

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
J. C. Reddy, Municipal Solicitor
April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk
Heather Whynott, Administrative Assistant

PUBLIC INPUT

Warden Wentzell called the meeting to order. He noted that the first item on the agenda allows a 15 -minute period for public input. He asked those in the audience if they would like to address Council at this time. Those in attendance indicated they were just here as observers.

AGENDA

Warden Wentzell asked if there were any requests for additions to the Agenda. The following additions were requested:

- 1) Civic Numbers - Changing them and sending out letters (S. Statton);
- 2) Auditor General for Municipalities (A. Young);
- 3) BizPal (E. Garber - from UNSM Spring Workshop);
- 4) Eco Trust (E. Garber - from UNSM Spring Workshop);
- 5) Recommendations from PR Committee (M. Countway); and
- 6) Support Our Troops Red Rally (Staff).

Moved by Counc. Dempsey, seconded by Deputy Warden Garber that we approve the Agenda with the above additions. Carried.

MINUTES

Moved by Counc. Young, seconded by Counc. Tanner that the Minutes of the meetings held March 11, 2008 and April 8, 2008 and the Special Council meeting held April 3, 2008 be approved as circulated. Carried.

AGREEMENT - RD.

MAIN. - SEVEN MILE LAKE ROAD OWNERS ASSOC.

At the April 8, 2008 meeting, Council passed a motion to levy a \$142.91 per lot charge on the lots within the Charge Area identified and petitioned by the Seven Mile Lake Road Lot Owners Association for the 2008-09 fiscal year, subject to an Agreement being entered into between the Municipality and the Association.

Circulated with the agenda was the draft Agreement which was prepared by staff and reviewed by the Municipal Solicitor. The Agreement has been reviewed by the President of the Seven Mile Lake Road Lot Owners Association and no concerns have been expressed.

Moved by Counc. Veinot, seconded by Deputy Warden Garber that Municipal Council accepts the Agreement between Seven Mile Lake Road Lot Owners' Association and the Municipality, as drafted by staff and reviewed by the Municipal Solicitor, and authorizes the Warden and the Chief Administrative Officer to execute this Agreement on behalf of the Municipality. (Copy of Agreement attached to original Minutes)

Counc. Statton asked if this Agreement is the same as the ones we have with other Associations for road maintenance.

Mr. Reddy said the substance is the same. A couple of changes were made to correct typos and things that didn't flow very well.

The motion was carried.

APPOINTMENTS TO
BOARDS OF HOMES
FOR SPECIAL CARE

At the November 17, 2007 meeting, Council received a report/chart on the requirements for municipal representation on various committees, boards and commissions. At that time staff was asked to examine the bylaws for the Homes for Special Care to determine if they require members of Municipal Council to sit on the Boards of the Homes.

Circulated with the agenda was a memo from April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk, in which she reports that she acquired the bylaws and examined the membership requirements for the Boards of Harbour View Haven, Rosedale Home for Special Care, Hillside Pines Home for Special Care, and LaHave Manor Corporation. It appears that, if Municipal Council decides to remove themselves from these Boards, the only bylaw that would require an amendment would be the LaHave Manor Corporation's bylaw which requires two Municipal Council representatives on its Board.

Ms. Wilson suggested that Council may wish to leave their representatives in place on these Boards until the election. She doesn't think we are ready to implement Council's decision in June when Council usually receives recommendations from the Nominating Committee regarding annual appointments.

Counc. Nauss said when the Rosedale Home was built he had the understanding that the bylaw was written that the two Councillors from the area would serve on that Board.

Moved by Counc. Nauss, seconded by Counc. Zwicker that we continue with the Council representation on the Boards of the Homes until after the October 2008 election and give the Boards an opportunity to decide what they want to do about representation.

Counc. Zwicker said he opposes removing Municipal representation from these Boards. He thinks it's being short-sighted. He has talked to three Administrators and they are very much opposed to it as well. He also questions why we would have Council nominate the members at large to these Boards. Hillside Pines has just advertised and appointed two members at large. He pointed out that the people who reside in these facilities are also our constituents. By removing representation, he feels we are actually withdrawing

our support for these facilities.

Counc. Statton feels if these representatives are representing Council on these Boards, then why don't we get reports back from these Boards? She has heard from people on the street about problems in the past at these facilities.

