

October 26, 2006

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

The Regular Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Courthouse, Truro, N.S. on Thursday, October 26, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Mike Smith, Chair	
Councillor Bob Taylor	District #1
Councillor Bill Masters	District #2
Deputy Mayor Hughie Matheson	District #3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District #4
Councillor Glen Edwards	District #5
Councillor Jimmie LeFresne	District #7
Councillor Soley Lynds	District #8
Councillor Bob White	District #9
Councillor Doug Cooke	District #10
Councillor Terri Mingo	District #11

Absent:

Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District #6
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Election of Deputy Mayor

Mayor Smith called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Edwards moved and Councillor Masters seconded the nomination of Councillor Matheson.

Mayor Smith called three times for further nominations and, on hearing none, the nominations ceased. As there were no further nominations, Councillor Matheson was declared Deputy Mayor by acclamation.

Election of Alternate Council Committee Chair

Mayor Smith called for nominations for the position of Alternate Council Committee Chair.

Councillor Lynds moved and Councillor White seconded the nomination of Councillor LeFresne.

Mayor Smith called three times for further nominations and on hearing none, the nominations ceased. As there were no further nominations, Councillor LeFresne was declared Alternative Council Committee Chair by acclamation.

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Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Mingo

“That the agenda for October 26, 2006 be approved with the following additions/deletions:

- add under No. 7: Presentation by Brenda Cox and David Fulton, School Steering Team, East Stewiacke School Enhancements
- add under No. 7: Staff Presentation - Insurance for Not-for-Profit Organizations
- delete No. 12: Revisions to Bill 232
- add No. 12b: Civic Centre Project
- add No. 12c: Fire Service Standards
- add No. 15b: Lillian Fraser Memorial Hospital”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That the minutes of the meeting held on September 20, 2006 be approved with the following amendments:

- Page 6: The Keith Baas presentation, should read ‘Upper Stewiacke’ not ‘Stewiacke’
- Page 7: The motion passed in response to question ‘Does Council wish to go forward to look at building a Civic Centre?’ should read:

“That Council approves the further investigation into proceeding to build a Civic Centre on its own, subject to a report being brought back to Council at a later time for final decision.”

and,

That the minutes of the meeting held on September 28, 2006 be approved as circulated.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of meetings held on September 20 and 28, 2006.

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Presentations

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Mingo declared a conflict of interest on the following presentations and removed herself from the table.

Brenda Cox and David Fulton, School Steering Team

The School Steering Team presented a letter to Council dated October 26, 2006. The letter made reference to an earlier presentation to Council by the Team to seek support for enhancements to the new school which would replace both East Stewiacke and Stewiacke Elementary schools. The request at that time was for a contribution from the County in the amount of \$285,367 for the enhancement of a larger cafeteria and a larger gymnasium in the new school. This represented two-thirds of the total enhancement costs. The Town of Stewiacke was asked to cover the remaining one-third of \$142,683.

Since that time, the Team has reached an agreement with the Department of Education to reallocate budget dollars to cover the cost of the enlarged cafeteria. The Team agreed to go with a play field instead of a soccer field and have the Province purchase a design plan rather than hiring an architect. In light of this, the Team revised their request of support from the Municipality as they are still looking to enhance the gymnasium. The amount is now set at \$232,167.

Winston Settle

Mr. Settle indicated that his main concern was accountability. He felt that the existing school was basically suitable and that the taxpayers were being asked to pay more taxes for something that they already have.

Mr. Settle also submitted a letter to Council dated October 20, 2006 which was circulated on table for this evening's meeting.

Frank Schenkels

Mr. Schenkels indicated that as a soccer coach and parent of three kids, it would be better to have a soccer field rather than a play field. He also stated that a larger gymnasium would benefit both the school and the community.

Trudy O'Connell

Mrs. O'Connell indicated that as a parent of children in Grades 4 and 6, she has some concerns with the smaller gymnasium:

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- larger gymnasium could be divided into two to accommodate the projected enrollment of 267 students
- larger gymnasium would open up the after school programs to more children
- larger gymnasium would allow more relatives to attend Christmas and community concerts

At this point, Councillor Mingo returned to the table.

Staff Presentation

Insurance for Not-for-Profit Organizations

At a meeting in April 2006, Council passed a motion whereby staff were asked to look at a grant program to offset all or a portion of not-for-profit organizations' insurance costs.

Ms. Sue Burley, Manager of Recreation Services, made a presentation to Council with information on types of insurance, local associations' needs, current programs available and options for a municipal funding program.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That the staff presentation on insurance for not-for-profit organizations be referred to Council Committee."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Standing Committee Reports and Recommendations

Deputy Mayor Matheson presented a report from the regular session of Council Committee held on October 12, 2006:

Request for Funding - Colchester Historical Society and Museum

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson
Seconded by Councillor Lynds

"That Council approves a contribution to the Colchester Historical Society and Museum in the amount of \$4,500 annually for the next three years commencing in 2007-08 and ending in 2009-10."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tatamagouche Branch Library

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson
Seconded by Councillor Cooke

"That Council approves the Municipality proceeding with investigation of the replacement of the library facility in Tatamagouche and that staff be instructed to prepare a background report; and,

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That the Tatamagouche branch library project be forwarded to the Municipality's capital budget process for further discussion."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Nominating Committee

Mayor Smith presented a report from a meeting of the Nominating Committee held earlier this evening.

**Cobequid Housing
Authority Board**

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

"That Council approves the appointment of Ms. Ann Bourque to the Cobequid Housing Authority Board for a three-year term beginning November 1, 2006."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Executive and Audit
Committee**

There was no business arising from the minutes of a meeting held on September 28, 2006.

ACTION ITEMS

**Request for Funding -
Third Place Transition
House**

Staff provided further clarification on the budget breakdown provided by Third Place Transition House in their letter to Council dated October 19, 2006, a copy of which was attached to the Action Item on this matter. This letter was written at staff's request to provide Council with a better understanding of what the organization is looking for from the Municipality.

On further discussion with the organization by staff on this budget breakdown, it was determined that the organization is looking for a contribution of \$75,000 from the Town of Truro and \$25,000 from the County.

Following a brief debate on the matter, Council agreed that Third Place Transition House should be invited back to Council and that the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Corporate Services meet with the group beforehand to give direction on what Council will expect from them at this meeting.

**East Stewiacke School
Enhancements**

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Mingo declared a conflict of interest on this matter and removed herself from the table.

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Referring to the presentation given by the School Steering Team earlier this evening, Mayor Smith indicated that by reducing the amount requested for the school enhancement from \$285,367 to \$232,167, the cost to residents could be 6.5 cents over a five-year period. Council can make the decision to extend or shorten the time period for cost recovery.

A map showing the proposed new area rate boundaries was attached to the Action Item circulated in the Council package for this evening's meeting.

Councillor Cooper indicated that he would prefer that Council deal with this matter in two parts, the first one being the cost of the enhancement and the second being the length of time to recover the cost.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That Council approves the funding request for an enhancement to the gymnasium at the new elementary school in Stewiacke in the amount of \$232,167.”

Motion Carried. *(Mayor Smith opposed)*

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council approves that a new area rate be established to fund this enhancement, starting at 3 cents, and spread over a 10-year period beginning in 2007-08.”

Motion Carried. *(Mayor Smith opposed)*

At this point, Councillor Mingo returned to the table.

**First Reading - Local
Improvement By-law -
Amendment**

Councillor Cooper requested that Council consider an amendment to the By-law before it goes forward for Second Reading at November Council. Referring to Section 6, Repeal of Approval for Local Improvement Due to Delay Before Construction, Councillor Cooper asked that the period of time on line 3 be changed from 36 months to 24 months.

Moved by Councillor Cooper

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Seconded by Councillor White

“That Council approves by way of First Reading, Chapter 26 - Local Improvement By-law, with the following amendment:

- Section 6, Repeal of Approval for Local Improvement Due to Delay Before Construction - line 3 should readwithin 24 months of.....”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Civic Centre Project

Referring to the memorandum and briefing note circulated to Council prior to tonight’s meeting, the CAO indicated that at a meeting with MP Bill Casey on October 10, 2006, discussions began that will hopefully lead to identifying potential federal funding sources. Mr. Casey suggested that it would be helpful for him, in exploring this with federal departments, to have a sense of a proposed financial framework that identifies federal, provincial, local and community contributions to the \$33 million project. This framework was shown in the form of a pie chart included in the briefing note.

Mayor Smith indicated that Council’s endorsement of this financial framework is required before sending to Mr. Casey. By endorsing this framework, Mayor Smith stated that this in no way commits Council to a contribution to the civic centre project nor does it bind the Municipality to supporting the building of a civic centre, it only identifies what the funding sources could be.

Moved by Councillor LeFresne
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That Council approves the briefing note and financial framework for the civic centre project being forwarded to MP Bill Casey, subject to the following amendment to the financial framework:

- that the municipal portion be shown as \$7 million and that the Municipal Reserves portion of \$4 million be shown as being sourced through the Province of Nova Scotia.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Cooke opposed)*

Fire Service Standards

Councillor Taylor indicated that he had concerns with one of the presentations he attended at the Fall UNSM Conference in Sydney. The presentation by the Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia seemed to cause some questions when dealing with rural fire brigades. The presentation was made by career firefighters. Their

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project of raising the standards of fire brigades is well intended but when they raise the bar too high regarding level of training and the age and size of fire trucks, it may not be practical for the rural communities.

Councillor Taylor recommended that staff contact the Colchester Firefighters Association to get their feedback on this matter.

Moved by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor White

“That Council direct staff to contact the Colchester Firefighters Association to obtain their feedback on the Fire Service Association’s project of raising the standards of volunteer fire brigades.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Correspondence

Council requested the following ‘Correspondence’ item be moved from Information to Action:

- No. 14: copy of letter dated October 17, 2006 from Transportation and Public Works regarding crosswalks in Hilden

ACTION

Peter Hackett, Area Manager-Colchester, Transportation & Public Works

A copy of a letter to the Hilden Community Association dated October 17, 2006 from **Peter Hackett, Area Manager-Colchester, Transportation and Public Works**, regarding crosswalks in Hilden.

Given DOT’s response to the Hilden Community Association that neither crosswalk at Maple Street or Smith Road was warranted, Deputy Mayor Matheson asked Council for any suggestions on how to get these crosswalks in place.

INFORMATION

Nova Scotia Power

A copy of a news release from **Nova Scotia Power** regarding increases to electricity rates by the Spring of 2007. Council agreed to receive this news release for information purposes.

Luanne Shenkels, Colchester East Hants Health Authority

An email to the Mayor dated September 29, 2006 from **Luanne Schenkels, Colchester East Hants Health Authority**, regarding a public meeting in East Stewiacke regarding school enhancements. Council agreed to receive this email for information purposes.

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**J.B. Harnish,
Secretary, Hilden
Community
Association**

A copy of a letter dated September 19, 2006 from **J.B. Harnish, Secretary, Hilden Community Association**, regarding crosswalks on Trunk 2 in Hilden. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**Jo-Anne Himmelman,
Executive Director,
Land Services Branch,
Department of Natural
Resources**

A letter to the Mayor dated September 29, 2006 from **Jo-Anne Himmelman, Executive Director, Land Services Branch, Department of Natural Resources**, regarding offshore renewable energy development. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

Building Inspector

A copy of the Building Permit Statistics Report received from the **Building Inspector** for the month of September 2006. Council agreed to receive this report for information purposes.

Development Officer

A copy of the Development Activity Report received from the **Development Officer** for the month of September 2006. Council agreed to receive this report for information purposes.

**Deputy Mayor Russell
Walker, Vice
President/Secretary
Treasurer, UNSM AND
The Honourable Jamie
Muir, Minister, Service
NS and Municipal
Relations**

A memorandum to UNSM Members dated October 12, 2006 from **Deputy Mayor Russell Walker, Vice President/Secretary Treasurer, UNSM**, and a copy of a letter dated October 12, 2006 from **The Honourable Jamie Muir, Minister, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations**, regarding the Fair and Equitable Funding Report. Council agreed to receive this memorandum and letter for information purposes.

**Union of N.S.
Municipalities**

An email dated October 13, 2006 from the **Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities**, regarding an update from the Assessment Services Transition Board. Council agreed to receive this email for information purposes.

**Monte Selberg,
Minister of Citizenship
and Immigration**

A copy of a letter received October 2, 2006 from **Monte Selberg, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration**, requesting the week of October 16-22, 2006 be proclaimed Canada's Citizenship Week. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**Raymond Tynes,
Councillor, Town of
Truro**

An email to the Mayor dated October 4, 2006 from **Raymond Tynes, Councillor, Town of Truro**, regarding a possible meeting with the County on the Canada Games Bid. Council agreed to receive this email for information purposes.

**Kevin Craig, 136
Coldstream Drive,
Truro**

An email and letter dated October 3, 2006 from **Kevin Craig, 136 Coldstream Drive, Truro**, and the CAO's response dated October 20, 2006 regarding an increase in municipal taxes. Council agreed to receive this email and letter for information purposes.

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Kerry Munro, Co-Chair, Skate Park Action Team

A letter to the CAO dated October 4, 2006 from **Kerry Munro, Co-Chair, Skate Park Action Team**, confirming financial contributions received for the skate park project. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

Deborah Bourque, National President, Canadian Union of Postal Workers

A letter to the Mayor and Council dated October 16, 2006 from **Deborah Bourque, National President, Canadian Union of Postal Workers**, regarding a moratorium on Post Office closures and rural mail delivery. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

Kevin Craig, 136 Coldstream Drive

Various emails/letter between **Kevin Craig, 136 Coldstream Drive**, concerning property tax increases. Council agreed to receive this correspondence for information purposes.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Capital Budget Process

Council and staff were requested to identify new projects for the November Council Committee meeting which is scheduled for November 9, 2006.

Solid Waste Manager Position

Mr. Wayne Wambolt has accepted the position of Solid Waste Manager. He is scheduled to commence duties on January 22, 2007.

Lillian Fraser Memorial Hospital

Councillor LeFresne expressed his concern over the recent announcement that the Lillian Fraser Memorial Hospital in Tatamagouche will be closed in the event of a strike. It was recommended that a letter be written to the Colchester East Hants Health Authority to indicate Council's concern with the Lillian Fraser being closed should a strike occur.

Moved by Councillor LeFresne
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That a letter be written to the Colchester East Hants Health Authority indicating that the services provided by the Lillian Fraser Memorial Hospital are no less critical to the public than other hospitals and that its services should not be discontinued in the event of a strike.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Reports from Councillors Appointed to Outside Agencies

Councillor Masters reported that on November 15, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Debert Hospitality Centre, CoRDA will present to the community a concept plan they have for the lands in Debert.

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Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Edwards
Seconded by Councillor Mingo

“That the meeting be adjourned at 10:30 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sheila Arsenault
Recording Secretary