

December 11, 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, December 11, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

**Roll Call**

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Bob Taylor	
Councillor Christine Blair	District #1
Councillor Bill Masters	District #2
Councillor Gerald Buott	District #3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District #4
Councillor Glen Edwards	District #5
Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District #6
Councillor Jimmie LeFresne	District #7
Deputy Mayor Ron Cavanaugh, Chair	District #8
Councillor Bob White	District #9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District #10
Councillor Earl McKenna	District #11

**Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Councillor White  
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That the agenda for December 11, 2008 be approved with the following additions:

- add 10b: Resource Recovery Fund Board
- add 13b: Hardisty, Alberta
- add 10c: Water Tower in Bible Hill
- move #8 Action Item to 13c Information Item: Storm Water Issue at St. David’s/Hillcrest Avenues
- add 10d: N.S. Community College”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Edwards  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That the minutes of meeting held on November 13, 2008 be approved as circulated.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Business Arising from Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes of meeting held on November 13, 2008.

December 11, 2008

**Presentations**Colchester Historical Society Museum and Archives

Representatives from the Colchester Historical Society Museum and Archives included:

- Jacqueline Archibald, Archive Chairperson
- Sharon Brown, President of Board of Directors
- Eleanor Mahar, Volunteer

In their presentation, the group provided an overview of the programs and activities of the Museum and Archives. The Museum maintains such old items as Council minutes for the Town of Truro and the Town of Stewiacke, photos, family histories, marriage certificates, death certificates and wills. There are 27 volunteers and one paid employee working at the Museum. During the 2007-08 year, the Museum received some 1700 emails and 1,937 visitors.

The group indicated that 50% of their funding comes from the governments with the remaining 50% from fundraising. With the rising cost in electricity (\$9,000 for two months in wintertime), the Museum is asking the County to consider an increase to their annual contribution in 2009-10 to \$10,000. In the last three years, including 2008-09, the County has provided a total of \$13,500.

Moved by Councillor LeFresne  
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That the presentation from the Colchester Historical Society Museum and Archives be received and referred to Council Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Venetia George, Londonderry

Ms. George indicated that the purpose of her presentation was to make Council aware of the cat problem in Londonderry. She stated that there were at least 100-150 homeless cats in the area. A small building on her own property provides shelter for about 21 cats. Along with Ms. George, there are seven or eight residents that feed the cats. After getting registered as a non-profit organization, Ms. George was able to get food at a discount from a local veterinarian. She would like to be able to obtain funding for a tracking, neutering and spay program similar to the one in Prince Edward Island.

December 11, 2008

Moved by Mayor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor White

“That the presentation from Ms. Venetia George be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Avril Vollenhoven, Manager, Communications Atlantic, Canada Post

Ms. Vollenhoven introduced herself and her colleagues from Canada Post, Mr. Terry MacDonald, Coordinator for Rural Delivery Safety in N.S. and P.E.I.; and Ms. Lita Nelson, Delivery Services Officer.

In her presentation, Ms. Vollenhoven made reference to a copy of a letter she received from the County to the Minister Responsible for Canada Post. The letter requested that the Minister have representatives directly involved in the rural mailbox safety review project in Colchester County attend the meeting this evening to address Council’s concerns.

Ms. Vollenhoven indicated that the project was very close to being completed. She would like to provide Council with the final numbers of the safety review; however, these are not available as yet.

Ms. Vollenhoven then presented an overview of where Canada Post is nationally with the rural mailbox safety review project. There were 202,000 assessments done nationally, including 40,000 to date in the Atlantic region and over 3,700 in Colchester County. Assessments in Colchester County affected rural routes 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6. If mailboxes failed the traffic safety assessment, the customer was required to either relocate the mailbox on their own property, cluster with neighbours at a community mailbox or obtain a mailbox at the local Post Office in the Town of Truro.

With respect to Council’s concern about lighting at the community mailbox locations, Ms. Vollenhoven stated that Canada Post attempts to place these mailboxes in areas where lighting already exists; however, this is not always possible. They also try to place these mailboxes within 3 km. from customers they are serving and the sites may or may not already have lighting.

With respect to Council’s concern about Canada Post’s commitment to inform the Municipality in advance of the areas that would be affected by this review, Ms. Vollenhoven listed the communications she has had with staff and Councillors by way of personal visits, letters, and newspaper ads.

December 11, 2008

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That the presentation from Ms. Avril Vollenhoven of Canada Post be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Mr. John Coleman, 328 Salmon River Road

Council agreed to allow Mr. Coleman to go ahead of the next scheduled presentation due to his topic being related to the rural mailbox safety review process.

Mr. Coleman indicated that he was one of those affected by this review. He was given two keys to a community mailbox or was told he could get a mailbox in town at the Post Office. He stated that the location of the community mailbox at the Valley Baptist Church yard posed a safety risk to anyone having to cross the road due to the heavy pulp truck traffic.

Mr. B.J. Tan, 39 Bonaventure Drive, Debert

Mr. Tan indicated that he is a new resident to the area and that he would like to speak on the proposed flag flying policy being considered by Council later on this evening. Mr. Tan stated that, as a minority, he does not want to see his taxes being spent on another pole to fly flags of different groups. He respects those who want to fly their flag; however, he is satisfied that his minority rights are reflected in the flag of Canada, the flag of Nova Scotia and the flag of Colchester County. Given the current economic climate, he would rather see his tax dollars spent on roads, schools, water and sewer.