Warden Wentzell said, as a member of the Board for the Rosedale Home, they are asked to sign an affidavit of confidentiality, so they have to be careful what they come back with and report.

Counc. Statton pointed out that Council deals with confidential matters all the time. If you sit on a Board and represent Council, then she expects reports to come back.

Ms. Wilson said there is one Board right now that members at large are recommended to Council by the Board and this Council appoints those members at large.

Counc. Young said members on the LaHave Manor Board also sign affidavits of confidentiality. He feels matters discussed by that Board stay there as they do here. If Council wants Minutes of the regular Board meetings, he doesn't see a problem with that; but the *In Camera* Minutes and matters he sees those things staying there with the facility.

The motion was carried.

PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS -
POLICY MDL-03
"REMUNERATION"

At the December 11, 2007 meeting, Council approved annual remunerations for the elected positions of Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor to become effective upon the swearing in of the new Council and Mayor after the 2008 Municipal Election. As a result of those approvals, staff prepared proposed amendments to Policy MDL-03 to reflect those remunerations, which were circulated with the agenda.

Counc. Zwicker noted that Travel Allowance is part of this Policy and it is stating 42¢ per kilometre; but there is recommendation on the budget agenda to increase it. Therefore, he questions if we should defer this item until that recommendation is dealt with.

Ms. Wilson said the mileage rate in Schedule "A" of the Policy can be amended by a motion of Council.

Counc. Statton said it was her understanding that the one-third that is tax free is for expenses within her District. She thinks that should be clarified. Also, she thought the mileage rate was to be the same as the Provincial mileage rate which is not 42¢.

Ms. Wilson reported that about two years ago Council changed the mileage rate to be something different from the Provincial rate.

Ms. Wilson reviewed the section of the Policy dealing with expenses that Councillors can claim.

Counc. Statton said she would like to see the matter of expenses clarified as she has never claimed for anything within the District she serves.

Moved by Counc. Moore, seconded by Counc. Tanner that we approve the amendments to Policy MDL-03 "Remuneration" as presented. Carried.

(Copy attached to original Minutes)

AWARDING OF TENDERS AND RFP

In attendance at 10:00 a.m. were Pierre Breau, Director of Engineering and Public Works, and Matt Davidson, Assistant Municipal Engineer.

MUNICIPAL ROAD
MAINTENANCE
#2008-01-001

Mr. Davidson reviewed the analysis information for Tender #2008-01-001 for Municipal Road Maintenance for 2008-09 (copy attached to original Minutes). The tender involves the supply and placement of NSDOT Class A and E aggregates, grading, compacting, ditching, and minor repairs along the Municipal Roads located in the communities of Auburndale, Conquerall Bank, Hebbville, Italy Cross and Pine Grove.

Deputy Warden Garber asked how many kilometres are involved.

Mr. Davidson said the tender covers all the Municipal Roads that we currently own which is a little over 7 kilometres.

Moved by Counc. Nauss, seconded by Counc. Young that we award Tender #2008-01-001 for 2008-09 Municipal Road Maintenance to Town & Country Property Improvements Ltd. for the price of \$23,447.50, including HST. Carried.

HIGHWAY NO. 10
WATER MAIN
EXTENSION
#2008-05-001

Mr. Breau reviewed the information in his memo dated May 13, 2008 regarding Tender #2008-05-001 for the Highway No. 10 Water Main Extension (copy attached to original Minutes). The budgeted amount for this project is \$450,000.00, which was based on the design brief cost estimate prepared by the consulting design engineer Terrain Group Inc. However, the low est bid received for the project was from J. R. Eisener Contracting Limited in the amount of \$599,790.00, plus HST. In his memo Mr. Breau noted that the Municipality is obligated to construct this Water Main Extension per the terms of its agreement with the Bridgewater Public Service Commission. The deadline for substantial completion is September 30, 2008. Mr. Breau provided the following three options for Council' s consideration:

- 1) Not award the tender, based on the tender pricing received, and re-tender with a modified design in an attempt to achieve a lower project cost;
- 2) Consider pricing modifications from the low bidder with respect to some suggested changes to the water main extension design;
- 3) Award the tender and set a project line budget of an appropriate amount to be included in the approved 2008-09 capital works budget.

