

1. **Council Convenes - O Canada** – Warden Hunter called to order the October 16, 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.

At this point Warden Hunter observed a moment of silence for the passing of Brant Wishart of Service Nova Scotia and Roy Maltby.

The Warden also recognized NSCC Office Administration students who were present and extended congratulations to staff member, Peter Cottingham upon receipt of his Certified Engineering Technician accreditation.

3. **Approval of Agenda (Additions/Deletions)** –The Agenda was approved with the following additions/deletions:

Additions: 6.3 – NSCC Students; 6.4 – Staff Recognition; 11.3 – Grant to Organization; 11.4 – TMR Radios

Deletions: 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15 and 16

4. **Approval of Minutes**

- 4.1 **Minutes from October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 Council Session**

**The minutes of the October 2, 2013 Council session were approved with the amendment to 6.1 to state that it was the Deputy Warden and not the Warden who thanked the delegation as the Warden was not present and to include the reason for the Warden not being present in those minutes.**

5. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

- 5.1 **Action List, October 2, 2013**

There was no discussion on this item.

6. **Delegations and Presentations**

- 6.1 **CANSA** – Liz Cooke-Sumbu and Debbie White were on hand to provide this presentation. Mrs. Sumbu began by giving an overview of the history of CANSA. Ms. Sumbu went over the new developments and expanding role of CANSA. She also explained that CANSA staff are available throughout the County and partner with organizations at various facilities. CANSA now has 10 well trained personnel and is now also a career resource centre. They are providing many job readiness programs, is providing cultural initiatives and specialized employment initiatives.

At this point the Warden opened the floor for questions from Council

The Warden thanked the representatives for their informative presentation.

- 6.2 **Fracking** – Barb Harris was on hand for this presentation. Ms. Harris advised Council that Nova Scotia has had one small experience with hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for shale gas. Between 2007 and 2009, Triangle Petroleum drilled five vertical exploratory wells in Hants County. Three of the wells were fracked.

Although work on the Triangle project stopped four years ago, new information and problems relating to the project continue to come to light. The most glaring issue has been the difficulty of disposing of millions of litres of fracking wastewater contaminated with chemicals and radioactive elements.

A look at the records shows this is not the only problem.

The most glaring issue has been the difficulty of disposing of millions of litres of fracking wastewater.

What emerged was a series of problems including:

Wastewater ponds built and filled without appropriate permits.

A leaking wastewater pond but no soil testing done.

A company determined to dispose of millions of litres of fracking wastewater underground, despite provincial refusals.

Nova Scotia Environment (NSE) allowed discharge of 7 million litres of untreated fracking wastewater into the Windsor sewage treatment system, although an internal NSE document states that fracking wastewater (formation water) is typically too contaminated to be released into the environment without treatment.

NSE gave approvals for disposal of fracking wastewater before they had information about the full range of contaminants in the wastewater, including radioactive elements.

Ms. Harris feels that it is crucial to look at the big picture of shale gas extraction and evaluate the combined impacts of all aspects of this new type of natural gas production, including but not limited to hydraulic fracturing. A permit-by-permit, well-by-well approach is not sufficient to avoid problems. The Nova Scotia government's current review of hydraulic fracturing needs to evaluate the risks and impacts of shale gas development as a whole, including issues which are currently excluded, such as health, local economies, communities, and global climate.

At this time, there is no scientific evidence indicating that any method of disposal of fracking wastewater is environmentally safe, considering cumulative and long-term impacts. Until a proven solution to the wastewater problem can be found, it would be wise not to allow fracking in Nova Scotia, nor to allow Nova Scotia to become the fracking wastewater disposal centre for other provinces.

Although the Hants County experience with drilling and fracking for shale gas was minimal, valuable lessons can still be learned. The problems that Nova Scotia experienced with this small project are very similar to the problems being experienced on a much larger scale where shale gas extraction is taking place.

Ms. Harris advised many of the effects of hydraulic fracturing and shale gas production may appear only over time. This was true in Hants County, where the presence of radioactive materials in wastewater was identified only several years after drilling and disposal of some of the waste, and it is true with well leakage.

