

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
February 16, 2016
SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

MOTION 160216.01	Minutes Public Hearing October 20, 2015.....	1
MOTION 160216.02	Minutes Special Session November 16, 2015.....	1
MOTION 160216.03	Minutes Public Hearing December 15, 2015	1
MOTION 160216.04	Minutes Regular Session January 19, 2016	1
MOTION 160216.05	Bridgetown Buildings Etc. in Unsafe Condition Bylaw Repeal – Final Reading.....	3
MOTION 160216.06	Bridgetown Deed Transfer Tax Bylaw Repeal – Final Reading.....	3
MOTION 160216.07	Bridgetown Deposits by Candidates at an Election Bylaw Repeal – Final Reading	3
MOTION 160216.08	Bridgetown Loitering Bylaw Repeal – Final Reading	3
MOTION 160216.09	Outdated Bridgetown Bylaws Repeal – Final Reading.....	3
MOTION 160216.10	AM-1.4.14 Low Income Tax Exemption Policy - Amend.....	4
MOTION 160216.11	AM-1.4.12 Tax Exemption and Reduction Policy - Amend.....	4
MOTION 160216.12	Cornwallis Community Gardens Association - Grant.....	5
MOTION 160216.13	Unnamed Road – Springfield.....	5
MOTION 160216.14	Grant Easement to NSPI at PID 05142039 Church Street Bridgetown North.....	5
MOTION 160216.15	Volunteer Week Selection Committee Appointments	5
MOTION 160216.16	Historic Gardens Letter of Support	5
MOTION 160216.17	Proclamation: National Flag of Canada Day	7
MOTION 160216.18	Proclamation: Nova Scotia Heritage Day	7
MOTION 160216.19	Proclamation: African Heritage Month.....	7

Minutes of the regular session of **Municipal Council** held on February 16, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in the Inglenook Community Centre, Inglewood, NS.

Present: Warden Reg Ritchie; Deputy Warden Timothy Habinski; Councillors Marilyn Wilkins, Brian “Fuzzy” Connell, Wayne Fowler, Paul McDonald, Alex Morrison, Frank Chipman, Martha Roberts, Diane LeBlanc, and Horace Hurlburt.

Absent: Councillor Gregory Heming

Also Present: Chief Administrative Officer John Ferguson, Municipal Clerk Carolyn Young, other staff.

Warden Ritchie welcomed everyone to the Inglenook Community Centre in Inglewood. He added that this was the 18th year Council was invited to join the community of Inglewood to celebrate African Heritage Month. Introductions were made around the table.

Additions

No items were added to the agenda.

Approval of the Agenda

Upon motion of Councillor Wilkins, seconded by Councillor McDonald, the agenda was approved as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

MOTION 160216.01 Minutes Public Hearing October 20, 2015

Councillor Fowler moved, seconded by Councillor Connell, that the minutes of the Public Hearing held on October 20, 2015, be approved as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION 160216.02 Minutes Special Session November 16, 2015

It was moved by Councillor Wilkins, seconded by Deputy Warden Habinski, that the minutes of the Special Session held on November 16, 2015, be approved as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION 160216.03 Minutes Public Hearing December 15, 2015

Councillor McDonald moved, seconded by Councillor LeBlanc, that the minutes of the Public Hearing held on December 15, 2015, be approved as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION 160216.04 Minutes Regular Session January 19, 2016

It was moved by Councillor Fowler, seconded by Councillor Hurlburt, that the minutes of the Regular Session held on January 19, 2016, be approved as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Comments

District 11 – Councillor LeBlanc – good morning welcome, nice to be in Inglewood, it’s always a treat.

District 2 – Councillor Connell –welcomed everyone, happy to recognize this special month.

District 4 – Councillor McDonald – thanks for the invitation to Inglewood, Western Woodlot Owner’s Conference New Ross, March 5th. CBC report that Annapolis County’s population increased by 78!

District 3 – Councillor Fowler – thanked for invitation to be in Inglewood. Hopes for many more opportunities.

