



**Town of Westville  
Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, January 30, 2012**

*Commencing at 6:00 pm*

<b>Council Members Present:</b>	Mayor Roger MacKay, Deputy Mayor Gerald Jones; Councillor Lynn MacDonald; Councillor Charlene Thompson
<b>Absent:</b>	Councillor Charlie Sutherland with regrets
<b>Town Employees Present:</b>	CAO Scott Fraser, Recording Secretary Diane Morrison, Fire Chief Dunn
<b>Visitors Present:</b>	A number of Westville residents Several Members from other Councils
<b>Media Organizations Present:</b>	ECFM Radio; The News; Pictou Advocate

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**1. CALLING OF MEETING TO ORDER**

**1.1** Mayor Roger MacKay called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and welcomed all in attendance.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**2.1** *It was moved by Deputy Mayor Jones and seconded by Councillor Thompson that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.*

**Additions:**

- **Item 7.1 – Canada-Nova Scotia Building Canada Fund**
- **Crosswalk area Holy Name Catholic Church**
- **Westville Pee wee Minor Hockey Tournament**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**3.1** *It was moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Deputy Mayor Jones to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2011 regular Council Meeting as amended. Motion carried.*

#### 4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- 4.1 Councillor MacDonald inquired on Article 8.5 Issue with Exterior Lighting and if the Bylaw is being amended. CAO Fraser noted that the School is going to have to install LED lighting first and once in place it will be examined by the Bylaw Officer and at that point we will see if anything further is needed as far as an amendment to the Bylaw.
- 4.2 Councillor MacDonald on Article 8.7 the PRDA and the ABC Meeting that was scheduled had to be cancelled and she was wondering if we could reschedule same. Mayor MacKay noted that he has already spoken to Kelly McVicar and she advised whenever we are ready to set up a meeting just to let her know. A meeting was set up for Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and Mayor MacKay noted he would make contact with Ms. McVicar.
- 4.3 Councillor MacDonald noted Article 8.12 that she was going to see about the minutes from the Finance Meeting but she noted that she had correspondence from CAO Scott Fraser that this information will be available at the next Finance Meeting.

#### 5. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 *It was moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Deputy Mayor Jones to approve/pay the accounts as presented. Motion carried.*

#### 9. 9.1 PRESENTATION; MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Mayor MacKay skipped to the Presentations and he welcomed Mr Jim MacAlpine the UNSM, President to give us an update on the MOU. Mayor MacKay also wanted to extend thanks to Mayor Joe Gennoe; Town of Stellarton, Mayor Glenn MacKinnon; Town of Trenton, Councillor Alex Dove; Town of Trenton and Councillor Ross Hamid; Town of New Glasgow for attending our meeting to-night.

Union of Nova Scotia Municipal President, Jim MacAlpine provided each Council Member with a copy of "Remarks for Kevin Malloy, Deputy Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations" He noted that this was presented as a Technical Briefing to the Board on the MOU given on March 22, 2011 and it clearly states the government's position on the MOU. He noted that this paper contained good details on the MOU and how they determined their reasoning behind getting out of the MOU. He noted that he would start with the Corrections Services and noted that at the time the MOU was signed, municipalities contributed \$17.4 million annually to the Department of Justice towards the cost of providing corrections services. This amount increased annually by the Consumer Price Index. He noted that in 2008-2009 as a result of the MOU, the contribution was frozen at \$17.4 million annually. Then, beginning in 2010-2011 this contribution would be reduced by 20 per cent per year to eliminate the full amount by 2014-2015. The province would then bear this 17.4 million annual corrections cost.

He noted that the same thing was done by Housing and again stated that at the time the MOU was signed, municipalities contributed approximately \$7 million annually to the Department of Community Services toward the cost of public housing. This was to be reduced at a rate of 50 per cent over two years. The first year of this reduction is occurring in 2011-2012 and starting in 2013-2014 the province would then bear that approximately \$7 million annual cost for public housing.

He noted that what they have done by cancelling the MOU they have gone back to the base year of 2010-2011 so the benefits the Municipalities garnished and there were some benefits before they cancelled it. Prior to that under Corrections the \$17.4 million and 2010-11 it dropped to \$14 million – and then 2011-2012 when they gave us the 12 month notice it dropped to \$10.4 million but now this upcoming year 2012-2013 it is going back up to the base year of \$14 million.