Mr. Breau' s memo also included his suggestions as to what Council can do depending on which of the three options they choose.

At the request of Deputy Warden Garber, Mr. Breau explained the contingency allowance.

Counc. Young commented that this is a project that we have to do.

Moved by Counc. Young, seconded by Counc. Bell that we award Tender #2008-05-001 for the Highway No. 10 Water Main Extension to J. R. Eisener Contracting Limited, Fall River, in the amount of \$599,790.00, plus HST.

Counc. Nauss expressed concern because of the number of times we get estimates from consultants that turn out to be much lower than the prices we

receive.

The motion was carried.

RFP - LANDFILL
CLOSURE - LRCRC
#2007-05-412

Circulated with the agenda and reviewed by Mr. Breau was a recommendation from the Waste Management Committee that Council award the LRCRC Landfill Closure Request for Proposals 2007-05-412 "Engineering Services Proposal" to ABL Environmental Limited, Dartmouth, for the proposed price of \$132,610.00, plus HST (copy attached to original Minutes).

Moved by Counc. Statton, seconded by Counc. Dempsey that we accept the recommendation of the Waste Management Committee and award the LRCRC Landfill Closure Request for Proposals 2007-05-412 "Engineering Services Proposal" to ABL Environmental Limited, Dartmouth, N. S., for the price of \$132,610.00, plus HST.

Counc. Zwicker noted that there were bids lower than ABL's and he assumes they didn't meet the scope requirements.

Mr. Breau explained the scoring system that the committee used to determine which company would be recommended to do the project. Price was only one factor, and a low bid price is not necessarily ranked highest.

The motion was carried.

EXPRESSION OF
INTEREST -
TRANSPORTATION
OF RECYCLABLES

Councillors were provided with a copy of the proposed Request for Expressions of Interest for the Transportation of Recyclables from the Lunenburg Regional Community Recycling Centre (LRCRC) to a prospective recyclables processing service provider (copy attached to original Minutes).

Ms. Wilson reviewed the information in Mr. Breau's memo of May 12, 2008 which informed Council that the service provider for recyclables processing has not yet been selected. Two proposals have been received in response to RFP 2008-01-400 "Recyclable Processing Services", but neither included transportation costs. Therefore, a Request for Expressions of Interest needs to be issued in order to solicit proposals from interested parties for transportation of recyclables to either service provider's facility location. Besides authorizing the issuance of the Request for Expressions of Interest, Council also needs to appoint a representative of Council to sit on an evaluation committee.

Moved by Counc. Statton, seconded by Counc. Nauss that we authorize the issuance of the Request for Expressions of Interest for the Transportation of Recyclables from the Lunenburg Regional Community Recycling Centre to a prospective recyclables processing service provider. Carried.

Moved by Counc. Nauss, seconded by Counc. Tanner that the Chair of the Waste Management Committee, Councillor Sandra Statton, be appointed as Council's representative to sit on the evaluation/review committee. Carried.

Counc. Moore left the meeting and returned at 11:35 a.m.

PRESENTATION re
URANIUM MINING

In attendance at 10:55 a.m. on behalf of the Council of Canadians South Shore Chapter were David Maxwell and Marian Moore to do a presentation regarding Uranium Mining.

Moved by Counc. Palmer, seconded by Counc. Dempsey that we permit a presentation on behalf of the South Shore Chapter of the Council of Canadians.

Carried.

Ms. Moore expressed their concern about uranium mining, particularly in the Miller Brook area which is in the Municipality of the District of Chester. Because of the risks involved with uranium mining, they would like Council to pass a motion asking the Province for a moratorium on uranium mining. They are hoping this will come forward in September at the UNSM Conference.

Mr. Maxwell then used a PowerPoint presentation to explain why they believe uranium mining is not a good thing for Nova Scotia. The presentation included the health and environmental dangers. They want Council to pass a resolution asking the Province that the existing ban on uranium mining remain permanent.

Councillors were provided with a copy of the brochure "Uranium Mining - Is it Worth the Risk?" (copy attached to original Minutes) and a one-page information article from the Conservation Council of New Brunswick regarding "10 Things You Should Know about Uranium Mining" (copy attached to original Minutes).