The road ahead is still a choice. A small province like Nova Scotia does not have a lot of room to make costly mistakes.

Ms. Harris closed by stating that Nova Scotia does not need to jump onto the shale gas bandwagon. The gas is not going away, and current prices are very low. Unconventional gas, including shale gas, is an industry with only a ten-year history. There is a lot still to learn, a lot of truths yet to uncover. Nova Scotia would be wise to take a **long** time out, and wait to learn from independent science, including studies based on the experiences of other areas.

Council was advised the Nova Scotia Fracking Resource and Action Coalition recommends either:

A 10- year legislated moratorium on shale gas and fracking exploration and development. After 10 years, the province will be in a better position to evaluate, based on scientific evidence, whether shale gas can be extracted safely. Or,

Ban shale gas and fracking now. Some jurisdictions have decided that there is enough evidence already to ban shale gas development. Nova Scotia could do the same.

8. Correspondence

UNSM – Russell Walker – advising of the approval by the Board of UNSM of two amendments to the Municipal Government Act. The first is that Municipalities may create a policy to provide a lower commercial tax rate relative to the rest of the municipality in an area defined as the downtown core. The lower commercial tax rate would apply to all commercial properties in the designated area and would be reviewed annually.

The second would be that Municipalities may create a policy to offer phased-in commercial taxes to a commercial property owner who occupies a vacant building within the downtown core area as defined by the Municipality.

Eric MacKinnon – Concerned resident of Advocate requesting the re-visitation of the issue of a large fence in Strathcona, which Mr. MacKinnon feels is unsightly.

Atlantic Concrete Association – conveying their gratitude to Council for their immediate action to address concerns about Council’s prior support for the misleading “Wood First” agenda.

Ship’s Company Theatre – Advising of a successful season for Ship’s Company Theatre and thanking Council for their support.

9. Planning Issues:

This item was deleted.

10. Strategic Planning

This item was deleted.

11. Financial Reports/Issues

11.1 Community Development Grants – Vicki Weaver, Recreation and Physical Activities Coordinator advised of the following grant request:

**Amherst Mini Basketball**

This group is hosting their first Amherst Mini Selects Tournament in November. They are inviting 15 teams to participate in a 16 team tournament. With Amherst/Cumberland being so central to the Maritimes they wanted to host a huge tournament and show other teams our county. Of the 13 players on the Amherst team, ten live in the county and 12 of them go to county schools. This is the first year for this tournament, and they hope to see it become a yearly event, but they need start up funding. They are requesting **\$1,000**. They have not requested funding from any other sources.

**IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Warden Smith, seconded by Councillor Baker to provide a Community Development grant in the amount of \$1,000 (\$100/district) to the Amherst Mini Basketball Club for a tournament.**

**MOTION CARRIED #13-202**

**Cumberland North Academy**

The school has not received funding for the Physical Education department in over five years. 20% of the basketballs, volleyballs and soccer balls will not blow up anymore due to use. Over half of the hockey sticks need to be replaced due to broken blades or shafts. Many of the badminton and tennis rackets also have strings that are broken and they need to be replaced. The school is currently running intramurals in the morning, at recess and at noon as well as their regular use during school hours and for evening activities and events. They are currently asking for **\$1,500** to support an equipment refresh. They have not requested funding from any other sources.

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Kellegrew, seconded by Deputy Warden Smith to provide up to \$1500 from District 1, 2, and 3 Community Development Grant funds, with receipts required, to Cumberland North Academy to assist with the costs of purchasing new equipment for the Phys Ed Department.**

**MOTION CARRIED #13-203**

**Parrsboro Spook “O” Rama**

This event has been held continuously since 1989. This dance is open to students in grade 7-12 of Parrsboro and Advocate schools. Students are bused to and from the event by CCRSB buses and drivers. The dance will be held at the Parrsboro Legion and is held at no cost to students. They are requesting **\$500**, which has been our annual contribution to this event. The Town of Parrsboro also grants this event \$500.

