

they are asking Council to do is to allow staff to bring forward a package that clearly identifies strategic plan for capital works, identify what those costs are, identify when the capital works will be put in the ground and determine how they will be paid for.

He said where there is a shortfall of revenue then they are asking the question how significant capital works are going to be funded. He said the policy does not limit council in paying for it or putting in place a financial mechanism to charge back certain portions of the capital works.

Deputy Mayor Cooper asked with regards to infilling in the present serviced areas, how the Utility was going to establish costs for that.

Mr. Brothers said at the present time the majority of serviceable boundary that is in Lower Sackville has the main system in place. Areas such as Sackville West and the portion going out to Middle Sackville there is a large tract of land that is presently unserviced. There will have to be capital expenditures in terms of larger diameter watermain, booster station and probably another reservoir to be located in the Liveley Subdivision area. He said they are not, at this time, proposing lot levies would apply for future capital works although the Policy clearly, if council so desires, could employ that type of philosophy. He said all they are proposing is a method by which Council can utilize a Water Service Districts and if Council desires the same philosophy can be applied elsewhere. He said they are not proposing, at this point in time, to employ a user pay philosophy for extensions of service in the serviceable boundary but Council may wish to have that option available to it.

Deputy Mayor Cooper said that the impression he receives from the report is that those incoming services will be paid by those using them. He asked if that is what would happen if Council adopts the report.

Mr. Brothers said they were originally looking for some financial options as a result of having a consultant try to set forth some sort of framework. He said staff looked at that and said it was somewhat restrictive in employing the full user pay philosophy across the board. He said their presentation has modified that somewhat to allow Council a variety of options that would be prepared by staff. One of these is a user pay option. He said they are modifying the policy in the sense of having Halifax County prepare a variety of options for Council's consideration some of which may be a user pay in the sense of apportioning a certain amount of the costs to users. He said it would be Council's decision as to how it wants to apply or apportion certain capital costs to end users.

He said over the last number of years they have been able to generate significant surpluses over the past four or five years. He said the rates are not established for future capital works. The rates are crafted in such a way as to represent what the depreciation costs are and what the operations costs are. He said they have been able to generate significant profits because they have sustained significant growth over the last eight or nine years in the Utility as a result of significant increase in the customer base and because they have reduced their costs by reducing the water loss.

Mayor Ball said over the years the Utility has made contributions to the development of infrastructure based on the recovery from the number of anticipated customers. Mr. Brothers confirmed this.

Mayor Ball said that what is being presented here does not detract from that initiative. Mr. Brothers said that it is in no way intended that the Utility will not contribute as it has in the past in terms of getting new customers and generating revenue. He said what they are proposing is that the Utility not be a profit centre but to take whatever net revenues generated and put that back in and support new infrastructure extensions both to Halifax County and the Town of Bedford.

Mayor Ball said there is a point in time that Council has to make some decision, in the future, on infrastructure and how it is going to be funded. He said it may not be able to continue to be done as it was in the past because of the depletion of Federal and Provincial funds.

Deputy Mayor Cooper asked can the Municipality, looking at any future profits the Utility may make, do as Dartmouth does and take the dividends.

Mayor Ball said that could be done under certain circumstances.

Councillor Merrigan said what this policy is indicating that the Water Utility will end up being neutral on any changes. He said the Utility is saying that it is giving Council the option to determine how they are going to pay for it etc. He said this policy is taking away the ability of Council to say to the Water Utility it is to take on certain expenditures. He said this policy excludes the Water Utility from spending the money. He said the Policy states that expansions are going to be revenue neutral for the Water Utility.

Mr. Brothers said that is essentially correct. For the Utility to expend dollars they have to, outside of Council to do so, send a request to the Utility Review Board for final approval for expenditure. During that review process the Board will look at the expenditure of the Utility and look at what the implications

of that expenditure are. For servicing of new areas where the Utility may generate approximately fifty thousand dollars a year and have an expenditure of one million dollars, the Board would have a very dim view of the Utility taking substantial expenditure and taking on a financial liability from large expenditures where the revenue would not generate sufficient funds to cover the debt. He said the Utility has basically been a purveyor of water and to operate a Utility on a cost neutral basis.

Councillor Merrigan said this policy ties the hands of Council from going into the Water Utility surplus and use it. He asked if that policy was in place when the Utility took on Sackville.

Mr. Wdowiak said the original system which was designed and constructed by the Department of Housing was actually donated to the Halifax County Water Utility. He said when the Utility was set up they then became involved with getting a source of water from Pockwock with the construction of the transmission main.

Mr. Brothers said that servicing to Beaverbank was factored into the size of the main when extensions were put on Stokil and Millwood Drive. The capability for the Beaverbank area is available in the system as a result of other expansions and loopings undertaken by the Utility. He said that may be a factor in terms of the cost analysis providing service extensions where the system presently is incapable, is not adequately sized, to provide for high demands for a new area.

Councillor Merrigan asked if proper pressures are to be provided for these areas and if the developer who develops the area does not provide this is the Utility going to take responsibility for this.

Mr. Brothers said that is a cost factor in determining what it is going to cost to service that area. He said an analysis would have to be done to determine the deficiency in the system and the cost.

Councillor Merrigan said he feels that the Water Utility has the responsibility to ensure that if they go to a property line there is sufficient pressure.

Mr. Brothers said the question is at what point do you shift the burden of cost back to the existing user and existing system to subsidize or upgrade facilities for extension. He said what they have tried to attempt to do is identify significant capital costs that the Utility has in it's planned works which are substantial over the next five years. He said if they were to look at the full upgrading costs for extensions to Bedford South whether it be all of the water service districts the water rates would substantially increase to provide upgraded facilities for all

these new areas. He said he does not feel the policy limits Council's determination in the terms of who pays.

Councillor Merrigan said he feels it ties Council's hands to request the Water Utility to make a contribution.

Councillor Hendsbee asked if there has been any cost savings as a result of infrastructure dollars.

Mr. Brothers said they have not solicited any funding.

Councillor Hendsbee asked what would be the next phase if this policy was adopted.

Mr. Wdowiak said they have already done the plan of what is required in the way of major capital for the Water Utility over the next number of years.