Councillors' questions were then answered regarding, e.g., the type of rock that uranium is found in, which is mainly granitic rock; levels of radon in the air; testing basements for radon; and where functioning uranium mines are located.

Warden Wentzell thanked them for their presentation and indicated that Council will be dealing with their request to pass a resolution.

Warden Wentzell noted that the plan today was to deal with the monthly agenda items this morning and do budget items this afternoon. Although there are still a number of monthly agenda items to deal with, there are two *In Camera* items that must be discussed. When the meeting resumes at 1:00 p.m. we will continue with the budget review.

Warden Wentzell left the meeting and returned during the *In Camera* session.

Deputy Warden Garber was in the chair.

DESTINATION
SOUTH WEST NOVA
CONF. Council. Tanner asked permission to attend the Destination South West Nova Annual Conference which will be held May 15 & 16, 2008

Moved by Counc. Young, seconded by Counc. Nauss that we approve Counc. Tanner' s request to attend the Destination South West Nova Annual Conference and that she be reimbursed any out-of-pocket expenses. Carried.

Counc. Moore returned to the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

IN CAMERA **Moved by Counc. Nauss, 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:

- 1) Land Negotiations, in accordance with section 22 (2) (a) of the *Municipal Government Act*; and
- 2) Litigation, in accordance with section 22 (2) (f) of the *Municipal*

Government Act.

Moved by Counc. Young, seconded by Counc. Zwicker that the public meeting resume. Carried.

Council in session.

LAND
NEGOTIATIONS -
COUNTER
ADDENDUM

Moved by Counc. Bell, seconded by Counc. Nauss that Council authorizes that a counter addendum to the Addendum be made regarding the one-acre Parcel at Osprey Village as discussed *In Camera* and that we give a time of 48 hours after receipt to respond to the counter addendum. Carried.

At 12:26 p.m. Council recessed for lunch.

At 1:35 the meeting resumed. Absent were Councillors Tanner, Palmer (returned 3:25 p.m.), Veinot and Statton.

SUPPORT OUR
TROOPS RED RALLY

Ms. Wilson reported that the Town of Bridgewater is closing their office so that the staff can attend the Support Our Troops Red Rally event which will be held the afternoon of Friday, May 23, 2008 at the Exhibition grounds. She suggested that Council consider doing the same for municipal staff.

Counc. Bell suggested that, if Council agrees to do this, we should put an ad in the supplement that will be in the newspaper that week regarding the Red Rally.

Council discussed if the office could remain open for tax payers if there were staff who didn't want to attend the event. Ms. Wilson said it could remain open if they are staff people who take tax payments, but she pointed out that there are other reception areas as well. It would be simplest to close the office for that period of time, and staff who didn't want to attend the event could remain at work.

Counc. Dempsey pointed out that there is a drop-off box that people can use if they pay their taxes with a cheque.

Moved by Counc. Young, seconded by Counc. Dempsey that in recognition of the Support Our Troops Red Rally event we close the Municipal Office on the afternoon of May 23, 2008 for staff wishing to attend that event; but staff who do not wish to attend the event are to work but the office will still be closed to the public. Carried.

BUDGET REVIEW

Council continued with the review of the proposed Budget for 2008-09.

Other staff in attendance for various portions of the Budget review were:

Gordon Pettipas, Director of Financial Services and Municipal Treasurer
Pierre Breau, Director of Engineering and Public Works
Ed Curran, Director of Planning and Development Services
Carroll Randall, Recreation Coordinator
Dave Waters, Community Economic Development Officer

Ms. Wilson reviewed what Budget information has been reviewed to date. She noted that at the last Budget meeting the motion was tabled to approve the Capital Budget with the changes made by Council.

LRCRC OPERATING
AND CAPITAL
BUDGETS

The review continued with the Operating and Capital Budgets for the LRCRC (Lunenburg Regional Community Recycling Centre).

Ms. Wilson reviewed scenarios A and B which have been reviewed by the Waste Management Committee. The Committees' recommendation is to go

with scenario A.

Counc. Nauss reported that he has heard a lot of people in the transportation industry say that they are going to shut down their rigs because of the increased cost in fuel. This is going to affect our costs with regard to transporting recyclables.

Ms. Wilson said we will know some of those trucking variables once our Expression of Interest is done.

