

A meeting of **MUNICIPAL COUNCIL** was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Administration Building on the above date at 9:30 a.m. with the following in attendance:

Warden Jack Wentzell - District 7  
Deputy Warden Elmer Garber - District 4  
Councillor Diane Tanner - District 1  
Councillor Sherman Palmer - District 2  
Councillor Donald Zwicker - District 3  
Councillor Milton Countway - District 5  
Councillor Sandra Statton - District 6  
Councillor Cathy Moore - District 8  
Councillor John Veinot - District 9  
Councillor Arthur Young - District 10  
Councillor Lee Nauss - District 11  
Councillor Karen Dempsey - District 12  
Councillor Martin Bell - District 13

Also in attendance were:

Tammy Wilson, Chief Administrative Officer  
Erica Green, LL.B., Municipal Solicitor  
Heather Whynott, Administrative Assistant

CONGRATS TO  
MUN. CURLERS

Warden Wentzell congratulated the Councillors who were on the curling team that represented the Municipality in the event on Saturday, February 10, 2007 at the MARC.

AGENDA

Warden Wentzell asked if there were any requests for additions to the agenda.

Counc. Nauss asked to add an item regarding the service symbol signage which has recently been installed at Exit 12.

**Moved by Deputy Warden Garber, seconded by Counc. Palmer that the agenda be approved with the addition requested by Counc. Nauss. Carried.**

MINUTES

**Moved by Counc. Tanner, seconded by Counc. Bell that we approve the following Minutes: Regular meeting held January 9, 2007; Special meetings held September 25, 2006, November 2, 2006 and February 1, 2007; and the Public Hearing held December 12, 2006. Carried.**

POLICY MDL-02 -  
AMENDMENTS

At the December 12, 2006 Council meeting, notice was given to Councillors that amendments to Policy MDL-02, Committees, as recommended by the Planning Advisory Committee, would be presented at a future Council meeting. The proposed amendments were circulated with the agenda, as well as some housekeeping amendments to reflect the Committee of the Whole as opposed to the former Finance Committee and the Planning and Development Committee.

**Moved by Counc. Statton, seconded by Counc. Dempsey that we approve the amendments to Policy MDL-02, Committees, as presented. Carried.** (Copy of amended Policy attached to original Minutes)

AGREEMENTS -  
ROAD ASSOCIA-  
TIONS re PRIVATE  
RD. MAINTENANCE

At the January 9, 2007 meeting, Council passed a motion to levy a charge for private road maintenance and improvement as requested by two Private Road Associations, being the East Covey Lake Road Association and the Highlanding Road Association. Section 3 of the By-law Respecting the Maintenance and Improvement of Private Streets requires that, prior to levying the charge, Council enter into an Agreement with the Road Association which in

effect: a) requires that the Association is responsible for the maintenance and improvement on the private road, or the contracting out of the same; b) states that the petition forms the basis for the method of charge; c) saves harmless and indemnifies the Municipality from any liability or responsibility associated with the maintenance and/or improvement to the road; and d) contains any other clauses as deemed necessary by Council. Circulated with the agenda was a copy of the proposed Agreements between the two Associations (copies attached to original Minutes).

**Moved by Deputy Warden Garber, seconded by Counc. Nauss that Municipal Council approves the Agreement between the East Covey Lake Association and the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg and the Agreement between the Highlanding Road Association and the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, and further, that Council authorizes the Warden and the CAO to execute the Agreements. Carried.**

MUN. OF THE CO. OF ANNAPOLIS re PORK PRODUCERS  
 Circulated with the agenda was a copy of the letter that Warden Peter Newton of the Municipality of the County of Annapolis sent to the Premier of Nova Scotia requesting the Province to provide immediate financial assistance to the Pork Producers in Nova Scotia so they can maintain operations while they transition their production to meet changing markets and become self sufficient. Financial assistance will enable the Pork Producers the ability to ensure the future of what is a \$41 million industry with associated economic implications for employment and other businesses. Warden Newton's letter points out the strong commitments made by the Province in 2005-06 and 2006-07 to the agricultural industry in Nova Scotia

Counc. Young said he attended the rally that was held in Halifax regarding this. It was well attended and very enthusiastic. The NDP agricultural critic brought with him a pork roast weighing under 4 pounds that cost him almost \$19.00. The producer would have got about \$4.00. If the producers were getting a fair amount from what the consumer is paying, we would not have a problem in the pork industry in this province. It's something that's happening with all aspects of agriculture in this province. The producers of food are operating at a loss. Throwing money at them all the time is not helping.

Counc. Palmer feels that somehow we have to support and do whatever we can to help them. Chicken and dairy farmers are not too far behind. He noted that there was an article on the front page of the newspaper reporting that the price of milk is going up, but there's only a small ad about the price of alcohol going up. He questions why they would make a big deal about the price of milk going up but not the other.

Counc. Nauss asked if pork producers belong to a marketing board.

Warden Wentzell said they do but it's not controlled.

Counc. Nauss said, in the same newspaper article that Counc. Palmer referred to, it gave the price of milk across the country and we are almost double the price here.

Counc. Dempsey feels we have to be careful that locally produced products will not be available to us. She pointed out some of the recent incidents where products from other countries have been contaminated and

have caused serious illness and even death. She feels we have to worry about food safety.

Counc. Bell commented that this could have the same effect as it had on the fishery. He thinks we should be supportive to our neighbouring counties.

