

September 10, 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, September 10, 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 Gerry Buott	District #3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District #4
Councillor Glen Edwards	District #5
Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District #6
Deputy Mayor Ron Cavanaugh, Chair	District #8
Councillor Bob White	District #9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District #10
Councillor Earl McKenna	District #11

Absent:

Councillor Jimmie LeFresne	District #7
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Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the agenda for September 10, 2009 be approved with the following amendments:

- defer Item #8: Spring and Fall Cleanup Enforcement Options
- add Item #13B: CoRDA Regional Economic Plan Meeting (on table)
- add Item #14b: Tribute to Jamie Muir”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That the minutes of meeting held on August 13, 2009 be approved as circulated.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising

In response to an inquiry from Councillor Taggart, staff advised that

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from Minutes

letters had been sent to Seaside Communications and the Premier of Nova Scotia regarding high-speed internet service in Colchester County.

Presentations

Mr. Keith MacKenzie, Vice Chair, Chignecto Central Regional School Board

Conflict of Interest: The County Solicitor, Dennis James, declared a conflict of interest on this presentation and removed himself from the table.

Mr. MacKenzie's presentation was at the invitation of Council regarding the potential reduction of over 60 Educational Assistants (EA) in the Chignecto Central Regional School Board area and the impact of this reduction on special needs students.

Mr. MacKenzie indicated that last year, some 1905 hours per day of EA support was provided to students and this year, there was a slight increase to 1910 hours per day even though student enrolment declined by more than 800 students. In 2008, the EA workday increased from a 5 to 5.5 hour day which meant fewer people needed for the same amount of service. The Department of Education has a formula for the distribution of EA's of one per 104 students. The Chignecto Central Regional School Board has been well above that formula. In 1996, the EA budget was approximately \$1.5 million and it is now over \$8.0 million. As of today, there is a total of 871 special needs children enrolled in this region out of a student population of 24,000.

Moved by Councillor Buott
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

"That the presentation from the Chignecto Central Regional School Board be received."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Ms. Lorna Blair, Employee Relations Officer,
N.S. General Employees' Union (NSGEU)

In her presentation, Ms. Blair indicated that she was involved in the last NSGEU contract at which time, the actual increase in hours per day from 5 to 5.5 resulted in 23 EA's being laid off, if these cuts were just the result of this hourly increase. Ms. Blair stated that she was not aware of any EA's in the province who worked less than 5 hours per day. The NSGEU felt that an increase in hours was necessary to enable the EA's to do the job they are required to do. The EA's that will get hired back this month will not be going to existing special needs children. Chignecto Central is the only School Board in the province that cuts EA positions in June and hires some of them back in September. There appears to be a

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misrepresentation of what care the special needs students receive.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

“That a letter be written to the provincial Minister of Education indicating that Council has received three presentations regarding the layoff of Educational Assistant positions in the Chignecto Central Regional School Board area and that a number of residents in Colchester County have expressed concerns with the method of funding for these positions.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That the presentation from the Nova Scotia General Employees’ Union be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

At this point, Mr. James returned to the table.

ACTION ITEMS

Road to Barrachois Cottage Development/Public Roads in Rural Communities

An Information Item was presented regarding the road to a Barrachois cottage development. This was the result of a request presented by a developer, Mr. Ken Eisner, at August Council. At that time, Mr. Eisner requested that the Municipality accept a public road for his residential development at Barrachois. Review by staff of the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and Subdivision By-law resulted in the determination that the developer has the right to make application for subdivision approval on the assumption that the road is to become a public street. If the developer meets the requirements of the MPS and By-law and builds the road to meet or exceed the municipal standard, the road will be accepted as a public street and no Council approval is required.

An Action Item was presented regarding public roads in rural communities. This was also the result of Mr. Eisner’s presentation as it raises the policy question for Council on whether the Municipality should accept public roads in all locations throughout Colchester County or are there some locations where development should only occur on private roads.

Moved by Councillor Buott
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

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“That staff be directed to research and present an information package concerning Council’s policy on accepting new public roads at a future Council Committee meeting.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Outdoor Fires By-law for Bible Hill

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Outdoor Fires By-law for Bible Hill go forward to September Council for First Reading with the following amendments:

- Item No. 2, Interpretation: under Fire Chief, change Bible Hill Volunteer Fire Department to Bible Hill Fire Brigade;
- Item No. 2, Interpretation: correct typo in Portable Barbecuing Appliance - liquefied should read liquified;
- Item No. 4(2)(ii), Outdoor Fires Permitted: clause should include that small commercial devices be permitted on a deck subject to approval of installation by local fire brigade;
- Item 4(2)(iii), Burning Material: further clarification of clause ‘distance of 15 feet from any building’

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Edwards opposed)*

Dangerous or Unsightly Premises Policy

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the amended Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Policy (Appendix ‘B’) be approved to:

1. Delegate authority to the Administrator to issue orders, excluding demolition
2. Create a new Standing Committee of Council entitled the Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Committee with authority to issue orders concerning demolition and to hear appeals of decisions of Administrator.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Masters

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“That the new Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Committee review the complaint process and report back to Council.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Staff will email Councillors for expressions of interest for the five-member Committee. These names will be forwarded to the Nominating Committee to prepare a recommendation to Council for approval. It was recommended that the Area Councillor be invited to meetings of the new committee as appropriate.

Capital Budget

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that \$425,000 in municipal funding be approved for the Tatamagouche Branch Library project in 2009-10.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor White

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Granville Drive sewer project move forward to 2009-10 for costing.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the five-year Capital Budget Plan in Schedules ‘A’, ‘B’ and ‘C’ be approved as amended.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

During discussion on the Plan, staff were directed to look into the following and report back to Council:

- confirm whether or not the new Tatamagouche library is eligible for gas tax funding as the new building is going greener;
- look at other sources of funding such as community fundraising or an area rate.

Small Flood Reduction Projects Policy

Moved by Councillor Buott
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

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“That Council Committee recommends to Council the adoption of the Small Flood Reduction Projects Policy, as presented, and recommended by the Flood Advisory Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Purchasing and
Tendering for Goods
and Services Policy**

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the amended Purchasing and Tendering for Goods, Services and Construction Projects be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Position Vacancy -
Small Systems
Treatment
Supervisor**

Moved by Councillor Buott
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council authorize Administration to open competition for the position of Small Systems Treatment Supervisor in accordance with the County’s Personnel Policies.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**CoRDA Regional
Economic Plan
Meeting**

Following a brief discussion on this item, Council agreed that October 8 and October 13, 2009 be forwarded to CoRDA as suggested dates for their Regional Economic Plan meeting.

Directors’ Reports

A Director’s report was presented by Mr. Bruce Purchase, Director of Corporate Services.

**Tribute to
Jamie Muir**

Mayor Taylor read a thank you note that he had received from Jamie Muir following his tribute dinner on August 27, 2009

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor McKenna

“That the meeting be adjourned at 11:40 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sheila Arsenault
Recording Secretary