What they are not going to do is to index Consumer Price Index any more so that it will be the straight \$14 million. He noted that this was supposed to go away under the agreement but it is now locked in at the \$14 million dollars annually.

He noted with Housing again this year 2011-2012 it was suppose to drop down to \$3.5 million dollars and now it is going back up to be locked in at \$7 million dollars. So basically there has been no savings on this at all.

Under Education costs he noted in 2007-08 we contributed \$179 million dollars and the first year of the MOU 2008-2009 we contributed \$182 million dollars and in 2009-2010 we went to \$187 million dollars and then 2010-2011 the base year for amendments it was \$187 million dollars and this past year for 2011-2012 during the 12 month notice they indexed it Consumer Price Indexing and at this point now it is going back up the rate that was in 2010-2011 and that would be with the CPI and at this point we don't know exactly what the bottom line will be.

He wanted to know what the impact is going to be on our town and so he got some information and basically he shows that in 2009-2010 your costs to Corrections and Housing was \$102,454.00 Dollars and in 2010-2011 it went down to \$97,472.00 Dollars and this past year 2011-2012 it dropped to \$58,448.00 and with the loss of the MOU it is now going back to the base year rate of \$97,472.00 Dollars.

He noted that he had an opportunity last week to meet with the Premier and he had a chance to talk to him about fiscal review, the Town Task Force and he also asked him about the MOU and basically it was a request to government to revisit the MOU once their fiscal restraints are gone and he did not get an answer. So he feels that it is something that they will have to continue to work on and he also noted that he had an opportunity to meet with Minister McDonnell and he wants to build a better raptor with the Municipalities and he has offered to meet with us on a monthly basis and that has been accepted and this will give us a chance to hopefully develop a relationship and hopefully this will be a positive thing.

Mr MacAlpine noted that he feels that they could have done some different things to the MOU and he noted that they did have a clause in the MOU that they could step away from it if they had fiscal difficulties and they have taken that opportunity to do that. He feels that there should have been some consultation and at least looked at expanding the life span of the MOU and sorted out what the impact was on the Province and we could have waited until they got back into a balanced budget but instead they just decided to cancel the MOU. He mentioned that he did not know where all this was going to go and then he mentioned that on another note that starting within the next month there is a fiscal review with the Province and this is starting up to look at all costs and all expenditures that they have towards the Municipalities. He noted that basically everything is going to be on the table.

One thing he noted that was positive is the fact that they have invited us to have representation to sit at the table and we have accepted that so that it will allow us to take part in the process. He mentioned that he is a little nervous about it personally and the reason he is saying that is there is no new money so we are taking the same amount of money and shaking it up and he does not know what is going to happen.

That is why he supported sitting on the committee so that they will have some input and see what is happening. He noted he is hoping that the impact won't be great on the Municipalities.

He also feels that some good work is being done through the Town Task Force and he noted that they met again last week and he feels they are having some good frank open discussions on liabilities and sustainability's of the Towns. He mentioned that we all know what took place in Canso and noted that it was sad to see that happen and they are hopeful there will no more Canso situations.

He noted that this spring the Towns' Task Force are going around doing Regional Meetings and he noted that the UNSM are incorporating getting back to Regional Meetings on an annual basis

He noted that when they have the Regional Meeting, David Corkum; the Mayor of Kentville and he is also on the Task Force and will be coming to the Meetings.

He will also do a presentation at the spring conference for anyone attending.

He noted that he will take questions and they will be discussing many things and coming out to get feedback from all the Municipalities.

He noted that on the MOU he can't give us anything more other than he was not happy with the way they rolled it out to us. He noted that they had a Board Meeting on Friday and the Minister came to the meeting he asked if he could meet with Executive on the phone on Tuesday and never indicated anything to us at that time so we came into the City on Tuesday and went to his office and said this is what is going on and told us that they were pulling away from the MOU.

There was absolutely no consultation and they had already set up for a Press Conference and basically it was a done deal before we got to the table.

After that we had the march on Government House to raise the profile of the impact of this decision and even though they say that it is not money that we didn't already have and making it sound like we are saving money. He noted that we had a commitment from the Province and Government that we weren't going to have to pay that anymore and then the Government changed hands and they took a different direction and he feels we have to take them to task on this matter. He encouraged the Councils to talk to their MLA's and let them know the importance the impact of this decision will have on the Municipalities. He feels that the only way we are going to get them to move is if they start hearing from the ground up.