Warden Wentzell said, as far as the pork industry goes, the ones you see that are in difficulty are not the inefficient ones. They are the top efficiency producers in the province. They are starting to reduce their breeding herds. He thinks Kings County and its Warden are really supportive of the industry. He had heard talk of a plan to be put in place over the next year for the pork producers. He commented about the steel industry being controlled by a foreign country and the fact that the price of steel has gone through the roof. Canada's rules are more stringent than any when it comes to safe food, and we don't want to lose that.

Counc. Nauss said that we had a thriving pork industry in Lunenburg County at one time but not anymore because they couldn't afford to keep going. He pointed out that there are problems now for the chicken industry.

**Moved by Counc. Nauss, seconded by Counc. Young that a letter be written supporting the letter sent by the Municipality of the County of Annapolis to the Premier of Nova Scotia regarding financial assistance for the pork producers in Nova Scotia.**

Counc. Young pointed out that the cost of items that people have to buy to raise the product have skyrocketed, but the product is being sold for about the same price as back in the 70's. He also reported that our local producers have a lot of competition because anything that can be trucked here in 24 hours is classed as local, and we know how far a truck can travel in 24 hours.

Warden Wentzell said we have a stringent food inspection agency in Canada. They don't have the stringent rules in other countries that export their food to our country.

**The motion was carried.**

REQUEST FOR  
COUNCIL REP. ON  
COMM. re LONG-  
TERM CARE BEDS

Circulated with the agenda was a letter from the Maughan families advising Council that they are still looking into the matter of the shortage of long-term care beds in Lunenburg County. They want to form a committee to further proceed with the issue and are asking for a representative from each of the five Councils in Lunenburg County to be on the committee.

Ms. Wilson said this letter was presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting and Councillors requested some information on the composition of the committee. The Maughan's were contacted and Erin Maughan advised that the committee is just in the formation stages now. She expects the mandate will grow as the committee gets functioning.

Deputy Warden Garber feels that the shortage of long-term care beds is an issue that Council should be interested in and we should be trying to obtain beds for our area. The Maughan's have certainly initiated a lot of discussion around this issue. We should be involved in this so that we are kept in the loop. We have places that need these beds. We should be totally supportive of getting our fair share of them. He questioned if there is another avenue where we can be more directly involved. He suggested that maybe we should

approach the Department of Community Services.

**Moved by Counc. Nauss, seconded by Counc. Tanner that we ask the Nominating Committee to bring back a nomination for a Council representative to serve on the committee that's looking into the matter of the shortage of long-term care beds in Lunenburg County.**

Counc. Young feels that we should certainly be involved and if there's a committee we should have a representative on it. Regarding the announcement that was made about additional beds, he pointed out that there are a lot of other things to be considered as well. There's a shortage of health care professionals to look after them.

Counc. Dempsey agrees this is an important issue. She pointed out that we do have Council representatives on the Boards of the Homes. She questions if we have a role to play here, before she is tasked on determining how we sort out that representation.

Counc. Zwicker said what he finds very disturbing is that the Province has identified some facilities that will be getting beds, but then just throw the rest in a bunch for the rest to go after. He understands that there will be a call for RFPs. We will have to substantiate requests for beds. Hillside Pines has been after an additional 50 beds for at least 15 years, but have no assurance of anything. He knows right now that of the 65 beds for the South Shore at least 21 of them are gone. They have not announced that they have been allocated. This Friday there is a meeting at the Wandlyn on this subject. The Homes in place at this time will be overlooked for private industry. If they want to privatize it, then the Province should come out and say that.

**Moved by Counc. Nauss, seconded by Counc. Tanner that we table the motion until later in the meeting. Carried**

NEW CAO  
APPOINTED -  
TAMMY WILSON

At 10:00 a.m. Municipal Office employees were invited to be present at the meeting.

Warden Wentzell announced that Ms. Tammy Wilson has been appointed as the Municipality's Chief Administrative Officer and he asked the Municipality's solicitor, Erica Green, to proceed with the signing of the contract by Ms. Wilson. Staff applauded the announcement.

Warden Wentzell congratulated Ms. Wilson. He indicated that she will have a difficult task but feels she is up to the task and wished her well as she starts her new position.

Ms. Wilson thanked Council for the vote of confidence. She indicated that the last seven months (as Acting CAO) have been a challenging time for her. She feels we have many challenges ahead of us and she looks forward to them and truly feels that we can succeed. She said the Municipality has a great staff, a committed staff, and with that we will succeed.

Council then recessed for a coffee break.

REGION 6 BUDGET

At 10:30 a.m. Ms. Valda Walsh, Regional Coordinator for Region 6 Solid Waste Management, was in attendance to present the Region 6 budget in the amount of \$155,510.00 for the year 2007/2008.

Also in attendance was Pierre Breau, Director of Engineering and Public Works.

**Moved by Counc. Tanner, seconded by Counc. Palmer that Ms. Valda Walsh be permitted to address Council on behalf of Region 6 Solid Waste Management. Carried.**

Ms. Walsh used a PowerPoint presentation to provide information to Council on the Region 6 budget for 2007/2008. She reported that they have taken on two new municipalities, Barrington and Clark's Harbour. She explained the education programs they have undertaken.

Counc. Bell asked if any of Region 6's funding comes as a benefit of Colchester County burning tires.

Ms. Walsh reported that the tire issue is very contentious and rests solely on decisions by the RRFB (Resource Recovery Fund Board). She explained where the \$3.00 per tire goes when tires are disposed of. There is a proposal for converting those tires to energy. It's not going to impact the Region 6 budget. We just want to make sure the tires don't end up in the landfill.

