hunter advised that a meeting was held regarding the need for a sportsfield pad for the Northport Elementary. Also advising that 1/3 of the money could come from Sports NS and other funds would come from other sources. Sports that could be played on the pad would include basketball, tennis and volleyball and would put on same area that is now used as a rink and would be used by the community during times when the school is closed.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Gillis, seconded by Deputy Warden Read to forward a letter of support for a sports field pad for the Northport Elementary.

MOTION CARRIED #12-016

12. **Operational Services/Reports Issues**

This item was deleted

13. **Committee/Other Reports**

- 13.1 **Nominations Committee** – Councillor Kellegrew advised that the following Citizens are recommended for the following Committees:
- CREDA – Henry Knol
 - Cobequid Housing Authority – Ester Boyd
 - Heritage Committee – Justin Helm
 - McElmon Brook Committee – Judy Schultz
 - Leamington Brook

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Kellegrew to adopt the Nominations Committee Report.

MOTION CARRIED #12-017

14. **Old Business**

- 14.1 **Tyndal Wellfield Wilderness Designation** – Ron Patterson provided further information on this subject.

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Warden Read, seconded by Councillor Reid to forward a letter of support, in principal, that crown blocks identified as 81, 82, and 520, as well as the privately owned (Irving) block, 83, currently under consideration as proposed 12 Percent Lands be added to the existing Chignecto Isthmus Wilderness Area with the following caveats:

- **That existing camp owners including the Boy Scouts be permitted to continue their occupancy;**
- **That access be permitted thru any future wilderness area to these existing private camps;**
- and**
- **That the existing SANS trail #104 be permitted to continue in its present location through these lands.**

MOTION CARRIED #018

- 14.2 **Demolition Order** – Mr. Cottingham, Solid Waste and By-Law Enforcement Officer advised that he has received a request from H. G. MacNeill, representing the owners of the property located at 2475 Hwy 242, Strathcona.

Mr. MacNeill has requested that Council consider granting an extension to the middle of February to allow time for the owners to travel here from Scotland and deal with the matter in person.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Kellegrew to extend the deadline for demolition of the structure located at 2475 Hwy 242, Strathcona, to February 27, 2012.

MOTION CARRIED #12-019

15. **New Business**

- 15.1 **Extension to Current Wilderness Protected Areas** -
IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Gilbert to forward correspondence advising that council supports the continued use by snowmobilers and ATV's on all trails in Cumberland County that are in areas that may be designated as wilderness areas.

MOTION CARRIED #12-020

- 15.2 **Volunteer Recognition**
 Council was reminded of the deadline for this event.

- 15.3 **Cumberland Transit** – Council was approached by the owner of Cumberland Transit advising of the

CCRSB has requested Cumberland Schools to not use the services of Cumberland Transit.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Kellegrew, seconded by Deputy Warden Read to forward a letter of inquiry to the CCRSB for an explanation regarding recommendation that the school principals not utilize the services of Cumberland Transit Ltd.

MOTION CARRIED #12-021

16. **Information Items**

16.1 Senior's Safety Program – Information item

16.2 CJSMA 2012/2013 Budget – The proposed budget was circulated to Council. This item will be on the Feb 15, 2012 Council session.

17. **Adjournment**

On motion the meeting adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

18. **God Save the Queen**