

October 11, 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, October 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

**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 (Chair)	District #3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District #4
Councillor Glen Edwards	District #5
Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District #6
Councillor Jimmie LeFresne	District #7
Councillor Soley Lynds	District #8
Councillor Doug Cooke	District #10
Councillor Terri Mingo	District #11

Absent:

Councillor Bob White	District #9
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**Service Recognition Awards**

Mayor Smith presented service recognition awards to the following employees:

- Donna Malone (15 years)
- Paul Smith (15 years)

**Public Hearings - Dangerous or Unsightly Premises**

Edgar and Uguete Safatli, 271 Main Street, Tatamagouche

Mr. Mannie Withrow, Building Inspector, reported that the property at 271 Main Street, Tatamagouche, was boarded up three years ago. A written complaint was received on July 9, 2007 from the Tatamagouche Village Commission requesting that the County conduct an inspection of the property.

An inspection of the property found that the fence at the rear portion of the property was left open; therefore, making it dangerous and unsightly. A letter was sent to the owners advising of the condition of the property and giving them 30 days to make repairs to and paint the fence to prevent access to the foundation. A reinspection on October 9<sup>th</sup> revealed that the condition of the property had not changed. A letter was written to the owners advising them of the unsightly condition of the property and giving

30 days to clean it up. A re-inspection on October 9<sup>th</sup> showed that

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nothing had been done since the first inspection. Mr. Withrow indicated that the owners had made no effort to contact him.

Mr. Withrow recommended that Council Committee issue an order giving the owners 30 days to remedy the unsightly condition of the property by removing the entire fence and filling in the foundation on the lot.

There was no one in the audience to speak on behalf of the property owners.

Moved by Councillor LeFresne  
Seconded by Councillor Mingo

“That an order be issued to the property owners giving them 30 days to remedy the condition of the property by:

- Having the fence removed from the property in its entirety; and,
- Filling in the foundation on the property.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Paul Blenkhorn, 882 Pictou Road, East Mountain

*Conflict of Interest*

*Councillor Cavanaugh declared a conflict of interest on this matter and removed himself from the table.*

Mr. Withrow reported that a reinspection earlier today of the property located at 882 Pictou Road showed that it had been cleaned up to his satisfaction.

*At this point, Councillor Cavanaugh returned to the table.*

**Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Councillor Cooper  
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That the agenda for October 11, 2007 be approved with the following additions:

- add 14b: Civic Centre
- add 17b: Staffing of Two Positions at Balefill”

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Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor LeFresne  
Seconded by Councillor Cooke

“That the minutes of September 13, 2007 be approved as circulated.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Business Arising  
from Minutes**

Responding to Councillor Taylor’s inquiry on the item concerning Taxi Service Outside the Truro Town Boundary, staff reported that a letter had been sent to the Town on October 9<sup>th</sup> outlining questions raised at the September 13<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting.

**Presentations**

**Mr. Terry Terris, Delivery Services, Canada Post**

As the result of his letter to Mayor Smith dated August 22, 2007, Mr. Terris was invited by Council to make a presentation on the changes to rural routes served by the Truro Post office over the next four months.

Mr. Terris indicated that starting in November 2007, customers will need to use their civic address number for their mailing address regardless of whether their current mode of delivery is by rural route or community mailboxes. Another change for customers taking effect in mid November will be to the first part of their postal code. Any address using B2N will become B6L. Canada Post will provide six months free redirection service following the changes and all customers will be provided with free change of address notification cards.

Mr. Terris indicated that a notice of these changes was sent out in August as well as a radio ad that ran for a week. A second notice will be mailed out during the latter part of October. As most members of Council did not receive the first notice, Mr. Terris committed to sending it out again.

Moved by Councillor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor Mingo

“That the presentation from Mr. Terry Terris, Canada Post, be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**ACTION ITEMS**

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**Site Selection for  
New Tatamagouche  
Branch Library**

Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, provided an overview of the Action Item and attached staff report regarding potential sites for the new Tatamagouche library. Staff began the exercise of site selection with a list of nine sites which was short listed down to four based on the set criteria. The final four sites were the North Shore Recreation Centre, the open space owned by the School Board referred to as the Village Commons, land owned by Al Symes on Main Street, and land owned by the Kennedy estate located at Main and Creamery Road.

