

SPECIAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE

A Special Session of Council Committee of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Courthouse, Truro, Nova Scotia, on Tuesday, March 6, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Councillor Bob Taylor	District #1
Deputy Mayor Hughie Matheson, Chair	District #3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District #4
Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District #6
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:

Mayor Mike Smith,	
Councillor Bill Masters	District #2

Purpose

The purpose of the meeting was to review the five-year capital budget. Previous direction was provided at the initial Capital Budget meeting on December 11, 2006.

Capital from Reserve Funds

Mr. Bruce Purchase, Director of Corporate Services, gave an overview of capital items to be funded from equipment and reserve funds over the next five years, ending with the 2011/12 fiscal year.

Moved by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Cooke

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the five year capital budget for equipment reserve funds as presented on Page 3, be approved.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Capital Budget

Mr. Ramesh Ummat, Director of Public Works, gave Council an

Draft for 2007/08

update on each of the projects listed for construction in 2007/08. They were as follows:

1. Tatamagouche Water Treatment Plant
2. Balefill Building
3. Brookfield Sewer Projects
4. Salmon River Water Distribution
5. Debert Infrastructure Projects, relating to Water Meters, Elimination of Sewage Treatment Plant #3, and Signage

Mr. Gary MacIsaac, CAO, advised Council that some projects were moved to 2008/09. These were the Materials Recovery Facility sprinkler system, the compost pad at the Balefill Facility, and projects from the Waste Management Infrastructure Review. He also advised that \$500,000 is set up in 2007/08 for Arena Capital, subject to decisions on reserving this amount from current expected operating surplus, and determining where expenditures are to be made.

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“ That Council Committee recommends to Council that the draft capital budget for 2007/08 as presented on Page 1, be approved.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Additional Capital
Items - Bible Hill
Water Extensions**

The letter from Chairwoman Christine Blair, Bible Hill Village Commission, requesting County participation in funding assistance for Bible Hill water extensions was introduced. The Village wishes to apply for funding under the Federal Provincial Infrastructure Program. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,500,000. Local contribution would be \$500,000. The Village is requesting a joint application for infrastructure funding and a 50-50 sharing on the municipal share of the project.

Councillor Taylor requested that this project be added to the capital budget and that the County manage the project. This would result in a contribution of \$500,000 as the Municipality of Colchester contribution, with the source of funds being the Gas Tax.

Councillors requested information on funds remaining in the Federal Provincial Infrastructure Program and whether the County could legally take over running this project, instead of the Village. Councillors also questioned that the correspondence from the Village did not address Council's previous request that the Village refrain from applying for funding under the Federal Infrastructure Program.

Moved by Councillor Mingo
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee refer this item for discussion to the March 29, 2007 Council meeting and request further clarification from the Village prior to or at that meeting.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Additional Capital
Items -
Tatamagouche
Branch Library**

Mr. MacIsaac introduced the report from Mr. Crawford Macpherson , Director of Community Development, who gave an overview of the report and answered questions from Council. Mr. Macpherson noted that the capital budget amount should be amended from \$450,000 to \$375,000.

Councillors questioned whether the operation of a larger rural library would impact on the current annual amount that the County pays for library services in the region. Councillors asked about the maintenance costs of a library of 3,000 square feet and requested to be advised of any upfront costs which could occur in fiscal year 2007/08.

Mr. MacIsaac advised that this item will be on the agenda for the April 12, 2007 Council Committee meeting, at which time presentations could be made by the library board and the public.

Moved by Councillor LeFresne
Seconded by Councillor Lynds

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Tatamagouche Branch Library be added to the Capital Budget for 2008/09 at an amended budget amount of \$375,000, with source of funds to be determined.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Additional Capital
Items - Sewer
Extension,
Lornevale Road**

Councillor Cooke requested Council to reconsider adding this project back to the capital budget list. The request is for the original proposed extension using small bore sewer technology.

Council considered that this may be a project for funding under the Federal Provincial Infrastructure Program. A request was made to staff to find out the implications of small bore sewer for this extension.

By consensus, Committee referred this item for discussion at the March 29, 2007 Council meeting to allow staff time to obtain the

information requested.

**Capital Items from
2008/09 to 2011/12**

Mr. Purchase reviewed the capital items for the four years listed.

By consensus, this list is to go forward to the Council meeting on March 29, 2007 for discussion with amendments as noted.

**Identification of
Infrastructure
Priorities**

Discussion on this matter was deferred until after the March Council session.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Mingo
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That the meeting be adjourned at 10:01 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

B.E. Purchase
Director of Corporate Services