Counc. Countway asked, when he pays the tire disposal fee of \$3.00, does that get submitted somewhere separate or is that the fee charged by those who pick up tires?

Ms. Walsh said when the \$3.00 is paid to a place such as Andy's Tire, that will go directly to the RRFB to administer the tire program.

Counc. Zwicker asked why there is such a variance in regional programs.

Ms. Walsh said it's very important to have regional programs and to have her and Kirk out doing them. They have focussed on the need for diversion, such as encouraging diversion in restaurants. Region 6 decided to develop a program on this for which they have received 50% funding from the RRFB.

Counc. Zwicker feels that diversion has always been a contentious point. Because we are doing well, he questions if we are carrying more than our share of the load. As municipalities, we are rapidly coming to the point that we are going to be in the poorhouse because we are trying to take care of our waste. He heard in the news that HRM is looking at limiting the number of bags that can be put out and at the use of clear bags. We all have the responsibility to sort but many are not. We have a lot of work to do.

Deputy Warden Garber noted that in the presentation it was indicated that special projects are on hold for the year. Special projects are funded out of a reserve that Region 6 has. He asked the following: What is the size of the reserve for special projects' funding? Is part of the plan to maintain our diversion? Will the Region 6 Steering Committee be considering any projects through the year to maintain that diversion? Will that door be closed for the whole fiscal year or will consideration be given through the year to maintain that diversion?

Ms. Walsh said there is a reserve fund of \$275,000. It is used to offset 50% of the cost by RRFB for the special projects. That doesn't close the door for any other municipalities to access those funds. The fund still exists. She has had an informal request from this Municipality to access those funds. The Technical Committee has not met yet. They will be making a recommendation to the Steering Committee on that.

Deputy Warden Garber asked what the original source was of the fund of

\$275,000.

Ms. Walsh said the RRFB issued \$100,000 to every Region to start it in 1996. In 2000, they gave another \$100,000. There was another \$100,000 in 2003 and another \$100,000 last year. Those funds came from the RRFB reserves. It does not have a steady cash flow, so it's going to be used wisely, but it is there for special programs.

Counc. Nauss said he agrees with Counc. Zwicker that there are many establishments that do no sorting at all. He questioned if that waste is taken somewhere and sorted before it goes to the Waste Site, or does it go straight to the landfill? He feels there are a lot of homes doing the same thing.

Counc. Dempsey asked if she understood correctly, that there are monies available to access for special programs, such as the Recycling Coordinator's programs.

Ms. Walsh said yes, and there are funds from RRFB as well. Their fund fills the gap where RRFB doesn't provide support. The shingles' project was an excellent program for diverting waste. Their fund sits at \$275,000. It may not be replenished; and once it's gone, it may be gone. She would like to see those funds used for special programs in the region.

Counc. Dempsey said the rules in Kings County as to how you sort waste are different than the rules in Lunenburg County, and that makes it difficult for the public. She asked if there are any initiatives to resolve that at the provincial level.

Ms. Walsh said it has been an ongoing battle. They have diversion programs within the region. The reason for the differences is because we operate as individual units and we take different tactics to reach diversion rates. It's her job to work on the Region to agree on a more consistent system.

Deputy Warden Garber commented that only four of the thirteen units in Region 6 are partners at the Whynott's Settlement Waste Site. He asked Ms. Walsh how she sees that facility operating as a regional promoter to improve diversion.

Ms. Walsh said the facility already serves more than just the four partner units. In reality, it does serve every unit in our region. Although it was established to serve four units, it would be optimal to see it operate as a regional facility for all thirteen units. Sharing the operational and financial costs over thirteen units would be easier than over four.

Counc. Countway feels as Coordinator of Region 6, Ms. Walsh should be concerned about what our neighbour is doing. He feels we should try to get some type of agreement so that everything is standardized as to what goes in garbage, blue bags, etc.

**Moved by Counc. Young, seconded by Deputy Warden Garber that Council approves the Region 6 budget for 2007/2008 as presented. Carried.**

Warden Wentzell thanked Ms. Walsh for presenting the Region 6 budget and answering Councillors' questions.

Councillors were then provided with copies of specifications for the following tender calls at the LRCRC (Lunenburg Regional Community Recycling Centre):

- 1) Solid Waste Public Drop-Off Depot;
- 2) Supply of Transfer Station Solid Waste Disposal Cartage Services 2007-08;
- 3) Supply of Baling Wire 2007-08; and
- 4) Supply of Trucking Services 2007-08.

Ms. Wilson informed Council that the Purchasing Policy requires that all Waste Management tender specifications require Council's approval before going to tender.

Mr. Breau reviewed the summary information for the four tender specifications (copy attached to original Minutes). The Drop-Off Depot tender is a capital tender and the other three are operational tenders. He reported that we have some funding from the RRFB. We received a grant of \$75,000 last year for the roll-off/roll-on bins.

Deputy Warden Garber questioned why the requirement for a heated box in the specifications for Trucking Services, as they will be trucking solid waste.

Mr. Breau said that requirement was put in a few years ago. Most of the trucking is on site. Sometimes we put in gravel during cold weather and it may be there for a few hours or overnight, then we can't dump it out of the box. Was it a major requirement? We were glad we had it when we needed it.

**Moved by Council. Nauss, seconded by Deputy Warden Garber that we approve the specifications for the four LRCRC tenders as presented. Carried.**

Discussion followed about the number of copies and cost involved to copy these tender specifications.

Deputy Warden Garber said it's part of our process to approve specifications. We asked for that. The format as to how we do that could be modified.

