

A **Special Meeting of MUNICIPAL COUNCIL** was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Administration Building on the above date at 9:00 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 Milton Countway - District 5
Councillor Sandra Statton - District 6 (arrived 9:25 am)
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 (arrived 11:07 am)
Councillor Martin Bell - District 13

Absent was Councillor Donald Zwicker - District 3.

Also in attendance were:

Tammy Wilson, Chief Administrative Officer
Gordon Pettipas, Director of Financial Services and Municipal Treasurer
Carroll Randall, Recreation Coordinator
Ed Curran, Director of Planning and Development Services
Dave Waters, Community Economic Development Officer
Jim Annand, Solid Waste Operations Manager, LRCRC
Heather Whynott, Administrative Assistant

PURPOSE OF MTG.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue the review of the budget information for the year 2008-09.

To update Council as to what the tax rates would be at this point in the budget review, Ms. Wilson provided the following information on the blackboard:

		<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Existing</u>
Residential (baseline)	78.2¢		
Residential (adjusted)	81.5¢	79¢	78¢
Commercial (baseline)	\$1.912		
Commercial (adjusted)	\$1.945	\$1.92	\$1.82
Seasonal Comm (baseline)	\$1.43		
Seasonal Comm (adjusted)	\$1.458	\$1.44	\$1.36

NOMINATING COMM
APPOINTED

Warden Wentzell appointed the following as the members of the Nominating Committee:

Councillor Martin Bell
Councillor Milton Countway
Councillor Sandra Statton
Warden Jack Wentzell

Warden Wentzell requested that the Nominating Committee give a report to the next Council meeting as to recommendations for appointments to the various Committees, Boards and Focus Groups. Counc. Bell is the Chair of the Committee and he will arrange a date for the Committee to meet.

BUDGET AND TAX
RATES

Warden Wentzell informed Council that Ms. Wilson has some suggestions to present with regard to the budget and to bring the tax rates down.

Councillors were provided with a summary of budget cuts to this point in time.

Also circulated was information on Deed Transfer Taxes in the province and a list of the Municipal Property Tax Rates in the province.

Counc. Nauss' questions were answered regarding the effects of the capped assessments and what that has done to revenue for this Municipality.

Ms. Wilson informed Council that, as requested by Council, staff reviewed their proposed budget items for 2008-09 and attempted to reduce their budgets by 5%. Councillors were provided with a copy of the list of possible budget cuts for 2008-09 that staff is suggesting. She reported on the effect on the budget if each Department cuts their respective budgets by 5%. A 5% cut would mean cutting \$1,220,527 from the budget which would result in a reduction in the rate by 6.42¢ (75¢ tax rate). She pointed out that Osprey Village has an impact on every Department in this Municipality. We did look at our budget to see what could be cut but still enable us to achieve our goals at Osprey Village and provide services that the residents expect. Staff then looked at trying to bring the tax rate as close to last year's rate as possible. She noted that a number of the suggestions to remove items from the budget are postponements, and it doesn't necessarily mean these items would not appear in the budget another year. Possible revenue increases that were suggested were .25% in the Deed Transfer Tax which would bring in an additional \$160,000 for half a year, and implementing a subdivision fee which is estimated to bring in \$6,000 for half a year.

Ms. Wilson then reviewed the information outlining staff's suggested possible budget cuts.

SUGGESTION re ONE
TAX BILLING

Council discussed the various suggested budget cuts. One of the suggestions was to do only one tax billing a year.

Counc. Countway said he's not in favour of going to one tax billing per year. He thinks that would create hardship for some.

Deputy Warden Garber questioned how it would help us during this fiscal year when a tax billing has already gone out.

Mr. Pettipas reported that, before the end of this fiscal year, we would be ordering tax billing forms for next year. It would also save on the cost for staff to work overtime.

Deputy Warden Garber pointed out that there were good reasons why we went to two tax billings.

Counc. Moore suggested sending out one tax bill and giving them five months to pay.

Ms. Wilson said that would create cash flow problems for the Municipality.

Moved by Counc. Nauss, seconded by Deputy Warden Garber that we do not do the reduction to send out only one tax billing per year. Carried.

AUTOMATED FAX
TELEPHONE MENU

Another suggestion was to change the telephone system to an Automated FAQ (frequently asked questions) Telephone Menu.

Counc. Nauss said he' s not in favour of going to an Automated FAQ Telephone Menu. Many organizations are using that type of system and most people don' t like it.

Counc. Bell agreed that people do want the personal touch.