Mr MacAlpine asked if there were any questions.

Councillor MacDonald asked how the other Municipalities are feeling about this and what the impact is for them as well as his own feelings for his Municipality.

Mr MacAlpine feels that the biggest impact for any Capital budget plans that were made prior to the loss of the MOU most Municipalities will have to make changes in those areas. He knows in Halifax he was talking to Councillor Walker and the impact on the HRM is huge. He noted that anybody that has to pay \$100,000.00 per year that basically is \$100,000.00 less than you had last year to put into different projects such as sidewalks, roads, etc.

Councillor MacDonald noted that it is exactly what is worrying her, everything you hear quoted from the Politicians quotes is that there is only one tax but when it comes to things like this they seem to forget that and how it all comes back to the grassroots of the individuals tax on homes and businesses and in 2008 the NDP supported this change with the MOU and now they won't even have talks with the UNSM. She wants to know what can we do about that and noted that that we are basically at the pleasure of the Province.

Mr MacAlpine noted that Mr MacDonell made it very clear and said at the press release on this that he specifically said there is only one taxpayer and this is exactly what he said and he noted also yes, there is only one taxpayer but that they have to look at the tax burden on all the communities and he feels this is what is going to happen and noted that they had been looking at the different impacts on the Towns and Counties and the burden of taxes that people have to pay. Right now he noted that he doesn't know what will happen and also noted that there has been a lot of impact on CAP assessments for one and there again you have to shift the tax burden from the higher assessed properties to the lower assessed properties which he does not think is right. Councillor MacDonald asked where the Province is going to go with that. Mr MacAlpine noted the Province said they are done with it and he noted that he talked to the Premier last week and asked him if they are going to come forward with a sound logical on the CAP and he did not receive any commitment on that. He noted that they have a Board meeting later this week and this will be brought up at that time.

It is the shift of the tax dollars going onto the lower income families and he noted that if you do away with the CAP you will impact these citizens. Councillor MacDonald noted that as far as the Province is concerned they want to leave the CAP in place.

Mr MacAlpine inquired if we had done LED street lights and Councillor MacDonald noted that we would like too and Mr MacAlpine noted that this is another issue that is going to be brought up with the Premier because they were told that this was going to be done over a 5 year period and we dealt with an expert for this plan and he did a great job. He did mention that they have two issues and they are the purchase costs and they have that down to 8 million dollars now and they were being told they will have to have a fuse on the light and if Nova Scotia Power does not do the installation and this will come up as labor cost and to put the fuse on a light and the fuse only has a 5 year life span and the light has a 20 year life span so we lost the cost of efficiency and maintenance because they will have to go up that pole every 5 years to change the fuse. He noted that they have been told by government that if Nova Scotia put the lights in we don't need the fuse but if another person does it they want a fuse on it. So he mentioned that they are working with them on this issue right now to see if we can make that go away because this is an extra expense also as it would work out to be between \$15.00 and \$100.00 dollars per light. He is not sure when it is going to come but he does think they are going to move on it and he did talk to the Premier about it. He said that it was mentioned to the Premier that the 5 year part of the plan and that we have been told by Nova Scotia Power that if they were the only ones to install the lights they won't be able to do it within 5 years as they don't have the manpower.

Mayor MacKay asked if anyone else had any questions.

Mayor MacKay thanked Mr MacAlpine for taking the time to come to our meeting and enlightening us on what is happening.

#### **8. PRESENTATION: St. Brendan's On Shore Petroleum Exploration**

Edwin MacDonald explained that he is a geologist and works for St Brendan's Exploration and noted that he was born and raised in New Glasgow and other than 2 years in Calgary he has been here all his life. He noted that the Presentation is not a presentation on fracking. It is who, what, when, where, how and why we are here.

Who – we were incorporated in New Brunswick in 2004, we are private equity financed which means we don't have a stock to promote and we don't have press releases to make. We are affiliated with a company out of Charleston, West Virginia, they are Department of Environment 2001 certified which means that this parent company gets audited quarterly. He noted that they are the same as Canadian Natural Resources Limited who went into New Brunswick in 1999.

