

June 10, 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, June 10, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Bob Taylor	
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
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

Absent:

Councillor Christine Blair	District #1
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Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the agenda for June 10, 2010 be approved with the following amendments:

- add Item #11b: Lighthouse Issue
- add Item #11c: Update on Broderick Lane - Road Maintenance (on table)
- add Item #11d: Devens' Exchange Event (on table)
- add Item #12b: Meeting with Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations
- Move Item #9, Tatamagouche Library Costing Options to #6.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor White

“That the minutes of the meeting held on May 13, 2010 be approved as circulated.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

June 10, 2010

**Business Arising
from Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meeting held on May 13, 2010.

Presentations

The following presentations all relate to the Tatamagouche Library project:

Mr. David Swan

Mr. Swan indicated that the new library in Tatamagouche is important to him personally as he grew up in the village and has used the library starting back when he was in school. The new library is in a good location, is a beautiful design, spacious and attractive. It is also going to be energy efficient. Mr. Swan encouraged Council to approve the project.

Ms. Heather Forbes

Ms. Forbes indicated that as a teacher at the elementary school, she wanted to stress how important the library and reading is to the community. She stated that the existing library meets her needs but there is not enough room there for her class.

Mr. David Stevenson

Mr. Stevenson introduced himself as the Chair of the Tatamagouche Library Support Committee. He stated that the library is a unique place that serves people of all ages, but space is very limited for families to come in and do a group activity. An activity room in the new library would allow for showing of videos and presentations. The Committee has strong support for the library and are in the midst of a fundraising campaign. They are supportive of bringing the building to a reality and will do whatever it takes to make it happen.

Ms. Bernadette Martin

Ms. Martin indicated that she has worked at the library in Tatamagouche for ten years. In the summertime, the number of people who use the library doubles because of cottagers and tourists.

Ms. Leslie Brown

In addressing the issue of the library being open 23 hours a week, Mr. Brown agreed that the number sounds pretty small but there is also a person at the Truro library who works an additional seven hours a week on behalf of the people of Tatamagouche.

June 10, 2010

Seconded by Councillor LeFresne

“That the presentations regarding the Tatamagouche Library be received.”

Motions Carried Unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Tatamagouche Library - Costing Options

Mr. Crawford Macpherson introduced this Action Item with a powerpoint presentation. In addition to providing information on the library’s concept design and budget, Mr. Macpherson provided six options for Council’s consideration on how to deal with the funding shortfall of \$197,000:

1. Increase the municipal contribution;
2. Reduce capital cost by decreasing the size of building;
3. Reduce cost using conventional heating, ventilation and cooling systems versus ground source heat pump system;
4. Increase community contribution through an area rate;
5. Cancel project and tender space for lease; or,
6. Cancel project completely and retain the existing library space.

Subsequent to Council debate on the six costing options, the following motions were put forward:

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the original budget of \$425,000 for the Tatamagouche Library Project be upheld; and,

That the remaining funding required to complete the project be covered through the establishment of an area rate.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the net proceeds received from the sale of the existing library building go toward the capital cost of the new facility.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor LeFresne
Seconded by Councillor Masters

June 10, 2010

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the catchment area for the establishment of an area rate be the Tatamagouche Fire District.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Staff agreed to look at whether a public meeting regarding the area rate is required and will report back at June Council.

**Council Proceedings
and Committees’
Policy**

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council Committee recommends to Council the adoption of the Council Proceedings and Committees’ Policy as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Crockett Park Lease

Staff noted that at May Council, a motion was passed authorizing June Council Committee to make a final decision on this Action Item.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That Council Committee authorizes the Municipality to enter into a one-year lease with Mr. Paul Misener, owner of Crockett Community Park; and, that the CAO and Mayor be authorized to complete the terms of the lease; and, that the Municipality enter into an agreement with the Crockett Community Park Committee; and, that the CAO and Mayor be authorized to negotiate that agreement.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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

Moved by Councillor LeFresne
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the property owned by the Atlantic Christian Training Centre at 261 Loop Highway 6, Bayhead, be added to the Property List of the Tax Exemption By-law for fiscal year 2010-11 and beyond.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Five -Year Capital
Budget Plan**

Mr. Bruce Purchase, Director of Corporate Services, briefed Council on the five-year capital budget plan, a copy of which was circulated on table. The Plan consists of three schedules:

- Schedule ‘A’ - capital projects over next 5 years
- Schedule ‘B’ - capital reserves

June 10, 2010

- Schedule 'C' - priority list

Mr. Dan McDougall, Chief Administrative Officer, indicated that Council will be asked to review Schedule 'C', identify priorities and direct staff to prepare a report and recommendation for Council's consideration before a final decision is made.

Mr. McDougall explained that one of the biggest challenges for staff is how to move projects from Schedule 'C' to Schedule 'A'. With an information handout, Mr. McDougall described an example of a Capital Improvement Plan that will help both Council and staff with this process.

Mr. McDougall suggested that Council may wish to consider holding a separate meeting to develop criteria for a ranking process that would assist in moving projects from Schedule 'C' to Schedule 'A'.

Council agreed to holding a separate facilitated meeting in order to develop criteria for establishing capital budget priorities.

**Assessment and
Replacement of
Water Tower in
Debert**

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor White

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff proceed with engaging a structural engineering consultant, who has expertise in the evaluation of gunite construction water towers, to carry out a detailed external/internal structural evaluation of the water tower on MacElmon's Road (R1) in Debert; and, based on this evaluation, make a recommendation on the structural stability and expected remaining service life of the water tower.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Lighthouse Issues

Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh expressed his displeasure at the federal government's decision to give up ownership of lighthouses in Nova Scotia and across the country. He recommended that Council consider writing a letter to the federal and provincial governments to voice these concerns.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That a letter be written to the federal and provincial governments to express the Municipality's concerns with the federal government's plans to relinquish ownership of some 1,000 lighthouses across the country and the

impact this could have with respect to downloading of responsibility and costs to local communities.”

June 10, 2010

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Update on
Broderick Lane -
Road Maintenance**

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor McKenna

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Municipality commit \$5,000 to road improvements on Broderick Lane, Lower Five Islands, source of funds to be the municipal parks budget; and, that the lane maintenance program be adopted as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Devens’ Exchange
Event**

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that, subject to availability, Mayor Taylor, Councillor Masters and the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to participate in the exchange event in Devens, Massachusetts, August 16-17, 2010.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**INFORMATION
ITEMS**

**Meeting with
Minister of Service
Nova Scotia &
Municipal Relations**

Mr. McDougall reported that Minister Jennex’s office had called and indicated that the Minister would like to meet with Council on July 8th at 10:00 a.m. This meeting is part of the Minister’s plans to meet with all 55 municipalities across the province. Staff will send out a reminder to Councillors via email. In preparation for this meeting, Mr. McDougall indicated that he would prepare a report to be presented to the Minister which he will circulate to Council for comment.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor McKenna

“That the meeting be adjourned at 10:19 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sheila Arsenault
Recording Secretary