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Gilbert, seconded by Councillor Fletcher to provide \$500 Community Development Grant to the Parrsboro Spook O Rama with funds split equally between District 8 and 10.**

**MOTION CARRIED #13-204****Oxford Spookarama**

The Oxford event is held at the Oxford Regional Education Centre on Halloween night for youth in grades 7-12 and guests. They are requesting **\$700**, and we have supported this event for the past nine years.

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Rector, seconded by Councillor Baker to provide a Community Development Grant in the amount of \$700 (\$500 from district 7 and \$200 from District 6) to the Oxford Spook o Rama.**

**MOTION CARRIED #13-205****Amendment**

At the September 18<sup>th</sup> council session a grant was approved for \$800 (district 9) to help fund a bus rental for a contingent of local residents going to Halifax. The issue has since been resolved and the funding was not necessary. This cheque was not, and will not, be requisitioned.

11.2 **Northumberland Links Golf Club**

Mr. MacDonald, Director of Finance and Administration advised that upon following up it was determined that our decision must wait the decision of PVSC and how they will interpret this change. Mr. MacDonald also forwarded the information to our Solicitor for feedback as well.

11.3 **Grant to Organizations – Pugwash Legion** – The Pugwash Legion was approved for a \$2,000 Grant in this fiscal year to assist with the cost of a ramp. Recently the Legion has suffered water damage and the cost for the deductible is \$2500. The Legion would like to use the \$2,000 previously approved funds (which have not yet been forwarded to the Legion) to help defray the \$2,500 insurance deductible.

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Gillis, seconded by Councillor Kellegrew to approve that the recently approved Grant to the Pugwash Legion in the amount of \$2,000 be allowed to be used to defray the cost of the \$2,500 insurance deductible to assist with repairs needed due to water damage.**

**MOTION CARRIED #13-206**11.4 **TMR Radio's** – Council was advised that we have a number of radio's not upgradeable to the TMR system. Jim Hannon, REMC has researched and feels we can save money if we purchase them now. The budget would be exceeded for this item.

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Welton, seconded by Councillor Gillis to approve the purchase of TMR radio's that will exceed the budget for equipment of \$3,000.**

**MOTION CARRIED #13-207**12. **Operational Services/Reports Issues**12.1 **Capital Project(s) Update** – Ron Patterson, Contract Engineer provided the following information:**Pugwash Water**

We plan to start drilling on Phase 3 of the Pugwash groundwater exploration program this week. We now have permission from three landowners to place test wells on their lands on the old Murray Road in Pugwash River. If the wells in this area are not satisfactory we will move to Pugwash Junction and drill on lands owned by John Caraberis.

**Maccan Sewage Treatment Plant**

Peter Cottingham reports that work continues as Manholes 3 through 7, with some of the associated pipe-work and control valves having now been installed. Trenching and installation of the forcemain, as well as a waterline for future use, has been completed from the location of the new lift-station to the septic tank. The process building is now weather-tight.

**Maccan Water**

The current timeframe for this project will see the final design and tender package prepared this year ready for a spring 2014 tender call. Water main construction and installation of services will take place in 2014 for water supply to residents by the end of the year.

Rayworth and Roberts Surveys limited have begun the site survey. This work will involve gathering information relative to road centerline, shoulder and ditch elevations at 30 meter intervals well as

front property line and front house corner elevations for properties along the water main route. This survey information will then form the basis for the final engineering design of the water distribution system.

The RFP for the Engineering final design and tender package preparation closed October 11<sup>th</sup> and staff are now reviewing the proposals with a view to making a recommendation to Council later this month.

### **Hospital Sidewalk**

As reported at the last council meeting the low tenderer, Costin Paving, was well over the projected budget. Our share of the overage was largely due to a last minute requirement to remove and replace the concrete backslope under the two overpass structures.

We will be meeting with Amherst officials later this week to discuss options for moving forward with this project.

13. Committee/Other Reports  
13.1 This item was deleted.
14. Old Business  
14.1 This item was deleted.
15. New Business  
This item was deleted.
16. Information Items  
This item was deleted.
17. Adjournment  
On motion the meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.
18. God Save the Queen

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Warden Keith Hunter

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Municipal Clerk Brenda Moore