District 6 – Councillor Morrison – enjoys coming to Inglewood to hug Mrs. Johnson! On Thursday February 18th at Felker Hall, the ‘Don’t Fall for Me Valentine’s Tea’ was hosted by Sharon Elliott, Sr. Safety Coordinator, from 1-4 pm. On January 30th the annual Robbie Burns dinner was held at ABCC in commemoration of and to aid a community organization. The proceeds were given to Fundy YMCA this year. Greg Kerr, guest speaker, spoke about Nova Scotia Charter. Also speaking was Joe Denton, a business owner who spoke about the enormous influence the YMCA has had on his family over the past few years. Looking ahead, Councillor Morrison noted that in 2019 we will celebrate the 140th anniversary of the *County Incorporation Act*.

District 9 – Councillor Chipman added his thanks for being invited to Inglewood today.

District 7 – Deputy Warden Habinski noted his pleasure being in Inglewood. He considers this to be the best council meeting of the year; would like to have more meetings in the community. He reported he had been in Ottawa at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Sustainable Communities Conference, where an informative presentation was given by Catherine McKenna, and knowledge provided on what is in store for municipalities over the next four years, such as innovative green energy technologies.

District 10 – Councillor Roberts – thanked the community for the invitation, and noted she looks forward to many more such opportunities.

Bridgetown – Councillor Hurlburt added his pleasure in being in Inglewood today. As the former Mayor of Bridgetown he enjoyed this neighbouring community. Regarding Bridgetown, he noted the ongoing growth and opportunities in the community, i.e. - Lions Winterfest is taking place Friday-Sunday coming, the new Scotiabank opening next Monday, a grassroots effort from the community looking at the possibility of a floating dock in Jubilee Park, the Triathlon on July 30th and Kids Triathlon on July 31st. The Triathlon events now include the Provincial and Youth championships, and the one-day event, is possible due to the hardworking volunteers and brings \$10-20,000 into the community.

District 1 – Councillor Wilkins noted she was thrilled with the hall renovations, noting a small number of volunteers accomplished this and keep the hall running. Thanked all the speakers who are also volunteers. She commended all for their good works.

Chief Administrative Officer – Noted quite a year of growth and understanding over the past year as we merged with Bridgetown. He added that it is a pleasure to work with community groups and volunteers, and hopes to continue building on those relationships.

District 8 – Warden Ritchie reported that he was recently the guest speaker at the Primary Care and Paramedics graduating class of 2016. Nine graduated from this first class that was held in Cornwallis Park, making it affordable for local students to attend. He added that these young professional people are making life and death decisions in our communities, and he was honoured to have been invited to say a few words to them as they graduated. He added his pleasure in being able to attend in Inglewood, to recognize African Heritage Month.

Business Arising from the Minutes

- ***Repeal Bridgetown Buildings Etc. in Unsafe Condition Bylaw – Final Reading***

MOTION 160216.05 Bridgetown Buildings Etc. in Unsafe Condition Bylaw Repeal – Final Reading

In accordance with first reading given on January 19th, and advertised in the Spectator on January 28th, Deputy Warden Habinski moved, seconded Councillor McDonald, by that Municipal Council give second and final reading to repeal the *Bridgetown Buildings Etc. in Unsafe Condition Bylaw*. Motion carried unanimously.

• **Repeal Bridgetown Deed Transfer Tax Bylaw – Final Reading**

MOTION 160216.06 Bridgetown Deed Transfer Tax Bylaw Repeal – Final Reading

In accordance with first reading given on January 19th, and advertised in the Spectator on January 28th, Deputy Warden Habinski moved, seconded by Councillor Hurlburt, that Municipal Council give second and final reading to repeal the *Bridgetown Deed Transfer Tax Bylaw*. Motion carried unanimously.

• **Repeal Bridgetown Deposits by Candidates at an Election Bylaw – Final Reading**

MOTION 160216.07 Bridgetown Deposits by Candidates at an Election Bylaw Repeal – Final Reading

In accordance with first reading given on January 19th, and advertised in the Spectator on January 28th, Deputy Warden Habinski moved, seconded by Councillor Fowler, that Municipal Council give second and final reading to repeal the *Bridgetown Deposits by Candidates at an Election Bylaw*. Motion carried unanimously.

• **Repeal Bridgetown Loitering Bylaw – Final Reading**

MOTION 160216.08 Bridgetown Loitering Bylaw Repeal – Final Reading

In accordance with first reading given on January 19th, and advertised in the Spectator on January 28th, Deputy Warden Habinski moved, seconded by Councillor Hurlburt, that Municipal Council give second and final reading to repeal the *Bridgetown Loitering Bylaw*. Motion carried unanimously.