Mr. Brothers said the plan is virtually complete for the Kingswood/Blue Mountain and Windsor Junction area. The plan will be fully completed for the Beaverbank area when that project goes underway. The main infrastructure is there for Lakeside/Timberlea and would just require some modifications to accommodate some of the new larger developments. There are some pockets of smaller extensions which could require some engineering work to prepare a plan but it is substantially completed in the Halifax County Water Utility Service area. In terms of the Dartmouth area he feels they have shown some leadership of trying to map out where water extensions will go in the Dartmouth area consistent with this policy. He said there is significant infrastructure planning that has to take place in the Dartmouth area. This would have to be with participation of the Dartmouth Water Utility at this point in time.

Deputy Mayor Cooper said if there is any return from the projects on the Eastern side will any part of that return be given to the residents of the project areas.

Mr. Wdowiak said on any of these projects the Dartmouth Utility contributes a portion to the capital works based on the net revenues that they generate from that particular project. It is a relatively small amount but it is the same as being done in Halifax County.

MOTION CARRIED

DOG BY-LAW COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Giffin, seconded by Councillor Brill:

'THAT COUNCILLOR SNOW BE APPOINTED TO THE DOG BY-LAW COMMITTEE'

It was moved by Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Giffin:

'THAT COUNCILLOR SCRATCH BE APPOINTED TO THE DOG BY-LAW COMMITTEE'

It was moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Giffin:

'THAT COUNCILLOR PETERS BE APPOINTED TO THE DOG BY-LAW COMMITTEE'

It was moved by Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Rankin:

'THAT NOMINATIONS CEASE'

MOTION CARRIED

WESTERN REGION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

It was moved by Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Rankin:

"THAT A LETTER BE WRITTEN TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, WITH A COPY TO THE ECONOMIC RENEWAL AGENCY, ASKING THAT THE HOURS FOR THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES BE EXTENDED TO BETTER SERVE THE TOURISM INDUSTRY"

MOTION CARRIED

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR GIFFIN

Councillor Giffin said that a tender would be forthcoming for an expansion to the Hammonds Plains Elementary School to commence when school closes. He said he would like to have a letter written to the Minister of Education with a copy to the School Board.

It was moved by Councillor Giffin, seconded by Councillor Deveaux:

'THAT A LETTER BE WRITTEN TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION REQUESTING THAT IN RECOGNITION OF THE TREMENDOUS EXPANSION IN THE AREA THAT THEY GIVE CONSIDERATION TO PUTTING A JUNIOR HIGH FOR GRADES 1-9 ON A HIGH PRIORITY LIST'

MOTION CARRIED

URGENT AGENDA ITEMS

Education Funding - Councillor Deveaux

Councillor Deveaux said he would like to have a letter written to the Minister of Education expressing Halifax County's concern

with the proposed high percentage of cutbacks for this coming year - 2.9% - which will undoubtedly lower the standard of education in the province. Request that the proposed cutbacks be decreased and administered over a longer period of time in order to allow School Boards more flexibility in adjusting to these said cutbacks. He said he would like a copy of the letter sent to the Premier, the leader of both opposition parties, Halifax County MLA's and the School Board.

It was moved by Councillor Deveaux, seconded by Councillor Mitchell:

'THAT A LETTER EXPRESSING HIS CONCERNS BE WRITTEN TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION'

MOTION CARRIED

DOT - Councillor Naugle

It was moved by Councillor Naugle, seconded by Councillor Deveaux:

'THAT A LETTER BE WRITTEN TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REQUESTING A CROSSWALK AT THORNE CRESCENT AND CALDWELL ROAD'

MOTION CARRIED

Day Care - Councillor Merrigan

Councillor Merrigan said it has recently come to his attention that the Province of Nova Scotia approved, in last years budget, fifty new subsidized day care spaces. He said they were supposed to be implemented on January 1, 1995. He said it has not yet been indicated where these spaces are going to be and therefore they are not available. He said he would like to have a letter written to the Minister of Community Services asking when these spaces are going to be allocated and are they going to be retroactive and if not, why not.

It was moved by Councillor Merrigan, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee:

"THAT A LETTER BE WRITTEN TO THE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SERVICES REQUESTING INFORMATION ON THE SUBSIDIZED DAY CARE SPACES"

MOTION CARRIED

FCM - Mayor Ball

Mayor Ball said he would like to have direction with regards to

bookings and registration for FCM.

It was moved by Councillor Bates, seconded by Councillor Meade:

'THAT MAYOR BALL BE AUTHORIZED TO ARRANGE HALIFAX COUNTY REPRESENTATION AND ATTENDANCE AT THE FCM CONFERENCE"

MOTION CARRIED

UNSM - Mayor Ball

Mayor Ball said he feels it is time a decision was made with regards to Halifax County's representation as a member of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities. He said he would suggest that Halifax County pay the membership dues for the remainder of this fiscal year to March 31st at which time Halifax County should take leave of UNSM for one year. He said if at the end of the one year amalgamation does not occur, Halifax County can reassess it's position.

It was moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Merrigan:

'THAT NOTICE OF MOTION BE GIVEN FOR THE FEBRUARY 21, 1995 COUNCIL SESSION THAT COUNCIL WOULD, ON APRIL 1, 1995 BE WITHDRAWING FROM THE UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUNICIPALITIES"

MOTION CARRIED

DOT- Councillor Rankin

It was moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Fralick:

'THAT A LETTER BE WRITTEN TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REQUESTING A "HIDDEN DRIVEWAY" OR EQUIVALENT WARNING SIGN BE POSTED AT THE SENIOR CITIZENS MANOR (TIMBERLEA) AS IT EXITS ONTO THE NO. 3 HIGHWAY"

MOTION CARRIED

ADDITION OF ITEMS TO FEBRUARY 21, 1995

Councillor Deveaux - Free Votes in the Commons and Legislature

Councillor Giffin - DOT - March 7, 1995 Session

Councillor Sutherland - Early Retirement, County of Halifax, 1993

Councillor Merrigan - Beaverbank Servicing

Councillor Fralick - Federal Department of Fisheries

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councillor Mitchell:

'THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED'

MOTION CARRIED

COUNCIL SESSION

February 21, 1995

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Ball
Councillor Meade
Councillor Rankin
Councillor Fralick
Councillor Mitchell
Councillor Bates
Councillor Hendsbee
Councillor Levy
Councillor Dooks
Councillor Smiley
Councillor Reid
Councillor Naugle
Councillor Merrigan
Councillor Brill
Councillor Snow
Councillor Hache
Councillor Scratch
Councillor Harvey
Councillor Sutherland
Councillor Turner
Councillor McInroy
Deputy Mayor Cooper

ALSO PRESENT: K. R. Meech, Chief Administrative Officer
Nancy Dempsey Crossman, Municipal Clerk
Fred Crooks, Municipal Solicitor

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The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer. Ms. Dempsey Crossman called roll.

APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING SECRETARY

It was moved by Councillor Fralick, seconded by Councillor Snow:

"THAT JULIA HORNCastle BE APPOINTED AS RECORDING
SECRETARY"

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Brill:

"THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 7, 1995 COUNCIL
SESSION BE APPROVED"

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Harvey:

"THAT THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 27, 1994 SPECIAL COUNCIL SESSION BE APPROVED"

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Sutherland:

'THAT THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 26, 1994 PUBLIC HEARING BE APPROVED"

MOTION CARRIED

LETTERS AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. Ms. Dempsey Crossman outlined a letter from the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General dealing with public consultation on prostitution stating they are holding a one day forum and they have reserved three spaces for municipal representatives.

It was moved by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Dooks:

"THAT THE LETTER BE RECEIVED"

MOTION CARRIED

The representatives to the forum would be Mayor Ball, Councillor Turner and Councillor Dooks.

2. Ms. Dempsey Crossman outlined a letter from Brooke Taylor, MLA, with regards to destination signing on Exits 11 and 12 on Highway 102.

It was moved by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Mitchell:

"THAT THE LETTER BE RECEIVED"

MOTION CARRIED

3. Ms. Dempsey Crossman outlined a letter from the Halifax County Bedford District School Board requesting council's support in asking the Department of Education review their school area rate legislation.

It was moved by Councillor Sutherland, seconded by Councillor

Turner:

"THAT THE LETTER BE RECEIVED"

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Hache:

"THAT A LETTER BE WRITTEN TO THE MINISTER ASKING FOR CLARIFICATION OF SCHOOL AREA RATE AS PUT FORWARD IN THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD"

MOTION WITHDRAWN

It was moved by Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Rankin:

"THAT REPRESENTATIVES FROM COUNCIL REQUEST TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD TO CLARIFY AND COME UP WITH A UNIFIED POSITION ON THIS ISSUE"

MOTION CARRIED

The two council representatives are Councillor Reid and Councillor Rankin.

4. Ms. Dempsey Crossman outlined a letter from the Minister, Economic Renewal Agency providing an update on Tourism in Nova Scotia in 1994 and asking for continued support in 1995.

It was moved by Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Brill:

"THAT THE LETTER BE RECEIVED"

MOTION CARRIED

5. Ms. Dempsey Crossman outlined a letter from the Department of Transportation and Communications advising they are willing to do a name change in the Blind Bay area to Big Lake.

It was moved by Councillor Sutherland, seconded by Councillor Mitchell:

"THAT THE LETTER BE RECEIVED"

MOTION CARRIED

6. Ms. Dempsey Crossman outlined a letter from the Office of the Prime Minister in response to council's correspondence with regards to the G7 Summit.

It was moved by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Hache:

"THAT THE LETTER BE RECEIVED"

MOTION CARRIED

7. Ms. Dempsey Crossman outlined a letter from the Society of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nova Scotians thanking council for their grant.

It was moved by Councillor Sutherland, seconded by Councillor Hache:

"THAT THE LETTER BE RECEIVED"

MOTION CARRIED

8. Ms. Dempsey Crossman outlined a letter from the Metropolitan Halifax Chamber of Commerce advising that they endorse the proposal for Commuter Rail Service from Halifax County to Downtown Halifax.

It was moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee:

"THAT THE LETTER BE RECEIVED"

Councillor Scratch said this could address many problems which are pointed in the letter. She said she hopes that one of the priorities is for the residents of Sackville/Beaverbank to access the commuter train in a reasonable way.

MOTION CARRIED

9. Ms. Dempsey Crossman outlined a letter from Canada Post in response to council's correspondence on the Eastern Passage Post Office.

It was moved by Councillor Naugle, seconded by Councillor Fralick:

'THAT THE LETTER BE RECEIVED"

MOTION CARRIED

SUPPLEMENTARY LETTERS AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. Ms. Dempsey Crossman outlined a letter from the Halifax - Dartmouth Port Development Commission advising that the House of Commons Standing Committee on Transport will be hearing submissions on federal marine policy during the week of February

27 and they enclose the commission's position on this policy.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Mitchell:

"THAT THE LETTER BE RECEIVED"

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Mitchell:

"THAT COUNCIL TAKE A STAND IN SUPPORT OF THE CONCLUSIONS AND NOTIFY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT OF THAT REGARD"

MOTION CARRIED

2. Ms. Dempsey Crossman outlined a letter from Public Works and Government Services Canada giving advance notice that a property in Boutiliers Point will soon be declared surplus federal property.

It was moved by Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Fralick:

"THAT THE LETTER BE RECEIVED"

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATION BY EAST PRESTON RECREATION ASSOCIATION

It was moved by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Snow:

"THAT THE LETTER FROM THE EAST PRESTON RECREATION ASSOCIATION REQUESTING AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS COUNCIL BE RECEIVED"

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Ball said that for the record the policy is that a request is made and two weeks notice is given but council reserves the right to vote on whether or not they wish to hear a presentation.

It was moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Smiley:

"THAT MRS. SMITH MAKE A PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL"

MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Hendsbee said he had requested that when this issue came before council both organizations in the Preston area be

given an opportunity to speak.

Mayor Ball said that previous to this meeting starting Councillor Hendsbee had been checking the hard copy of the session in question. He asked Councillor Hendsbee that in checking the hard copy was that said on the hard copy.

Councillor Hendsbee said he could not find any indication that the request had been made when checking the hard copy but he assured the Mayor that the request had been made.

Council agreed to make a decision with regards to hearing the East Preston Ratepayers Association address council at such time that the request is made.

Councillor Hendsbee asked if council would have an opportunity to question the speaker after the presentation had been made.

Mayor Ball said if there are any questions arising out of the presentation any council member will have an opportunity to ask those questions. He said it is his understanding in checking the policy council adopted it is a questioning of the items but not debate of the issue with the presenter.