Counc. Countway commented that the cost of trucking is going to go up every year. If we don't do this, then we have to consider the purchase of new pieces of equipment, buildings, and increased salaries.

Counc. Nauss said his concern is that we cannot borrow for Operating items but you can for Capital. We have to be sure that our costs are going to remain lower for Operating than they would be for Capital.

Mr. Breau then highlighted the areas of change in the LRCRC budgets. Councillors' questions were answered throughout the review.

At the conclusion of the review, Counc. Bell asked, if we had been investing in the infrastructure at the LRCRC over the years and/or setting reserves aside each year for the past 15 years, which would have been contributed to by all partners, would we maybe be looking at different choices than closing down our present operations and sourcing out to other facilities?

Mr. Breau said yes.

Counc. Bell noted that Mr. Breau said yes, and commented, then let's remember this lesson when it comes to wastewater operations so we don't find ourselves in this corner again.

BCAF - REQUEST

FOR LaHAVE WATER
RESCUE PROJECT

Ms. Wilson reviewed the April 11, 2008 letter from the Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation (BCAF) in which they request \$15,000 from the Municipality towards the 2008-09 expenses of the LaHave Water Rescue Project and \$2,500 of in-kind support which will entail Municipal representation on the LaHave Water Rescue Advisory Committee, Municipal expertise on project results, use of meeting space in the Municipal Office, allowing the Municipal Office to be a distribution site for education materials, and including project information in Municipal newsletters.

Counc. Bell reported that members of BCAF are willing to come to a Committee of the Whole meeting to present the report. He commented that what the report has done is show the difference between myth and fact.

Mr. Breau said he's supportive of the project. It's something we started. It was an issue with Cookville.

Moved by Counc. Bell, seconded by Counc. Dempsey that we continue with our financial support towards the LaHave Water Rescue Project and that our contributions be \$15,000 towards the 2008-09 project expenses and \$2,500 of in-kind support as outlined in the April 11, 2008 letter from the LaHave Water Rescue Project Coordinator. Carried

MILEAGE RATE

Ms. Wilson reviewed the information in her memo dated April 2, 2008

INCREASE

which informed Council that, in light of rising fuel costs and the impact on the cost of using a personal vehicle to conduct municipal business, a comparison of mileage rates in various municipal units was completed (attached to original Minutes). The draft budget incorporates the existing mileage rate of 42¢ per kilometre. It is recommended that Council consider approving an increase to 44¢. It is not anticipated that a 2¢ increase will have a significant impact on mileage cost.

Counc. Zwicker reported that as of April 1st the Provincial mileage rate is 40.51¢.

Counc. Countway noted that an average rate across the province is 41¢. Our present rate is 42¢, so right now he cannot support an increase.

Counc. Zwicker said he could support the increase as proposed. When the rate was set at 42¢ the price of gas was much lower.

Moved by Counc. Dempsey, seconded by Counc. Zwicker that we approve the increase in the mileage rate from 42¢ to 44¢ per kilometre.

Carried.

GRANT - CITIZENS
ON PATROL

A letter was received from the Coordinator of COP (Citizens On Patrol On Road) LaHave River and Area requesting Council to consider giving their group \$2,000 so they can further their training to help to make a community a safer place to live.

Ms. Wilson noted that Council had approved a grant of \$1,000 for this organization which was the same as last year. We did not have their letter at that time. Their letter came in since then and they are asking for \$2,000.

Council decided that there would be no change and that they be given a grant of \$1,000.

GRANT - GROUND
SEARCH AND
RESCUE

Ms. Wilson reported that since the list of grants was approved a letter has also been received from Lunenburg County Ground Search and Rescue requesting a grant of \$1,100. The grant that was approved for them was \$1,400 but it was pending receipt of a letter from them requesting a grant.

Council agreed that there would be no change in their grant amount of \$1,400.

GRANT - FALLEN
PEACE OFFICERS
MEMORIAL

A letter was received from Donald Husher, Chief of Police, Town of Westville, and member of the committee that is working on the Fallen Peace Officers Memorial project that was started in 2005. They are in the final planning and implementation stages and hope to unveil this memorial on October 19, 2008. They are looking for financial assistance from the 52 municipalities these peace officers represent and had determined a donation formula reflecting the community size they represent. They are requesting \$3,000 from the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.

