

1. COUNCIL CONVENES – O CANADA

1.1 Warden Hunter called to Order the July 30, 2014 session of Cumberland Municipal Council at 10:05 a.m. The meeting was held at the Advocate Fire Hall due to renovations at the E. D. Fullerton Municipal Building. O Canada was sung.

1.2 ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Shelley Hoeg, Executive Assistant to the CAO. Councillors in attendance were: Deputy Warden Smith, Councillor Kellegrew, Warden Hunter, Councillor Gillis, Councillor Welton, Councillor Baker, Councillor Rector, Councillor Gilbert, Councillor McLellan and Councillor Fletcher.

The Council of the Town of Springhill were also in attendance as well as Mr. John Leefe, Transition Coordinator, Mr. Brian Smith, Transition Manager and Mr. Chris McNeill, Municipal Advisor

Staff in attendance were: CAO Rennie Bugley, Director of Policy and Research, Steve Ferguson, Director of Finance and Administration, Andrew MacDonald, Director of Public Works, Justin Waugh-Cress, Recreation and Physical Activities Coordinator, Vicki Weaver and Executive Assistant to the CAO, Shelley Hoeg.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES

2.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Deletions)

The agenda was approved with the following addition(s)/deletion(s):

Addition(s): 6.4 – Financial Report, Tax Collection and Revenue; 7.3 – Next Meeting (Date, Time and Location)

Deletion(s) 3

2.2 Approval of Minutes of July 2, 2014

The Minutes of July 2, 2014 were approved with the amendment of Motion #14-128 to reflect Councillor McLellan as the seconder.

2.3 Business Arising – Action List of July 2, 2014

Border Entrance – Councilor Kellegrew questioned if there has been money allocated for this item and it was clarified that there has been money budgeted. CAO, Mr. Bugley discussed the issue of the signage/branding that was completed by Ekistics and that it is important to follow the Regional Marketing Strategy. Councillors would like to see the proposed signage and it was agreed that once a draft has been provided it will be circulated to Council.

3. STRATEGIC PRIORITY ISSUES

There were no strategic priority issues for today's meeting.

4. MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES

4.1 New Building Canada Fund Projects - **IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Gillis seconded by Councillor Kellegrew to approve the Pugwash Water Supply project as Council's priority for the New Building Canada Fund.**

MOTION CARRIED #14-134

Councillor Welton advised that the Wallace Marina is ready to be developed and seems to have Provincial backing. A meeting of the CIP will be convened to discuss the Wallace Marina and possibly re-rank the project. Council was advised all partners are ready to go.

5. ORGANIZATIONAL POLICY/BY-LAW ISSUES

5.1 Flags and Proclamations Policy – **IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Warden Smith, seconded by Councillor Baker seconded to amend the Flags and Proclamations Policy.**

MOTION DEFEATED #14-135

- 5.2 First Reading to Amend the Central Area MPS/LUB – IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Kellegrew, seconded by Councillor Gilbert to give First Reading to Bylaw 14-XX to amend the Central Planning Area Municipal Planning Strategy by amending the text as follows:

Add subsection “f) Ancillary Dwellings” to Section 1.3.2.6 as follows:

1.3.2.6 Other Uses

It shall be the intention of Council to ensure that areas designated Commercial are primarily used for commercial purposes. The following additional uses may be permitted in areas designated Commercial subject to any relevant provisions of the Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw:

- a) Parks, open spaces and recreation uses;
- b) Public and private schools;
- c) Churches and church halls;
- d) Institution uses and public buildings; ~~and~~,
- e) Utility uses; **and,**
- f) **Ancillary Dwellings.**

And

Add subsection “w” to the list of Permitted Uses in Section 3.1.1

- w) **new residential, subject to Special Requirement 3.2.6**

Add Section 3.2.6 to “3.2 C-1 Zone Requirements”

3.2.6 Special Requirement – new residential

A new dwelling shall be permitted in the Commercial Zone where the dwelling is:

- a) ancillary to the main commercial or light industrial use; and,
- b) located within or attached to the building containing the main use.

MOTION CARRIED #14-136

- 5.3 First Reading to Amend the Central Area Land Use By-Law Signage – IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Kellegrew, seconded by Deputy Warden Smith, to give First Reading to Bylaw xx-xx to amend the Central Planning Area Land Use Bylaw by amending the text as follows:

Amend Section 1.1.4.3 (d), and add subsection (e) as follows:

1.1.4.3 Prohibited Signs

No *sign* shall be *erected*, operated, used or maintained which:

- a) due to its position, shape, color, format, or illumination obstructs the view of, or may be confused with, an official traffic *sign*, signal or device, as determined by the *Development Officer*;
- b) displays lights resembling those usually associated with danger or those used by police, fire, ambulance or other emergency vehicles;

- c) projects over or rests upon any part of the public right-of-way; or d) is attached to a tree or a detached dwelling.
- e) covers architectural details including, but not limited to, arches, sills, mouldings, cornices, and windows.