• **Repeal Outdated Bridgetown Bylaws – Final Reading**

MOTION 160216.09 Outdated Bridgetown Bylaws Repeal – Final Reading

In accordance with first reading given on January 19th, and advertised in the Spectator on January 28th, Deputy Warden Habinski moved, seconded by Councillor Wilkins, that Municipal Council give second and final reading to repeal the following outdated Bridgetown bylaws: *Interpretation Bylaw* (June 1933); *Boundaries Bylaw* (December 1906); *Seal and Minutes Bylaw* (June 1933); *Council Constitution* (date unknown), *Rules Governing Council Bylaw - aka Rules of Order Bylaw* (June 1933); *Committees and Boards Bylaw* (June 1933); *Officers Bylaw- aka Officers Generally Bylaw* (June 1933); *Town Clerk and Treasurer Bylaw* (June 1933); *Streets Bylaw* (June 1933); *Traffic Bylaw* (June 1933); *Weighing of Hay and Straw Bylaw* (June 1933); *Weighing of Coal Bylaw* (June 1933); *Licensing Bylaw* (June 1933)(Hawkers*, Peddlers, Traders, Auctioneers, Truckmen, Junk Dealers, Commencing Business, Circuses, Automatic Machines [amended 1947]*, *Shop Closing* [amended 1961]*, *Photographers* [amended 1984]*); *Police Bylaw* (June 1933); *Lock-up Bylaw* (June 1933); *Public Safety Bylaw* (June 1933); *Water and Sewage Bylaw* (June 1933); *Town Meetings Bylaw* (June 1933); *Public Health Bylaw – Refuse Bylaw* (June 1933); *Meat Inspection Bylaw** (Aug. 1947); *Ratepayers Approval Bylaw** (Oct. 1950); *Parking Meters Bylaw** (June 1952); *Farm Animals and Domestic Fowl Bylaw** (Oct. 1952); *Unsafe Buildings Bylaw** (Apr. 1953); *Magazine and Book Salesmen Bylaw** (July 1962); *Closing of Polls Bylaw** (Nov. 1963);

*Pension – C. Warner Bylaw** (Nov. 1965); *Pension – F. Ruggles Bylaw** (May 1966); *Group Annuity Policy Bylaw** (Oct. 1969); *Pension Plan Bylaw* (Jan. 1970); *Civil Emergency Planning Bylaw** (July 1973); *Dangerous or Unsightly Premises Bylaw** (April 1974); *Prevention of Disorder Bylaw - aka Disorder and Impropriety Bylaw** (as amended Nov. 1977); *Tree Committee Bylaw** (Oct. 1978); *Taxi Bylaw** (as amended April 1981); *Business Improvement District Commission Bylaw* (May 1984); *Partial Tax Exemption Bylaw** (as amended Oct. 1984); *Council Expenses Bylaw** (April 1988); *Municipal Emergency Measures Bylaw** (Nov. 1993); *Valley Region Solid Waste Resource Management Bylaw** (Nov. 2001); *Regional Emergency Measures Bylaw** (Feb. 2006); *Regional Emergency Management Bylaw** (June 2007); *Valley Region Solid Waste Resource Management Bylaw** (Mar. 2008); and *Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Bylaw** (May 2012). Motion carried unanimously.

Reports and Recommendations

Re: Municipal Solicitor (January)

- A report for the month of January was circulated in the agenda package. It was moved by Councillor Fowler, seconded by Councillor McDonald, to receive for information. Motion carried unanimously.

Re: Committee of the Whole (February 8th meeting)

• AM-1.4.14 Low Income Tax Exemption Policy - Amend

Deputy Warden Habinski moved, seconded by Councillor Fowler, in accordance with seven-day notice having been given, that Municipal Council amend Sub-section 3.1 of *AM-1.4.14 Low Income Tax Exemption Policy* as follows:

- Increase the exemption amount from \$170 to \$175, and
- Increase the income criteria from \$20,000 to \$20,500.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Habinski, seconded by Councillor Morrison, to amend the motion to increase the exemption amount to \$225 and increase the income criteria to \$22,560. Motion lost, 2 in favour (Habinski, Morrison), 9 against.