After discussion, it was **moved by Counc. Dempsey, seconded by Counc. Nauss that we contribute \$1,000 to the Fallen Peace Officers Memorial.**

Carried. (rescinded May 28, 2008)

GRANT - BABY

Councillors were provided with a copy of the application received for a

THINK IT OVER
PROGRAM

Community Program Grant of \$930 for the purchase of batteries for infant simulators for the 2008-09 academic year for the Baby Think It Over Program.

Ms. Wilson reported that this application was submitted for a Community Program Grant. However, Mr. Randall didn't think it met that program's criteria.

Mr. Randall said he thought this was a school-operated program but it's not. The program is operated by the Baby Think It Over Committee and Lunenburg County Child Welfare Society

Counc. Countway said he doesn't see where this differs from the DARE Program in the schools. It's an educational program. If it prevents one teenage pregnancy then it's worth it.

Moved by Counc. Countway, seconded by Counc. Dempsey that we approve a grant of \$930.00 for the Baby Think It Over Program.

Counc. Zwicker commented that over the years we get ourselves involved in more and more programs that he questions if we should get involved. This is health related and he will, therefore, not be supporting it.

Counc. Dempsey suggested that we suggest to them that they consider using rechargeable batteries so they are not looking at almost \$1,000 for batteries each year.

Deputy Warden Garber said he has observed the operation of this program in schools. It's an effective program and worth our support.

Counc. Young said he too feels it's a great program. However, are we going to back up every program that everyone else drops? He pointed out that there are hundreds of programs out there that need assistance. We cannot do it all.

Counc. Dempsey informed Council that 20 years ago Lunenburg County had the highest teenage pregnancy rate in the province. It's only through programs like this that it has been reduced.

After further discussion, **the motion was defeated.**

S.S. REGIONAL
MTG. - AGENDA
ITEMS

Ms. Wilson reported that the South Shore Regional Meeting will be held on May 22, 2008 and the host unit, the Municipality of the District of Chester, would like to know if we have any items for the agenda. Councillors requested that the following items be put on the agenda:

- 1) Auditor General for Municipalities
- 2) Structure of UNSM (Caucus system)
- 3) Regional Visitor Information Centre
- 4) Rotation Schedule for South Shore Regional Meetings
- 5) CAP on Assessments

Counc. Palmer returned to the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

TEMPORARY V.I.C.
INCREASE IN
FINANCIAL
SUPPORT

Ms. Wilson reported that at the May 1, 2008 Budget meeting Council passed the following motion: " that Municipal Council in cooperation with the Town of Bridgewater instructs staff to negotiate an Agreement for the use of a portion of the Wileville Irving premises for a Visitor Information Centre (VIC) for a two-year term with an option to renew for a third year; that Municipal Council approves cost sharing of this VIC on an equal basis with the Town of

Bridgewater, with the maximum contribution by the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg being \$8,750; that the Agreement and the funding be subject to confirmation that the Bridgewater and Area Chamber of Commerce will manage the VIC; and that Municipal Council authorizes the Ad Hoc Committee respecting the VIC to commence discussions and planning for a Regional Visitor Information Centre.”

Ms. Wilson reported that we have received a response from the Bridgewater and Area Chamber of Commerce and they don't feel they can manage the VIC. The Town of Bridgewater has agreed to the additional funding and also management of the VIC. There will be additional costs for the host unit, such as overseeing renovations, payroll and some in-kind costs. The Municipality is being asked to provide an additional \$5,500 towards the operation of the VIC.

Council discussed the change from the original proposal and whether or not they can support an additional \$5,500.

Counc. Statton asked if anyone looked to see if this is the right place for the VIC.

Mr. Waters reported that they did a site visit at the Irving and spoke to the owners. They are prepared to do some renovations. They did seem very accommodating with regard to providing some staff. As a temporary site for two years, it was more than adequate.

Counc. Dempsey said she doesn't see that this is entirely a municipal responsibility. She thinks Provincial Tourism should be prepared to step up to the plate. She has a problem in terms of taking on additional management and payroll responsibility. She suspects that if just two of the units take this on then that is what it will be in the future.

Warden Wentzell feels it's unfortunate that this area of the province doesn't have a VIC.