Ms. Wilson said the reason they were copied is because Council is required to approve the specifications. To do that, Council should know what is in the tender specifications.

Warden Wentzell suggested that it be left with the new CAO as to a way to streamline this.

Council then dealt with one of the recommendations from the Committee of the Whole while Mr. Breau was in attendance.

**Moved by Council. Bell, seconded by Council. Zwicker that we accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and approve the specifications for the Occupational Health and Safety Consulting Services Request for Proposals No. 2007-01-400 as presented and issue the Request for Proposals for same.** (Copy of specifications attached to original Minutes)

Mr. Breau reported that we have \$40,000 for the scope of work, but that doesn't necessarily affect what the price is.

Council Countway said he knows safety is an issue in the workplace. However, he just finds it hard to agree to spend \$40,000 on a manual for the workplace.

Council Dempsey said she sees it much more from the perspective of Council as an employer and the responsibility we have for the health and safety of our employees. We have a responsibility to do this. There is also the matter of the liability we take on as an employer.

SPECIFICATIONS -  
OCCUPATIONAL  
HEALTH & SAFETY  
CONSULTING  
SERVICES RFP

Ms. Wilson reported that last year we were deficient in a number of issues. We don't have the expertise in house and that is why we are having a consultant do this.

Counc. Young said we are deficient according to the study that was done. If there was an accident in the workplace, we would be responsible. No one likes to spend \$40,000. Nevertheless, to cover ourselves in the event of an incident, we have to do this.

The question was called and **the motion was carried.**

Mr. Breau was thanked and he left the meeting.

2007 CANADIAN  
FIREFIGHTERS  
CURLING  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

Circulated with the agenda was a letter from members of the Lunenburg Fire Department who won the 2007 Provincial Curling Championship on February 4, 2007. They will now be representing the Province, Town, and their Fire Department at this year's Canadian Championship in Thunder Bay, Ont. They have been told by last year's winners that they need to raise between \$9,000 - \$10,000 to be able to attend. They are requesting from the Municipality a financial commitment between \$500 - \$1,000 and 100 of the Municipality's lapel pins.

Ms. Wilson reported that she discussed this request with Carroll Randall. He informed her that we don't have any programs that this would fall under. We do have a youth program that provides financial assistance but not for an adult team. We have given municipal pins in the past for events such as this.

Counc. Bell reported that he called six constituents at random in his District. Of the six he called, six advised him that they were not in favour of spending money on someone else's vacation. We did support another event that involved firefighters but it was for training. He also discussed this with the constituents; and they said, when a large number benefit, they don't have a problem with it, but for a few they don't support it. Therefore, he will have to vote against financial support for this type of activity.

Counc. Countway said he too talked to a number of constituents. Out of 23, 22 said they wouldn't be in favour of it. Therefore, he will not be able to support any financial assistance for this.

Counc. Palmer reported that he was there and it was a good event. He could support \$500 for this and the municipal pins.

Ms. Wilson said the only thing that she would caution about is that there are a number of teams that travel to sports' events. Council developed a youth program with specific criteria that must be met before any financial assistance is granted. If Council wishes to support adult travel, then similar criteria should be developed for use when evaluating requests.

Counc. Palmer feels we should be able to assist if they are representing the Province.

Counc. Zwicker feels this discussion is highlighting the need for having a policy for this type of request. We have had requests in the past. They are representing the Province. Because of our geographical situation, there's considerable cost involved to participate in national events.

**Moved by Counc. Bell, seconded by Counc. Countway that the Municipality provide this team with 100 lapel pins and send them a letter**



**extending our wishes that they do well at the Championship event.**

Counc. Young said he agrees that we have to be careful about giving funds to this type of event. He has gone to the US already in ox team events.

**Moved by Counc. Palmer, seconded by Counc. Tanner that we amend the motion by including a financial contribution of \$500. Defeated.**

**The original motion was carried.**

PRESENTATION -

At 11:30 a.m. the following were in attendance to make a presentation to

DESTINATION

Council:

SOUTHWEST NOVA

Mr. Doug Fawthrop, President, Destination Southwest Nova Scotia

SCOTIA

Ms. Madonna Spinazola, General Manager, Destination Southwest NS

**Moved by Counc. Tanner, seconded by Counc. Zwicker that the representatives of Destination Southwest Nova Scotia be permitted to make a presentation to Council. Carried.**

Also in attendance for the presentation were Carroll Randall, Recreation Coordinator, and Laura Barkhouse, Trails Coordinator.

Mr. Fawthrop informed Council that the amalgamation is now complete. They are now the second biggest tourism region in the province. The primary focus of Destination Southwest Nova Scotia's marketing activities is to bring people to the region. They are doing better than the rest.

Ms. Spinazola made her presentation using a PowerPoint program. She reviewed the new membership program. One of their goals is to get every business to become a member. They are holding, for the first time ever, a Destination Southwest Nova Scotia Travel Show in Halifax on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Some municipalities are participating in that. She briefly reviewed some of their organization's accomplishments for 2006. She reported that one out of five tourists that visit our region ask to be connected with a real estate agent. She informed Council that the Municipality can be linked to their website. Their website address is [www.destinationsouthwestnova.com](http://www.destinationsouthwestnova.com)

Counc. Tanner left the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Ms. Spinazola feels that growth in tourism will help the rural and small towns. She asked that Council give serious consideration to a contribution of \$19,422 to their organization at budget time.

Counc. Countway asked what the difference is between Destination Southwest Nova Scotia and the Destination Bluenose Coast Association which is going to make a presentation to Council this afternoon.

