

December 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, December 13, 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 Bob White	District #9
Councillor Doug Cooke	District #10

Absent:

Councillor Terri Mingo	District #11
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**Public Hearings -
Dangerous or
Unightly Premises**

Myrna Jordon, 12527 Highway 2, Onslow

Mr. Mannie Withrow, Building Inspector, indicated that the dwelling located on property at 12527 Highway 2, Onslow, has been vacant for over a year. In August of this year, a written complaint on the condition of the property was received from an adjoining neighbour, Mr. Gerald Hennigar.

An inspection of the premises showed that the foundation was in poor condition, the grass not cut, mould and mildew inside the building, water damage to the walls and ceilings, electrical wiring unsafe, and the roof was rotten. Mr. Withrow sent a letter to the owner in early September, advising her of the condition of the property and giving her a couple of options on how to make it safe. No reply was received. A further inspection of the property on November 23rd showed that nothing had been done to improve the condition of the property; therefore, a notice was posted to appear before Council Committee on December 13th.

Mr. Withrow recommended that Council Committee issue an order giving the owner 30 days to demolish both structures on the property.

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

December 13, 2007

property owner.

Mr. David Fiddes, a resident in the community, indicated that he found the property to be very unsightly and suggested that it be torn down.

Mr. Ronnie Llewellyn, a resident in the community, indicated that the grass on this property had not been cut all year and only once last year. As a member of the local fire brigade, Mr. Llewellyn had concern with someone setting the house on fire at some point due to the condition of the place.

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Mayor Smith

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

- Demolishing both the dwelling and shed and disposing of all debris in a lawful manner.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Rema and Moufid Bitar, 34 Valleyview Court, North River

Referring to a letter on table to the property owners, Mr. Withrow indicated that the property located at 34 Valleyview Court, North River, had been remediated to the satisfaction of the Building Inspector.

Paul Blenkhorn, 882 Pictou Road, East Mountain

In his report, Mr. Withrow indicated that the property located at 882 Pictou Road, East Mountain, has been before Council Committee a number of times over the years. The most current complaint was received two weeks ago. The property is owned by Paul Blenkhorn and rented by Mr. Les Greenwood. Mr. Greenwood likes to work on jeeps and has several on the property. A notice was posted on November 27th to appear before Council Committee on December 13th.

Mr. Withrow recommended that Council Committee issue an order giving the owner 30 days to clean up the entire property.

Mr. Les Greenwood, tenant, stated that he is not running a jeep repair business and that he is trying to improve the look of the

December 13, 2007

place.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

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

- Removing all auto parts and vehicles not licensed or insured; and,
- Removing miscellaneous junk, garbage and debris spread around the property and disposing of it in a lawful manner.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Alexis Smith, 128 New River Road, Kemptown

Mr. Withrow reported that he had received a written complaint from a neighbour on May 14th regarding property located at 128 New River Road, Kemptown. The owner of the property, Alexis Smith, lives in Alberta so the Building Inspection office has been dealing with her son on this matter. The property was inspected on May 16th and deemed to be unsightly. A letter was sent to the property owner giving her 30 days to make the necessary repairs to the mobile home, clean up the property and remove the dilapidated storage building. A re-inspection on October 4th showed that some improvements had been made but the property was still unsightly. A notice was posted on November 23rd to appear before Council Committee on December 13th.

Because efforts have been made to clean up the property, Mr. Withrow recommended that Council Committee give the property owner 90 days to remedy the unsightly condition of the property.

Mr. Charles Barss, the owner’s son, indicated that the mobile home will be moved off the property in the spring. He has a work order to have the power disconnected. He is looking into donating the trailer to the fire brigade for training purposes.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Masters

““That an order be issued to the property owner giving her until May 15, 2008 to remedy the condition of the property by:

- Removing the dilapidated storage building from the property and disposing of the debris in a lawful manner; and,
- Removing all miscellaneous junk, garbage, debris, auto parts,

December 13, 2007

old appliances, etc., from the front, side and rear of the property and disposing of it in a lawful manner.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That the agenda for December 13, 2007 be approved with the following additions:

- add 16b: School Board Boundaries (on table)
- add to No. 17, In-Camera: Negotiations”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor LeFresne
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the minutes of meeting held on November 15, 2007 be approved as circulated.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

Regarding Page 1009, UNSM Resolution, Councillor Edwards requested that the Honourable Brooke Taylor receive a copy of the letter referred to in the motion.

Presentations

Wendy Yeung-Chen and Robert Spence
MedNova Tech International Ltd.

In their presentation to Council, Ms. Yeung-Chen and Mr. Spence provided an overview of MedNova Tech International Ltd. The Canadian company has been based in Halifax since 2001. As an export business, their goal is to find the most innovative and efficient ways to utilize natural resources.

The purpose for MedNova’s presentation was to introduce a new recycling proposal for used rubber tires. This pyrolysis technique has an advanced system that can automatically output materials in a sealed environment. The facility for this project would need to be centrally located in Nova Scotia and could provide an employment opportunity of up to 45 full-time positions. The Company indicated a willingness to meet with the community that would host the facility prior to the project going forward. A copy of the Company’s portfolio and presentation were distributed to members of Council Committee.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh

December 13, 2007

Seconded by Councillor White

“That the presentation from MedNova Tech International Ltd. be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Staff Presentations

Wayne Wamboldt, Solid Waste Manager

Mr. Wamboldt provided a powerpoint presentation to members on recent discussions he has had with Hazco Environmental regarding the possibility of establishing a soil bio-remediation facility at the County’s Kemptown facility. The proposed facility would accept soils impacted with hydrocarbons. Mr. Wamboldt cited several reasons why the Municipality may be interested in such a proposal; for example, Kemptown site is soil poor, all remediated soil will go to Balefill Facility, and tipping fees on all remediated soil would be a source of revenue. The Municipality would incur no costs.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the presentation from Mr. Wayne Wamboldt, Solid Waste Manager, be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

During discussion that followed this presentation, Councillor Cavanaugh agreed to set up a meeting of the Citizens’ Monitoring Committee for the week of December 18th and have MedNova Tech International Ltd. attend. It was also suggested that another meeting of the Citizens’ Monitoring Committee be held in January 2008 and have Hazco Environmental attend. Depending on the outcome of these two meetings, a community meeting may be held at some time in the future regarding both the soil remediation proposal and the recycling proposal for used rubber tires.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor LeFresne

“That a meeting of the Citizens’ Monitoring Committee be

December 13, 2007

arranged for January 2008 regarding the soil remediation facility in Kemptown.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Truro Sport Heritage Society

At its meeting on November 29, 2007, Council gave authority to Council Committee to make a decision on this request for a contribution of \$500 to the Truro Sport Heritage Society in support of Black History Month in February 2008.

Moved by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor White

“That Council Committee approves a contribution in the amount of \$500 to the Truro Sport Heritage Society in support of Black History Month in February 2008, source of funds to be general operations.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillors Cooper and LeFresne opposed)*

N.S. Provincial Exhibition - Request for Financial Support

Moved by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Mayor Smith

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that a contribution in the amount of \$10,000 be approved for the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Commission to assist them in covering an operating loss, source of funds to be general operations as an unbudgeted item.”

Motion Carried. *(Deputy Mayor Matheson and Councillor LeFresne opposed)*

During discussion on this issue, Councillor Taylor indicated that it was his feeling that the Exhibition Commission will not likely hold a concert such as this during exhibition week again because of the operating loss experienced in 2007. He discussed the possibility of a Special Events Coordinator with the Colchester Regional Development Agency and recommended that this be brought back at a future Council Committee for direction.

Moved by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That the issue of a Special Events Coordinator be referred to Council Committee.”

December 13, 2007

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Sale of Municipal
Owned Properties
on Pictou Road**

Conflict of Interest

Councillor LeFresne declared a conflict of interest on this item and removed himself from the table.

At its meeting on November 29, 2007, Council gave authority to Council Committee to make a decision on the sale of three County-owned properties on Pictou Road previously owned by the Bartlett Estate.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Mayor Smith

“That Council Committee authorizes the Municipality to not sell the three County-owned properties on Pictou Road when the Bartlett estate properties go up for tax sale.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

At this point, Councillor LeFresne returned to the table.

**January 2008
Council Committee
Meetings**

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor White

“That Council Committee approves the dates of January 17 and January 24, 2008 for Council Committee meetings as recommended.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Intersection in
Brookfield - Traffic
Lights**

Since the Action Item was written, a letter dated December 7, 2007 was received from the Honourable Brooke Taylor, MLA, Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley, to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, regarding traffic lights at the Brookfield intersection. A copy of this letter was circulated on table for this evening’s meeting.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That a letter be sent to the other local MLA’s in support of Minister Brooke Taylor’s position on the need for traffic lights at the Brookfield Intersection, with a copy to the Minister of

December 13, 2007

Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Signage on Private Roads

Moved by Mayor Smith
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That a letter be sent to the Bayhead Property Owners’ Association advising them that the current practice of signage on private roads will continue in Colchester County whereby residents are responsible for the purchase, installation and maintenance of appropriate signage; and,

That the letter include a copy of the County policy on naming of private roads.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Returning Officer for 2008 Election

Moved by Mayor Smith
Seconded by Councillor Lynds

“That the Action Item dated December 13, 2007 on the hiring of a Returning Officer for the 2008 Municipal Election be put on hold until the new Chief Administrative Officer is in place.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillors Cooper and Cavanaugh opposed)*

Position Vacancy - Recreation Manager

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That staff be authorized to commence recruitment for the position of Recreation Manager in accordance with the County’s Personnel Policies.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Civic Centre - Nomination of Representatives

Moved by Councillor Edwards
Seconded by Councillor LeFresne

“That Council Committee appoint Mayor Smith, Councillor Masters, Councillor Taylor and Councillor White (as an alternate), to sit on a Joint Working Committee with the Town of Truro for the purpose of discussing issues around a regional civic centre.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

December 13, 2007

**Sale of Property -
Kemptown**

The Municipality obtained an appraisal of \$68,000 for this property owned by Gary and Beatrice Hingley at 185 River Road, Kemptown. The Hingley's received and accepted an offer on the property that was in excess of the appraisal of \$68,000.

**School Board
Boundaries**

Making reference to a School Board discussion paper circulated on table this evening, Councillor Cooke indicated that the Chignecto Central Regional School Board is undergoing a boundary review process similar to the one the County undertook this past year. He wanted to bring this to Council's attention because, according to information contained in the paper, the School Board is looking at linking some municipal districts in Colchester with their districts in Cumberland. If this happens, it could create confusion for voters when they go to the polls at election time.

Moved by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Cooke

"That a letter be sent to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities indicating Council's concern with voting across municipal boundaries and the need for municipalities and School Boards to hold elections at separate times."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Recess

Council agreed to recess to an in-camera session at 10:05 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 10:15 p.m.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor White

"That the meeting be adjourned at 10:17 p.m."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sheila Arsenault
Recording Secretary