Council agreed that the \$1,000 should be removed from the list of proposed budget cuts for the Automated FAQ (frequently asked questions) Telephone Menu.

MUNICIPAL

Another suggestion on the list of proposed budget cuts was that the *Municipal Matters* newsletter be sent only two times a year instead of four.

MATTERS

Deputy Warden Garber didn' t agree with sending out the newsletter only twice a year.

NEWSLETTER -

Counc. Countway agreed with Deputy Warden Garber, that the newsletter continue to be sent out four times a year.

PUBLISH TWICE A

YEAR

Moved by Deputy Warden Garber, seconded by Counc. Countway that we continue to send out the *Municipal Matters* newsletter four times a year.

Counc. Young said anything more than a tax rate of 79¢ is not acceptable to him. Somewhere we are going to have to do something that may hurt a little bit.

Counc. Tanner thinks, if the newsletter is organized well and sent out perhaps in January and June, that people really wouldn' t mind.

The motion was defeated.

GRANTS

Counc. Statton feels the grants' budget is too generous as it is. She thinks we should set a ceiling and live within it. She wouldn' t mind seeing grants cut by more than 5%.

Counc. Palmer thinks Council should take some time and go over the grants' list. He thinks some of them are fairly high.

Ms. Wilson reported that grants to organizations total \$188,990, not including Fire Departments.

Counc. Statton said she recalls the grants' total being around \$85,000 and now its \$188,000.

Counc. Bell said he would like a more uniform policy on how we look at grants in future years. He thinks awards of grants should be based on a merit system.

Councillors requested that they be provided with information on the total grants in past years.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Counc. Countway said he would like to see the amount stay for insurance relief to Fire Departments and not see it decrease, but he can live with it.

INSURANCE RELIEF

Ms. Wilson explained why it' s being suggested that \$10,000 for the Public Transit Study be removed.

PUBLIC TRANSIT

Counc. Bell said he' s never going to be in favour of our Municipality paying 70% of the cost of a study for something that only 30% of our residents would get to use. That doesn' t say he' s not in favour of a public transit system.

STUDY - CUT

Counc. Countway commented that, with the price of fuel going the way it is, a public transit system is something we are going to need in the future. He thinks we would be short-sighted to take it out.

Moved by Counc. Nauss, seconded by Counc. Palmer that we rescind the motion of April 7, 2008 which was to include up to \$10,000 in the budget for a Public Transit Study. (75% majority required) Carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS
RECOGNITION

Counc. Countway suggested asking Provincial Departments to do their medal presentations to Firefighters the same night as Municipal recognition so that both levels pay the cost for the event. They put them in the mail now.

Counc. Nauss said if they don't pay anything now then we would be asking them to pay for something they don't pay for at present.

CANADA DAY
GRANTS

Counc. Countway said he will be very disappointed if the grants are removed for Canada Day celebrations.

Moved by Counc. Nauss, seconded by Counc. Bell that we leave in the budget the Canada Day grants as originally approved. Carried.

MUNICIPAL
CELEBRATIONS

Deputy Warden Garber feels the amount for Municipal Celebrations should be reduced substantially. He suggested that it be reduced from \$10,000 to \$5,000.

Mr. Randall reported that the monies allocated for Municipal Celebrations are as follows: Canada Day - \$2,000; Family Pumpkin event - \$2,800; Christmas - \$2,000; and Take the Roof Off Winter - \$1,800.

Counc. Countway commented that these are events that we take out to the communities and they are good PR.

Counc. Statton commented that cutting the Municipal Celebrations' budget by 5% is only cutting out \$500 from a budget of \$10,000.

Counc. Nauss noted that it was Deputy Warden Garber's suggestion that we reduce the figure to \$5,000.

Moved by Counc. Countway, seconded by Counc. Palmer that we not reduce the figure for Municipal Celebrations' events by any more than 5%.

Mr. Randall circulated information regarding Municipal Celebrations' events and explained what is included.

Deputy Warden Garber suggested that we look at the things that we are not sharing with another community.

The motion was carried.

GRANTS TO
ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Pettipas reported the following on total grants for previous years:

2004-05	\$106,000
2005-06	\$187,000
2006-07	\$186,000
2007-08	\$178,000

Mr. Randall commented that he believes some Recreation grants were combined with the others in the year 2005-06, which is why it looks like a big increase.

Mr. Pettipas reviewed the grants that were given in 2005-06 which accounted for the large increase that year from the previous year, i.e., Parkdale

Museum - \$15,000 and PVEC Field Society - \$30,000.