Ms. Spinazola said they don't want to see duplication which is why the Destination Bluenose Coast Association was formed. Destination Southwest Nova Scotia is very connected to the five zones in this area. There are tourism associations formed to look at product development in their region, such as new businesses, restaurants, and trails. Destination Southwest Nova Scotia has the responsibility to market that. It's sometimes hard for people to grasp going globally. They are able to leverage their dollars. Your investment will increase three to four times in the marketing for this region.

Mr. Fawthrop said Destination Bluenose Coast is one of the five zones. They will be doing some of their own activities. Destination Southwest Nova Scotia is trying to minimize duplication. They are going to bring people to all

regions. The individual associations will try to do things for their specific area. Destination Southwest Nova Scotia is promoting the whole region.

Counc. Dempsey said she recognizes the importance of tourism and supports the regional approach to tourism. Referring to the pie chart that was used during the presentation, Counc. Dempsey said she is somewhat surprised with the level of support from the provincial level. She commented that there is a huge tourism product base in Mahone Bay with a small contribution from the Town compared to the size of the contribution that is being asked from our Municipality.

Mr. Fawthrop said a huge part of the \$380,000 is used to fund Visitor Information Centres. In most communities, it's a local sponsoring agency that helps come up with the rest of the money. They provide management for the 26 Visitor Information Centres and they provide training and quality levels for them. They cover the payroll for all the Visitor Information Centres. Less than half of the \$380,000 from the Province is discretionary. They will be holding a series of municipal input meetings to look at something that is fair.

Counc. Bell noted that the Destination Bluenose Coast Association is one of the five that fall under the umbrella of Destination Southwest Nova Scotia. He asked if there is any transfer of funding with regard to maintaining a website.

Ms. Spinazola said no, they are encouraging them to get membership build-up which they can use for marketing dollars to advertise on Destination Southwest Nova Scotia's website their events that are taking place in their region. They are not required to make any payment for that infrastructure other than membership.

Counc. Bell asked if a private member has to pay membership in both organizations. As a municipal unit, are we paying twice?

Mr. Fawthrop said it's two different kinds of activities and he explained the five zones. Destination Southwest Nova Scotia provides base support. They promote them on their website. They don't fund the individual tourism organizations and the individual organizations don't fund Destination Southwest Nova Scotia other than the membership fee.

Ms. Spinazola said Destination Bluenose Coast is encouraging the membership in their region which is part of Destination Southwest Nova Scotia. Destination Southwest Nova Scotia is there to supplement them with their marketing issues. They are going to put a computer in every Visitor Information Centre so everyone can be linked and tracking what is going on.

At the request of Counc. Statton, Ms. Spinazola reported on the staff that they have.

Warden Wentzell thanked Mr. Fawthrop and Ms. Spinazola for their presentation.

At 12:10 p.m. Council recessed for lunch.

At 1:10 p.m. the meeting resumed.

**Moved by Counc. Bell, seconded by Counc. Tanner that we refer the request from Destination Southwest Nova Scotia for \$19,422 to the budget meetings of Council. Carried.**

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL REP. ON COMM. re LONG-TERM CARE BEDS **Moved by Council. Nauss, seconded by Council. Tanner that we remove from the table the motion dealing with a Council representative to serve on a committee to look at the matter of the shortage of long-term care beds. Carried.**

MOTION ON THE FLOOR (from Pg. 4 of these Minutes) - **Moved by Council. Nauss, seconded by Council. Tanner that we ask the Nominating Committee to bring back a nomination for a Council representative to serve on the committee that's looking into the matter of the shortage of long-term care beds in Lunenburg County. Carried.**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - RECOMMENDATIONS

POLICY MDL-34 - PRO RATION OF SEWER AREA RATES **Moved by Council. Dempsey, seconded by Council. Statton that we accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and approve the "Pro Ration of Sewer Area Rates Policy" (Policy MDL-34) with implementation Option 2 and as outlined in parts A, B and C of Mr. Pettipas' report dated January 30, 2007. Carried. (Report and Policy attached to original Minutes)**

ESTABLISH POLICE ADVISORY BD. - RECORDED RESOLUTION 13 **Moved by Council. Nauss, seconded by Council. Statton that we accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and set up a Police Advisory Board for the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg consisting of seven members (three Councillors appointed by resolution of Council, three member-at-large appointments by resolution of Council, and one member appointed by the Minister), and approve the necessary resolution to put in effect the same, being Recorded Resolution No. 13. Carried. (Recorded Resolution No. 13 attached to original Minutes)**

MUN. REPS TO MEET WITH BPSC re WATERLINE MATTERS AT OSPREY VILLAGE **Moved by Council. Young, seconded by Council. Zwicker that we accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and approve the recommendation of the Economic Development Focus Group that Warden Wentzell, a member of the Economic Development Focus Group, the CAO, and the Engineer be appointed as the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg's representatives to meet with the Bridgewater Public Service Commission to discuss waterline matters at Osprey Village. Carried.**

PRE-BUDGET EXPENDITURE re LED SIGN AT PVEC **Moved by Council. Veinot, seconded by Council. Nauss that we accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and approve a pre-budget expenditure of \$2,500 to be a partner with Park View Education Centre in the acquisition of a LED sign which shall include the permanent placement of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg's logo on this sign.**

Ms. Wilson reported that, at the Committee of the Whole meeting, the question was asked if the Municipality's logo could be put on both sides of the sign. Mr. Jeff DeWolfe, Principal of Park View, has advised that they only have enough room to put the logo on one side of the sign, but they would be willing to advertise an event for us on that sign.

Council. Statton said she understands there is a little problem with the sign itself, as it may not conform to the Town's by-law. She asked if the sign is parallel or perpendicular to the road.

Council. Young said it's perpendicular to the road.

**The motion was carried.**

COMM. CAPITAL GRANT - B'WATER TENNIS CLUB

**Moved by Counc. Moore, seconded by Deputy Warden Garber that we accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and approve a Community Capital Grant in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the Bridgewater Tennis Club towards their project to resurface Court 3, do repairs to Courts 1 and 2, and install lights at Court 3. Carried.**

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE - RECOMMENDATION

AIR BRAKE LICENSE FEE - EXEMPT FIREFIGHTERS

**Moved by Counc. Countway, seconded by Counc. Young that we accept the recommendation of the Fire and Emergency Services Committee and write a letter to the Minister of Transportation and Public Works that, once appropriate air brake training is taken, volunteer firefighters not be required to pay the air brake license fee and the license be stamped stating that it may be used for fire vehicles only; and further, that a letter be sent to the UNSM requesting that the aforementioned be placed on the Spring Workshop Agenda. Carried.**

COMMUNITY SERVICES FOCUS GROUP - RECOMMENDATION

SUPPORT FOR ATVANS TRAILS COORDINATOR

In attendance at this time was Carroll Randall, Recreation Coordinator.

**Moved by Counc. Zwicker, seconded by Counc. Veinot that we accept the recommendation of the Community Services Focus Group that, if the All Terrain Vehicle Association of Nova Scotia Trails Coordinator is from Lunenburg Municipality, Council supports this position by supplying desk space, meeting space, administrative assistance, photocopying, and internet access.**

Counc. Dempsey asked where this person would be located.

Mr. Randall reported that there is a desk that this person could use in the Program Coordinator's office.

**The motion was carried.**

BUILDING REPORT FOR JAN. '07

For information, circulated with the agenda was a summary of the Municipality's building activities for the month of January 2007 (copy attached to original Minutes). This report showed that the value of building permits issued in December totalled \$2,135,305.00, bringing the year-to-date value of permits issued to \$30,690,842.92.

CAPPED ASSESSMENT PROGRAM REVIEW

Ms. Wilson reported that on February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Wandlyn, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations held a consultation session for input on the Capped Assessment Program (CAP). She attended the session, as well as Warden Wentzell and Gordon Pettipas.

Prior to the meeting, Councillors were provided with an information package with contained the report titled "Capped Assessment Program Review: Municipal Discussion Session" which was prepared by Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, and a report titled "Cap Program Analysis" which was prepared by Deloitte and Touche for the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities.

Subsequent to the February 7<sup>th</sup> consultation session, Ms. Wilson prepared a report which addressed comments made at the discussion session on the CAP and offered some suggestions for improvements (copy of report attached to original Minutes). In it she reports that, at the consultation session, concerns were raised on the following: 1) Absence of a Means Test; 2) Shift in

Tax Burden to other residential properties; 3) Potential Shift in Tax Burden to commercial properties; 4) Seasonal properties owned by NS residents are eligible for the CAP; 5) Uniform Assessments are based upon the CAP assessment values; and 6) Using the NS CPI rate as the CAP rate. Ms. Wilson's report suggested that consideration should be given to the following possible improvements:

1) Implement a Means Test which links the application of a cap on assessment to ability to pay ( i.e., those who spend over X% on their tax bill, or an income test); and 2) Require that only principle residences shall be eligible for the capped assessment.

Counc. Nauss noted that in 2008 the CAP rate will be whatever the cost-of-living rate is. He asked if that is based on the property value before the CAP or with the CAP removed.

Ms. Wilson said she would have to get clarification on that. The concern raised at the consultation meeting is that you are opening more properties to be capped. The target properties just got bigger in number that it's applied to now. It's not linked to ability to pay or to income. The original intention of the CAP was to target that segment of the community that were suffering from the increases in surrounding market values and being forced to sell.

Counc. Young thinks the program may be great but people who are not under the capping will pick up the burden. Numerous properties have increased in value by \$5,000 or more than 3.5% of the value. Every year his property increases by \$5,000 to \$7,000. This year it went up by \$16,000. He doesn't know why. Consequently, he is going to be forced to pay more because of this procedure. He feels something has to be done. If our tax rate reflects the increase in assessment to hold the amount of taxes they pay, we would probably have to decrease the tax rate by 4¢ or 5¢. People are being faced by increases every which way they turn. One or two increases don't make much difference; but with all the increases, and if each are about \$100, that amounts to \$1,000 in a year. On a limited income that means a lot.

Counc. Countway said in his District, particularly in areas such as Oakland and Indian Point, assessment increases are a lot more than \$16,000. The problem is, when properties around you sell for a half million dollars, then your property value increases to that same level and makes it difficult to pay the taxes. The property values along the waterfront are gone rampant and people can't afford to keep their homes that have been passed down over the years.

**Moved by Counc. Dempsey, seconded by Counc. Bell that a letter be written adding our Council's voice of concern with the other municipal units about the Capped Assessment Program, and that the letter indicate that there should be a means test and that it should apply only to principle residences.**

Counc. Dempsey said she thinks the CAP is important where there are rapidly rising assessments clearly exceeding people's ability to pay. She is disappointed that they didn't negotiate or have consultation with UNSM. The effect of what they are now proposing is quite immense on all municipal units. She feels there should be a means test and it should apply only to the principle residence.

As it was 2:00 p.m. and a presentation had been scheduled for that time, it was **moved by Council. Dempsey, seconded by Council. Zwicker that the motion be tabled until after the presentation. Carried.**

## DESTINATION

BLUENOSE COAST  
ASSOC.

In attendance at this time on behalf of the Destination Bluenose Coast Association were Dan Myers, Chair of the Association and Manager of Oak Island Resort, and Trudi Curley, Destination Coordinator.

**Moved by Council. Nauss, seconded by Council. Dempsey that the representatives of Destination Bluenose Coast Association be permitted to address Council. Carried.**

Also in attendance were Carroll Randall, Recreation Coordinator, and Laura Barkhouse, Trails Coordinator.

Mr. Myers thanked Council for giving them the opportunity to make a presentation. He reported that Destination Bluenose Coast is made up of six communities - 1) Peggy's Cove & St. Margaret's Bay; 2) Hubbards & Aspotogan; 3) Chester; 4) Mahone Bay; 5) Lunenburg; and 6) Bridgewater. It was formed approximately 1 1/2 to 2 years ago. It was recognized that this area needed to come together to promote tourism. They were formerly called Twin Bays, but they chose to change the name to Destination Bluenose Coast to be in sync with the name given to our area, being Destination Southwest Nova Scotia.

Mr. Myers and Ms. Curley used a PowerPoint presentation to provide information to Council about the Destination Bluenose Coast Association.

Ms. Curley reviewed the content of the information package that was provided to Councillors. Included in the information package was a brochure called Bluenose Coast Boarding Pass which listed 2006 festivals and events in the area. Also included was a card listing 11 Key Vision Recommendations. Ms. Curley said they took these recommendations and came up with a workbook. A number of communities, such as Chester, Hubbards, and Mahone Bay, went through the workbook and answered the questions. Then the similarities were pulled together to come up with a plan of action. The next step is to go through the plan of action and do three major things this year. They are looking for financial assistance of \$14,447.37.

Council. Dempsey asked how many businesses in Lunenburg Municipality are members of their Association and are actively involved.

Ms. Curley said they are not a membership organization. Their Association is a member of Destination Southwest Nova Scotia.

Council. Dempsey asked how many businesses in rural Lunenburg Municipality participate in their organization.

Ms. Curley said they assume they are participating through Boards of Trade or Chambers of Commerce. They want to be grassroots and out in the field doing for the people what they identified.

Mr. Myers said they don't want to add another membership fee to the businesses. They are open to anyone interested in being on their Board and not just the Towns and their Chambers.

Council. Moore asked if organizations can advertise their July 1<sup>st</sup> celebrations in the Bluenose Coast Boarding Pass brochure.

Ms. Curley said they got funding through the Department of Tourism to do that brochure in 2006. Any of the festivals and events that advertise through Doers and Dreamers could be included. They hope to do the brochure again.

Counc. Countway asked if they are looking for the \$14,447 from this Municipality, or from all the communities. He noted that the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg is not mentioned in their report. He pointed out that the Municipality has a lot of beaches and parks that would be of interest to tourists.

Ms. Curley said it's an error in their phrasing. Lunenburg includes the whole area of the Town and Lunenburg Municipality, just as Chester includes the New Ross area.

Mr. Myers reported that Chester has invested \$7,500 towards the \$14,447. They have seen the Lunenburg Board of Trade and St. Margaret's Bay and are planning to meet with all communities in the Bluenose Coast area.

Ms. Wilson noted that the request for \$14,447 states it's for January 15 - March 31, 2007.

Ms. Curley said they are looking for interim funding and would appreciate financial assistance before March 31<sup>st</sup>

Mr. Myers and Ms. Curley thanked Council for the opportunity to make a presentation and they left the meeting.

**Moved by Counc. Zwicker, seconded by Counc. Tanner that we make a donation of \$3,000 towards the operating expenses of Destination Bluenose Coast Association for the period January 15, 2007 to March 31, 2007.**

Counc. Palmer questioned giving this as they could come and ask for another grant for the rest of the year.

Counc. Dempsey said she would feel more comfortable with looking at the whole way we fund tourism and having some kind of logical approach as to who gets what. She has a problem with Destination Southwest Nova Scotia using uniform assessment to calculate their requests for financial assistance from municipalities.

Counc. Statton said she won't support the motion but would support it going to the budget meeting.

Counc. Zwicker suggested that the Community Services Focus Group bring back something to the Committee of the Whole and then to Council as to some sort of rationale on how to deal with requests of this nature.

Counc. Dempsey questioned why something like this wouldn't be referred to the Tourism Focus Group which we decided to form.

Counc. Zwicker said he thought this was one of the mandates that come under the Community Services Focus Group.

Warden Wentzell said he believes Counc. Zwicker is talking about a policy broader than just this. Counc. Zwicker said yes he was.

Counc. Nauss asked if there is a place in our budget that these funds can be taken from.

Ms. Wilson said it would be an unbudgeted expenditure.

Counc. Bell suggested that Council's tourism representative should be able to come back with a report a few times a year and make suggestions

about the Municipality's funding for tourism.

Counc. Tanner said the amalgamation was just finalized recently and Destination Southwest Nova Scotia was set up as of January 2007. It's difficult to make comments at this point, until the new organization has been in operation for a period of time.

Question was called and **the motion was defeated.**

Counc. Dempsey feels we should let this organization know that we would need a request from them before budget discussions.

Counc. Bell said he's not opposed to providing funding to this organization in our next budget year. While we may not have agreed to bridge funding, he does think it should be considered at the budget meeting.

