

January 13, 2011

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, January 13, 2011 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 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 Tom Taggart	District #10
Councillor Earl McKenna	District #11

Absent:

Councillor Bill Masters	District #2
Councillor Bob White	District #9

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Edwards
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That the agenda for January 13, 2011 be approved with the following amendments:

- add Item #6b: Tendering Process
- add Item #14b: Drinking Water
- delete Item #15: Letter of Support Request - Northumberland Arts Council/Fraser Cultural Centre
- add Item #14c: Guardrail at End of Kennedy Road
- move Item #13, Amendments to False Alarm By-law, to follow after Item #8, Smoke-Free Recreational Properties.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That the minutes of the meeting held on December 9, 2010 be approved with the following amendment:

- Page 1226, Sidewalk Strategy: delete paragraph 3 regarding a

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sidewalk in Bass River being added to list of potential projects.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Business Arising
from Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meeting held on December 9, 2010.

Presentations

Colchester-East Hants Public Library Board

At the request of Council, Ms. Janet Pelley, Library Director and Secretary to the Colchester-East Hants Public Library Board, presented a powerpoint presentation on the existing library facilities located in Truro and the services it provides and the proposed new library for the region. Accompanying Ms. Pelley were Ruby McDorman, Chair of the Library Board and staff members Lesley Brann, Linda Marsh and Norma Johnson-McGregor.

With regard to the existing building, Ms. Pelley indicated that it is not fully accessible and its components are failing and need repair/replacement. The proposed new building should be in a central location, be approximately 35,000 square feet in size over one or two levels, and contain ‘green’ features to realize operational efficiencies and to serve as a model for the community.

A copy of the Library Board’s presentation was circulated to Council members.

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That the presentation from the Colchester-East Hants Public Library Board be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Mr. Ted Lohnes, Lawn Bowls Committee

In his presentation, Mr. Lohnes provided an overview of the Cobequid Lawn Bowls Committee/Club. In 2009, Truro Town Council authorized the establishment of a Lawn Bowls Committee to examine the feasibility of developing a lawn bowling facility to service Central Colchester residents. The facility is intended to include a bowling green, clubhouse, storage for playing and maintenance equipment, and parking. The

Committee presently consists of elected officials and staff from the Town of Truro, Municipality of Colchester and the Village of Bible Hill as well

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as five citizen representatives.

Mr. Lohnes indicated the Committee has agreed that the Douglas Street Recreation Centre site in Truro offers the best potential for a new lawn bowling facility. The estimated total cost of renovating the Recreation Centre is \$475,000 of which the Committee is asking the Municipality for a \$100,000 contribution over two to three years.

A copy of the presentation from the Cobequid Lawn Bowls Committee was circulated in the Council package for this evening's meeting.

Moved by Councillor Blair
Seconded by Councillor McKenna

“That the presentation from the Cobequid Lawn Bowls Committee be received and that the request for financial support be referred to the 2011-12 budget deliberations.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Tendering Process

Mayor Taylor indicated that the County currently has nothing in place in its tendering process to have contractors use local truckers for municipal projects. He asked Council to consider having this referred to a future Council Committee meeting to look at the current policy.

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

“That a review of the existing tendering policy be referred to Council Committee with a view of including a condition in the policy that when truck drivers are required for municipal projects, the contractor goes through the Colchester Truckers' Association.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Economic Development Policy Review

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the current Economic Development Grant Policy remain in effect.”

Motion **Defeated**.

*(Mayor Taylor, Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh,
Councillors Blair, Buott, LeFresne and
McKenna opposed)*
Moved by Councillor LeFresne
Seconded by Councillor Blair

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“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the current Economic Development Grant Policy remain in effect and that an increase in the amount of funding be considered during the 2011-12 budget deliberations.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Buott opposed)*

**Smoke-Free
Recreational
Properties**

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff be authorized to develop a policy that would identify smoke-free recreational areas with an emphasis on where people congregate such as sports fields and playgrounds versus trails and open spaces; and, that an education program be created which would include posting signs at those specific locations where people gather.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Amendments to
False Alarm By-law**

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the amendments to the False Alarm By-law be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Municipal Sidewalk
Strategy**

Moved by Councillor LeFresne
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That Council Committee recommends to Council the adoption of the Municipal Sidewalk Network Strategy as presented; and, that staff report back to Council with recommendations concerning a five-year priority list and financing options for priority and non-priority projects.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Civic Numbering

Moved by Councillor LeFresne
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Municipality of Colchester maintain the status quo of issuing civic numbers and leave responsibility to the homeowner for numbering their home; and, that the

Municipality of Colchester contribute to a public education campaign through the Municipality’s newsletter and website.”

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Motion Carried. *(Councillors Blair, MacKenzie and McKenna opposed)*

During discussion on civic numbering, the subject of private road signage was raised and whether it should be addressed at a future meeting.

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the issue of private road (off main highways only) signage be referred to Council Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Solid Waste Area
Rate**

Mr. Bruce Purchase, Director of Corporate Services, provided a presentation which, through examples, showed the impact on taxpayers should Council wish to go forward with the proposed motion to finance the solid waste disposal and collection costs using the general residential rate and eliminating the garbage and compost flat or uniform charge.

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the solid waste disposal and collection costs be financed through the general residential rate; and, that the garbage and compost flat or uniform charge be eliminated, effective April 1, 2011.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillors Blair, Cooper, MacKenzie and McKenna opposed)*

**Tipping Fee
Increase**

Moved by Councillor LeFresne
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the solid waste tipping fee be increased from \$75/tonne to \$95/tonne, effective April 1, 2011.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Major Flood Projects
Reserve Fund**

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that a reserve fund be set up for Major Flood Projects and that staff be directed to transfer the 2010-11 unspent funds to this reserve; and, That \$50,000 be included in the 2011/12 budget for Major Flood Projects, subject to final operating budget approval.”

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Motion Carried. *(Councillor Cooper opposed)*

**Debert Water Utility -
Rate Application to
UARB**

It was noted that Council had passed a motion at its December 9, 2010 special meeting that Council Committee be authorized to make a final decision on the Debert Water Utility rate application going forward to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

In a powerpoint presentation, Mr. Purchase provided a detailed projection of what the costs will be to run the Debert Water Utility over the next several years, including capital upgrades/extensions and funding options on how these projects would be paid. Depending upon which option Council chose, staff would then arrange, through the consultant, to have this information and proposed rates for the Utility included in the rate application submission to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council Committee approves that the following capital project funding option be forwarded to the consultant for inclusion in the Debert Water Utility rate application submission to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board:

- 2011-12: Wells and Water Line (Phase 1, Step 1) - 10% borrowing, 90% external funding;
- 2011-12: Hydrogeological Study - 100% external funding;
- 2012-13: Hydrogeological Study - 100% external funding; and,
- 2013-14: Water Line (Phase 1, Step 2) - 33-1/3% borrowing, 66-2/3% external funding.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**2011 National Police
Curling
Championships**

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that a donation be approved in the amount of \$1,000 in support of the 2011 Canadian Police Curling Championships being held in Truro, March 26-April 2, 2011, source of funds to be 2010-11 general operations as an unbudgeted expenditure.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Drinking Water

Moved by Councillor Edwards
Seconded by Councillor Buott

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“That a letter be sent to the new Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations to congratulate him on his new appointment to the position and to encourage him to carry on with the former Minister’s interest in the issue of municipalities charging royalties on the bottling of drinking water.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Guardrail at End of Kennedy Road

Councillor Buott reported that the guardrail is missing at the end of Kennedy Road. When he contacted Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR), he was told that the rail kept getting knocked down so it was removed. Mayor Taylor agreed to raise the issue with TIR.

Recess

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor LeFresne

“That the meeting go into closed session at 11:35 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 12:15 a.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Village Tax Collection

Moved by Councillor Blair
Seconded by Councillor LeFresne

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that a Village Tax Collection rate be based on the number of tax bills with rate of \$16.85 per tax bill for 2011-12; and,

That the rate of \$16.85 be adjusted annually beginning in 2012-13 based on the average annual increase of the Consumer Price Index for Nova Scotia; and,

That the basis to determine the Village Tax Collection rate be reviewed every five years.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

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

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Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sheila Arsenault
Recording Secretary