

- COUNCIL BRIEFS -

County of Annapolis Council session - January 19, 2010

REMO Annapolis – Dave McCoubrey, REMO Annapolis Coordinator, posed the question - Are you ready? The REMO message is that every person should be ready for the first 72 hours for any emergency, lessening the draw on municipal resources.

Mountain Lea Lodge - Director of Care Janet Lussier, RN, gave a presentation on Mountain Lea Lodge, where it is now and where it needs to go. She gave a brief history of the facility and noted the challenges that have arisen since it was built because the type of resident/client has changed. She encouraged Municipal Council to consider taking a more active role in the planning and future direction of the facility which is owned and operated by the Annapolis County Municipal Housing Corporation.

Adult Residential Centre - Acting Administrator Herb Anderson presented information on the Adult Residential Centre. Because the building is newer than Mountain Lea Lodge, the focus was more on the financial challenges and safety issues that have increased in order to adapt to a changing clientele, which includes the support and follow up necessary to return residents back to the community at large.

County Writes-off Uncollectible Taxes for 2008/09 and Prior – After all attempts were made to collect outstanding taxes from past years, Council made a unanimous motion, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee, to approve the write-off of uncollectible taxes in the amount of \$10,137.11 (including interest of \$1,664.55). This includes years prior to 2005-06 through to 2008/09.

County Approves Tax Exemption Program for Low Income Households (2010/11) – Council approved the 2010/11 Low Income Tax Exemption Program as follows:

1. An exemption from taxation be granted in the amount of \$125;
2. The total household income eligibility level be \$17,500 from all sources for the year 2009;
3. Applications will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on March 31, 2010.

Heritage Conference 2010 - Pursuant to the recommendation of the Heritage Advisory Committee, Municipal Council approved sponsorship for the 2010 Heritage Conference in the amount of \$1,000 from the 2009/10 budget and \$1,000 from the 2010/11 budget.

Council approves \$5000 to Web GIS / Cultural Mapping Project - As recommended by the Finance Committee and Committee of the Whole, Municipal Council approved to provide \$5,000 (payable in April 2010) to AGRG for the “Community mapping, web GIS and the Creative Rural Economy” on the following conditions: 1) the County has final say on which 4 maps will be developed; and 2) that the proponent identify which community agency or group will maintain the data for each map.

North Queens Fire Department's - In accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee and Committee of the Whole, Municipal Council agreed to forward a letter respectfully declining this funding request; informing of the strategic planning process in regard to fire services that is currently being undertaken; and apprising of the County's practice to provide loans payable from the Fire Services Capital Reserve Fund and not to provide building grants to fire departments.

Fire Services Bridgetown VFD Capital Loan - Municipal Council approved in principle a 10-year, \$200,000 loan from the Fire Services Reserve Fund to the Bridgetown Volunteer Fire Department.

Basin Wellness Society (BWS) Requests \$40,000 from County – An email dated January 14th was received from Basin Wellness Society Chair Brian McConnell, requesting the Municipality to provide payment of \$40,000 in order to pay staff salaries and expenses to operate the Lifeplex facility. Council has agreed to consider this request depending on the findings of comprehensive information being provided to the Director of Finance and reported back to Council.

Council Approves Possible Partnership with YMCA - In accordance with a recommendation as presented by the Chief Administrative Officer and the recommendation of Committee of the Whole, Council has accepted Recommendations #4 - Continue to Operate with New Governance Model. The County is in early discussions with the YMCA.

Planning Advisory Committee Meeting to Discuss Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB) re Wind Turbines - Municipal Council approved first reading to approve the *Annapolis County MPS and LUB- Wind Turbines* as circulated. The Planning Advisory Committee will be meeting at the **Municipal Building in Annapolis Royal, 9:00 a.m. on February 9, 2010.**

Oakdene Community Centre Request Re Use of Land for Possible Campsite – Council will respond with a letter indicating that in light of pending sewage treatment plant upgrades at the adjoining property, the request will be denied regarding the use of the county property at the back of the old school as camping sites. The letter will also include information regarding grants that are available for upgrades such as wheelchair ramps.

County Provides Written Support for Upper Clements Park's proposed Aerial Adventure Park. – Council will provide a letter of support for the *Aerial Adventure Park for Upper Clements Parks.*

County Provides Written Support, In Principle for Lawrencetown & District Recreation Association's Request for Provincial Funding –Council will provide a letter of support, in principle, for the funding application to the NS Department of Health Protection and Promotion for the Youth Arena Project.

County Approves Written Support to Nova Scotia Community College Annapolis Valley Campus – Pilikan Initiative – The NSCC (AVC) is offering a new program to train sustainable energy technologists for the Province at its Middleton site. To strengthen its training programs and to help industry and community partners promote and implement sustainable energy management and greenhouse gas reduction practices, NSCC/AVC is proposing to build the Pilikan Demonstration Facility for residential housing energy use reduction. Council will support this project through a letter of support.

County Congratulates Miss Jessa Jenner – It was brought to Council’ s attention that Miss Jessa Jenner of Clarence had received a gold medal at the *2010 Junior National Taekwondo Championships* held in Halifax earlier this month. Upon agreement of Council, a letter of congratulations will be forwarded to Miss Jenner for this accomplishment.

Council will Celebrate African Heritage Month in Inglewood – In accordance with the recommendation of Committee of the Whole, Council accepted the invitation from the Inglewood Community Club to hold the regular session of February Council at the Inglewood Community Hall in recognition of African History Month. This will be the 12th year Council has held its February Council session in Inglewood.