**Moved by Counc. Bell, seconded by Counc. Palmer that the request for funding from Destination Bluenose Coast be referred to our upcoming budget meetings for consideration.**

Deputy Warden Garber pointed out that their request today was for bridge funding which they need before we enter into our budget discussions.

Ms. Wilson said in the letter that is sent she can ask that they let us know what they would want for an entire year's budget.

**The motion was carried.**

**Moved by Counc. Dempsey, seconded by Counc. Zwicker that we remove from the table the motion to write a letter about the Capped Assessment Program. Carried.**

**MOTION ON THE FLOOR (from Page 13 of these Minutes) - Moved by Counc. Dempsey, seconded by Counc. Bell that a letter be written adding our Council's voice of concern with the other municipal units about the Capped Assessment Program, and that the letter indicate that there should be a means test and that it should apply only to principle residences.**

There was no further discussion on the motion.

**The motion was carried.**

Circulated with the agenda was a letter from Mr. Michael Coady, Area Manager for the Department of Transportation and Public Works, along with an enclosed "Agreement for Snow and Ice Control" for Pine Grove Road for the 2006-2007 winter season. The Agreement is for Phase 1 (0.37 kms.) and Phase 2 (0.284 kms.). Once the Agreement is signed by the Warden and Municipal Clerk and returned to DOTPW, an invoice in the amount of \$5,576.79 will be forwarded to the Municipality for payment.

Ms. Wilson reported that she has had the Agreement reviewed by our Solicitor and Ms. Green has some comments regarding the Agreement.

Ms. Green said, with reference to item #3 in the Agreement regarding repairs to the road, there's no statement that it will be the DOTPW's responsibility. The other comment she has is the issue of liability in the event of any law suit as a result of an accident. There's nothing in the Agreement with respect to that.

Ms. Wilson reported that she has advised DOTPW of Ms. Green's concerns. Mr. Coady has discussed this and advised that the Agreement is as

CAPPED  
ASSESSMENT  
PROGRAM REVIEW

DOTPW  
AGREEMENT re  
SNOW AND ICE  
CONTROL - PINE  
GROVE ROAD



is. They are continuing to do snow and ice control now.

Counc. Statton asked, since this road belongs to the Municipality, would the liability insurance that we have on municipal roads also cover that road?

Ms. Wilson said the Municipality only owns one section of the road right now. It would extend to that.

Counc. Statton questioned why we would ask DOTPW to cover that. Why would they take liability for a road they don't own?

Ms. Green said it is liability related to the maintenance of the road that she is concerned with.

Counc. Zwicker asked what rate the Municipality pays for the J class roads that the Province maintains for us.

Counc. Nauss said it's approximately \$3,800 per kilometre.

Counc. Zwicker questioned why there is such a difference in the price for this road and other J class roads.

Ms. Wilson said, when she asked that question, she was told the price would be going up and that we will pay the same fee for all J class roads.

**Moved by Counc. Nauss, seconded by Counc. Statton that we accept the Agreement for Snow and Ice Control for Pine Grove Road received from the Department of Transportation and Public Works and authorize that it be signed by the Warden and CAO.**

Counc. Statton asked if it's contingent on the two concerns that our Solicitor has mentioned.

Ms. Wilson said she has already raised the concerns with DOTPW and they made it clear that this is the way it's going to be.

Counc. Dempsey asked if there is some way we can get the liability issue addressed.

Warden Wentzell commented that one way or another, if something happens on that road, the Municipality will be involved in it.

**The motion was carried.**

EXIT 12 RAMPS -  
SERVICE SYMBOL  
SIGNAGE

Counc. Nauss reported that service symbol signs were installed last week by the DOTPW at the end of the Exit 12 ramps off Highway 103. The directions on the signs only point to services in the Town. There are two restaurants and a winery in the other direction, but there is no mention of them on these signs. He would like to see this concern brought to the attention of DOTPW.

IN CAMERA

At 3:30 p.m. it was **moved by Deputy Warden Garber, seconded by Counc. Zwicker that Council go *In Camera In Committee*. Carried.**

*Council In Camera In Committee.*

The purpose of the *In Camera* meeting was to discuss the following items:

- 1) New Initiative re Hockey League, in accordance with section 22 (2) (e) of the *Municipal Government Act*;
- 2) Multi-Purpose Facility - Negotiations, in accordance with section 22 (2) (a) of the *Municipal Government Act*;
- 3) Negotiations - Bridgewater Public Service Commission, in accordance with section 22 (2) (e) of the *Municipal Government Act*;
- 4) CAW Collective Agreement - Negotiations, in accordance with section

22 (2) (d) of the *Municipal Government Act*; and

5) Negotiations - Land Disposal, in accordance with section 22 (2) (a) of the *Municipal Government Act*.

**Moved by Council. Nauss, seconded by Council. Dempsey that Council resume. Carried.**

Council in session.

OSPREY VILLAGE -  
LAND DISPOSAL

**Moved by Council. Nauss, seconded by Council. Statton that we authorize the CAO to sign the letter of exclusivity for lands of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg at Osprey Village as discussed In Camera. Carried.**

The following agenda items under "Warden's/Councillors' Matters" were deferred until the next meeting:

- 1) Bill No. 122 - An Act Respecting the Lands of St. Paul's United Church (D. Zwicker); and
- 2) Addition of another Member or Alternate to Mun. Infrastructure Focus Group (L. Nauss).

At 4:58 p.m. it was moved by Council. Nauss that the meeting adjourn.

.....  
WARDEN JACK WENTZELL, CHAIRMAN

.....  
TAMMY WILSON, CHIEF ADM. OFFICER