Warden Wentzell pointed out that some of those were one-time grants.

Counc. Nauss pointed out that there is a grant in this year' s budget for \$31,000 for the Fieldhouse and we will be giving that grant every year for 10 years.

Ms. Wilson informed Council that only those grants that have not been acted on will be cut by 5%.

Counc. Moore feels that a lot of these organizations need those funds and she will not support a motion to reduce their grants.

Moved by Counc. Moore, seconded by Counc. Countway that we keep the grants at the existing level that they' re at and that there be no reduction at all. Defeated.

Ms. Wilson informed Council that in order to reduce grants by 5% there were several motions passed by Council on April 4, 2008 that will need to be rescinded.

KIPPERS GRANT

Moved by Counc. Young, seconded by Counc. Tanner that we rescind the motion of April 4, 2008 regarding a \$10,000 grant to the Kippers School of Gymnastics. Carried.

GRANTS TO SHAID,
HARBOUR HOUSE,
GROUND SEARCH

Moved by Counc. Veinot, seconded by Counc. Young that we rescind the motion of April 4, 2008 regarding grants to S.H.A.I.D. Animal Shelter, Harbour House, and Lunenburg County Ground Search and Rescue. Carried.

LIST OF GRANTS
RESCINDED

Moved by Counc. Young, seconded by Counc. Tanner that we rescind the motion of April 4, 2008 which approved the list of grant requests with the clarifications reviewed by the CAO with reference to Lines 3, 17, 20, 22 and 26. Carried.

FALLEN PEACE
OFFICER MEMORIAL

Moved by Counc. Veinot, seconded by Counc. Nauss that we rescind the motion of May 13, 2008 regarding a \$1,000 grant to the Fallen Peace Officers Memorial. Carried.

LIST OF GRANTS

Moved by Counc. Bell, seconded by Counc. Statton that the list of grants circulated May 15, 2008 be approved with a 5% reduction to the grants except for the grants that have already been committed. Carried.

Ms. Wilson reviewed the proposed budget cuts to Protective Services.

At 11:07 a.m. Counc. Dempsey arrived at the meeting.

GRANTS TO FIRE
DEPARTMENTS

Moved by Counc. Statton, seconded by Counc. Tanner that we rescind the motion of April 4, 2008 regarding grants (Matching and Shelter) to Fire Departments. Carried.

RCMP - ADDITIONAL
OFFICER

Moved by Counc. Nauss, seconded by Counc. Dempsey that we rescind the motion of April 7, 2008 which was to include \$27,400 in the budget for an additional RCMP Officer to start January 1, 2008. Carried.

FIRE PREVENTION
SUPPLIES

Counc. Countway said he doesn' t want to cut \$4,700 from the budget for Fire Prevention supplies.

Counc. Nauss agreed with Counc. Countway.

Counc. Bell reported that the Province used to provide those materials but

discontinued it when municipalities started doing it.

Moved by Deputy Warden Garber, seconded by Counc. Bell that we reduce the budget figure for Fire Prevention supplies by 5%. Carried.

NEW CUMBERLAND
BARRIER

Counc. Dempsey questioned cutting the budgeted amount for the New Cumberland Barrier. She pointed out that \$500 could be cheaper than cleaning up that property again.

Moved by Counc. Dempsey, seconded by Counc. Bell that we not remove from the budget the amount of \$500 for the New Cumberland Barrier. Defeated.

ROAD MAINTEN.

Counc. Nauss thinks we could save money in the Road Maintenance account by doing appropriate sanding.

AES/AEF PROMO. &
BROCHURES

Council discussed cutting the amounts in the budget for AES/AEF Promotion (\$4,500) and Brochures (\$500).

Counc. Nauss pointed out that the Municipality has a partnership agreement with AES and AEF, and he thinks providing those funds was part of that agreement. Although they didn't use the funds last year, he believes that happened because there was a change in command and the new personnel didn't know there was funds there for them to use.

Moved by Counc. Countway, seconded by Counc. Nauss that we not remove the \$5,000 from the budget for AES/AEF Promotion & Brochures but reduce the figure by 5%. Defeated.

Moved by Counc. Dempsey, seconded by Counc. Moore that we reduce the figure of \$5,000 by 50% for AES/AEF Promotion & Brochures.

Counc. Nauss informed Council that our figure is about 20% lower than what other units provide to the Flights in their area for promotions. He pointed out all the work AEF does in the communities. They have done construction work for Homes. We reduced grants to organizations by 5%. The Advisory Board for AES/AEF is made up of volunteers and they don't get mileage to attend the meetings.