Moved by Deputy Warden Garber, seconded by Counc. Zwicker that we increase our financial support by \$5,500 for the temporary Visitor Information Centre and request the Town of Bridgewater to provide the support services that are required for the management of the Visitor Information Centre.

Counc. Countway asked what the Municipality's total contribution will be.

Ms. Wilson reported that \$14,250 is our cost for this year. This cost includes the renovations and computers. Next year the Municipality's cost may not be as much. The original motion was agreeing to this for two years.

The motion was carried.

AREA RATES -

Council then discussed the Area Rates for Sewer Systems.

SEWER SYSTEMS

Counc. Dempsey asked if there was any desire indicated at the public meeting to go with a global rate.

Ms. Wilson reported that 13 or 14 people attended the meeting. The Hebbville commercial people had concern about it. The Shore Drive people support the global rate scheme. There was not a strong opinion either way.

Counc. Nauss said the Hebbville people had concern as to what a global rate would do to their business. It came out at the meeting that the rate would be increased to benefit those at Exit 12. He received a letter from Saunders Motors and they are looking at an increase in their sewer rate from \$700 to \$2,600 or \$2,700. They will probably look at going back to a private system. They only have three or four people in their building.

Counc. Bell reported that he went to Antigonish to a meeting about broadband and internet. It was stated there that the fairest way was a global rate. He thinks we do have to have a discussion about global rates in this Municipality in the near future.

Deputy Warden Garber agrees that we need to look at how we fund sewers. We want the assessment at Cookville to help home owners in the Municipality. He explained in detail how he feels a phased-in global rate over a period of time would work.

Counc. Statton commented that we went into the Exit 12 development for economic development of this Municipality and the money that comes from that development goes into the general funds. She expressed her concern that the Exit 12 development is being blamed for things, such as ruining businesses in Town and for the sewer system costing so much, but pointed out that when it starts to pay off we' ll be happy to take that money and subsidize something else. She noted that the money we get from the Town of Bridgewater for the Hebbville treatment system goes back to subsidize the Hebbville rate. She questions where' s the difference between subsidizing the Hebbville rate and subsidizing the Cookville rate.

Mr. Breau explained the upgrades that have been done to the Hebbville system.

Counc. Nauss said if we look at the amount of money taken out of the general tax rate to support what we have out there it' s a large amount of money. He doesn' t think it should be on the backs of the Hebbville businesses. He believes we put in 50% of the cost to upgrade the Shore Drive sewer system. We have to look at funding the systems that we have without putting it all on the backs of the residents that are there.

Counc. Bell thinks we have weak areas in our wastewater treatment standards. We have minimum standards that have to be met before we take over roads. He doesn' t believe we have minimum standards to be met before we take over a wastewater treatment system. He suggested two solutions for this year: 1) Agree that the \$17,000 for the Shore Drive Reserve fund not be calculated in the rate for the citizens this year; or 2) Be prepared to fund \$17,000 from general operating funds to be transferred into the sewer reserve for Shore Drive.

Counc. Dempsey said she cannot compare the Hebbville sewer rate to the rate in the Town. A commercial business owner has the ability to write off that expense. A residential ratepayer does not. She thinks we clearly need to

develop some kind of area rate that builds in some component of replacement costs.

Counc. Countway feels the businesses in Hebbville are getting a break because they have not been paying the Business Occupancy Tax (BOT) for two years. Many small businesses are still paying it.

Counc. Nauss asked if we decided who were first relieved from paying the BOT.

Ms. Wilson said the Province dictated what type of business would be taken off in year 1, 2 or 3.

Warden Wentzell asked Council when they would like to continue with the budget discussions.

Ms. Wilson reported that it was advertised that budget deliberations would continue after the Committee of the Whole meeting on May 15, 2008.

Warden Wentzell suggested and Council agreed that they would take only a half hour for lunch on May 15, 2008.

Counc. Zwicker expressed his displeasure with having budget discussions on May 15th because he is at the Planning Conference. Counc. Dempsey will also be attending that Conference.

At 4:20 p.m. it was moved by Counc. Dempsey, seconded by Counc. Zwicker that the meeting adjourn.

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WARDEN JACK WENTZELL, CHAIRMAN

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TAMMY WILSON, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER