

September 13, 2007

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

The Regular Session of Council Committee of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Courthouse, Truro, Nova Scotia on Thursday, September 13, 2007.

In accordance with Part IV of the Council Proceedings By-law, Councillor LeFresne assumed the position of Chair for this evening's meeting.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Mike Smith	
Councillor Bob Taylor	District #1
Councillor Bill Masters	District #2
Deputy Mayor Hughie Matheson	District #3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District #4
Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District #6
Councillor Jimmie LeFresne, Chair	District #7
Councillor Bob White	District #9
Councillor Doug Cooke	District #10
Councillor Terri Mingo	District #11

Absent:

Councillor Glen Edwards	District #5
Councillor Soley Lynds	District #8

**Public Hearings -
Dangerous or
Unightly Premises****Blanche & Russell Taylor, 112 Miller Road, Salmon River**

Mr. David McElhinney, Deputy Building Inspector, reported that a written complaint was received from the area Councillor on behalf of some neighbouring citizens regarding a burnt vacant building and junk on the lot. On August 9, 2007, a written request was received from the property owners, Russell and Blanche Taylor, requesting the County move onto the property and demolish the house. The property was inspected on August 22, 2007 and a notice posted to appear before Council Committee this evening regarding the condition of the property. A letter was also sent to the Taylor's regarding the date of the Committee meeting and to ensure they understood the rights and obligations regarding their property.

Mr. McElhinney recommended that Council Committee issue a 30 day Order to remedy the condition of the property as stipulated on the Unightly Notice.

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Mr. Russell Taylor, property owner, appeared before Committee indicating that he is in agreement with having the work, as per the Unsightly Notice carried out by the Municipality with the exception of the large shed. Mr. Russell stated that this shed is used for storage of equipment that is still in working condition. He also indicated that there is a barbeque on the property which he will have placed in the shed.

Discussion was held regarding the condition of the shed and Mr. McElhinney advised that the shed is in relatively good condition but does require painting. Mr. Taylor agreed that he would look after painting the shed.

Moved by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That an order be issued to remedy the condition of the property, within a reasonable time period, at the expense of the property owner, by:

- Demolishing the existing dwelling damaged by fire;
- Demolishing the existing accessory buildings on the property, with the exception of the large storage shed.
- Cleaning up the entire property and removing old tires, miscellaneous debris and junk.
- Filling existing foundation with gravel and levelling off to match existing grade.
- Disposing of all debris in a lawful manner.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Mayor Smith
Seconded by Councillor White

“That the agenda for September 13, 2007 be approved with the following additions/deletions:

- add 11b: Cost Sharing Capital Projects
- add 11c: Wind Turbine By-law
- add 14b: Truro Skate Park Project.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That the minutes of August 16, 2007 be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Concern was raised by Councillor Cooper about the wording of the motion for the JCI Outstanding Young People’s Awards on page 979 of the minutes of August 16, 2007. Mayor Smith clarified that the negative motion was defeated and wording is correct.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of August 16, 2007.

Presentations**Scotia Pool - Al Hanlon and Marg Rovers**

Ms. Rovers provided Committee with a detailed presentation on Scotia Pool including information on programs offered, operations, funding sources, various grants received and fundraising efforts. One of the key fundraisers was Bingo which initially was an excellent source of revenue but in the past year, numbers dropped substantially and Bingo was stopped in June of this year. Scotia Pool has run into financial difficulty and is looking for additional funding from the Municipality. Ms. Rovers extended an invitation to Council to visit Scotia Pool.

Mr. Hanlon provided Committee with a summary of Scotia Pool’s current financial situation. Financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2007 were provided.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the presentation be received and referred to a future Committee meeting.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Staff Presentation**Darlyne Proctor - Changes to Solid Waste Management Program**

Ms. Darlyne Proctor, Waste Reduction Coordinator, made a brief presentation to Committee regarding changing from black bags to clear bags for garbage. Ms. Proctor indicated that a previous presentation was done in June 2007 and some of the issues coming out of this meeting were expansion of green carts to the rural communities, collection for apartment units, and enforcement.

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Since the June meeting, audits were done on curbside waste comparing rural versus urban areas. In most cases, urban audits were better than rural, with rural collection being less than 60 percent garbage. The results of these audits confirm that there is still room for improvement and that clear garbage bags and green carts to the rural communities would be beneficial. Ongoing education and enforcement is also required. Ms. Proctor also briefly discussed possible future actions for short, mid and long term.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That the presentation be received and referred to a future Committee meeting.”

Motion Carried Unanimously

**Elimination of
Phone Line for
Primary Paging of
Colchester
Firefighters**

Ms. Kim Paterson, Administrative Assistant, and Mr. Terry Canning, Colchester Fire Fighters Association appeared before Committee to provide additional information relating to a previous presentation on August 16, 2007 concerning equipment requirements and associated costs for over-the-air paging for Fire Departments and Special Hazards Response Unit.

Ms. Paterson indicated that, as presented at the August 16, 2007 Council Committee session, the cost for the new paging system equipment and upgrade of existing equipment would be approximately \$110,000 and the repair and maintenance to tower sites would be approximately \$35,000. Since that meeting, Mr. Canning has provided additional cost information of approximately \$37,000 relating to pager replacement and reprogramming.