Counc. Statton asked if the agreement stipulates how much we are to give.

Counc. Nauss said there was no stated amount; but as the partner, we were supposed to promote the unit.

Moved by Counc. Nauss, seconded by Counc. Young that we amend the motion by changing the percentage figure from 50% to 25%. (tie vote) Amendment defeated.

The motion to reduce the figure of \$5,000 by 50% was carried.

VISITOR
INFORMATION
CENTRE (VIC)

Ms. Wilson informed Council that the Irving property has new owners, so the site is no longer available to locate a Visitor Information Centre (VIC). In talking to Bridgewater, she asked if we should include any funds in our budget for this year and they indicated no, because this year if they have something it would be very temporary.

Counc. Bell noted that we were a very willing participant in the VIC

proposal. He feels it should be noted that we are still committed to seeing a long-term commitment for a Regional VIC.

AES/AEF PPTY.
CLEAN-UP

Council discussed the budgeted amount of \$12,000 to clean up the Municipality' s property that is leased to AES/AEF.

Counc. Countway feels that if we have waste on municipal property then it' s the Municipality' s responsibility to clean it up.

Moved by Counc. Countway, seconded by Counc. Nauss that we leave the \$12,000 in the budget to clean up the municipal property that is occupied by AES/AEF. (tie vote) Defeated.

Counc. Nauss said if we can' t clean up our own property then he will never support another motion to take anyone to court to clean up their property.

Counc. Moore suggested including another amount in the budget for this.

Ms. Wilson said Council can include another amount, but it was estimated that it will cost \$12,000 to clean it up, so what happens if you tender and the price comes in higher than what' s included in the budget?

Counc. Moore questioned if AEF could assist with equipment and manpower.

Counc. Nauss said the AEF staff will not clean it up because they don' t know what liability they could get into.

At 12:02 p.m. Council recessed for lunch.

At 1:10 p.m. the meeting resumed. Absent were Counc. Zwicker, Counc. Tanner (returned 1:15), and Deputy Warden Garber.

Moved by Counc. Nauss, seconded by Counc. Countway that we put \$11,500 in the budget to clean up the municipal property occupied by AES/AEF. Carried.

Ms. Wilson then reviewed the proposed cuts to the Planning Department' s budget.

Mr. Randall reviewed the proposed cuts to the Recreation Department' s budget.

MUN. PHYSICAL
ACTIVITY
STRATEGY

Council discussed the budget figure for a Physical Activity Coordinator.

Ms. Wilson noted that pre-budget approval was given for that.

Mr. Randall was asked what was more important, an ATV or Physical Activity Coordinator. Mr. Randall responded with ATV.

Counc. Countway wants it to stay in the budget.

Discussion followed regarding pre-approvals and commitments prior to approving the budget.

Moved by Counc. Countway, seconded by Counc. Dempsey that we leave the \$10,000 in the budget for the Physical Activity Coordinator which was an annual commitment for three years. Defeated.

Moved by Counc. Statton, seconded by Counc. Nauss that we rescind the motion of December 11, 2007 regarding a three year contract to develop a comprehensive municipal physical activity strategy. Carried.

OPEN SPACE STRAT

Moved by Counc. Nauss, seconded by Counc. Young that we remove the

\$50,000 from the budget for the Open Space Strategy. Carried.

RECREATION -
EQUIPMENT

Moved by Council. Veinot, seconded by Council. Tanner that we remove the \$3,500 for Recreation Equipment (dugouts). Carried.

STREET IMPROVE-
MENTS RESERVE

Moved by Council. Statton, seconded by Council. Bell that we reduce the amount in the budget by another \$25,000 for the Street Improvements Reserve. Carried. (On April 4, 2008 the figure was previously reduced from \$100,000 to \$50,000 – the amount in the budget will now be \$25,000.)

DEED TRANSFER
TAX - INCREASED

Moved by Council. Nauss, seconded by Council. Countway that we increase the Deed Transfer Tax from .5% to .75% and direct staff to prepare the appropriate by-law amendment to put this in effect.

Discussion followed regarding an increase in the Deed Transfer Tax and adding an additional fee for subdivision.

The motion was carried.

NEW FEE -
SUBDIVISION FEE

Moved by Council. Dempsey, seconded by Council. Moore that we institute a Subdivision Fee of \$100 per application and direct staff to prepare the appropriate amendment to the by-law to put this in effect.

Council. Statton said she sees it being more and more difficult for developing land. Someone subdividing land is going to get hit with 3 fees if we add this one. This is all coming out of the one pocket.