Ms. Marilyn Smith, President, East Preston Recreation Association addressed council. She confirmed that a projected budget had been circulated to council. She said she had written the letter of request to address council in order to give clarification and update council on what has taken place with regards to the expansion. She said they came up with a budget for running the facility and they feel that it is a workable budget. They have come up with an income of approximately \$68,000 which is broken down into different areas such as donations, fundraising, monthly rentals, centre rentals, program membership, canteen and a catering service. She said there is an area rate in place which generates \$9,000. She said at present a portion of that is going towards an outstanding debt on the ball diamond. The difference goes towards the maintenance of the building. One of their goals was if they received the new building would be put on major fundraisers to eliminate that debt on the ball diamond. To have the full nine thousand dollars from the area rate go into the overhead costs was going to be one of their suggestions. She said there is not anything between them and the locals organizations in their community from working together. She said there is not anything being done to keep anybody from being involved with this project.

She said they plan to start a newsletter by getting donations from people who would advertise. She said they plan to do up flyers that they can send to organizations within and without the community to inform everyone as to the new facilities, what is being offered, price ranges, etc. She said the new facility, in

their opinion, is not something that is beyond their means. It is something that can accommodate the whole community. There are many different avenues that they looked at when they sat down to do this and what they come up with was, "let's be realistic and try to deal with something that is going to suit our community's needs and not our wants by coming up with something that we know down the road we are not going to be able to handle". She said they came up with a project by adding onto the existing building which would consist of a gymnasium. It would give them changing rooms for lockers etc. It would give them space whereby they would have a facility they could rent to outside organizations. A lot of the new space is going to exist in the existing building which will mean the seniors will take place in the existing building. Also, a meeting room and a multi purpose room will be put in. At present the centre is running completely on community support and volunteers. From that they are able to keep a budget in perspective by ending every year with a small profit. Right now they have one area that they can rent out to people and are faced with the problem of refusing bookings. She said as a result they are limited as to what they can offer. With the new facilities there will be five spaces that they will be able to book. There will be a gymnasium, a weight room, and rooms so that there can be up to five functions going on in the building at one time. She said for those reasons they feel they are able to maintain this building to suit their community.

She said she and members of the community feel that this project can benefit their community in nothing but a positive way. She said they feel that they, the Recreation Association, believe in the project and feel confident in it's success. The new facility will be a real asset to the community within the growth of it. It is going to create meeting places, not just for meetings but also as a place for people to come and meet their friends. It will be looked upon as a learning centre. She said it can be a place where they can offer tutoring and have people come in and put on workshops or seminars in their particular field. It will create a pride within the community. It will give the youth a more positive attitude about the community. She said the youth presently feel there is not much to do in the community and this facility will be some place where they can go. It will also enable the residents to keep a better control as to how the youth's in the area are spending their free time. She said it is going to give those children and other people in the community an opportunity they may not otherwise have. She said this will provide an opportunity whereby any child who wishes can come into the centre to do a project on a computer or just to come to a place where they can study quietly. She said they feel it will also create a healthier environment and hopefully the facility will become a popular place in the community. The Recreation centre is getting to be a place in the community where people feel comfortable. She said a lot of community people are getting very tired and frustrated with what they have to go through to

get something that is going to benefit them in the long run in as far as learning and other things.

She said they were not asking for anything beyond their means, just a facility that was going to accommodate the whole community, that people could come to. She said if all the community groups wanted to meet on the one night, they would not have to refuse them if they had the new centre. She said some of the problems with the first proposal that was sent in was that it was felt that some of their dollar figures were unrealistic. She said they live in an unique community and they have to have a lot of people who are willing to come in and volunteer. She said they have people who are willing to volunteer to put on functions and classes and all aspects that they may ask for. She said most times they have volunteers for whenever they are required at no cost. She said they can get repair and maintenance at a cost that in most cases is not covering the costs to the person doing the work. She said these people are willing to help because they are seeing something positive taking place.

She said they want the opportunity and a chance to do something and make a difference and they feel confident in doing this and it can happen in the community. She said she had been involved in many school meetings and community education and she has found that every community is looking for something for their youth to do to occupy them and keep them out of trouble. She said by providing this rec centre they can do this. She said council has the means to help these children. She said they are struggling to help the children because the facility they have limits them as to what they can do. She said that is why they are trying to get this project of the ground and they feel that it can be a positive thing for them and they are trying to get it to a point where it will be a reality.

Councillor Hendsbee said he had asked Ms. Smith for documentation of what was being presented tonight. He said he has many concerns. He said he feels there are a lot of concerns that need to be addressed. He asked what information Ms. Smith had or able to provide to council, executive or the recreation department to substantiate some of the projections that are listed. He asked how she was planning to raise twenty thousand dollars in fundraising, through what components. He asked what kind of monthly functions rentals and what kind of business plan does she have to project these numbers. He said the projected programs and membership equals ten thousand dollars, and he said in a community of all less three hundred households it would be equivalent to seventy five or eighty percent sign up of the community. He asked what the membership rate was going to be. He said the canteen and kitchen reflects revenues of ten thousand versus a canteen cost of only three thousand. He said he realizes there will be a lot of volunteer components with regards to staff requirement but in his experience with regards to

restaurants is that there is a forty percent not a thirty percent cost. He said there has to be some more detailed information provided and he was hoping to have an opportunity for discussion with her organization to have this information brought out.

