

Springhill By-laws Repealed with Second Reading

Twenty two redundant by-laws for the former Town of Springhill were repealed on second reading during a zoom meeting of Council of the Municipality of Cumberland on November 24th. The meeting opened with a territorial acknowledgement.

Councillor Houghtaling was elected to serve as deputy mayor for the next 12 months. The deputy mayor is selected by the councillors each November. Council approved the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021, after a presentation by the municipality's audit firm McIsaac Darragh.

The county's financial condition continues to improve. The general operating fund incurred a budget surplus of almost \$966,000 while the municipality's three water utilities incurred a combined surplus of approximately \$76,000. Progress continues to be made on improving the financial condition indicators and it is projected that the results will show all indicators at a low level of risk when the official results are released by the Province of Nova Scotia in relation to the 2020/21 fiscal year.

Second reading for the repeal of former Town of Springhill bylaws was held. In an on-going effort to remove obsolete or redundant bylaws, 22 bylaws from the former Town of Springhill were brought to council for repeal. The bylaw to repeal the Town of Springhill bylaws must be published in the local paper before being in effect.

Council approved the Rodent and Raccoon Control Policy. This policy was drafted as the volume of complaints regarding rodents has increased and a coordinated approach to rodent

management will protect public health and safety while preserving ecological sustainability.

First reading was given to an updated Open Air Burning bylaw. The update removes reference to prohibiting open air burning in Springhill and provides a consistent approach to open air burning across the municipality.

Council has requested that the previous declaration of a climate crisis be referred to the 2022/23 capital and operating budget planning process. This will allow for operation, financial and resources allocation implications to be explored and discussed.

Council approved a request from the Cumberland Snowmobile Club to modify their grant request from March 2021. The club would like to use the funds to replace the decking on a bridge on trail 30, on Lynn Mountain, rather than the Tidnish Ketchum Cable Bridge.

A grant of \$2,500 was awarded to the River Hebert Joggins and Area Development Association for their Christmas hampers project.

Council recognized numerous residents and organizations in the municipality prior to adjourning.

The next public council meeting will be December 22, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. A committee of the whole meeting will be held December 15, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. Formal minutes of the November 24 meeting are available at <https://cumberland-county.ns.ca/2021-council-minutes.html> A Facebook live recording is available on the municipal Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MunicipalityofCumberland>

Cumberland Council review – October 27, 2021

Council of the Municipality of Cumberland met via zoom for a Public Council Meeting on Wednesday, October 27, 2021. The meeting opened with a territorial acknowledgement.

A public hearing was held regarding an amendment to the land use by-law pertaining to a rezoning request for 1072 Lynn Road in Southampton. First reading of this amendment was September 8, 2021.

Second reading will happen at a future council meeting.

First reading for the repeal of former Town of Springhill bylaws was held. In an on-going effort to remove obsolete or redundant bylaws, 22 bylaws from the former Town of Springhill were brought to council for repeal. Second reading will be held at the next regularly scheduled council meeting November 24, 2021.

Council approved a grant of \$4,236 to Springhill Ground Search and Rescue to help with the replacement of the roof of their hall and training facility.

At the September 15, 2021 committee of the whole meeting, 123 Church St., Springhill was declared surplus and too small for development. It was offered to the abutting

landowners and of the three abutting properties, only one response was received. Twila Deschambault has agreed to pay \$1 plus migration and legal fees for the property neighbouring hers.

At the September 8, 2021, council meeting, staff were asked to investigate the possibility of year-round flying of the Mi'kmaq Grand Council Flag. Council approved erecting a fourth flagpole at the E.D. Fullerton building in Upper Nappan for this purpose.

Council directed staff to research the logistics and costs of installing a user-pay dumping station in Pugwash. The report is expected before the end of

December 2021.

Council approved a grant to the GOVRC in the amount of \$28,313.54 to cover the cost of installing a heat pump system at their building. The funding for this project will be through expected savings from switching from the geothermal pump heating method currently used.

Formal minutes of the October 27 meeting are available at <https://cumberlandcounty.ns.ca/2021-council-minutes.html> A Facebook live recording is available on the municipal Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MunicipalityofCumberland>

Apple River Fire Department Gets Different Pumper/Tanker

Cumberland Council holds two special meetings on November 2nd and 15th. Both meetings opened with a territorial acknowledgement. The only item on the November 2nd agenda was a public hearing regarding a dangerous and unsightly property at 8 Herrett Road, Springhill.

The property was ordered to have all structures and debris removed and disposed of in an appropriate facility by November 10, 2021.

On November 15th council approved advancing a fire truck for the Apple River sub-station from year four in the capital budget to year one. The fire truck is required to replace the current vehicle that is a 1987 Ford Pumper.

Specifications for the new vehicle were determined in consultation with the Advocate and District Volunteer Fire Brigade. The new fire truck is a 2003 Freightliner Maxi Metal, with automatic transmission, is

a pumper/tanker and has a diesel engine.

The pumper/tanker equipment is better suited to allow for a flexible response from the sub-station. Funding will be from reserves, with \$75,000 approved for the purchase and an additional \$10,000 for the installation of a modified dump valve.

Council authorized the mayor and CAO to execute agreements to fulfill a further step in the divestiture of the Cumberland Central Landfill by agreeing to a land exchange agreement between Rothesay Paper Holdings Ltd. and the Municipality of Cumberland.

Formal minutes of the November 2nd and 15th meetings are available at: <https://cumberlandcounty.ns.ca/2021-council-minutes.html> A Facebook live recording is available on the municipal Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MunicipalityofCumberland>

Urgent Treatment Centre to Open in Parrsboro

By Maurice Rees

A press release issued from the Premier's office and Health and Wellness Department residents of Parrsboro and surrounding communities were advised they will soon have local access to urgent healthcare treatment.

A public education session about the new centre is planned for December 8 at 6 p.m. at the Parrsboro Fire Hall. Due to COVID-19 gathering limits, registration is required. Nova Scotia Health will provide registration information soon. Proof of vaccination will be required for attendance and masks must be worn.

Starting mid-December, the

Parrsboro Urgent Treatment Centre, located at South Cumberland Community Care Centre, will provide care for people with unexpected, non-life-threatening health concerns that require same or next day treatment. Some examples include earaches, sore throat, minor cuts, strains and sprains, and mild mental health support.

The centre will operate five days a week, including early evenings and one weekend day. Patients can book an appointment or go to the centre in person, where they will be assessed by a doctor or nurse practitioner to determine if they will be scheduled for an

appointment, usually later that day or the next day. The centre is available to people with or without a family doctor or nurse practitioner.

"We need to find new and innovative ways to deliver healthcare to Nova Scotians," said Premier Tim Houston. "Urgent treatment centres help ease the burden on our hospitals and provide timely care to those without a family doctor who have health concerns. I look forward to seeing more of these across the province."

This new model of care will replace the collaborative emergency centre at South Cumberland Community Care Centre that closed in March

2020 to support operational and public health measures during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The urgent treatment centre will differ from an emergency department in several ways: care provided is for non-life-threatening injuries and illness; ambulances do not bring patients to the centre; service is available by appointment (usually either same day or next day) or walk in. Patients requiring emergency care should continue to call 911.

To learn about the Parrsboro Urgent Treatment Centre, visit: <https://www.nshealth.ca/urgenttreatment>

Council to Build Support for Fireworks Noise By-Law

At the Committee of the Whole (COW) November 17 meeting Cumberland council received a staff report on what other municipalities are doing to control noise from fireworks. Council asked staff to develop a communications plan to build support for a by-law. The meeting opened with a territorial acknowledgement.

Citizens from Mattatall Lake presented council with a petition for the installation of a common bear proof waste/recycling system. Council will consider the petition at a future council meeting. Council also reviewed a second draft of a policy that would enable the creation of a youth council. The youth council is planned to be an advisory body to municipal council on matters which impact youth.

A suggested Rodent and Raccoon Control Policy was brought to council. This policy was drafted as the volume of complaints regarding rodents has increased and a coordinated approach to rodent management will protect public health and safety while preserving ecological sustainability. Council forwarded the policy for consideration to the November 24th meeting.

Staff presented a report outlining how other municipalities deal with the issue of fireworks as contained in a noise bylaw, as requested by council at the September 15th meeting. A communications effort will be made to support the noise

bylaw regarding fireworks.

In Summer 2021, the Springhill Fire Department reported difficulties enforcing the fire and burning bylaw still in effect from the former Town of Springhill, because the bylaw under the Municipality of Cumberland allows open-air burning, under specific conditions. Staff provided council an amended municipal bylaw that would rescind the former Town of Springhill Bylaw. This bylaw will be given first reading at the November 24 meeting.

Council requested a briefing on the current setbacks in all zones as included in the land use bylaw for a meeting in the near future. Council received a request from the Cumberland Snowmobile Club to modify their grant request from March 2021. The club would like to use the funds to replace the decking on a bridge on trail 30, on Lynn Mountain, rather than the Tidnish Ketchum Cable Bridge. Council will consider this request. A grant of \$2,500 was awarded to the River Hebert Joggins and Area Development Association for their Christmas hampers project.

The Village of Pugwash submitted a request for an annual grant to support recreation programming. Council will consider this request during upcoming budget deliberations.

At the July 14, 2021, council meeting, council requested a staff report on Divert NS's Municipal Adoption Funding Pro-

gram which is designed to provide support for municipalities and/or waste management regions who wish to adopt a waste diversion program that has been previously established in Nova Scotia. Specifically, staff investigated the possibility of installing ReUse Centres at transfer stations. Council directed staff to apply to this program as part of the 2022/23 budget process.

Council received a letter from the Pugwash Village Commission with a request regarding receiving a portion of the Canada Community-Building Funds (formerly known as Gas Tax) that the Municipality of Cumberland receives each year. Council has asked for a staff report on the implications of this request.

Reports were provided from directors regarding Finance, Community Development, Engineering and Operations, Human Resources and Community Facilities, and the Municipal Clerk's Office.


An election of Deputy Mayor will be held at the November 24 public council meeting, as per the Deputy Mayor Policy.

November 17th was recognized by council as World Prematurity Day. For more information on World Prematurity Day please visit <https://www.marchofdimess.org/mission/world-prematurity-day.aspx>

Mayor Scott proclaimed November as Crohn's and Colitis

Awareness Month. For more information on Crohn's and Colitis please visit <https://crohnsandcolitis.ca/About-Crohn-s-Colitis/What-are-Crohns-and-Colitis>

The next committee of the whole meeting will be held December 15, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. Formal minutes of the November 17 meeting are available <https://cumberlandcounty.ns.ca/2021-council-minutes.html> A Facebook live recording is available on the municipal Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MunicipalityofCumberland>



FUNDY GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

A PART of THE NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM

Open Monday to Friday 10:00am to 4:00pm
Winter Hours Effective November 1st

fundygeological.novascotia.ca
Toll Free: 1-866-856-DINO



6 McFarlane St., PO Box 250
Springhill, NS B0M 1X0

1-902-597-4039
Toll Free 1-833-597-8679
Fax: 1-902-597-3310

toryrushtonmla@bellaliant.com

TORY RUSHTON, MLA
Cumberland South