Remove Section 1.1.4.6

~~1.1.4.6 All Other Zones~~

- ~~a) The number of signs that may be *erected*, constructed, placed or displayed on a parcel of land within any *zone* other than residential shall not exceed four.~~
- ~~b) The maximum size of a *sign* in any *zone* other than residential shall be 5.94 sq. m. (64 sq. ft.).~~

And replace with:

1.1.4.6 All Other Zones

In any *zone* other than residential:

- a) the number of *signs* that may be *erected*, constructed, placed or displayed on a parcel of land shall not exceed three;
- b) all wall mounted *signs* shall be counted as one sign; and,
- c) ground *signs* not related to a business or use on the property on which they affixed shall not exceed 5.94 sq. m. (64 sq. ft) in area for each *sign* face, excluding the support structure.

MOTION CARRIED #14-137

- 5.4 Tax Reduction and Exemption Policy Amendment – **IT WAS MOVED** by Councillor Fletcher seconded by Councillor Welton to amend the Tax Reduction and Exemption Policy to include the Town of Amherst properties.

MOTION CARRIED #14-138

- 5.5 By-Law 14-xx To Amend Schedule A of the Local Improvement By-Law – **IT WAS MOVED** by Councillor Gillis, seconded by Councillor Kellegrew to approve amendment of By-Law 14-xx which amends Schedule A of By-Law 13-02 to include the properties on Trider Road and a property on Riverside Drive, not included in the initial Schedule A.

MOTION CARRIED #14-139

6. BUSINESS ISSUES

- 6.1 Fred Page Cup – **IT WAS MOVED** by Councillor Kellegrew, seconded by Deputy Warden Smith to approve a guarantee of up to \$25,000 to the Amherst Rambler Association for their bid to host the Fred Page Cup.

MOTION CARRIED #14-140

- 6.2 Community Development Grants

Amherst Little League Baseball Association

This group provides baseball to boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 12 at no charge. This year they have 30 county players registered. We have been providing them with \$40/county player. If we stay with the same formula, the breakdown is as follows:

District 1 – 13	= \$520
District 2 – 8	= \$320
District 3 – 2	= \$80
District 6 – 1	= \$40
District 7 – 3	= \$120
District 9 – 3	= \$120

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Kellegrew, seconded by Councillor Gilbert, to fund Amherst Little League at \$40/child.

MOTION CARRIED #14-141

Harbourfest

This organization is requesting funding for waterside activities to engage our community and visitors to the region. They are requesting **\$2,500**. At the time of this request (March 28), the group has \$17,631.96 in assets (cash, chequing account, investments). They made a similar request to Grants to Non-Profit organizations for \$3,000. It was referred to Community Development grants and Council granted \$2,000 (districts 4 & 5).

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Gillis, seconded by Councillor Welton to deny this funding request as it was felt the financial need was not present.

MOTION CARRIED #14-142

Cancer Survivors Dragon Boat Team

This group is aiming to bring awareness of the different types of cancer from the t-shirts they will be wearing. All the shirts will have different types of cancer ribbons on the backs. The cost of the shirts is \$400 and registration is \$500. They are requesting **\$900**, and have \$100 coming from the Leicester Ladies Aux Fire Department.

Participants include:

District 3 – 3
 District 6 - 5
 District 7 – 2
 Amherst – 2
 Oxford – 4
 Out of county – 2

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Rector, seconded by Councillor Fletcher to approve a community development fund to the Cancer Survivors Dragon Boat team in the amount of \$900 from District 7 funds.

MOTION CARRIED #14-143

Malagash Area Heritage Association –

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Welton, seconded by Councillor Baker to approve a community development fund in the amount of \$3,600 to the Malagash Area Heritage Association (District 5 funds - 2,600 and District 4 - \$1,000).

MOTION CARRIED #14-144

Ship's Company Theatre Annual Golf Tournament

This group is hosting their 13th annual golf tournament and they are requesting **\$300** for a hole sponsorship. They were granted \$4,500 from our grants to Non-Profit Organizations in the 2014-15 budget. In 2013 district 10 granted \$300 to this event for a hole sponsorship.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Kellegrew to provide a Community Development grant in the amount of \$300 to Ship's Company Theatre for their annual golf tournament, from district 10 funds.