What – we do is hydrocarbon exploration. He noted that we do both gas and oil exploration in both conventional and unconventional way. He explained that what a conventional reservoir is and that would be sandstone or carbonated that may or may not require stimulation. An unconventional reservoir is what is called a tight reservoir, tight meaning it is porous but the holes in the rock are very, very small. The problem with these reservoirs is that the permeability is not there. So, therefore; these reservoirs usually need stimulation and this is the big topic fracking.

The When is the timeline for generic explorations program on shore for Nova Scotia. There is a 3 year agreement where in the first year we do basic data gathering and simulation and try to figure out what we are going after and where. That will take us to the point where during the second year we may do magnetic, gravity or seismic programs to fine tune our target if there is any structure that exists underneath the rocks and to come up with a potential location where we might be able to find hydrocarbon. In the third year what we call our drill year we get ready to prepare, bring equipment in and by year's end we want to complete the well and he noted that at each stage they are presenting reports to the Department of Energy and Department of Environment.

Where we have been given 3 exploration lots in around late August, September and he noted on the map that they are from Merigomish right up to the New Brunswick border, he noted each block and their names are Scotsburn, Malagash and Truemanville. The gross acreage involved is 829,000 acres and they are in about the 6<sup>th</sup> month of their 3 year term. He noted that the other colors on the map are various other companies that have exploration rights on shore. He forgot to mention earlier that coal is an unconventional reservoir and they do not have any coal methane rights on shore in Nova Scotia. The coal bed methane rights that exist currently are up towards Donkin, another is East Coast Gas and a third with Stealth Ventures. The regulations in Nova Scotia separate those resources. So, basically anything to do with coal gas they do not have any rights too. He noted that in Thorburn and Stellarton we own the conventional rights but not the coal bed methane rights.

The Why are we here is because it is under explored. Reservoirs and hydrocarbons are getting more and more difficult to find worldwide so it is attractive for Companies to come into new areas and look. Nova Scotia has seen very typical hydrocarbon exploration for the last 50, 60 up to 100 years. He asked the Town Council in New Glasgow where was the first oil/gas field found in North America. The answer is 25 kilometers south of Moncton in a place called Stony Creek. He noted that it is still operating today. It is under explored because the geology here is very complex. He noted that there is a local market for energy and noted that certainly if we find gas he is certain that the Trenton Generating Plant, the Aberdeen Hospital, and Michelin these are all prime potential users of a cheaper and cleaner energy.

If we were to find gas and didn't have a local distribution network we could put it in Maritimes Northeast Pipeline. He noted if they were to buy into a local gas and it didn't put it into Maritimes Northeast Pipeline they would stay away from that tariff so they would get the gas much, much cheaper and this would be referred to as an end user agreement. They would pay no tariff for putting the gas in the pipeline. There would be a very well educated work force which we lose to Alberta and BC all the time and of course this is a nice place to live.

The How is that we are proud to say we are not going to break any rules. We pay close attention to the regulations which are very extensive. He invited people to go on line and read some of the regulations that they have to follow. The rest of the presentation he mentioned is a look at the time line.

He went on to explain What it means short term is the three year period he explained and basically that is that they have to make a discovery. The next slide showed COS and he noted that his manager asked him what that means And he noted that it stands for Chance of Success and he went on to note that they have and this was a guess 5% chance of success and it is very important to understand that this is a high risk venture but the rewards are high and what it also means so far they have an office established in New Glasgow and he is a geologist and he works out of that office and they petro physicists out of Halifax, they also have geologists in Calgary and he noted the local Manager and he noted there are geologists and engineers and geophysicists working on the project already. He noted that there are obviously spin off jobs as we are renting an office downtown New Glasgow, paying people to clean the office, etc. He noted that they are committed with the Province to spend 10.5 million dollars over the 3 year agreement. Long term if we get past the discovery short term stuff were looking at regional prosperity, jobs and obviously it is not a sure thing that we are going to get there but hopefully we are trying to do our best. The last couple of slides Mr MacDonald presented were the renewable energy electricity plan put out by the Nova Scotia government and in that plan he wanted to include a couple of slides. In 2001 we relied 80% on fossil fuels, 10% on natural gas and the fossil fuel category includes coal, petroleum coke, oil, diesel and he feels everybody will agree that we have to get off coal. The energy mix in 2009 we have reduced the coal a bit and increased the renewable a bit and the slide is actual data so that it is real and natural gas you see has also increased. The next showed a slide of the future 2015 and it is his opinion only and he thinks that the renewable goal shown is a grey goal and by that he means it is unrealistic. He does not think that we can reach that goal however, if we can that would be fantastic, but notice what happens to natural gas in 2015 it is up from 13.3% to 15% and in 2020 it is shown up to 20%. So this is the way that we will reduce our dependency on coal which by the way we import 85% of the coal we burn in Nova Scotia. He thinks that it is a great goal but he thinks that it is unrealistic and he noted that green energy is not a light switch we need some way to get there at this point we do not have the batteries to store the energy. He feels that we need a bridge field and in his opinion the bridge field is natural gas whether it comes from the off shore or it comes from the LNG plant in Saint John we will be burning natural gas to create energy some way or some form. The last couple of slides he is going to show are from Charleston, West Virginia. It is a picture of a University in Charleston, West Virginia that has a natural gas well site built on the premises and with the disguise of a few trees well placed you hardly know that it is there. He wanted to explain that a well head is not a big thing and can be discretely put anywhere. He noted that this has reduced their heating budget and is expected to last 20 plus years. He noted that they went through all kinds of protests and rightfully so they are operating in a city. He told a story about a lady who came up and pointed her finger at the President of the University and said “we’re watching you” and he said watch away we are done we drilled the well, we have it tied in and we are already enjoying the energy and savings. He estimated that it took about 2 months to do the whole process.