Discussion was held regarding timing of this project. Ms. Paterson advised that this is probably a six month project and if it waited until the 2008-09 budget, then the project would not be completed before this time next year.

It was indicated that if Council agrees to proceed with this prior to the April 2008-09 budgeting process, funding would be from the Operating Reserve. If Council decides to wait until the new budget, funding of approximately \$147,000 for new equipment and upgrades would come from the Capital Reserve and the additional \$35,000 for tower site repairs and maintenance would be part of the 2008-09 Additions and Deletions budget.

Further discussion was held regarding the urgency and priority of this project.

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Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Mayor Smith

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff prepare and issue a tender for the necessary new equipment, reprogramming of existing equipment and reprogramming or purchase of new pagers that will allow the Bass River, Bible Hill, Brookfield, Cobequid, Debert, Economy, Five Islands, Great Village, Hilden, North River, Onslow-Belmont, Salmon River, Stewiacke, Tatamagouche, Upper Stewiacke, and Valley-Kemptown Fire Brigades and the Special Hazard Response Unit to receive an over-the-air page as their primary means of paging; and

That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff include in the above tender the necessary upgrades and maintenance of the Harmony, Birch Hill and Stewart Hill tower site.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Request for
Extension of Water
Line**

Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, advised Committee that the Municipality is currently in the process of expanding water lines in Salmon River for the new school. The request from Mr. Eisner raises the issue of similar future requests and that proper standards should be in place for handling such requests.

Mr. Ramesh Ummat, Director of Public Works, indicated that the Municipality needs to create a policy/master plan with regards to water expansion. This master plan would need to be in place before proceeding with further requests for water expansion. Timing of having a master plan in place would be sometime during the winter.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That staff be instructed to report back on a framework to address requests for water expansion in Salmon River.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Loan Guarantee -
Salmon River Fire
Brigade**

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor White

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Municipality of the County of Colchester provide a “letter of intent” in support of the loan of \$400,000 for the Salmon River

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intent” in support of the loan of \$400,000 for the Salmon River Fire Brigade for replacement of a fire rescue and equipment truck and in the event that this is not satisfactory to the lending institution, that the Municipality provide a loan guarantee for this amount.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Waste Management
Officer Position**

Moved by Mayor Smith
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council Committee authorize the vacancy in the Waste Management Officer position and that Administration proceed to fill the position in accordance with the County’s Personnel Policies.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Cost Sharing - Capital
Projects**

Discussion was held regarding the issue of water extension in Salmon River and Bible Hill. Councillor Taylor inquired about what share the community would be paying for the water extension and that the rate should be similar to that of sewer extensions.

Concerns were raised that discussions of capital projects should not be limited to just water and sewer.

Moved by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Mingo

“That staff research funding of capital projects in relation to sewer and water.”

Motion **Defeated.**

(Mayor Smith, Deputy Mayor Matheson, Councillors Masters, Cooper, Cavanaugh, LeFresne, White, Cooke, and Mingo opposed)

Wind Turbine By-law

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That staff explore options for regulating the development of wind turbine sites and report back to Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Councillor Cavanaugh advised that a Ratepayers meeting regarding Wind Turbines was being held on September 26, 2007 at 7:00 pm at the North River Fire Hall.

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**Unsightly Complaint -
8714 Highway #2,
Great Village**

At the August Committee meeting, this item was dropped from the agenda as the Building Inspector had visited the site earlier in the day and deemed that the property had been remedied to his satisfaction.

At the August meeting, Council Cooke distributed photos of property and advised that the unsightly condition still remained. Committee requested that this item be brought back for discussion at September Committee.

The Building Inspector revisited the property on August 17, 2007 and confirmed the unsightly condition. A letter was sent to the property owner, Mr. Richard Ross. Mr. Ross faxed a response that the unsightly condition is on the neighbour's adjacent property.

**Taxi Service Outside
Truro Town
Boundary**

At the August 16, 2007 Committee meeting, staff were authorized to investigate taxi service rates outside the Town of Truro limits. The Town of Truro Taxi By-law is silent on services outside the Town Boundary.

Moved by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Mingo

“That staff write the Truro Taxi Commission for a position on service outside the Truro Town Boundary.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**County Property -
Bible Hill**

Committee had previously authorized staff to look into cleaning up the property located behind the Special Hazards Response Unit Building and Emergency Measures Centre. Staff went out to the site and determined that the items in question do not belong to the Municipality.

The Clerk for the Village of Bible Hill was contacted and confirmed that the items belong to the Village. It was agreed that the property be cleaned up and all items removed by September 7th.

Councillor Taylor advised that there is one larger item that is still on the property. This item will have to be removed with a crane and will be done at a later date.

**Truro Skate Park
Project**

Council had previously agreed to contribute \$35,000 to the Truro Skate Park Project. Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, advised Committee that due to unexpected additional construction costs at the proposed location off Lorne Street, the Town is proposing to strike a Committee to look for an alternate location for the Skate Park.

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Adjournment

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the meeting be adjourned at 9:45 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.



Crawford Macpherson
Director of Community Development