The question was called on the original motion.

MOTION 160216.10 AM-1.4.14 Low Income Tax Exemption Policy - Amend

Deputy Warden Habinski moved, seconded by Councillor Fowler, in accordance with seven-day notice having been given, that Municipal Council amend Sub-section 3.1 of *AM-1.4.14 Low Income Tax Exemption Policy* as follows:

- Increase the exemption amount from \$170 to \$175, and
- Increase the income criteria from \$20,000 to \$20,500.

Motion carried unanimously.

• AM-1.4.12 Tax Exemption and Reduction Policy - Amend

MOTION 160216.11 AM-1.4.12 Tax Exemption and Reduction Policy - Amend

In accordance with seven-day notice having been given, Deputy Warden Habinski moved, seconded by Councillor Roberts, that Municipal Council amend *AM-1.4.12 Tax Exemption and Reduction Policy* by:

- Adding in District 10: Carleton Road Industries Association, Land, 11 Prince St., Lawrencetown, AAN 00260827, 1285160, and

- Deleting Section 6; and
- Deleting Carleton Road Industries Association, 3306 Highway 201 Centrelea AAN 03219194, 1285160.

Motion carried unanimously.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Morrison declared an interest in the following item and did not participate in the discussion or subsequent motion. The Cornwallis Community Gardens Association is managed by his wife.

• ***Cornwallis Community Gardens Association Grant Application***

MOTION 160216.12 Cornwallis Community Gardens Association - Grant

Deputy Warden Habinski moved, seconded by Councillor McDonald, pursuant to the recommendation of Committee of the Whole, that Municipal Council approve a 2015-16 grant in the amount of \$3,307.33 in accordance with *AM-1.4.9 Community Grants Policy* to the Cornwallis Community Gardens Association subject to confirmation of other sources of funding received. Motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Morrison returned to the table.

• ***Unnamed Road – Springfield***

MOTION 160216.13 Unnamed Road – Springfield

Pursuant to the recommendation of Committee of the Whole, Deputy Warden Habinski moved, seconded by Councillor Roberts, that Municipal Council authorize staff to initiate the road naming process to name the road currently providing access to newly-created lots on Lake Pleasant in Springfield. Motion carried unanimously.

• ***Grant Easement to Nova Scotia Power at PID 05142039, Church St., Bridgetown***

MOTION 160216.14 Grant Easement to NSPI at PID 05142039 Church Street Bridgetown North

Deputy Warden Habinski moved, seconded by Councillor Hurlburt, in accordance with the recommendation of Committee of the Whole, that Municipal Council authorize the Warden and Clerk to enter into a Grant of Easement with Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI) for a guy-wire on municipal property located at PID 05142039, Church Street, Bridgetown North. Motion carried unanimously.

• ***Volunteer Week Selection Committee***

MOTION 160216.15 Volunteer Week Selection Committee Appointments

In accordance with the recommendation of Committee of the Whole, Deputy Warden Habinski moved, seconded by Councillor Wilkins, that Councillors Roberts and McDonald be appointed to sit on the Volunteer Week Selection Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

• ***Historic Gardens – Request for Letter of Support***

MOTION 160216.16 Historic Gardens Letter of Support

Deputy Warden Habinski moved, seconded by Councillor McDonald, pursuant to the recommendation of Committee of the Whole, that Municipal Council send a letter to NS Department of Agriculture supporting the Historic Gardens' request to become a top priority for dyke maintenance and necessary upgrades because of the importance of the Gardens' role in the regional tourism infrastructure and its positive economic impact on the area. Motion carried unanimously.

Annual Reports

Annual reports are requested in accordance with *AM-1.3.1 Presentation of Annual Reports Policy*.

Re: Annapolis Basin Conference Centre (ABCC) – Beth Earle, CEO, was present. She reported that when CFB Cornwallis closed in 1994, ABCC was given the buildings, and it continues to operate the HMCS Acadia Sea Cadet program every summer. ABCC holds two major contracts, housing two provincial government offices, and hosting the cadet program. ABCC has hosted myriad events and conferences, and even a national art symposium. Medavie Health Education recently chose this location for their paramedic program. The CEO added that the renewal of the contract for the cadet program is taking place for 2018, and they are hoping for a longer-term contract in order to address capital needs. Area Councillor Morrison noted the strong support of the local community. It was moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor McDonald, to receive for information. Motion carried unanimously.

Re: Annapolis County 4H Club – President Danny Phinney reported local 4H includes five clubs with 51 volunteer leaders. They meet on the second Wednesday of every month. He thanked Annapolis Valley Exhibition executive for their support in being chosen to host the 2017 4H Provincial Pro Show, the final 4H event of the year. Mr. Phinney took advantage of the presence of a lot of volunteers and supporters to present Warden Ritchie with a Certificate of Appreciation for the assistance provided by the County over the years. Councillor Wilkins added that 4H is a life sentence – Mr. Phinney has appeared here for many years. She commended him and all the leaders in this group. The kids go on to give back to their communities. Councillor Wilkins moved, seconded by Councillor Fowler, to receive for information. Motion carried unanimously.

Re: Annapolis County Federation of Agriculture – President Lloyd Evans was not able to attend the meeting, but a report had been circulated in the agenda package. Councillor Roberts moved, seconded by Councillor Connell, to receive the written report for information. Motion carried unanimously.

Re: Annapolis County Fire Services Association – President Hilliard Ewing, brought the annual report and noted that March 6th will see the grand opening of the new North Queens fire station. He highlighted the following statistics from his report: 30,401 volunteer hours responding to calls; 15,635 training hours; 7,462 hours of meeting attendance; 10,922 hours fundraising; and 391 firefighters. Motor vehicle inspection laws have changed with an outcome of inspections doubling in cost – from \$500 to \$1,300 for an inspection. This will be Mr. Ewing’s last year as president of the Association. Warden Ritchie thanked him for his service. It was moved by Councillor Fowler, seconded by Deputy Warden Habinski, to receive for information. Motion carried unanimously.

Re: Annapolis County Ground Search and Rescue – President Barry Oliver, reported eight searches were conducted this past year, four in Annapolis County. He thanked for past funding and looks forward to receiving funding again this year. The team helps various functions, such as the Triathlon, Winterfest, Ciderfest, Moonlight Concert, and all parades. They continue to host the Hug-a-Tree program, which teaches survival skills to young students, and Adventure Smart for older kids and adults, as well as Map/Compass/GPS courses. They are currently raising funds to purchase a used fire truck to replace their command centre. He noted that 2016 is their 40th year. Deputy Warden Habinski moved, seconded by Councillor Connell, to receive for information. Motion carried unanimously. Councillor Wilkins thanked these volunteers, who, most times, are called upon for difficult tasks.

Re: Annapolis Valley Exhibition – Manager Rachel Taylor reported they were able to carry out more capital improvements last year (the new platform is great!) thanks to assistance from this Council. Last August was very hot, and the weather affected their bottom line. This year July 8-10 hosting first annual Redneck Rodeo – ATV races, Show & Shine, tractor pulls, etc. Next year hosting the 4H Pro Show – an exciting event in addition to the Exhibition. Last year attendance improved, the Exhibition is growing,. She thanked the 160 volunteers who make everything work. Councillor Connell moved, seconded by Councillor LeBlanc, to receive for information. Motion carried unanimously.

Proclamations

Peter Davies, County Crier, was authorized to cry the following proclamations on behalf of Warden Ritchie:

Re: National Flag of Canada Day

MOTION 160216.17 Proclamation: National Flag of Canada Day

Warden Ritchie proclaimed February 15th as National Flag of Canada Day in the Municipality of the County of Annapolis. This was followed by the singing of O Canada.

Re: Heritage Day

MOTION 160216.18 Proclamation: Nova Scotia Heritage Day

Warden Ritchie proclaimed February 16, 2015, as Nova Scotia Heritage Day in the Municipality of the County of Annapolis

Re: African Heritage Month

MOTION 160216.19 Proclamation: African Heritage Month

Warden Ritchie proclaimed February as African Heritage Month in the Municipality of the County of Annapolis. This was followed by the singing of Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing.