He noted that he would answer some questions and again noted that his presentation was not about fracking, he acknowledged that it is a hot topic and that the government of Nova Scotia has a review ongoing concerning same.

He noted that the well at the University was a fracking well and it was done with nitrogen he went on to explain that certain shale can be fracked in different ways and one way is nitrogen.

Mayor MacKay thanked Edwin for the presentation and if any Council Members had any questions for him.

Deputy Mayor Jones asked what hydraulic process would be used in this area to extract the gas and Mr MacDonald noted that all through Nova Scotia and let's presume that they make a discovery and it is gas and then he noted that they would not break any regulations or any laws. At this point he again pointed out that the NS Government has an ongoing review. He noted that if you did find a large reservoir you would not be able to frack it because it would be so porous that the energy would not be contained in the rock and you would not be able to break it. He noted that it is not that every rock needs to be fracked. Deputy Mayor Jones asked if nitrogen is the cleanest way to do fracking. Mr MacDonald noted that there are several different ways to do fracking and you can use nitrogen, propane, H<sub>2</sub>O, any liquid – propane he mentioned carried a bit of danger with it. The reason they use water is that is most friendly and available. He noted that technology is advancing all the time and they are coming up with new things all the time.

He noted that he is a geologist not an Engineer and that is why he tries not to answer questions on fracking, he noted that he knows quite a bit about it but on the other hand he is not an expert.

Councillor Thompson noted that he was talking about cleaner energy for this area and she noted that we have the natural gas pipeline already in Pictou County and we are not accessing that now for the Hospital, Michelin or the Power Plant. What difference do you see in your gas and that gas? Mr MacDonald noted that there is none. She went on to ask what infrastructure and she noted that we are not using Maritime Northeast Gas because we do not have the infrastructure in the communities for that. He noted that he thinks we got a raw deal when the pipeline was put through. He noted that the pipeline is only 17 kilometers from the Nova Scotia Power Generating station in Trenton. He noted that he did not want to sound like he was condemning the coal industry but natural gas travels right through our backyard. He also noted that there is no difference in the gas natural gas is natural gas, he noted that there can be certain amounts of the level of methane and that would be what you call sour gas. He noted that on the way to Halifax and downtown Halifax there are a lot of buildings that are benefiting from natural gas. He noted that if someone made a discovery a few kilometers from Michelin or the hospital and you could work a deal out to pay for the pipeline to get it to that end user they would not pay Maritime Northeast's tariff and that would make a big difference. Basically you would have to offset your direct capital costs over time to pay for that pipeline but if you had one well that had a lifespan of 50 years it would be well worth it.

Councillor Thompson noted that she understands where the pipeline runs as she use to live in the country and the pipeline ran through her farm and if we could benefit from what we already have since it is already going through our ground here. She feels that it did not provide the advantages that everyone thought it would. I would like to hope that the 5% and if it is feasible for you that this community would have more benefit than what we have seen in the past. Another question she had was using the water in the process she would like to know what you do with the waste water.