MOTION CARRIED #14-145

19th Annual Highland Classic Golf tournament – **IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Fletcher to provide a \$500 Community Development grant as sponsorship to the 19th Annual Highland Classic Golf Tournament at \$50/District.**

MOTION CARRIED #14-146

Fundy Youth Soccer Club

This year they will be hosting the Under 16 Girls NS Soccer Provincials on August 29-31. It is the first time they have had the opportunity from Soccer NS to host such an important event. The Town of Amherst has provided them \$500 in funding for this event.

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Warden Smith, seconded by Councillor Welton to provide a \$500 Community Development grant from District 1 funds.

MOTION CARRIED #14-147

Cumberland Reds Men's Slo Pitch Team – This team is raising funds to compete in the SPN `B` Nationals this summer in Moncton. The tournament takes place from August 1-4. They will require a full set of matching team jerseys and hats to compete and they have a quote for \$2,100. And the entry fee is \$585. They have \$400 raised and are planning to host a tournament to raise further funds. The team consists of 20 county players. They have competed at the D level and placed 7th out of approx. 50 teams. They also competed at the C level and placed 12th out of 24 teams.

This item will be brought to a future meeting once further information is received.

Malagash Area Development Association – This group is interested in erecting a `Welcome to Malagash` sign. They will be adding area business signs as well, but the funding requested is solely for the Welcome sign. They are requesting **\$1,615.61**.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Welton, seconded by Councillor Gillis to provide \$500 from District 5 funds to the Malagash Area Development Association to assist with the cost of a Welcome sign.

MOTION CARRIED #14-149

Wallace and Area Recreation Committee

Looking for assistance in maintaining their facilities. They are requesting **\$4,000**. The funds will be used for some of the following projects:

- painting & repairing the rink boards and surface (\$2,800)
- 1 load of gravel (\$700)
- 1 load of sand for the infield (\$500)
- 2 loads of topsoil (\$600)
- lawn mowing and trimming (\$2,500)
- bush cutting upper field (\$300)
- electricity (\$1,300)
- equipment repair (\$1,100)
- pumping outhouse toilets (\$300)
- garbage handling and removal (\$500)

This group received \$4,000 in 2013, \$4,000 in 2012, \$5,000 in 2011, \$5,000 in 2010

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Welton, seconded by Councillor Gilbert to provide a \$4000 grant from Subdivision Funds to the Wallace and Area Recreation Committee for assistance in maintaining their facilities.

MOTION CARRIED #14-149

6.3 Discussion Paper – Governance for a Merged Municipality

Warden Hunter welcomed Mr. John Leefe, Transition Coordinator and Mr. Brian Smith, Transition Manager, for their attendance at today's session. Mr. Leefe introduced the subject and then turned the presentation over to Mr. Smith.

The first issue is the size of Council – Springhill has 5 members and 3000 electors, Cumberland has 10 Council and 11,000 electors, give or take.

Mr. Smith then went over the options outlined in his report.

Issue Number One – Size of Council for a Merged Municipal Unit

The Municipality of the County of Cumberland is currently governed by 10 District Councillors, and the Town of Springhill is governed by a Mayor and Council of 5, elected at large. The following table presents the latest voter counts for each unit, provided through Elections Nova Scotia:

Cumberland County	
District	Voters
1	1,235
2	1,205
3	1,222
4	1,231
5	1,070
6	1,030
7	1,148
8	1,071
9	1,049
10	1,079
Sub Total	11,340
Springhill	
	2,933
Total	14,273

The number of electors per Councillor is only one measure of representation, and across Nova Scotia there is a wide range in this figure, from several hundred to several thousand per Councillor in the case of Colchester and Kings Counties. The current figure in Colchester County is approximately 2,500 voters per Councillor, which is above the numbers proposed in any of the three options which follow for the merged municipal units. This being a year of boundary reviews for many municipalities, there has been consideration of reduced Council size in several rural municipalities.

Based on general discussion with members of both Councils involved in the Transition Committee, the suggestion is that three options be considered in terms of Council size:

Option A Combined Council of Twelve Members

This option would effectively add two members to the existing Cumberland County Council, to take into account the addition of Springhill. The average number of electors per district would have to be adjusted marginally, from the current average of 1,134 to 1,189. There may still be some adjustments to individual district boundaries to ensure voter parity (+/- 10% of average), but again these impacts should be minimal. Since the current Town and County have a total of 15, a combined Council of 12 does represent a reduction in the overall number of elected officials currently in office.

Option B Combined Council of Ten Members

With the background of the Ivany Report and public interest in improving the efficiency of local governments across Nova Scotia, and recognizing the merger of the two municipalities is an example of sharing services to improve effectiveness and efficiency for tax payers, this option would include Springhill in the Cumberland County governance structure without increasing the size of the County Council. The average voter count per district would increase from 1,134 in the existing structure to 1,427 in the new Council, an increase of approximately 26% for each member of Council. This option sends a good signal in terms of combining forces without increasing the cost and overhead of the governance structure, but it will require more changes in individual district boundaries to reach the new average number of voters.

Option C Combined Council of Eight Members

When this report was discussed initially by the Transition Committee, there was some discussion commentary among elected officials and community members across Cumberland County that there should be an effort made to reduce the number of elected officials generally. It can be argued that a smaller Council could be more efficient in decision-making and that modern communications systems can improve the “reach” of

both citizens and elected officials. If the introduction of a smaller Council is accompanied by initiatives that engage citizens and reduce committee workloads for elected officials, the result can be a smaller, more nimble elected organization. In this Option, the number of electors per Councilor would be 1784, or about 57% more than is the present situation.

One final note – in all three options the assumption has been made that the Town would not have its “own” representatives, but sections of the Town would be added to revised Cumberland County Districts in such a way as to achieve a new balance across all Districts in line with NSUARB guidelines for representation and community of interest.

Issue Number Two – Elected Mayor or Warden for the Combined Unit

The Municipal Government makes no differentiation in the role of an elected Mayor or Warden; both are identified as the chair of Council. But a number of rural municipalities in Nova Scotia, including Colchester and Lunenburg, have changed to the elected Mayor system. The actual experience with either system depends significantly on the actions of the individuals in the office, and the Council team they represent.

Cumberland County has lots of history with the concept of a Warden leading Council. Residents understand that he/she is chosen by their peers, and serves at their pleasure. Any member of Council, even those from the most remote District, can become the Warden, and election expenses are generally less for Councillors than they would be for someone running for Mayor.

On the other hand, for newcomers, young people and external business contacts, the term Warden may be misunderstood – the County no longer runs a jail. An elected Mayor represents the whole community, not just a majority of Council, and they are elected for a full four year term without fear of the loss of that Council majority over a particular issue. The election of a Mayor could create more interest in municipal elections, in municipal government generally, and perhaps encourage more people to run.

Finally, in the case of the merger of Springhill and the County of Cumberland, an elected Mayor could represent a positive combination of the best of both governance systems - using the District Councillor concept that is inherent in the County structure and the Mayor system that is part of the Town structure. Since the Mayor position is usually treated separately, in terms of district boundary calculations (the new Council would be 8 or 10 or 12 **plus 1** in the elected mayor system), this option would also moderate the impact of increasing the number of voters for each Councillor.

Issue Number Three – Village Status for Springhill?

In the history of Nova Scotia municipal government, Villages have been created to perform a subset of town and county functions and to engage the local communities they serve. They provide services through the application of an area rate, over and above the general tax rate for the rural municipality that they serve, and are governed by a separate section in the Municipal Government Act. Pugwash is a community within Cumberland County that has had a village government for some time now.

To this point, the Transition Committee and the municipalities that comprise it have not considered the creation of another government organization as being a desired element of the Springhill/Cumberland Transition Process. This view reflects the opinion that village status would add another level of government, more elected officials and would be at odds with some of the principles in the recent Ivany Report.

The opportunities to build a stronger, more efficient municipal organization that can combine the best features of both the Town of Springhill and the County, and move them forward together argue for a single decision-making structure. Examples of the opportunities include the development of the geothermal energy resource in and around the Town, and bringing more residents and organizations into the Community Centre to improve recreational opportunities across the region, and support the financial needs of the Centre.

Mayor Snow advised that tentatively Springhill Council is not in favour of village status and would like to see 8 or 10 Councillors and an elected Mayor. These are not the formal decision of the Council of Springhill, but they will be holding a Council session in the very near future to formalize their decision.

Consensus:

In favour of a village – Unanimously not in favour of a village. (both Councils)
Mayor – 4 County Councillors and all Springhill Council in favour
Warden - 6 County
Council of 12 – 2 County
Council of 10 – 8 County and three Springhill
Council of 8 - 2 Springhill
Council of 12 – 5

- 6.4 Financial Reports – Mr. MacDonald, Director of Finance and Administration, provided the June 30 financial reports to Council and reviewed the information for those present. Council was advised that the collection rate is currently 81%.

7. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

- 7.1 North Cumberland Memorial Hospital Replacement Update – Provided as information.
- 7.2 Newville Lake Park Operations Update – Mr. Waugh-Cress advised a draft lease has been drawn up and the Town of Parrsboro has committed to mow the lawn and provide upkeep. Picnic tables will be purchased and installed and a Port-A-Potty will be placed on site. The Owner is out of Country but staff will endeavor to have the park opened in the very near future.
- 7.3 Date, Time and Location of a future Council session – Council will tentatively be held August 20th, at the Wentworth Elementary School.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

On Motion, the meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.