Greetings

Premier of Nova Scotia – The Hon. Stephen McNeil, Premier, brought greetings, noting this was his first time attending this event as Premier. He reflected on his father, who represented this district, District 4, on Municipal Council. He reflected also on community elders Edith and Lucky who are not here today, but are present in this hall and this community; that a sense of community still exists in Inglewood. The Hall and the Church are the focus and continue to support each other. He expressed his thanks to all the organizations represented and recognized Minister Ince. He noted Construction Battalion #2, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary next year during the 150th anniversary of Canada. 100 years ago African Nova Scotians wanted to fight for a country that did not want them to fight. He noted it is important to recognize their efforts. It is important that all our citizens see themselves reflected in our public institutions. There is still a lot of work to do. He congratulated the County for coming to Inglewood in February.

West Nova Member of Parliament - Mr. Colin Fraser was unable to attend; however, Mr. Jason Deveau brought greetings on his behalf and on behalf of the Government of Canada, and congratulated the community for inviting Council to celebrate the 20th anniversary of February as African Heritage Month in Inglewood. This in an important opportunity to recognize important figures of the past, such as Mathieu deCosta, Inglewood's Richard Preston, 1854, who left a lasting impact of leadership and faith guiding Black Loyalists to establish as free people. He closed by saying we need to learn the stories of the black communities across Canada, and work together towards a more inclusive and equal Canada.

Communities, Culture & Heritage and African Nova Scotian Affairs – The Hon. Tony Ince, Minister, addressed Council on behalf of the Province noting he was grateful to be remembering the #2 Construction Battalion, by calling the role of names of those from Annapolis County. More than 600 joined. They won the right to fight, but not as others fought; they were given shovels instead of rifles. Cpt. William Wright said they worked 10 hours a day, six days a week, were denied supplies, and had no socks for their feet. Though the demands were unfair, and despite efforts to keep them down, they served with dignity and pride. Their victory became ours. We took their courage to fight and formed the Black United Front, colored hockey league, and other legacies. Many have fought for justice and equality knowing they would not see the changes in their lifetime – this a gift given to their descendants. He encouraged those present to be proud of who we are, our achievements, and the men of the #2 Battalion. He expressed his thanks to the County and the community for inviting him to this event.

Town of Annapolis Royal – Deputy Mayor Power brought greetings on behalf of the Town Council and staff. She noted the improvements to the hall, and joins in the celebration of the #2 Construction Battalion.

Town of Middleton – Councillor Gail Smith brought greetings on behalf of the Town of Middleton and residents. She added her appreciation of the county throughout the year and in the role they take recognizing Black History Month. She added that both her father and grandfather were part of the #2 Construction Battalion, and that her Uncle's brother wrote a book about the battalion.

Annapolis Valley Regional School Board

- *Board Chair Lavinia Parish-Zwicker*, proud to attend and recognize Black history Month. She brought greetings and thanks from the board for ensuring the County is part of the team in support of education in the Annapolis Valley.
- *African Nova Scotian (ANS) Representative Peter Cromwell* brought warm greetings, acknowledged his elders and ancestors, present and past. He noted the first time he spoke publically was in this hall. He included the Premier's father as one of the elders recognized. He honoured those who served, adding the names of his Great Uncle Will Clements, and Uncle Elmer Cromwell who also served on the #2 Battalion and Donald Clements, POW, in Italy during WWII. He recognized School Board Superintendent Margo Tait who is serving her last year, and recognized that under her mandate, all staff at ARVRSB have received diversity training. He closed by thanking the elders of the community, and invited all to enjoy their time in this place.
- *Krishinda McBride, Race Relations Cross Cultural Understanding and Human Rights Coordinator*, was unable to attend and sent her regrets.

Valley African Nova Scotia Development Association (VANSDA) - Geraldine Browning, President, thanked for the invitation, noting she had worked from this community for 17 years. She stated that we stand on the shoulders of our ancestors, who paved the way: Dr. Edith Cromwell, Evelyn Jackson, Frances Clements; and Hazel Johnson, who is 96 - still here, and still dancing. All worked to make this a better community. She brought greetings from the Board and staff. She noted that VANSDA has an open hiring practice - not just Black! In conclusion, she encouraged everyone to look at their history, and keep all of the past, not just the politically correct part.

Bridgetown Regional High School – Vice Principal Darlene Thomas brought greetings from the Bridgetown Regional High School, along with Student Council President Hailey Saunders and Vice President Jonathon Saunders.

Middleton Regional High School - Mr. James Gushue, Principal, was pleased to be here representing Middleton Regional High School along with Student Council representative Mr. Cornell.

Annual Reports (cont'd)

Re: Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens – Board Chair John Mildon highlighted the following from the annual report: gate receipts increased by 15%, showing a second year of increase, and August 15th will celebrate 35th anniversary of The Gardens, a tribute to the thoughtfulness and ambition the people had for the community. He thanked this council and citizens of the county for their generosity to The Gardens over the years. Manager Trish Fry added her thanks for past funding and support in many other ways, such as the Festivals and Community Events Guide, the Acadian Passport project, and various letters of support. Deputy Warden Habinski moved, seconded by Councillor McDonald, to receive the report for information. Motion carried unanimously.

Re: Annapolis Detachment RCMP – Staff Sgt. Dan MacGillivray, noted he was pleased to be in attendance, adding that when he arrived in January last year, this was the first community meeting he had attended. His report highlighted the following:

- The Detachment received more than 5,000 calls for service over the past year. This year they are fully staffed. Detachment Assistants had some vacancies and both are now filled. 1150 criminal records checks were processed for organizations.
- The past year brought some operational challenges, i.e. - the Dempster case, which saw many extra resources used to bring him in. He remains in custody at this time.
- There was a two-month successful undercover drug trafficking operation in Middleton and surrounding areas, resulting in seven arrests, two searches, recovered stolen ATV, jewelry and electronics. Firearms complaints were contained, individuals were contained and risks reduced.
- The Street Crime Unit is a provincially-funded two person unit. It has the proactive ability to investigate crime trends (as above). This unit was responsible for 60 charges laid, last year, resulting in drugs and people taken off our streets.
- Traffic enforcement increases our visibility. 127 percent increase in check stops. 385 tickets to 1073 tickets written.
- Traffic services is also provincially-funded and 1000 tickets were written.
- There have been recent changes to the Auxiliary Constable program. A national decision was made for them to cease involvement in operational policing. There is a committee at the provincial level to determine future for auxiliary.
- Seniors' Safety Program - Sharon Elliott brings added value to our communities. The Seniors' Safety program received a grant of \$19,900 this year, which allows her to support seniors in our county, part of which were the 80 activities, 53 presentations conducted.
- The Community Program Officer program is also an extremely popular and useful tool in our communities. Rodena Renaud conducts programs with teens and younger children such as WITS – an anti-bullying program, and she up to 950 youth per month to teach these strategies. Cops and Kids is a program of leadership building and has a tremendous impact. She also conducts Cyber Crime programs and has developed SAFE plans at the schools.
- These two programs are leading the province – everybody wants to clone what we have here in Annapolis County.
- Safety Resource Officer David Fairfax deals specifically with mental health issues – these are high volume and take a long time. He is working on a Memorandum of Understanding so that police information can be shared with health partners for better treatment outcomes and reduced wait times. He provides in-house trainer to identify people in crises and how to deal with them.

Re: Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL) – CEO since August 2015, Ann-Marie Mathieu commented on what inspirational meeting this was. AVRL provides access to the world of educational, recreational, and information resources in a variety of formats and technologies. Ensure the libraries are integral part of our communities. Deputy Warden Habinski moved, seconded by Councillor McDonald, to receive the report for information. Motion carried unanimously.

Re: Annapolis Valley Regional School Board – Superintendent Margo Tait thanked Council for the invitation to present the School Board's annual report, and thanked Peter Cromwell for his ongoing support. Highlights from the Board are: an increase in staff of African descent; Staff and Teacher Appreciation Week; new P-12 School in Bridgetown; program for 3-4 year olds at Clark Rutherford; and 5th year of Schools Plus Program in 2016. They are working hard to increase mathematics scores – the Board achieved above other schools in the province for Grade 10 math scores, and LEC is open to middle school students now. Councillor LeBlanc moved, seconded by Councillor McDonald, to receive this report for information. Motion carried unanimously.