Council. Dempsey reviewed three situations where subdividing land doesn't require a payment of the Public Open Space fee.

Ms. Wilson explained why staff had to consider cuts as well as look for places to increase revenue.

The motion was carried.

CAPITAL BUDGET
CUTS

Ms. Wilson reviewed possible cuts to the Capital budget. She noted that these reductions for this year would just be postponements.

It was noted that reductions to the Capital budget do not affect the tax rate.

Mr. Pettipas said some short-term interest would be saved. It's a delay in doing the projects.

Moved by Council. Statton, seconded by Council. Moore that we approve the cuts to the Capital budget as proposed by staff (on page 9 of the budget information circulated today). Carried.

Ms. Wilson reminded Council that a motion was tabled at the May 1, 2008 meeting to approve the Capital budget with the changes made by Council at that point in time.

Moved by Council. Young, seconded by Council. Moore that we remove from the table the motion of May 1, 2008 approving the Capital budget with the changes made by Council. Carried.

MOTION ON THE TABLE (from May 1/08 meeting) - Moved by Council. Bell, seconded by Council. Zwicker that we approve the Capital budget with the changes made by Council.

Moved by Counc. Moore, seconded by Counc. Tanner that we amend the motion by adding the wording “ to date”.

Counc. Statton questioned what will happen if Council wants to make further changes to the Capital budget.

At 2:37 p.m. Deputy Warden Garber returned to the meeting.

The amendment to the motion was carried.

MOTION AS AMENDED - that we approve the Capital budget with the changes made by Council to date. Carried.

Ms. Wilson reminded Council that a motion is needed approving the Operating budget for 2008-09 as revised and presented which would require a Residential tax rate of 79.2¢.

Counc. Young feels we need to get rid of the .2¢ to bring the rate to 79¢.

The proposed tax rates at this point were put on the blackboard, as follows:

	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Existing</u>
Residential (baseline)	78.2¢	
Residential (adjusted)	81.5¢ 79.2¢	78¢
Commercial (baseline)	\$1.912	
Commercial (adjusted)	\$1.945 \$1.922	\$1.82
Seasonal Comm (baseline)	\$1.43	
Seasonal Comm (adjusted)	\$1.458 \$1.44	\$1.36

Several Councillors said they too want the Residential tax rate to be 79¢; and therefore, something else will have to be done to reduce the rate by .2¢.

USE RESERVES TO REDUCE TAX RATE **Moved by Counc. Veinot, seconded by Counc. Tanner that we direct staff to take the appropriate amounts out of Reserves to bring the Residential Tax Rate down to 79¢. Carried.**

OPERATING BUDGET **Moved by Counc. Young, seconded by Counc. Veinot that we approve the Operating budget for 2008-09 as revised and presented. Carried.**

RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE **Moved by Counc. Veinot, seconded by Counc. Young that we set the 2008-09 Residential Tax Rate at \$0.79 per \$100 of assessment. Carried.**

COMMERCIAL TAX RATE **Moved by Counc. Tanner, seconded by Deputy Warden Garber that we set the 2008-09 Commercial Tax Rate at \$1.92 per \$100 of assessment. Carried.**

SEASONAL TAX RATE **Moved by Counc. Young, seconded by Deputy Warden Garber that we set the 2008-09 Seasonal Tax Rate at \$1.44 per \$100 of assessment. Carried.**

COMM. TO REVIEW PROCEDURE re Counc. Bell said, in light of our discussions on the Grants and the changes that were made, he feels we need a committee to review the procedure on how we award grants.

MUN. GRANT REQUESTS **Moved by Counc. Bell, seconded by Counc. Statton that the Warden task the Chairman of the Nominating Committee to recommend a committee of four Councillors to review how Municipal Grant requests are accepted, are evaluated,**

and how they come before Council for consideration, including a set of guidelines to govern their distribution. Carried.

IN CAMERA

Moved by Counc. Bell, seconded by Counc. Palmer that Council go *In Camera In Committee*. Carried.

Council In Camera In Committee.

The purpose of the meeting was to update Council on a litigation legal matter, in accordance with section 22 (2) (f) of the *Municipal Government Act*.

Moved by Counc. Dempsey, seconded by Deputy Warden Garber that Council resume its public meeting. Carried.

At 3:25 p.m. it was moved by Counc. Bell, seconded by Counc. Moore that the meeting adjourn.

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WARDEN JACK WENTZELL, CHAIRMAN

.....
TAMMY WILSON, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER