

March 20, 2008

## **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, March 20, 2008 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 Ron Cavanaugh	District #6
Councillor Jimmie LeFresne	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

### **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Cooke

“That the agenda for March 20, 2008 be approved as circulated.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Cooper  
Seconded by Councillor LeFresne

“That the minutes of meetings held on January 24, February 14, 21 and 26, 2008 be approved as circulated.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

### **Business Arising from Minutes**

In response to an inquiry from Councillor Cooper, staff confirmed that Canada Post will be making a presentation at April Committee regarding changes in mail delivery in rural Colchester County.

### **Presentations**

Mr. Peter Bigelow, Folly Lake/Wentworth Valley

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Preservation Society

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In his presentation, Mr. Bigelow indicated that the Folly Lake/Wentworth Valley Preservation Society is a coalition of the Folly Lake Landowners Association, Wentworth Valley Residents' Association, the ski community and ski hill owners. The Society came together to determine a position on the proposed 72 turbines wind energy project which straddles the Cumberland/Colchester County line and runs for eight kilometres along the ridge of Higgins Mountain. The Society has collected over 500 signatures of people who are like minded and want to make sure that any wind project is done with the public interest in mind.

Referring to the UNSM study by Jacques Whitford, Mr. Bigelow stated that the Society has several points that Council may wish to consider when working towards changes to the land-use by-law in regulation of siting wind energy facilities. The Society's points of concern include: role of wind, impact upon adjacent properties, human health, scenic values and public consultation.

Moved by Councillor White  
Seconded by Councillor Mingo

"That the presentation from the Folly Lake/Wentworth Valley Preservation Society be received."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Ms. Jo Ann Fewer and Mr. Bill Hay,  
Colchester Regional Development Agency

At the March 6<sup>th</sup> Additions/Deletions meeting, staff were directed to invite Ms. Fewer in to make a presentation to Council to further explain the additional core funding that CoRDA has requested from the Municipality for fiscal year 2008/09. CoRDA is asking for an additional \$42,020. In Ms. Fewer's absence on March 6, Mr. Ron Smith provided a briefing to Council on this issue.

In her presentation, Ms. Fewer provided a review of the CoRDA mandate and changes in operations that prompted the request for increased core funding.

Moved by Councillor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor Mingo

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“That the presentation from the Colchester Regional Development Agency be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**2008/09 Operating  
Budget - Additions/  
Deletions (cont'd  
from March 6, 2008)**

Moved by Councillor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That the request from the Colchester Regional Development Agency for additional core funding in the amount of \$42,020 be approved for fiscal year 2008-09.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Mayor Smith  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the 2008-09 Operating Budget be approved with the Additions/Deletions as set out at this meeting, with a residential tax rate of \$0.742 and a commercial tax rate of \$2.00.”

Motion **Defeated**. *(Councillors Cooper, Cavanaugh, White, Cooke and Mingo opposed)*

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Mayor Smith

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the 2008-09 Operating Budget be approved with the Additions/Deletions as set out at this meeting, with a residential tax rate of \$0.75 and a commercial tax rate of \$1.95.”

Motion **Defeated**. *(Councillors Cooper, Cavanaugh, White, Cooke and Mingo opposed)*

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor LeFresne

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the 2008-09 Operating Budget be approved with the Additions/Deletions as set

out at this meeting, with a residential tax rate of \$0.735 and a commercial tax rate of \$2.02.”

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motion amended.

Moved by Councillor White (In  
Amendment)  
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That the commercial tax rate be adjusted to \$2.00, resulting in the residential tax rate being set at \$0.742.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Cooper, Cavanaugh and Mingo opposed)*

The motion to amend having carried, the main motion was voted on and carried with Councillors Cooper, Cavanaugh and Mingo opposed.

**2008 Municipal  
Election -  
Polling Districts**

Following a brief discussion on this Action Item, members were requested to contact Paul Smith, Returning Officer, with any revisions they would like made. Staff will then present a revised list to March Council for further review and approval.

**UNSM Report -  
Municipal Tax  
Relief Response**

Moved by Mayor Smith  
Seconded by Councillor White

“That the letter from the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities requesting comments on the Municipal Property Tax Relief for Low Income Homeowners Report be received for information.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor White

“That a response be sent to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities advising of Council’s decision to receive the report for information due to an existing County policy on low income tax exemption that has been in place since 2000.”

Motion Carried. *(Deputy Mayor Matheson, Councillors Cooper, Cooke and Taylor opposed)*

**Bible Hill Garden  
Club - Request for  
Funding**

Moved by Mayor Smith  
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

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“That a request for funding in the amount of \$400 from the Bible Hill Garden Club for an annual convention being held in June 2008, be denied.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Taylor opposed)*

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **Replacement of Force- Main and Repairs to Lift Station in Hilden**

Three proposals were received in response to the Request for Proposals for Engineering Services for Replacement of Force Main and repairs to the existing lift station on Highway 2 in Hilden. Strait Engineering Limited, Port Hawkesbury, was awarded the work at a total cost of \$10,690 plus applicable taxes.

### **Tender - Trucks for Wastewater Collection/ Utility Services**

The tender for trucks for wastewater collection/utility services was called with a closing date for bids of February 14, 2008. Three bids were received with the low and accepted bid coming in at \$40,839.30 (plus HST) for two vehicles plus the trade-ins. The tender was awarded to Hollis Ford, Truro. Trucks traded in include a 1996 Ford and a 2001 Chev.

### **Insurance for Not-for Profit Organizations - Grant Applications**

In response to the February 15, 2008 deadline, seven applications were received and approved for a total amount of \$2,085. Two applications did not qualify, one not being registered as a society and the second because the policy is not intended for not-for-profit preschool/daycare facilities.

### **Community Park Funding Program - Winter 2008 Grants**

In response to the February 28, 2008 deadline, eight applications were received and approved for a total amount of \$55,943. One application was incomplete so the applicant will reapply at a later date. The next application deadline is September 12, 2008.

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh  
Seconded by Councillor Cooke

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

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sheila Arsenault  
Recording Secretary