

February 11, 2010

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, February 11, 2010 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
----------------------------	-------------

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That the agenda for February 11, 2010 be approved with the following amendments:

- Move Item #12 to #15, In-Camera, Negotiations
- Add Item #12b: Sustainable Colchester Plan
- Add to #15, In-Camera: Negotiations.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the minutes of the meeting held on January 14, 2010 be approved as circulated.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meeting held on January 14, 2010.

February 11, 2010

Presentations**Caroline Cameron - Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia**

Ms. Cameron introduced herself as the Administrative Officer for the Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia. The purpose of her presentation was to make Council aware of the organization and its activities. She indicated that the Gaelic Council, established in 1986, is a not-for-profit organization that helps supports gaelic language and culture throughout the province. Funding for the organization is received on an ad hoc basis. The organization has a website, www.gaelic.ca, and a newsletter, copies of which Ms. Cameron circulated along with a pin.

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That the presentation from the Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Staff Presentation**Municipal Regional Parks**

Ms. Hilary Paquet, Parks and Trails Coordinator, provided a powerpoint presentation on a conceptual plan for improvements to the municipal regional parks in Colchester County. There are three regional day parks that are owned and operated by the Municipality - Nelson Memorial Park, Stewiacke River Park and Five Islands Lighthouse Park. For each park, Ms. Paquet described the current facilities, the upgrades undertaken over the last few years as well as the conceptual plans for improvements for 2010, 2011 and 2012. A copy of Ms. Paquet’s presentation was circulated in the Council package for this evening’s meeting.

Moved by Councillor Buott
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That the presentation from the Parks and Trails Coordinator on a conceptual plan for improvements to the municipal regional parks be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

February 11, 2010

**Development of
Municipal Regional
Parks**

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that approval in principle be given to the conceptual plan for regional parks improvements as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Proposed Staffing
and Responsibility
Changes in Park
Maintenance and
Development**

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the following changes in park maintenance and development be implemented in the 2010/11 season:

1. The term position, Nelson Park Manager, be changed to Recreation Site Supervisor with a term of April 1 to December 15 annually;
2. The lawn mowing responsibilities at Stewiacke River Park be assigned to in-house resources and the maintenance arrangement with the Brookfield Sportsplex be terminated; and,
3. The funds used for lawn mowing at Stewiacke River Park be reallocated for a six-month summer term to support the continued development of parks and trails.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillors Masters and Buott opposed)*

**Low Income Tax
Exemption Policy**

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor White

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the following amendment to the Low Income Tax Exemption Policy be approved effective April 1, 2010:

- an increase of 10% to the income levels.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor McKenna

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the following amendment to the Low Income Tax Exemption Policy be approved effective April 1, 2010:

- an increase to the exemption amount based on the Consumers’ Price Index for the last three years (2007 - 1.8%, 2008 - 3.0%, 2009 - 0%).”

February 11, 2010

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Amendment to Tax
Exemption By-law
Property List**

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Canadian Red Cross, located at 139 Truro Heights Road, be added to the Tax Exemption Property List, as attached to the Tax Exemption By-law, for fiscal year 2009/10 and beyond.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Property Tax
Write-Offs**

Moved by Councillor Buott
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that property taxes and interest totalling \$6,397.28 and Tatamagouche Water Utility billings totalling \$285.50, be written off as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Sustainable
Colchester Plan**

Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, distributed copies of the draft Sustainable Colchester Plan indicating that the Plan was required under the municipal/provincial gas tax agreement. At the March Council Committee meeting, staff will be seeking Council’s endorsement of the Plan.

**INFORMATION
ITEMS**

**Mayor’s Challenge
Curling Bonspiel**

Councillor McKenna reported that the team made up of two-thirds Council members won the Mayor’s Challenge Curling Bonspiel recently held in Brookfield.

Directors’ Reports

A report was presented by the Director of Solid Waste.

Recess

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That the meeting recess to an in-camera session at 10:40 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor McKenna

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 11:00 p.m.”

February 11, 2010

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Request for
Additional Funding
- New Regional
Hospital**

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That a letter be sent to the Colchester Hospital Board and Hospital Foundation, with a copy to the provincial Minister of Health, indicating that the Municipality of the County of Colchester is denying their request for additional funding for construction of the new hospital.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Edwards
Seconded by Councillor McKenna

“That the meeting be adjourned at 11:03 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sheila Arsenault
Recording Secretary