

March 12, 2009

**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 12, 2009 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 Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the agenda for March 12, 2009 be approved with the following additions:

- add 18b: Park Street
- add 18c: Debert Phase I Design (on table)
- add 18d: UNSM Spring Workshop (on table)
- add 21b: The Week the Women Went
- delete No. 22 In-Camera item - Personnel Matter”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Blair  
Seconded by Councillor White

“That the minutes of meeting held on February 12, 2009 be approved as circulated.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Business Arising from Minutes**

Referring to page 1095 of the February 12<sup>th</sup> minutes on a municipal horse and livestock by-law, Councillor McKenna reported that his research has resulted in locating a section in the provincial Motor Vehicle Act which states that a person is not permitted to ride or lead a horse on any sidewalk

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except for the purpose of crossing the sidewalk. Councillor McKenna indicated that, because of this provision in the Act, any such occurrences can be reported to the RCMP.

### Presentations

#### S/Sgt. Jeff Christie

S/Sgt. Christie began his presentation by introducing Sgt. Al Affleck who is replacing the recently retired Dave Darrah. S/Sgt. Christie also informed Council that he has one month left on the job before going on to a new position.

In a letter to the Mayor dated February 6, 2009, S/Sgt. Christie requested that in fiscal year 2009-10, he would like Council to consider approving five additional positions for Colchester County. Given crime trends and public safety trends, these new positions would augment existing resources and address pressures on the shift and support realignment of service towards 24-hour policing. A copy of the February correspondence was circulated to Council.

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That the presentation from the RCMP be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

#### Ms. Jo Ann Fewer, Colchester Regional Development Agency (CoRDA)

Representing CoRDA were Jon Stanfield, Jo Ann Fewer, Ron Smith and Cathy Parker.

Ms. Fewer provided a powerpoint presentation on CoRDA's 2009-10 Business Plan. Copies of the presentation were circulated to members of Council and copies of the Business Plan will be available by March 13<sup>th</sup>. At a meeting held earlier this evening with the Executive and Audit Committee, Ms. Fewer provided a review of documents relating to the CoRDA budget.

There are four different budgets required to run the CoRDA organization - core funding, regional promotions, business parks and the Debert Air Industrial Park. In previous years, CoRDA presented a five-year operating budget. For the new fiscal year, CoRDA's financial request from the Municipality is averaged over the next three years to ensure consistency. This means that for 2009-10, CoRDA is asking for \$170,900 for core funding and \$137,340 for regional promotions, and the same amounts for 2010-11 and 2011-12.

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Ms. Fewer briefed Council on the reason behind the large increase in the request for regional promotional funding. The Debert assets transfer agreement between CoRDA and the Municipality is due to expire on March 31, 2009. As part of this three-year agreement, any revenues realized from the sale of land and buildings was split 80% to the Municipality and 20% to CoRDA for regional promotions. With the end of the agreement coming up and the fact that most of the land and buildings have been sold, this source of revenue for regional promotions has diminished.

Moved by Councillor White  
Seconded by Councillor Buott

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

Motion Carried Unanimously.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Economic Development Grants Policy**

Moved by Mayor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Economic Development Grants Policy be amended as follows:

- under heading Types of Grants, amend to read ‘The second category of grants relates to events which will bring in people from outside the region’.”

motion amended.

Moved by Councillor Masters (In  
Amendment)  
Seconded by Councillor LeFresne

“That an addition be made to ‘The second category’ clause to read ‘The second category ..... from outside the region for one-time events or events that occur periodically’.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

The motion to amend having carried, the main motion, as presented, was voted on and carried unanimously.

### **North River Ballfield Lease**

Council agreed to move Item No. 16, North River Ballfield Lease, forward on the agenda to accommodate those in the audience.

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Staff noted that a revised version of the North River ballfield lease was circulated on table to replace the copy originally circulated in the Council package for this evening's meeting.

Moved by Councillor White  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the revised lease agreement between the Municipality and the North River and District Recreation Association be approved with the following amendment:

- Clause 4(c) should read ‘The Tenant shall provide the Landlord, via Recreation Services, an annual update or report which shall include field usage and field upgrades’.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Forklift for  
Materials Recovery  
Facility**

\_\_\_\_\_ Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Capital Budget be amended to allow the purchase of a second forklift at the Materials Recovery Facility, in addition to the purchase of the first forklift previously approved by Council on July 10, 2008.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Colchester County  
Wellness Program**

During debate on this Action Item, Councillors raised the following points with the proposed program:

- statistics on the effect such a program would have on absenteeism
- clarification on whether program is for employees only or employees and members of Council
- problem with \$150 being paid to employees per fiscal year
- like to see wellness program based on exercise program that is more controlled, with some flexibility on personal training
- insurance savings

Moved by Councillor LeFresne  
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That the proposed Colchester County Wellness Program be referred back to staff for further study.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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**Scotia Pool Financial Request**

\_\_\_\_\_ Moved by Councillor Cooper  
 Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the current level of funding in the amount of \$100,000 continue to be provided to Scotia Pool in 2009-10.”

Motion Carried. *(Mayor Taylor, Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh, Councillors MacKenzie and McKenna opposed)*

Moved by Councillor LeFresne  
 Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That the Municipality not pick up Scotia Pool’s expected \$90,000 deficit in 2008-09 at this point in time.”

Motion Carried. *(Mayor Taylor, Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh, Councillors MacKenzie and McKenna opposed)*

During discussion on this Action Item, it was recommended that staff meet with Scotia Pool to address such issues as provincial funding assistance, high fuel costs, increased user fees, fundraising, and decreased hours of operation.

**County Personnel Policies**

Moved by Councillor Masters  
 Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that current Personnel Policies numbered 5.01, 5.04 and 6.03 be repealed; and that revised Personnel Policies numbered 5.01, 5.04 and 6.03, as presented, be approved.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Eagle Drive Sidewalk**

Moved by Councillor Masters  
 Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That the Eagle Drive Sidewalk Action Item be referred back to staff to determine estimated cost of outsourcing design work, estimated cost of sidewalk project if done in conjunction with provincial paving project; and, confirmation from Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal that Eagle Drive is on the provincial priority list for the 2009-10 construction season.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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**Civic Centre  
Memorandum of  
Understanding**

Moved by Mayor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that an amended Civic Centre Memorandum of Understanding, as attached to Action Item dated March 12, 2009, be approved, subject to approval by the Council of the Town of Truro.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Fire Safety Act and  
Municipal Inspection  
Program**

*At this point in the meeting, 11:00 p.m., Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh left the meeting. In his absence, Councillor Cooper assumed the position of Chair until Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh returned at 11:04 p.m.*

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the following options be implemented with respect to the Fire Safety Act and Municipal Inspection Program:

- That the inspection program be re-established in 2009-10 and the vacant Fire Inspector position be filled;
- That staff be instructed to research alternate compliance options adopted by other jurisdictions, such as the Halifax Regional Municipality and Ontario, and recommend guidelines that could be adopted as policy in Colchester County; and,
- That a letter be written to the Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment to request an update on the status of the proposed amendments to the regulations that had been forwarded to the Municipality in March 2006.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Flood Advisory  
Committee**

Moved by Mayor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That staff be authorized to develop a draft terms of reference for the Flood Advisory Committee, consistent with Option 2 of Action Item dated March 12, 2009 pertaining to mandate and Option 1 pertaining to expanded mandate membership; and, that staff also be directed to develop draft program guidelines for small flood reduction project funding.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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**Loan Guarantee -  
Cobequid District 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 a loan of \$160,000 for the Cobequid District Fire Brigade for the purchase of a new chassis replacement for an aging tanker; 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.

**Open Burning Issues**

Councillor McKenna asked that, given the lateness of the evening, this item be deferred until April Council Committee.

Moved by Councillor McKenna  
Seconded by Councillor White

“That the matter on Open Burning Issues be deferred to April Council Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Earth Hour  
- March 2009**

Councillor Blair asked Council to consider a declaration in recognition of Earth Hour on March 28, 2009. If approved, on March 28<sup>th</sup>, residents would be asked to turn off their lights from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Blair  
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That March 28, 2009 be declared Earth Hour in the Municipality of Colchester.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Park Street**

Moved by Mayor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and one staff person arrange a meeting with the local MLA’s to discuss possible solutions to the flooding on Park Street.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Councillor Blair requested that a representative from the Village of Bible Hill be invited to this meeting.

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**Debert Phase I Design**

Moved by Councillor White  
 Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that a \$40,000 budget be approved for the Debert Phase I Infrastructure Design Project, source of funds to be the Debert House Sales Reserve.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**UNSM Spring Workshop**

Moved by Councillor LeFresne  
 Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Mayor Taylor, Deputy Mayor Cavaaugh, Councillors Blair, Buott, Masters and MacKenzie be authorized to attend the UNSM Spring Workshop being held May 14-15, 2009 at Keltic Lodge in Ingonish.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**INFORMATION ITEMS****Debert Water Utility - UARB Hearing Decision**

A decision on the Debert Water Utility was received from the provincial Utility and Review Board on February 26, 2009. Essentially, the decision is based on the requested rates that were submitted for approval. The Board did amend the implementation dates for the series of rates. Rates scheduled for January 1, 2009 were delayed until March 1, 2009 and rates scheduled for April 1, 2009 were delayed until October 1, 2009. The rates for April 1, 2010 were approved for the same date.

**Proceeds from Sale of Bass River House**

The net proceeds from the sale of a property in Bass River in January 2005 were \$48,403.57. Since that time, a \$7,000 grant to the Bass River Heritage Society has been approved leaving a balance of \$41,403.57. In this Information Item, staff recommended that if Council wishes to use the proceeds of the sale for specific purposes in terms of geography and/or type of expenditures, Council should do so by motion.

Moved by Councillor Masters  
 Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that authorization be given to allow the balance of the proceeds from the sale of the Bass River House in the amount of \$41,403.57, and any accumulated interest, be used for projects that are approved by Council and geographically defined by the Bass River schools’ catchment area.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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**Directors' Reports**

One Director's report was presented from the Solid Waste Manager. Staff indicated that Council may wish to have staff develop a report on the diversion credit formula that would recognize not just what the Municipality diverts from but also what is not being put into the landfill.

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Blair

"That staff be directed to develop a report on the diversion credit formula to bring back to Council for consideration."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**The Week the Women Went**

Councillor Edwards reported that this past weekend at the CNTA annual meeting, the Village of Tatamagouche was presented with the Festivals and Events Award in recognition of the community's involvement in the CBC-TV show "The Week The Women Went".

**Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor McKenna  
Seconded by Councillor White

"That the meeting be adjourned at 12:20 a.m."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sheila Arsenault  
Recording Secretary