Councillor LeFresne indicated that he had asked several people about the locations. Overall, the community seems excited and positive about the project and the sites. He stated that the evaluation received a low rating and pointed out the following concerns specific to Appendix 1, Site Development Costs:

- Cost of base gravel - why is it \$10,000 for the North Shore Recreation Centre and \$5,000 or less for the other three sites?
- Cost of paving entire lot of Recreation Centre - the report shows it costing \$80,000 when the Recreation Centre had it costed at \$35,000
- Report shows a cost \$38,000 for handicap access - could be reduced by using other access designated locations on Main Street

As far as the site priority list, Councillor LeFresne indicated that the community sees the Symes' property as No. 4 because of its location across from the fire hall. The Village Commons location is the next most controversial because the view and green space would be lost. The Kennedy property should be at the top of the priority list because it would help connect the Creamery Square project to Main Street. Councillor LeFresne indicated that there is strong support for the Recreation Centre but there is stronger support for the library to be located on Main Street.

Councillor LeFresne recommended that a tour of the sites be organized. During Council discussion on this item, it was also suggested that along with the tour that the November Committee meeting be held in Tatamagouche to allow the public an opportunity to be part of the discussion.

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Mingo

“That a site visit be organized to look at potential locations for the new branch library in Tatamagouche; and,  
That the site visit take place on the date of and prior to the November Council Committee meeting; and,

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That November Council Committee take place in Tatamagouche to allow the public an opportunity to be part of the discussion on the site selection for the new branch library.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor LeFresne  
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That the Symes’ property be removed from the short list of potential sites for the new branch library in Tatamagouche because of its location across from the fire hall.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillors Taylor, Masters, Cavanaugh, Mingo, Cooke opposed)*

**Highway 2 North,  
Brookfield**

*Councillor LeFresne assumed the position of Chair for this item and the following item concerning 10 Hillcrest Drive, Brookfield.*

As requested at the September Council meeting, staff were requested to meet with Deputy Mayor Matheson to put together a presentation for October Committee that would provide additional information on Highway 2 North and address any questions that arose from the September 6<sup>th</sup> Ratepayers’ meeting in Brookfield.

Mr. Bruce Purchase, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, and Mr. Ramesh Ummat, Director of Public Works gave a presentation on the Brookfield Sewer Extension Project, a copy of which was attached to the Action Item on Highway 2 North.

In addition to the Action item, there were ‘on table’ items relating to this matter, including information provided to Councillor Edwards at his request, and a letter dated October 5, 2007 from the County to Environment and Labour asking them to identify any documented or reported septic failures in Brookfield other than Carter Road and John Bell Road. To date, the County has not received a response to this request; however, Deputy Mayor Matheson reported that he had received a letter from Environment today, a copy of which was circulated during this discussion. Deputy Mayor Matheson read the letter dated October 11<sup>th</sup> into the record. The letter provided results of site visits by Environment to a total of 19 properties in the Brookfield area.

Deputy Mayor Matheson provided Council with a sequence of events beginning in 2001 with the original complaint about a septic problem at 10 Hillcrest Drive in Brookfield. He read excerpts from the application to the Province for funding assistance as well

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as their response, which supported a contribution of 25% of the eligible costs up to a maximum of \$633,000. Deputy Mayor Matheson requested that Council consider extending the sewer extension in Brookfield to civic address 225 on Highway 2 North. During a lengthy Council debate on this matter, Council raised concerns about going forward with this recommendation this evening when the normal process would be to move it to the capital budget discussions in March 2008. There was also concern that Environment and Labour had not provided enough information to make a decision.

Moved by Councillor Lynds  
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the addition of Highway 2 North to the sewer extension project in Brookfield up to and including civic address No. 225 be approved.”

Motion Carried. *(Mayor Smith, Councillors Taylor, Masters, Edwards and Mingo opposed)*

**10 Hillcrest Drive,  
Brookfield**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Lynds

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the addition of 10 Hillcrest Drive to the sewer extension project in Brookfield be approved.”

