

# Riverview Council will look at upgrading town hall facilities

TIMES & TRANSCRIPT STAFF

A committee will be appointed at tonight's Riverview council meeting to investigate options with regard to the upgrading or replacement of its town hall facilities.

Town manager David Muir said the older section of the building, characterized by its peaked roof, was constructed in the 1950s and was used as the Interprovincial Home for Women for many years.

After it had been turned over to the town by the province, Muir said the municipality added the

new square roof section in 1987-88.

The Riverview Public Library, council chambers and the administration offices are in the new section, while all the accounting and finance people are in the older part of the building. The latter is also where citizens pay their water, sewerage and other municipal bills.

However, as the municipality has continued to grow, the Riverview Town Hall has reached a point where more space is required. It is going have to be renovated and expanded or replaced,

said Muir.

The library has been looking for increased space for a number of years, the council chambers and municipal offices on the second floor are not handicapped accessible, the council chambers are much smaller than they should be, there is no decent room for board meetings and the layout of the offices is not very efficient.

Muir said the purpose of the committee, which will be named by Mayor Clarence Sweetland, will be to look at the alternatives, how much space will be required in a

new building and can the current building be renovated to solve these problems.

If a new building is the direction eventually recommended by the committee, Muir said they would also look at the possibility of commercial and retail development being included in it or perhaps make it into a complex to include condominiums.

Some creative ideas by developers for tenants could help reduce the municipality's cost for operating the town hall, he said. Noting the municipality owns the build-

ing and surrounding property, he added, they would definitely be remaining at the same site on Fatima Drive.

The Riverview Public Library needs more space, but officials like its location and want to remain a part of the town hall complex.

The council meeting, to begin at 7 p.m., will also hear the building permit report for 2004 which was a record year for construction in Riverview, and hear a request for consideration of a scholarship program by Roland Rackham of Atlantic Baptist University in Moncton.