Mr MacDonald noted that in Nova Scotia the waste water is and he explained that earlier when he said liquid he meant that you would have to make a liquid out of the nitrogen, etc if it was a gas that was used it would have to be turned into a liquid first as the gas would not create enough energy to break anything. So what he meant was that the gas would have to be compressed to a liquid to use in fracking. He noted that if you use water for your frack and it has been done and he noted that the well by the Highland Square Mall was fracked and the one in Lourdes and also the one by the Heather. He noted that water used in a frack is disposed off in the earth.

Councillor MacDonald noted that just for verification when you say this is high risk are you referring to the chances of success and Mr MacDonald confirmed that is correct. He noted that there is at this time no onshore production in Nova Scotia, there is onshore production in New Brunswick and he noted there is minimal gas production in Stony Creek but there is some oil production there and that oil gets transported down to Saint John to the refinery. So over the several decades that there has been some exploration there have been some sniffs here but never any economical feasible discoveries and that is why he mentioned that the prospects of actually finding some is questionable. Councillor MacDonald noted that these wells that have been fracked here already what is the end result and he noted that those wells were fracked for coal not gas. He noted that there is another Company interested in exploring in Nova Scotia and he wishes them well because if a discovery is made it will bode well for all of us.

Mayor MacKay thanked Edwin for the presentation.

## **6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**6.1 Police - *It was moved by Deputy Mayor Jones and seconded by Councillor Thompson that the Police Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.***

**6.2 Fire Report - *It was moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Thompson that the Fire Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.***

**6.3 Fire Inspectors Report – *It was moved by Deputy Mayor Jones and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that the Fire Inspector Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.***

- 6.4 Recreation Report - *It was moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Thompson that the Recreation Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.***
- 6.5 Compost Garbage & Recycling Report - *It was moved by Deputy Mayor Jones and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that the Compost Garbage & Recycling Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.***
- 6.6 Environmental Health Report – *It was moved by Councillor Thompson and seconded by Deputy Mayor Jones that the Environmental Health Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.***
- 6.7 Transportation Report - *It was moved by Councillor Thompson and seconded by Deputy Mayor Jones that the Transportation Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.***
- 6.8 Animal Control Report – Not available at this time**
- 6.9 Building Report – - *It was moved by Councillor Thompson and seconded by Deputy Mayor Jones that the Building Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.***

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **7.1 SNSMR – Election Preparations**

CAO Fraser advised that the position for the Returning Officer is an ongoing appointment if Council wishes. If this is OK he will notify Dorothylane Hale and CAO Fraser also noted that the method of preparation for the list we will use the Provincial List as this is the method used by most Municipalities.

*It was moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Thompson that we accept the recommendation of the CAO on the Returning Officer and use the Provincial Voting List to prepare the list for the upcoming Municipal Election. Motion carried.*

### **7.2 SNSMR – Climate Action Plan**

CAO Fraser noted that this is information to notify us that the Town is responsible to have a Climate Action Plan in place by December 2013 and a draft copy for October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. He suggested that we source out what the plan would consist of and bring that to Council. Councillor MacDonald wanted to know what the CAO means by source out. CAO Fraser noted that we need to know what the plan consist of whether we need to use a consult or if it can be done internally. Councillor MacDonald confirmed that at this time he is just going to find out what needs to go in this report and CAO Fraser confirmed that was correct.

**7.3 Westville Fire Department – July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012**  
*It was moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Thompson to send this Westville Fire Department financial request to the Budget Preparation Committee. Motion carried.*

**7.4 Westville Pee Wee Hockey Tournament – February 24 – 26, 2012**  
*It was moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Thompson that funds be reviewed and if available the same amount as donated last year's will be sent. Motion carried.*

**10. SECOND READING: A By-Law to Regulate the Meetings of the Council and Conduct Thereof.**

**10.1** CAO Fraser noted that everyone had a copy of the By-Law and noted that it was presented for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading at the Council Meeting in November 2011 and once it is accepted through the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading it will repeal the existing By-Law 7 and the intent of the By-Law is to establish a framework of Council Protocol which meets the criteria defined in the MGA.

*It was moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Thompson that we proceed with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of this By-Law and accept the By-Law as presented at this time. Motion carried.*

**11. NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**11.1 Committee Appointments**

CAO Fraser provided a list to the Councillors containing all the Committees and it contains the Council Appointments at the end of 2011 and if Council wishes they may want to go ahead and review or keep it the same.