Ms. Smith said she has that information and did not go into it because of the time factor. She said as far as donations, they plan to do a newsletter to sell space and it may generate the projected figure. She said they also plan, which she has started, to solicit people to take advertising space on the gymnasium walls. She said they are in the middle of and have just about completed applying for a charitable number. With a charitable number it will increase donations. She has had several people come to her to say that a charitable number can increase donations. She said if people are going to make charitable donations they might as well be giving to their community. With a charitable number they will increase donations, fund raising. She said if for example you put on a walk-a-thon people who are giving you \$5.00 would probably now give you twenty dollars because they can put it on their income tax. She said they have several major events that they are going to put on annually and hopefully, over the years, they become well known like other events that take place. She said they will get known so that people will know that in the Spring the Recreation Centre is having their spring ball or spring gala and they will plan for that. She said they have raffles, dances. She said they presently have a DJ that is free in order to give the children an opportunity for some place to go. She said last year they started a flea market where people come in and sell their things. She said they are going to zero in on this and make that a two or three times a year event. She said that will create revenue. She said with regards to monthly rentals they have started with the NS Karate Association. They have started in the community and they have thirty six children. She said there is monthly membership from them. She said the Lions Club pays them a monthly membership. She said the Lions Club is also working on getting involved with bingo and should that become a reality, that will increase revenue. She said at the present with one space for rent they can generate anywhere from fifteen hundred to two thousand dollars. She said they now have five spaces and this new building that they can now book out. She said with the five spaces available for rental she does not see any reason why they cannot generate seventy five hundred dollars. She said with these extra spaces for renting they are going to eliminate a problem that they have now with refusing bookings because of lack of space. She said they have a small membership now and they charge people five dollars. She said they have put this on hold until they see where they are going with this project. She said hopefully once the charitable number is in place, we can probably solicit family memberships or single memberships. She said they will have a weight room which a fee will be charged for. She said they presently offer aerobics, ceramics and tutoring and

they will get into more programs. She said they do not go to the county for these programs. She said maybe a request will be coming to the county to implement some programs that they can do. She said with this new building the possibilities of the type of fundraisers or programs that can be offered are unlimited because they have a gym where they can put on tournaments such as volleyball and basketball. It can be rented on the weekends and there are lots of groups now that take functions to other areas because there is no place in the community where you can put on a function. She said they will now have the space where they can offer these facilities to people. She said because there is lack of a proper space where a wedding can be held people leave the community. She said with the new rec centre and the proper facility with a multi purpose room where people can go and eat and then retire to the gymnasium for a dance. She said two years ago they operated a canteen just during ball season and they made seventeen hundred dollars profit from just selling pop, chips, bars, hot dogs and hamburgers. With all the sports going on and a canteen open she does not see any reason why they can't generate ten thousand dollars. She said they are willing to open the kitchen for any function that goes on at that centre providing the group that is booking don't want that money for themselves. She said they already have an area rate in place which is nine thousand dollars. She said they want to get in to offering a catering service. She said there are people in the community now that will go to church organizations and ask them to cater a supper etc. and they are being paid to do it. She said they don't always want to do it because of the time and space they have in the existing kitchen but with the newly equipped kitchen, we can offer the right means. She said if a person can book the centre and not have the headache of serving food then they feel that is another service that they can offer. She said they don't think that this money is going to fall into their hands, they know they have to work for it. She said they have an executive now that couldn't work any harder if they were being paid to do it. She said with the amount of volunteer support they get, they feel they can handle those and make those costs a reality. With regards to the twenty thousand dollars from fundraising over a year she said with twenty functions a year they can zero in on making a thousand dollars profit. She said they are going to do that and with support they will do it. She said there are many people in the community that want this and therefore she can't see it failing.

She said she feels they can handle it and she said it is not her intention to come to this meeting to lay blame anywhere or to put a finger on anyone but to bring across the facts. She said at any time when this project was first started it was made quite clear that Councillor Hendsbee was not in favour of the project. She said anything she has said here tonight she has in writing.

Councillor Hendsbee said the fundraising expense is twenty

percent of the fundraising targets. He said there is twenty thousand in fundraising versus four thousand in expenses. He said over the past three years from the financial records provided to the recreation department the fundraising expenses were more than forty percent of the cost of the money raised. He said he would like to know how they expect to dramatically change the percentage of fundraising costs to the fundraising expenses to the fund raising ratios.

Ms. Smith said because they have a new building now. With this new building they have completely changed the attitudes of people. They are working with the building that is there and are constantly trying to get money to change things. She said they now have a new facility that everybody is going to benefit from and because everybody has been revived they now feel they can counter those costs. She said when she met with Mr. Markesino, Blair Blakney and other representatives from her executive she, at that time, did not know and still didn't know there was any such account called an escrow account. She said because she is so confident that they can pull this off she said she had told Mr. Markesino if the county is going to decide they want to give them or put forth their one sixth funding she does not want the money because she wants to prove to council that they can do this. She said she would like to see the one sixth funding put in some kind of an account that, if they needed extra money, there is an account where they can go and ask for that money. She said she is sure that they can generate the dollars. She said it will be work but they are committed.

Councillor Hendsbee asked what her opinion was of the community ability to generate extra revenue.

Councillor Rankin said he feels the lady has answered that question.

Councillor Hendsbee said he feels there are a lot of questions to be answered to the satisfaction of the community and he as councillor. He said he feels the executive committee should have dealt with this before it came to council.

Mayor Ball said this issue was brought to council on May 19, 1994 with the Lake Echo project. He said the Lake Echo project was moved forward and this project has been deferred time and time again. He said he does not want to debate the issue but in fairness he said that council deferred this decision on December 19, 1994 awaiting a staff report being brought back to council as soon as possible in the new year.

Councillor Hendsbee said this project never got off to the right start anyway. He asked if there will be an opportunity to ask questions on the staff report.

Mayor Ball said when council has dealt with the presentation the recommendation in the staff report will come forward.

Councillor Hendsbee asked if he could address questions Ms. Lewis when the staff report comes forward.

Mayor Ball said he would leave it up to council.

Staff report

Mr. Meech said the staff report indicates that council approve the application of the East Preston Recreation Association for expansion to the centre at an estimated cost of 1.1 million dollars and that capital funding be provided from the infrastructure program with federal contribution 550 thousand, provincial contribution 550 thousand; that the municipality implement the project in partnership with a Community Project Committee, represented by the key stakeholders as follows: -East Preston Recreation Association, as the lead agency, will appoint the Chair and one additional representative; -one member representing the East preston Ratepayers association; - one member representing the East preston Senior's Club; - one member serving as a non-partisan resident at large (appointed by the committee) and; - one member representing the local church organization. The Parks and Recreation Department will provide staff resource to work in cooperation with this community committee, to facilitate the project through the proper municipal procedures for a project of this nature. Further, it is recommended that a one sixth capital funding (\$183,000) be approved by the municipality to be placed in escrow and utilized to retire the existing debt (\$13,000) plus to provide an annual subsidy to the facility based on need for a period of 7 - 10 years. The details on procedures for the accessing of the escrow fund would have to be developed.

It was moved by Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Rankin:

THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS AS OUTLINED BE APPROVED BY
COUNCIL"

Councillor Hendsbee said he would like to have the ratepayers representative speak before the motion is voted on.

Councillor Merrigan asked if this one sixth funding was within policy.

Mr. Meech said the one sixth program is for capital purposes but council could reduce the federal/provincial capital contribution in both cases and those monies could be set aside in the escrow and then the municipality would replace that with the one sixth capital grant.

Councillor Merrigan asked if the county was able to do this within the one sixth funding guidelines.

Mr. Meech said yes as long as council is prepared to do it. The policy on this speaks to the issue of making a capital grant.

Mayor Ball said the county could, without talking to the federal or provincial government take the \$182,000, put it in the account and the county put it's \$182,000 in the bank.

Councillor Hendsbee said he has had discussions with the MP for the area, Ron MacDonald, and Wayne Adams on November 7th and 25th in regards to this issue plus other issues of infrastructure importance in the Preston area. At that time the discussion was that the allocations of county participation in the East Preston Rec Centre and other monies to be allocated to other projects that need in the Preston Community, the North Preston area. Now it has been totally thrown out he window.

Mayor Ball asked if Councillor Hendsbee had this in writing.

Councillor Hendsbee said that the last time this issue was at council, council was given copies of those letters dated December 12 and 13 with regards to the breakdown of that and also discussion that county participation would provide opportunities for other monies to be allocated to the North Preston Rec Centre specifically. The amount is not included here. He said he has some reservations and concerns with certain aspects of the report. He said he does not have a problem with approving the 1.1 million dollar expansion and have council to do this to the facility as it is a county building and it requires county consent to do that work. He said he has no problem giving that consent. He said with regards to the composition of the committee there is a long involved background to that which council should be aware of. He said it was his understanding that the Lions Club would be considered in the composition of the committee. It said it was a major fundraising partner with regards to community effort. He said he has had lengthy discussions and opportunities to discuss with the ratepayers organization of East Preston for trying to maintain a balance and an equal opportunity where both sides could have a mutual respect and cooperation for each other and he does not see that coming through in this recommendation. He said there is no opportunities for the Recreation Association to at least hear those concerns. He said he had asked Ms. Smith for an opportunity to speak with her and she refused on all counts. He said he went to Mr. Adams last Monday, February 13th, to ask him for the possibility of interjecting to ask Ms. Smith to allow the county an opportunity to bring both sides together to go forward with this project. He said the correspondence did not reflect the request he made.

Mayor Ball said he feels it should be stated for the record that he and Councillor Hendsbee met with both sides and they know the result of that meeting.

Councillor Hendsbee said that they both said that the county would be putting the committee together and talked about the composition, ratepayers, recreation, seniors and Lions. Those are the four groups. He said he believes that when the Executive Assistant for Mr. Adams had asked if it was spearheaded by Recreation he, Councillor Hendsbee, had said no it was to be by the county.

Mayor Ball asked Councillor Hendsbee if his only difficulty right now is that one representative from the Lions Club should be included in that report.

Councillor Hendsbee said his difficulty is that he feels there should be more of a balance in that community group.

Mayor Ball asked who decides that balance.

Councillor Hendsbee said he feels the county should make that decision because that was what was discussed with Mr. Adams.

Mayor Ball said this is a county staff report.

Councillor Hendsbee referenced the background of the report where it states "following the council deferral of this issue, the Parks and Recreation Department were asked to mediate a resolution between the two bodies so that this worthwhile community project can proceed" He said it goes on to say that however it should be clear that the Parks and Recreation Department has dealt solely with the East Preston Recreation Association because recreation deals recreation and that's it. The role of the Recreation Association in East Preston is to deal with recreation programs and when it comes to a project of this magnitude it is the consensus of the community that it goes to the community organizations that have always been respected and that is the Ratepayers organization. He said he is not asking for the ratepayers to head this committee nor is he asking for the recreation to head it up but is asking for equal balance representation between the two groups. He said he would like to amend the staff report that: a) that there be two community representatives of the Ratepayers Association b) two community representatives from the Recreation Association c) one member from the Lions Club d) one member from a resident at large, preferably a senior. He said they could come together on a committee with the support and help of the county recreation staff and the county councillor as ex-officio to this committee. He said in other areas the councillor has input with regards to recreational projects. He said he is ex-officio on the Lake Echo project so why should he be treated any different anywhere else

within his district. He said he will not have any voting privileges but that he wants to make sure that everything is done fairly and above board which would bring rest to his mind because that is a responsibility he has to bear to make sure things are done in a fair and reasonable fashion and on the up and up. He said he would like to see a fair balance of representation and cooperation between the two organizations with perhaps a representative from the Ratepayers and Recreation co-chairing the committee.

Mayor Ball said it was his understanding when they came out of the meeting three weeks ago was that Mr. Blakeney was to go out and prepare, with recreation staff, a recommendation as to the setup from an objective point of view. That is the recommendation that came back.

COUNCIL AGREED TO DEFER CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSION TO THE END OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

AMENDMENTS TO THE HERITAGE HILLS DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

Mr. Jan Skora made the staff presentation. He said an application has been received from Anahid Investments to amend the provision of the Heritage Hills CDD located in Eastern Passage. This development agreement applies to a parcel of land, approximately 130 acres, which allows for development of 525 parcels. He said the first stage is presently being developed. He said the developers have indicated that the first three lots cannot meet the standards established through the development agreement process. He said the applicant is therefore requesting to amend the provision. He said presently the standards are saying that the lots have to be a minimum of 60 feet from the ditch and have an area of 5800 square feet. He said the developer is proposing to reduce the minimum lot area to 5200 square feet and maintain the present 68 feet frontage requirements.

He said the second part of the request is to amend the frontage requirements of the three lots and reduce the requirements from 30 feet to 25 feet. In staff's opinion this amendment is minor and can be considered through a motion of council.

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Councillor Naugle asked if staff was not concerned with regards to the setback even though there will be heavy traffic flow on the street.

Mr. Skora said staff checked with the Department of Transportation on this issue and they have no concerns in terms of reducing this front yard requirement. He said the depth of the lot at 60, the requirement of 30 feet of setback and the 8

foot sideyard requirement will allow the developer more flexibility. He said this gives plenty of space in the front yard to allow for two to three parking spaces on the lot.

Mayor Ball noted, for the record, that there is a letter of submission in the supplementary agenda in reference to this issue.

PRESENTATIONS BY ABUTTERS

Andre Lortie addressed council and said he has only received vague answers to any questions he has asked. He said his concern is safety. He said with the setback there will be reduced parking and it will be right on the corner. He said he would ask for the sake of three lots that the safety factor be considered. He said they would not object to just one house being put on the land in question.

Grace Walker addressed council. She said she is concerned that the developer is trying to put a five foot reduction on those lots. She said there is quite a high noise level in the area as a result of the development taking place. She said she is not in agreement with the proposed alterations.

An abutter said he is concerned with water runoff onto his property. He said these three properties will be backing onto his property and he feels that if they are put there his property will experience flooding. He said if the water and sewer is extended to the area in which he lives he feels there would be no problems with storm runoff.

Mr. Skora said that the properties that are not included in the CDD agreement would fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation.

Mayor Ball asked if there was a storm drain system being put in within the CDD boundary.

Mr. Skora confirmed that there was.

Mayor Ball said the property of the abutter is just beyond the CDD.

Mr. Tom Harmes addressed council. He said as a property owner who lives across the road from this development, he has some concerns. He said his biggest concern is with undersized lots. He said this request is for an amendment on the very first lot to be developed and he feels that there will be many such requests as development takes place. He said he takes exception to the staff report stated that these amendments are not significant because to the residents they are. He said the fact that only the landowners within 250 of this development were notified does

not sit well with the intent of the CDD and the community, as a whole, was not made aware of this amendment.

He said the ratio of single family undersized lots changes the intent of the CDD. He said in his opinion this will not be the last time the developer will be here for amendments nor the last time he and other concerned residents will be addressing the issue. He said he would ask council and staff to reconsider the recommendation for acceptance. He said it is against the intent of what the area residents thought was going to be a final draft of the plan. He said it is very unfair to ask the residents to accept undersized lots however minor they may appear.

Mayor Ball asked Mr. Skora, for the record, if this was an additional three lots. Mr. Skora said the number of dwelling units and lots stay the same. He said the three lots in question will be downsized from 5800 to 5200 square feet. There are no additional homes or lots.

Mayor Ball said council is being asked to hold a public hearing on a minor amendment to the same plan, on March 7, 1995, for twenty lots. He said if it there is three tonight and twenty on March 7th when is it considered substantive in nature and no longer minor.

Mr. Skora said it was the intention of the developer to separate these three from the rest as an element of the first phase of the development. He said what can be considered as major or minor is set out in the Development Agreement.

Deputy Mayor Cooper said council is amending the complete development agreement so why is the notification limited only to people within 250 feet of these three lots.

Mr. Crooks said that from a legal point of view there is no requirement to have a public hearing with respect to development agreement amendments that are minor in nature. He said council has said in the development agreement that notwithstanding that there is notice requirement with respect to minor amendments, proposal for minor amendments should be notified to those people who are within that radius of the development on the principle that there are some people that might immediately be affected.

Mayor Ball said it is a policy decision by council that a minor amendment to a CDD is 250 feet notification.

Deputy Mayor Cooper said the item for March 7, 1995 included a number of lots that are in the middle of the development and there is no one within 250 feet. He asked if anyone going to be notified as a result.

Mr. Skora said the staff position on this is that they will

advise all properties which abut the property of Anahid Investments within 250 feet. He said staff are considering that lots are spread throughout the whole subdivision and because of that the whole subdivision will be affected.

Mayor Ball asked if the same thing had been done with this one.

Mr. Skora said this one involves three lots that are quite site specific.

Deputy Mayor Cooper said that if the County changes a whole number of lots, at some point a decision is going to have to be made that it is major and the complete community has to have access to the amendments of that development agreement. He said notification will be given to residents within 250 feet of the whole project but no notification will be given to the whole community. He said the county went through a long process for that development agreement. He said the community has had a number of residential developments which they consider to be high density and a lot of them are opposed to this which is considered another high density development. He said council is downgrading the size of the lots after all the problems experienced with putting the development agreement into place. He said the County should have a standard where it is made extremely hard and someone has to have very good reasons for reducing those standards. He said he feels the developers knew how many square feet they had in that area when they started to do the subdivision plans. He said he feels they knew they could only get two lots there and he feels they should remain with the two lots. He asked if the development agreement has provisions for landscaping and runoff etc.

Mayor Ball said at the public hearing Mr. Dickson said that he had every intention to ensure the mitigation of water runoff and drainage in that area. He asked if that mitigation had been included in the development agreement.

Mr. Skora said he cannot confirm this at the present time.

Deputy Mayor Cooper said lot grading has been a concern of council in these types of developments and he does not feel it is appropriate for council to say it is outside the development and it is DOT's responsibility. He said it is the County's development agreement with the developer on behalf of the residents and the County has to enforce it, not say someone else.

Councillor Naugle his major concern is for safety. He said this is a main artery into this development and he feels the County could be sacrificing safety for the fact of another lot. He said he is opposed to the amendment.

Councillor McInroy referenced the staff report for the amendments

scheduled for the March 7th council. He said the report says that all property owners within 500 feet will be notified. He said council is talking about 250 feet with regards to the amendments presented tonight. He asked if he could get clarification on which is correct.

Mr. Skora said this was a typing error. He said the development agreement has notification at 250 feet.

Councillor McInroy said he feels the concerns of the speakers has merit. He said he does not feel that council should ask them to accept further downsizing.

REBUTTAL BY PROPONENT

Mr. Darryl Dickson addressed council. He said when the concept plan was approved for Heritage Hills there were three lots shown in the area in question. He said there has been no addition of any lots. He said since the CDD was approved, they have started doing detailed engineering plans and a detailed survey. He said when they determined that it was not feasible to reach the areas that was shown in the development agreement, they retained Wallace MacDonald and Livey to do the same mathematical exercise for the whole development to determine how many of these there are. He said they brought the other application forward so they can deal with all these things now so they don't come up every other month. He said they are not increasing the number of units. He said the side yards on these lots are going to be larger than normal due to the fact that they have more frontage than normal lots. He said these lots will be easily acceptable for sideyard driveways. He said there wasn't a requirement about certifying lot grading in the development agreement. He said they have since made it a requirement. He said they will not have any subdivision approved, in these three lots, until the county is satisfied there will be no water problems. He said the number of lots has no bearing on what is going to happen in those backyards.

Councillor Harvey asked once the detailed engineering work is done the reality may be that there may be too many lots.

Mr. Dickson said when the concept plan is approved by the Municipality for a CDD it is based on several negotiations. Agreement is reached on the number of units and what type they will be. He said when the final mathematics worked out these lots did not contain the area of the category they were designated. He said there is no land use change here.

Councillor Naugle asked if there were to be any more amendments after these were dealt with.

Mr. Dickson said when they realized that there was an area

problem on these three lots, they hired the consultants but he could not say that they won't come before council at a later date and ask that the agreement be amended in some fashion.

DECISION OF COUNCIL

It was moved by Councillor Naugle, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cooper:

"THAT THE COUNCIL NOT APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS TO THE HERITAGE HILLS DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT"

MOTION CARRIED

Council agreed to hear a presentation from the East Preston Ratepayers Association.

Mr. Wendell Thomas made a presentation to council. He said he wanted to state for the record that the Ratepayers Association has never been opposed to a multi purpose facility in the community of East Preston. He said in a letter to Mr. Meech dated May 17th this is pointed out. He said the letter talks about the fact that it would be appropriate for both organizations to thoroughly study and consult with the community with respect to having a feasibility study accompanied with accurate cost projections and structure design. Once this process has been completed an application will be submitted for council's consideration. He said he has no idea how an infrastructure application got to county council. He said it is his understanding that it was an initiative taken on by the Executive Assistant to Mr. Adams. He said there are many proposals for the Preston area that just seem to pop up. He said they want to be treated like anyone else in the county.

He referenced a letter sent to council which is their statement. He said in looking at the staff report he sees that staff consulted with the East Preston Recreation Association and totally disregarded the taxpayers association. He said he would like to ask what's the rush. Why weren't they consulted. Why don't we talk to the guys that actually pay the bills, the taxpayers. He said they have gone on record as indicating they want a new facility not a facility that is going to be renovated that has been condemned four times by the local fire commission. He said in this particular case staff have recommended a structure. He said he has no idea where that comes from or where they get the impression that they are going to dictate structure without every consulting taxpayers. He said the staff report also talks about proper municipal procedure for projects of this nature. To date none of these procedures have been followed. He said they don't want another W-5 project. The taxpayers will not accept it. He said the politicians thought everything was fine until they said it was not and an RCMP investigation was started.

He said they did not bring a large group to attempt to manipulate this council but if that is what council wants they can certainly make the accommodation at the next session. He said they want to talk process and procedure. He said Mr. Markesino came out to their meeting where they had over a hundred people. He said he feels Mr. Markesino has done an outstanding job.

He said he feels council deserves to look at some of the material he has. He said staff are attempting to mislead this council whether wilful or otherwise. He said they have asked a number of times and have sent a number of letters both to the recreation association, to the Mayor and to the Chief Administrative Officer. He said the county has not once answered back by way of letter. He said he does not think that happens anywhere else in the county. He said everyone knows what is going on, there is some arm twisting. He said he has spoken to Mr. Ron MacDonald and indicated to him that they would not accept coming in and dividing the community. He said you do not talk to a recreation group that was formed in June, 1994 and disrespect the taxpayers of the community of East Preston. He said there was a situation where the taxpayers were locked out of a facility they pay for back in October. He said all they want is a chance to go inside and why is everything being done behind closed doors and what is the problem.

He said council has a number of options. They can defer this item. Get the community to sit down and talk with the help of the CAO and any other staff member. He said an infrastructure program is being talked about. Infrastructure is about community development. This is a community development project, a multi purpose facility. It is not a private club. He said he does not think the county is in the business of private funding. He said if there are other levels of government in that business they can deal with them in due course. He referred to another letter in the package dated February 20th to the councillor, copied to the Mayor, the CAO, the Honourable Sandy Jolly, the Honourable David Dingwall, and the president of the Recreation Association, Ms. Smith. He said there is no cc to the Ratepayers Association. He said the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia said there are rules and procedures to be followed in the community of East Preston as well as anywhere else in the county. He said the taxpayers have said enough is enough let's put the brakes on. He said they are willing to cooperate and work with the Recreation group. He said this group was formed in June. He said he does not know how everybody can be in the back rooms doing the business of the community of East Preston and never consulting with any of the individuals who are actually going to pay the bills. This Association has taken a stand within the community. He said they are talking business and they want the opportunity to be respected as such. He said they have never seen the actual proposal that came to this municipality. He referenced the second paragraph of the letter dated February 20th which stated

"that I do not appreciate you going to the ratepayers meeting and expressing a commitment on my behalf that I did not make".

He said when the letter talks about the recreation community he is not talking about the community but the group that was formed in June. He said where the letter references the seniors community it is not talking about the seniors community but a seniors group. He said all the taxpayers of the community of East Preston are asking for is the same as everybody else in the municipality, just a little respect. He said he does not know why the MLA seems to be putting pressure on whomever to rush this through and the taxpayers don't see the rush. He said they won't attempt to come in and physically manipulate this municipality. He referenced a document that points out that there was never a formal request.

He said on page two of the press release in front of council it talks community facilities and services across Nova Scotia. He said the community has not had any input on the design. He said it also talks about East Preston area residents being offered a first rate local venue to host community meetings as well as various cultural and sporting events. He said they are not against that but they don't have that. He said they have never had an opportunity to talk about cost projections or look at cost projections. The staff of the municipality went out and talked to the recreation group and the Lions. He said never in the history of this council has staff come forward and talked about the actual makeup of a community committee. He said they deserve an opportunity and they will not be bullied.

Councillor Brill asked how many ratepayers are there in East Preston.

Mr. Thomas said it is his understanding that within the community of East Preston there are probably 700.

Councillor Brill asked if the group being represented by Mr. Thomas represents these people and are they not being consulted?

Mr. Thomas said they were not being consulted.

Councillor Hendsbee asked how many households there are in East Preston.

Mr. Thomas said there are approximately 286 households in the black community of East Preston.

Councillor Hendsbee said he and Mr. Thomas has had some discussions in regards to this whole process and how this application came about. He said they talked about the staff recommendation for a committee structure. He asked Mr. Thomas what his opinion of the position he tried to make as councillor