

1. **Council Convenes - O Canada** –Warden Hunter called to order the March 6th, 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.

At this point the Declaration of Election was done by Brenda Moore, Municipal Clerk and then Mrs. Moore proceeded with the swearing in of District 10 Councillor, Don Fletcher. Councillor Fletcher was congratulated by his peers and welcomed to Council.

2. **Roll Call** - The roll was called by Shelley Hoeg, Executive Assistant to the CAO. Councillors in attendance were: Warden Keith Hunter, Deputy Warden Don Smith, Councillor Kellegrew, 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 and deletions:

Additions:	6.2 – Theatre Foundation; 13.2 – Wentworth School Meeting; 13.3 – UNSM Training Session; 15.5 – Downtown Amherst Business Advisory Committee; 15.6 – Wallace Ultramar Gas Bar; 15.7 – Oxford Junction Bridge; 16.1 – Commission on Rural Economy
Deletions:	7, 9, 10, 12, 14

4. **Approval of Minutes**

- 4.1 **Minutes from February 20, 2013 Council Session**

The minutes of the February 20, 2013 Council were approved as presented.

5. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

- 5.1 **Action List, February 20, 2013** – Council was advised that for #4 on the action list, contact has been made to N.S. Power and they advised that all outstanding light installations would be completed by the end of March, 2013. Also, Mr. Doug McManaman will be at the March 20th, 2013 Council session to make his world record attempt.

6. **Delegations and Presentations**

- 6.1 **Red Cross** – Ms. Mona O’Brien was on hand to provide a presentation to Council regarding the opportunity to further develop Cumberland County in terms of emergency preparedness and connectedness of vulnerable groups and organizations that provide a service to such groups.

Ms. O’Brien advised she was pleased to share with Jim Hannon, Cumberland REMC, a vision Red Cross has as it relates to enhancing the resiliency of our residents’ pre, during and post disaster—through a proposal called “Enhancing Resiliency in our Community”.

The purpose of this presentation is to ask the Municipality to supply funding, in the amount of \$20,000 for this proposal. Work could begin within one month of approval. This position will be a contract position posted through the Canadian Red Cross. Red Cross would be looking to hire someone who is familiar with community development and is connected to the Cumberland community. A position such as this does not currently exist in Cumberland County.

Once hired on contract, the contract employee will be reporting directly to Ms. O’Brien, as the District Community Supervisor and would report hours worked to her for submission to payroll on a bi-weekly basis.

This vision came about during a research project through the University of Ottawa. Truro was one of the four target communities selected from many others across Canada. The others were Calgary, Kitchener-Waterloo, and Quebec City. The project was called “EnRiCH, (Enhancing Resilience among High Risk Populations to Maximize Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery).

The overall purpose of this project was to provide empirical evidence on the effectiveness, appropriateness, and feasibility of community mobilization interventions designed to mitigate social risk among high risk population groups. Ms. O’Brien advised she believes the project in Truro has provided us with a vehicle to “connect” the groups and organizations that provide a service to vulnerable populations and to provide them with the tools they need to be “better prepared” when a disaster strikes.

Red Cross would like to move this project into other parts of Northern Nova Scotia and are requesting Council support in doing so.

Warden Hunter thanked Ms. O’Brien for her presentation and advised that this will be considered as part of our budget deliberations.

- 6.2 Theatre Foundation – Mr. Bob Janes was on hand to provide this presentation to Council. Mr. Janes gave an overview of the history of the Theatre lodged at ARHS and the funding that was provided by all funding partners. Mr. Janes also advised of the Committee members currently on the Committee.

Mr. Janes explained that the Committee is responsible for the upkeep and bookings at the Theatre. Mr. Janes went over the various groups that have used the Theatre and what events were held there over the past few years. He also discussed the maintenance and repairs that have been done to ensure the Theatre is in tip top shape.

Mr. Janes answered questions from Council and discussed the controversy that was in the local paper this week. Mr. Janes explained that the Committee had not been submitting their financials to the Joint Stock Companies and that this has been rectified.

Warden Hunter thanked Mr. Janes for his presentation.

7. Public Hearings

This item was deleted.

8. Correspondence

A thank you letter was received from the Nappan United Church for grant monies received for repair work to the Church basement.

A thank you letter was received from the Cumberland County Transportation Service thanking Council for their \$5,000 grant.

Paul Giroux requested Council (each individual Councillor) to write to Rick Mercer to request he attend the Cross Border Challenge in 2013. Draft wording has been provided to Council and staff to be forwarded to Mr. Mercer. ***It was agreed that each individual Councillor would forward a request to Rick Mercer asking him to attend the Cross Border Challenge.***

Correspondence was also received from the Cumberland Adult Network for Upgrading requesting Council to appoint a staff or Council member to their Board. **This item will be dealt with at a Nominating Committee meeting in the near future.**

Correspondence was received from Minister Paris re the Building N.S. Economy Commission and advising of dates of their public consultation. The Deputy Warden will attend this session with a prepared statement (prepared by the CAO/staff).

9. Planning Issues:

This item was deleted.

10. Strategic Planning

This item was deleted.

11. Financial Reports/Issues

- 11.1 Low Income Exemption Policy – Andrew MacDonald presented the amended Low Income Exemption Policy.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Kellegrew, seconded by Councillor Gilbert, to approve the Low Income Tax Exemption Policy which is as such:

Municipality of Cumberland Policy 13-02

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 **\$17,375** the exemption shall be **\$250**.

When the income of the person, spouse and other household members combined is between **\$17,376** and **\$19,675** the exemption shall be **\$155**.

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 application 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 application.

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 application 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.

(6) Total income is based on Line 150 of the T1 Income Tax and Benefit return for all household members.

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>February 20, 2013</u>	
Date of Passage of Current Policy: <u>March 6, 2013</u>	
I certify that this Policy was adopted by Council as indicated above.	
_____	_____
Municipal Clerk	Date

- 11.2 Community Development Grants – Council was advised of the following grant requests by Emily Burke, Recreation and Physical Activities Coordinator:

Amherst Regional High School Cheerleading Team

The team is looking for funding to help with the costs associated with buying new uniforms for the squad as their old uniforms are falling apart. The team cheers at school functions and also competes in competitive cheerleading. The uniforms have been estimated to cost \$5,752.30, which includes 23 skirts and 23 tops. They are ordering the uniforms from a supplier in Ontario from a catalogue given to them by the school. A non-refundable deposit of 50% has already been made so they are unable to order from another dealer. The team has received various donations as well as a holiday raffle ticket fundraiser and bottle drive. They have contacted local businesses to seek donations. Six of the 18 members (1/3) are county residents (see district breakdown below). They are requesting **\$2,000.00** in assistance.

District	Number of Members
1	1
2	2
3	2
8	1

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Warden Smith, seconded by Councillor Kellegrew, to approve a maximum of \$1000 funding for and for the funds to be split between the applicable districts.

MOTION CARRIED #13-049

Wallace Fire Department

This group is requesting funding to help with the costs associated with their Canada Day celebration, specifically their fireworks display. The total cost of the event has been estimated at \$4,150.00. We have assisted this project in the past, giving them \$500.00 in 2008. They have also applied for a \$2,000.00 grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage. They are requesting **\$1,000.00** in assistance.

**Councillor Welton recommends \$1,000.00 be debited from District 5 Community Development funds.*

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Welton, seconded by Councillor Kellegrew, to provide \$1,000 from District 5 Community Development Funds to the Wallace Fire Department to assist in the cost of their Canada Day Celebrations.

MOTION CARRIED #13-050

Brookdale Community Hall Association

This group is looking for funding to help with the costs associated with renovating and upgrading the community hall. They are looking to install a new bathroom, paint the entire hall, put up insulation and gyproc, as well as landscaping. We have assisted this group in the past, giving them \$8,200.00 in 2011 for a new roof and siding, as well as \$28,000 in 2012 to help pay for the construction of a frost wall for the building (\$21,000.00 from Grants to Organization and \$7,000 from Community Development Grants). They are seeking **\$8,000.00** in assistance.

It was agreed that this item will be moved to budget deliberations for Grants to organizations.

Amherst Regional High School Varsity Boys Basketball Team

This team is requesting assistance to assist with the costs of running the team for the 2013/2014 year. They team travels to away games as well as tournaments, which sometimes include an overnight stay in addition to tournament fees, referee costs, etc. They normally host two tournaments a year, which act as fundraisers for them and help offset the costs. They are seeking any assistance possible to help. We have assisted this team in the past, giving them \$300.00 in 2010.

It was agreed to request the team re-apply when their team for next year has been solidified.

- 11.3 Remittal – Mr. MacDonald provided information on this item.

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Warden Smith, seconded by Councillor Baker to write off \$2,671.01 for taxes and interest on AAN 05384877 due to an error at the time of the land transfer.

MOTION CARRIED #13-051

12. **Operational Services/Reports Issues**

12.1 This item was deleted

13. **Committee/Other Reports**13.1 Renovation Steering Committee – Municipal Clerk, Brenda Moore provide background information on this item and requested the approval from council to proceed with the design for the renovations which would cost \$14,464.00 as per the quote received from the proposal submitted.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Kellegrew, seconded by Councillor Gillis, to direct staff to proceed with the design for front Counter renovations for the price of the quote of \$14,464.00.

MOTION CARRIED #13-052

13.2 Wentworth School Meeting – Councillor Baker advised of the meeting held last night regarding the Wentworth Elementary school closure. He thanked the Councillors who attended for their support for his district. Councillor Baker also advised that there were 33 speakers and a packed house and that all the presentations were well done.

There was discussion on sending correspondence to the Minister of Education reiterating the fact that the Government has made a commitment to revitalizing rural communities, but removing schools will be crippling the rural communities. Councillor Baker will get the highlights of the submissions for inclusion in the letter.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Gilbert, seconded by Councillor Fletcher, to forward correspondence to the Minister of Education reiterating the highlights of the presenters from the Wentworth School Meeting and discussing sustainability and also requesting a moratorium on school closures in rural communities, until such time as the Commission on Building a New Economy completes their consultation process and issues their final report.

MOTION CARRIED #13-053

13.3 UNSM Training Session – Councillors who attended this session thought it was very informative.

14. **Old Business**

This item was deleted.

15. **New Business**15.1 Coldspring Head Light House – Council was advised that we have been approached by the the Coldspring Heritage Society to request the support of the Municipality of Cumberland for their application to the Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans to have the Coldspring Head lighthouse declared a heritage property.

The Society advised that the federal government has declared close to 1000 Canadian lighthouses as surplus. Under the 2010 Heritage Lighthouse Preservation Act, and community groups such as theirs were given the go-ahead to apply for heritage status with the assurance that the upkeep of the building would be maintained by the group.

The Society has been registered with the province as a non-profit organization, #3226065, since January 2008. The Society has recently been in contact with DFO following the submission of a business plan which demonstrates that the Society is willing and able to ensure the upkeep of the lighthouse and the grounds. If their application is approved, the Coast Guard will continue to be responsible for all aspects of maintaining the light itself.

The Society is requesting a letter of support from the Municipality to Ottawa. It was mentioned by DFO during a recent teleconference that this could expedite the acceptance of their business plan which is now under review.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Gillis, seconded by Warden Hunter, to forward a letter of support for the application of the Coldspring Head Light House Society to the Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans to have the Coldspring Head lighthouse declared a heritage property.

MOTION CARRIED #13-054

15.2 Ratification of Ken Jupp as Citizen Board Member of Sunset – **IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Gillis, seconded by Councillor Welton to ratify the appointment of Ken Jupp as a Municipality of Cumberland Citizen Board member on the Sunset Board of Directors for the period of January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2016.**

MOTION CARRIED #13-055

- 15.3 Mining and Quarry Industries call for Off Highway Fuel Tax Rebate – Council has received a request from the Mining Association Industry of Nova Scotia for the following:

requesting that the Municipality send a letter to Finance Minister Maureen MacDonald in support of the mining and quarrying industry's call for the off-highway fuel tax rebate to be extended to the mining and quarry industries in order to help it reinvest and create more jobs.

Sean Kirby, Executive Director of the Mining Industry Association advised that provincial fuel tax is supposed to help pay for public roads and highways by charging the vehicle owners who use them. The government gives other resource industries a tax rebate for fuel used in vehicles that do not go on public roads, such as fishing boats, farm tractors and off-highway forestry vehicles. Nova Scotia gives the rebate to fishing, farming and forestry, but is the only province that does not give it to mining. This makes operating in Nova Scotia more expensive, costs the province jobs and discourages investment.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Welton, seconded by Councillor Gillis, to forward a letter to Finance Minister Maureen MacDonald in support of the mining and quarrying industry's call for the off-highway fuel tax rebate to be extended to the mining and quarry industries in order to help it reinvest and create more jobs.

MOTION CARRIED #13-056

- 15.4 Criminal Intelligence Service of Nova Scotia – Council received correspondence from Lisa Emery, Chair of the Amherst Police Association advising of two positions being lost

The two positions being lost here will be the Town of Amherst Police Department's LIO and the LIO from the Cumberland Detachment of the RCMP. The RCMP position is moving to Halifax and the municipal office position is being eliminated completely. This will cause a decrease in the level of policing service as the termination of these positions will certainly cause a download of information gathering to the municipal police force.

This is not only a jobs issue but a public safety issue. Amherst and the County of Cumberland is the major route into the province for drugs, firearms, illegal cigarettes and other contraband items. Our offices here are the connection with the Border Patrol at Maine and other CIS offices across New Brunswick and PEI. The logistics of trying to run this from Truro or Halifax is an error in judgment. Once the illegal activities have entered our Province through our gateway in Amherst/Cumberland they will spread out and be pretty tough to track and follow from Truro of Halifax.

This service can not be provided by the Colchester office of CISNS. The border of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia creates challenges. Persons involved in criminal activities such as drug dealing cross the border to and from Moncton to achieve exchanges of money and drugs or other contraband items. The CISNS office in Amherst/Cumberland is necessary to bridge that gap in the gathering of intelligence from offices in New Brunswick. Also, our CISNS office is a valuable asset for tracking criminal activity in both directions across the border.

There has been a solution proposed regarding the funding shortfall. The CISNS officers are actually provincial policing positions; therefore, they should be 30% funded by Public Safety Canada (PSC). It is understood that there are ongoing talks between the Province and Public Safety Canada to secure this funding. However, the PSC has advised that they need time to review this issue at a National level. Therefore, a decision on this will not be made until after March 31st when the Amherst/Cumberland office is set to close.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Gilbert, seconded by Councillor Rector to forward correspondence to the Premier requesting that the provincial government commit to providing the funding necessary to keep the Cumberland/Amherst positions until a decision has been made by Public Safety Canada.

MOTION CARRIED #13-057

- 15.5 Downtown Amherst Business Advisory Committee – Michelle LeBlanc was on hand to discuss signage for the Town of Amherst entrance (in the County).

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Warden Smith, seconded by Councillor Welton to approve a motion in principal to assist the Downtown Amherst Business Advisory with the beautification of the LaPlanch entrance to Amherst and to allow the Advisory to erect signage on the Municipally owned property.

MOTION CARRIED #13-058

- 15.6 Wallace Ultramar Gas Bar – Councillor Welton is requesting Council’s support for the rebuilding of the Wallace Ultramar.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Welton, seconded by Councillor Gillis, to forward a letter of support for the opening and re-opening of the Wallace Ultramar to Ross Bayus, President of Ultramar Ltd.

MOTION CARRIED #13-059

- 15.7 Oxford Junction Bridge – Councillor Rector advised of the state of disrepair and dangerous condition of the Oxford Junction Bridge. Councillor Rector was advised that the Regional Director needs to authorize the repairs to this bridge as the local office does not have the authority.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Rector, seconded by Councillor Kellegrew to forward correspondence to the District Director of NSDOTIR requesting emergency repairs to the Oxford Junction Bridge due to its dangerous condition.

MOTION CARRIED #13-060

Councillor Welton also has concerns with roads in her District and this will be added to the next Council agenda.

- 15.8 Carrie Goodwin Recognition – **IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Gilbert, seconded by Councillor Welton to forward a letter of congratulations to Carrie Goodwin on her receiving the Superhost award from CNTA.**

MOTION CARRIED #13-061

16. **Information Items**

- 16.1 Commission on Rural Economy – Discussed earlier in the agenda.

There was discussion on future Council dates. It was agreed to hold a special session of Council on March 13th, 2013 for Nominations and an In Camera session. Those meetings will begin at 9 a.m. and end at noon.

Council meetings in April will be held April 10th and April 24th.

17. **Adjournment:**

On motion the meeting adjourned at 2:5.3 p.m.

18. **God Save the Queen**

Warden Keith Hunter

Municipal Clerk Brenda Moore