Re: South West Nova Transition House Association (Juniper House) – Rhonda Fraser, Outreach Worker was in attendance and highlighted this program which provides services for women and children who have experience or are at risk of violence or abuse. Ms. Fraser reviewed the Outreach Program in Annapolis County: 9% shelter occupancy families from Annapolis County. She thanked Council for their generous support and noted Family Violence Prevention Week is also taking place this week. It was moved by Councillor LeBlanc, seconded by Councillor Connell, to receive for information. Motion carried unanimously.

Re: Special Olympics Annapolis County – Derek Woodbury noted many Annapolis County Olympians are aging and a fun sport for them is needed. A new fund raising event – Fire Truck Pull – is upcoming next year. The Theme Park hosts a day for Special Olympians (300) and their families each year, and discussions have been held with ABCC about the possibility of holding events at that facility. He concluded by inviting Councillors to participate in their annual Golf Tournament fund raiser. Councillor Fowler moved, seconded by Councillor McDonald, to receive for information. Motion carried unanimously.

Re: Trans County Transportation Society (TCTS) – Board Chair Phil Milo thanked Council for appointing Councillor Wilkins to the Board. She serves as secretary and Vice Chair. He highlighted the following from the report: They have a 12- vehicle fleet, with wheel chair accessibility for 13 wheel chairs. The new bus will take 3 chairs at a time. TCTS took over the medical shuttle that had been operated out of Middleton. Huge catchment area – Bear River to Aylesford. A flat fee of \$70 will get you to Halifax appointments and bring you home. The annual membership fee is \$20, and everyone who uses the service becomes a member. Kings Transit has allowed their facility to be used for vehicle maintenance. From January through December 2015, there were 22,275 passenger trips, with a total travelled of 247,616 kms. Councillor Hurlburt moved, seconded by Councillor Connell, to receive for information. Motion carried unanimously.

Re: Upper Clements Parks – Gino Thibault, General Manager reported on this not-for-profit society run by a volunteer board, and he is the only paid member. There was a major change in marketing resulting in an increase from 100,000 hits on the website in 2013 and had 15 million hits and 4,000 actual visits in 2015. Growth was seen this year from 65,000 to 75,000 visitors. Lots of changes have been made and there are more to come. They employed

175 people and were open 82 days in 2015. Added a tower to the adventure park, which will have the highest freefall ride in Canada, and highest of that type in North America. A Pirate village will be ready for opening for June 2016. The canteen moved to the adventure park and changes to the Flume Ride will make it more efficient and easier to manage. Paul Buxton is helping with engineering. He gave the Board slides from when the park was built, and as a result the museum will be expanded. Working towards is a campground which will provide no services so that it is not in competition with other campgrounds. It will just be an added service for larger events like the September 2016, Mud Sweat and Tears event, which will be the last race venue for the year, and the first time in Nova Scotia. Another project under way, with an 'agreement in principle' is having a bus run from the Digby ferry to the park. They would also like expand this to run a bus for nursing homes, youth groups, as an aid to community groups. As noted earlier, the Park hosts a day for Special Olympians and their families, and they encourage the AVRIL reading plan, with more than 5,000 fast passes awarded. Ground Search and Rescue has used grounds for training, winter training, as does Project Lifesaver Association of Nova Scotia. They have also held discussion with REMO Annapolis to see how the facility could serve in the event of an emergency. Councillor LeBlanc moved, seconded by Councillor Fowler, to receive the report for information.

Re: Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) Community Supports – Alice Morse, Coordinator of Fund Development and Communications, reported that VON provides quality home and community care in Ontario and Nova Scotia. 350 staff and 70 volunteers provide home support nursing care and community programs such as: Meals on Wheels, Frozen Favourites, Edible Art Café, Pie Are Squared (where taste tests are happening right now, based on locally produced foods, Companionship Transportation Program, Volunteer Visiting Program, and an Adult Day Program in Middleton and Berwick. A recent Alzheimer Project, interpreting art, will be held at the Chapel Gallery, ARTSPlace, Annapolis Royal. Opening day is March 6th. She encouraged all to go see what the clients have done. It was moved by Councillor LeBlanc, seconded by Councillor McDonald to receive for information. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence received.

Adjournment

Upon motion of Councillor LeBlanc and Deputy Warden Habinski, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. All were invited to stay for lunch, and Mrs. Hazel Johnson was asked to say grace for the meal.

Warden

Municipal Clerk