Motion Carried. *(Mayor Smith, Councillors Edwards and Cooper opposed)*

*At this point, Deputy Mayor Matheson resumed the position of Chair.*

**Signage on Highway 289**

Moved by Councillor Cooper  
Seconded by Councillor Mingo

That Council Committee recommends to Council that:

- the Department of Transportation and Public Works be requested to place signage on Highway 104 West at Exit 20 with an indication that it is also an exit for Highway 289 and Stewiacke Valley; and,
- after taking Exit 20 on Highway 104 West, signage be placed regarding Highway 289 and Stewiacke Valley; and,
- additional appropriate signage referring to Stewiacke Valley be placed along Highway 289 West to Stewiacke Valley;

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and,

- a copy of this request be forwarded to the Honourable Brooke Taylor, MLA for Colchester/Musquodoboit Valley.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

*At this point, Councillor Cavanaugh left the meeting due to illness.*

**Bible Hill Village  
Centre Plan**

Moved by Councillor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor Mingo

“That Council Committee recommends to Council to direct implementation of the Bible Hill Village Centre Plan as outlined in the following recommendations:

- (1) Council refer the planning study to the Planning Advisory Committee for incorporation of the policies into the Central Colchester Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law.
- (2) Plan to extend the municipal water system to the site.
- (3) Staff review cost recovery methods to pay for infrastructure and report back to a future Council Committee meeting.
- (4) Executive Committee revisit the regional transportation issue with the Department of Transportation and approach Agritech Park for support.
- (5) When appropriate, staff should coordinate implementation of the commercial block phase with the various landowners to ensure it meets the objectives of the study and the Municipal Planning Strategy policy.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**2007 UNSM Fall  
Conference - Delegates**

Moved by Councillor Edwards  
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Councillors Taylor, Edwards and LeFresne be approved to attend the 2007 Fall UNSM Conference.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

In their absence, staff were directed to follow up with Councillor White and Councillor Cavanaugh to confirm whether or not they were attending the Conference. Deputy Mayor Matheson indicated that he would confirm his availability to attend at a later date.

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**Scotia Pool - Request  
for Additional Financial  
Support**

Councillor Taylor reported that two of the local MLA's have indicated their willingness to continue provincial support to Scotia Pool as they have been through the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and that they would consider helping with the shortfall to March 2008.

Moved by Councillor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor Mingo

“That a letter be written to the three local MLA's acknowledging the Municipality's financial commitment to Scotia Pool to March 31, 2008 and request their support in cost sharing the shortfall that is necessary to keep the facility in operation until that time; and,

That this letter be copied to the provincial Minister of Health Promotion and Protection, and the Minister of Health.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Councillor Taylor indicated that he would also like to meet with the MLA's to discuss this shortfall.

**Property Information  
Positions**

Moved by Councillor Edwards  
Seconded by Councillor LeFresne

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff review the Property Information structure within the organization and to report back with recommendations for discussion at the Additions/Deletions meeting in conjunction with preparation of the 2008/09 General Operating Budget; and,

That Council Committee recommends to Council that the term for the position of the 911 Community Names Project be extended to March 31, 2008.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Civic Centre**

At the request of Councillor Taylor, staff will report back at November Committee on the status of the Civic Centre project.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Tatamagouche Water  
Rate Study**

On September 28, 2007, approval was received for recommended amendments to the rates and charges for water and water services for the Tatamagouche Water Utility. Effective October 1, 2007, quarterly water rates will increase from \$38.50 to \$49.05 for a

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residential (5/8") meter. The quarterly rate will increase again on April 1, 2008 to \$51.77 and on April 1, 2009 to \$52.85.

The Tatamagouche hydrant rate currently being charged at 37 cents per \$100 of assessment will be reduced to 20 cents per \$100 of assessment for the fiscal year 2008/09.

**Award of Request for  
Proposals for Insurance  
Broker Services**

The contract for insurance broker services was awarded to Marsh Canada Ltd. This consultant was hired to help the County implement the new insurance program for the County fire departments.

**Community Park  
Funding Program**

The Community Park Funding Policy supports community recreation capital projects by contributing up to 50% of the total cost of their capital project up to \$40,000. Due to funding remaining in this budget year, a second call for submissions resulted in two requests being received; one from the Alton Recreation Association for \$1,693 and the other from the Cobequid Veterans' Memorial Park Society for \$14,236.

**Staffing of Two  
Positions at Balefill**

Two vacant positions were recently staffed at the Balefill. Mona Snow from Kemptown commenced duties on September 10, 2007 as a part-time Scalehouse/Utility Worker and Phillip MacBurnie on September 17, 2007 as a casual worker.

**Recess**

Council agreed to recess to an in-camera meeting at 10:55 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 11:03 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor LeFresne

“That the meeting be adjourned at 11:05 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sheila Arsenault  
Recording Secretary