Mayor MacKay asked CAO Fraser if he received any input to make adjustments and CAO Fraser noted he did not. Mayor MacKay advised since there were no requests for change then the only change will be the Deputy Mayor. Mayor MacKay suggested that we accept the appointments first that did not change and then we will do the Deputy Mayor.

Mayor MacKay called for a motion to accept the Committee Appointments up to October 2012.

Councillor MacDonald wanted the Council to look at the Planning Advisory Committee as the two citizens that serve on this committee have been serving since quite some time and she has been approached by a couple of people who have expressed their concern in serving on this committee, she is not sure if they would apply if it is advertised or not only the future will tell. She also mentioned that she would like to thank the citizens who have been serving on this committee and give them a chance to re-assess their situation and if they want to re-apply they certainly can but she feels that this will be a good way to freshen up the committee and have other people participate, she also knows that the recreation committee has had several resignations lately from people moving away and other reasons.

She mentioned that there are suppose to be 13 people on that committee and she knows that the recreation committee definitely needs members. She also knows that the CAP committee is not a committee of Council but it is another little committee that works in Westville through the Pictou/Antigonish Regional Library and she knows that committee needs members as well. So, if we were to advertise for those 3 committees she knows that the Library would appreciate being included in that advertisement if that is possible. Deputy Mayor Jones noted that he would support the recommendation of Councillor MacDonald. Mayor MacKay noted that this would mean another month and CAO Fraser noted that we can still appoint the members of Council to the committees listed and the committees just discussed can be advertised for citizen members. He noted the list shown tonight was for the Town Council Members. Mayor MacKay noted that this evening we are going to appoint for Council Members first and then a motion for the advertisement.

***It was moved by Councillor Thompson and seconded by Deputy Mayor Jones that we accept the Councillors committee appointments as presented this evening. Motion carried.***

Mayor MacKay noted that before Councillor MacDonald makes her motion we will be changing Deputy Mayor and he noted that Lynn MacDonald will be Deputy Mayor until the elections in October. He offered his congratulations to her.

***It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Thompson that we accept Lynn MacDonald as the new Deputy Mayor of the Town of Westville until elections in October 2012. Motion carried. Lynn MacDonald abstained.***

***It was moved by Deputy Mayor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Jones that on the Planning Advisory Committee we send letters of Thanks to Mr Partington and Mr Cameron for serving on this committee and certainly if they would like to apply to continue to serve that door is open to them but that we advertise for other people who may be interested in serving on the Planning Advisory Committee, that we also advertise for new recreation committee members to fill the vacant seats that are on that committee. Motion carried.***

Councillor Thompson questioned the CAP advertisement she asked if this was a position of Council to advertise for the CAP members or if it should be the Library itself that should be looking for these members. Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that she as a Councillor serves on that committee and she knows that the CAP program does not have a lot of resources and she feels that the would appreciate if we included them in our advertisement because they do need a couple of committee members. Councillor Thompson asked if this is actually a position of Council. Mayor MacKay noted that would be a question to be directed to CAO Fraser and he noted that he would have to contact the Library first to get their approval before including them in the ad.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald amended her motion to delete the reference to CAP.

**11.2 Unsightly Properties/Derelict Buildings**

CAO Fraser noted the report submitted by Barry MacIntosh and he noted that the report contained the 1974 Church Street property and that there will be a follow up inspection on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012. He noted that at this time that is the only property listed that requires any further action to be carried out.

**11.3 Taxi Licenses**

*It was moved by Deputy Mayor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Jones that we approve the taxi license as recommended by Chief Hussher. Motion carried.*

**11.4 Draft Municipal Services Specifications Manual**

CAO Fraser noted that it is just the early stages but he wanted to share it with Council and he noted that this will go along with the sub-division by-law that was passed earlier and it is for the Engineering and Public Works Departments within the Town for any new developments or existing changes that will be made to follow the standards that are set out in the manual we are working on. This is the Draft and we are just in the process now of coming up with some tables and calculations that will be included. He noted that it is not completed for approval by Council right now but should be within a couple of months.