Moved by Councillor Edwards  
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That the presentation from Mr. B.J. Tan be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

## ACTION ITEMS

### **Mowing and Summer Maintenance of County Properties**

Moved by Councillor McKenna  
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that summer maintenance of municipal properties be carried out using the Municipality’s inhouse resources starting from April 2009; and,

December 11, 2008

That, for this purpose, two additional staff be hired on term positions for a period of six (6) months during the summer time from start of May to end of October each year.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Dates of January  
Council Committee  
and  
Capital/Operating  
Budget Orientation**

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That the Capital/Operating Budgets Orientation meeting be held on Thursday, January 8, 2009 and the Regular Session of Council Committee be held on Thursday, January 15, 2009.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Election Review and  
Evaluation**

Moved by Councillor LeFresne  
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That, as presented in Recommendation No. 1 of the Post Election Review and Evaluation Report, a letter be written to the Association of Municipal Administrators indicating the Municipality’s support in principle of their position to remove school board election responsibilities from the municipal election process; and/or, at a minimum, insist on improved cooperation, participation and communication from school board officials throughout the election process.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

*Conflict of Interest*

*Councillor Blair declared a conflict of interest at this point and removed herself from the table.*

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor White

“That the six remaining recommendations contained in the Post Election Review and Evaluation Report be accepted as presented and where applicable, a letter be written to the Association of Municipal Administrators and/or the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities; and,

That, where necessary, staff be directed to report back at a future Council meeting on any staffing, remuneration, or training recommendations in the report in preparation for the next municipal election in 2012.”

Motion Carried.

*(Councillor LeFresne opposed)*

December 11, 2008

*At this point, Councillor Blair returned to the meeting.*

**Flag Flying Policy**

Moved by Mayor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That staff be directed to develop a draft flag policy consistent with Option No. 1, as contained in the Action Item dated December 11, 2008, for consideration at the January 2009 Council Committee meeting.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Resource Recovery  
Fund Board**

Councillor LeFresne made reference to recent correspondence from the RRFB in which they indicated their willingness to set up a drop-off site for electronics in Tatamagouche. However, no bids were submitted from the community when tenders were issued last winter. Councillor LeFresne indicated that he would like to receive from RRFB any information on future tender calls in his area for electronics collection.

Moved by Councillor LeFresne  
Seconded by Councillor McKenna

“That a letter be written to the Resource Recovery Fund Board/Atlantic Canada Electronic Stewardship requesting that the Municipality receive information on any upcoming tender calls for the establishment of an electronics drop-off site in the Tatamagouche area; or, should there not be such a site developed, that a special electronics collections event be organized each year to coincide with the Municipality’s spring and fall cleanup program schedule.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Water Tower in  
Bible Hill**

**Conflict of Interest**

*Councillor Blair declared a conflict of interest on this item and removed herself from the table.*

Mayor Taylor expressed his concern about the Bible Hill water tower project and the Village Commission’s lack of commitment to include the project on the capital budget list no earlier than 2013/14. Mayor Taylor requested that Council consider writing another letter to the Village to determine if their position on this project has changed.

December 11, 2008

Moved by Mayor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor McKenna

“That a letter be written to the Village of Bible Hill to see if their position on the water tower project has changed from that indicated in their correspondence dated May 21, 2008.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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

**N.S. Community  
College**

Councillor Taggart reported on a conversation he had with Kevin Quinlan from the Nova Scotia Community College while attending a meeting of the Truro and District Chamber of Commerce. With the increasing number of students enrolling at the College, there are also increasing numbers being turned away because the programs are full. At last night’s meeting, the Chamber was asked by NSCC to consider writing a letter to the Minister of Education in support of expanding NSCC programs and services. Councillor Taggart asked Council to consider writing a similar letter.

Moved by Councillor Taggart  
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That a letter be written to the Minister of Education and copied to the local MLA’s, indicating the Municipality’s support for the need to expand the programs and services provided by the Nova Scotia Community College in order to meet the increasing demand for enrolment.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**INFORMATION  
ITEMS**

**Red Flashing Light  
at Masstown Market  
Intersection**

At a Council meeting in August 2008, a motion was passed that a request to have a red flashing light installed at the Masstown Market intersection be referred to a future Committee meeting. Since that time, a letter was written to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal asking them to look into the matter. In addition, the Municipality will raise this and other issues at an upcoming meeting being arranged with the Province and will report back to Council on the results of that meeting.

**Laptops for Council**

Moved by Mayor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That staff be directed to bring back to Council a report and recommendation outlining the costs, training, usage policy and security,

December 11, 2008

associated with the provision of laptops to members of Council for the effective conduct of municipal business.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Stormwater Issue on  
St. David's  
Avenue/Hillcrest  
Avenue**

Mayor Taylor indicated that this is one of the other issues that will be discussed at the upcoming meeting with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal along with 532 Pictou Road and Truro Heights.

**Hardisty, Alberta**

Councillor Edwards made reference to correspondence between the Town of Hardisty, Alberta and the Central Nova Tourist Association regarding twinning of Hardisty with the Village of Tatamagouche. It was recommended that copies of these letters be forwarded to the Village of Tatamagouche.

Moved by Councillor Blair  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That copies of correspondence between the Town of Hardisty and the Central Nova Tourist Association be forwarded to the Village of Tatamagouche for any action they wish to take.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Directors' Reports**

Copies of reports from the Director of Public Works and the Solid Waste Manager were circulated on table for this evening's meeting.

**Recess**

Council agreed to recess to an in-camera session at 11:25 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 11:27 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor LeFresne  
Seconded by Councillor McKenna

“That the meeting be adjourned at 11:30 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sheila Arsenault  
Recording Secretary