**11.5 Borrowing Resolution**

CAO Fraser noted that every January/February we receive word from the Municipal Finance Corporation that the Spring debentures are going to be coming out and this is to finance capital work which has been done through out the course of this year. What we do is set a maximum balance that we can borrow up to and a maximum interest rate that is approved by Council and once the numbers are finalized we commit to what amount will be borrowed for capital work to be done this year. He noted that he always try to estimate a little bit higher than what will be needed and this year he is recommending \$200,000.00 to be split between the Water Utility and the Town. This would be \$100,000.00 for each with a maximum interest rate of 6.5% over a period of 20 years.

*It was moved by Deputy Mayor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Jones that we accept the recommendation of staff on the MFC borrowing for \$200,000.00 with a maximum interest rate of 6.5% and for a period not to exceed 20 years. Motion carried.*

**11.6 Canada – Nova Scotia Building Fund**

Deputy Mayor MacDonald mentioned that in the minutes from the last council meeting under correspondence we received information from the above-mentioned fund informing us that there was additional funds available that could be borrowed by the Town and we were talking about fixing the lift station on Union Street. She then asked the CAO to give us an update on that and perhaps Council can decide on moving forward and she asked CAO Fraser what the time frame was concerning this application.

CAO Fraser noted that he was of the understanding that Council agreed at the last meeting that it would go ahead with the agreement provided that it comes in on cost. He told the Council that he contacted the Infrastructure Secretariat and they advised him that it would not be a problem to withdraw from the Project if the cost proved to be more than originally thought. The deadline for the project was a couple of weeks ago. He mentioned that it has been signed off on and again mentioned that if the project was to come in at tender over the projected cost the Town has an option to withdraw.

CAO Fraser noted on top of that he placed a call to the Secretariat because one of the concerns we had with the Project was that there is a lot of infiltration in the sanitary sewer system and before we go and fix and upgrade the pipes and the station he thinks it would be a good idea to look at how much storm water is getting in these pipes when we have heavy rain events.

He mentioned that earlier this year we received approval for \$200,000.00 from the PCAP Program to go towards the extension from manhole 6 to the town's retention tank at Bear Brook and the individual he was speaking with said he would let us carry forward to next year the amounts that we didn't use and we have only used \$80,000.00 of the \$200,000.00 so they are willing to put the balance for next year to the infiltration study so that study would focus on that area at Union Street and a couple of other areas in Town and what we would hope to achieve would be to reduce the storm water getting into the system and then once we complete that we can do the upgrades on the lift station and on the sewer main.

Deputy Mayor MacDonald noted that she thought they were going to move forward on this but then when she was reading the minutes at the last part of the comments on this your Worship you noted that maybe we should move forward but at the finance committee meeting in early January we could get more information from CAO Fraser and I didn't have the minutes from the Finance meeting and she couldn't recall how it ended up.

### **11.7 Crosswalk at Holy Name Church**

Commissioner Thompson noted that at the Police Commission Meeting it came up about a sign in front the Catholic Church, it is a crosswalk sign above the sidewalk and at this particular time there is no lighting in it and she had asked Chief Hussler about that and he noted that the sign should actually be removed.

She is just wondering if the CAO can report on that. CAO noted that we will need a lift to get up there and take it down. Fire Chief Dunn noted that the sign has already been taken down as well as the one on Church Street in front of the old school.

## **12. QUESTIONS FROM CITIZENS**

- 12.1** Raymond Cameron, Munro Street – He wanted to know why he was not called about the Planning Advisory Commission and why he was no longer on the Board.

Mayor MacKay explained that no one was called and he was still a member but that we are going to put out an advertisement for members and wanted to thank him for his participation and if he wants too he can certainly apply to stay on the committee. It was noted that no one was called and that Mr Cameron and Mr Partington will continue to serve on the committee until the advertisement is placed.

Mr Cameron also mentioned that he felt Deputy Mayor MacDonald is correct in stating that some people seem to be on the boards for a long time and he agrees and feels Council should look into it as there is one person on the Police Board who is going into her 5 term and it is 3 year terms so that is 15 years. He feels that this is too long for one person to serve on a Board.

**13. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

**13.1** *It was moved by Councillor Thompson and seconded by Councillor Jones to move to in-camera. Motion carried.*

**13.2** *It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Deputy Mayor MacDonald in-camera session be adjourned. Motion carried*

Certified to be a true copy of the minutes of the January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 of the Town of Westville Regular Council Meeting.

.....  
MAYOR

.....  
RECORDING SECRETARY