

August 11, 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, August 11, 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 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

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That the agenda for August 11, 2011 be approved with the following additions/deletions:

- add Item #11b: Blue Rodeo Concert
- add Item #10b: Odours in Lower Truro
- add Item #11c: UNSM Appointments
- add Item #11d: Mayor’s July Schedule
- add Item #11e: Meeting with MP Scott Armstrong
- add Item #11f: Update on Palliser Restaurant Property
- add Item #11g: Water/Wastewater Forum.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the minutes of meetings held on March 1, 8, 22 and June 9, 2011 be approved as circulated.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no further business arising from the minutes of meetings held on March 1, 8, 22 and June 9, 2011.

Presentations

There were no public presentations received for this evening’s meeting.

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ACTION ITEMS**Solid Waste By-law**

Ms. Darlyne Proctor, Waste Reduction Manager, provided a powerpoint presentation on the proposed amendments to Chapter 33, Garbage Collection and Disposal By-law.

The By-law, now referred to as the Solid Waste By-law, is being updated as the current version was approved prior to the Provincial Environment Act, the Provincial Solid Waste Resource Management Strategy and the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act.

Highlights of the changes include:

- change in title
- increase in definitions to 43 to accommodate provincial Environment Act and Regulations
- no illegal dumping, no salvaging, no solid waste burning
- litter abatement
- disposal at municipal solid waste management facilities
- no accumulation of solid waste
- separation and storage into acceptable waste streams by owners and occupants
- rules for municipal collection - times, location, etc.

During the presentation, Council raised a number of concerns regarding the bag size being cited in the By-law and recommended that this be removed from Section 28.

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that Chapter 33, Solid Waste By-law, be amended as follows:

- Section 28(5) and (8) - remove the reference to bag size.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that Chapter 33, Solid Waste By-law, go forward to August Council for first reading, as amended.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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**Committee of the
Municipality of
Colchester and
Town of Truro**

Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that, subject to confirmation from the County Flood Advisory Committee, a joint flood advisory committee be created between the Municipality of Colchester and the Town of Truro to address larger flood remediation projects having community-wide impact, while maintaining independence of individual committees for small flood remediation works; and,

That staff be directed to develop Terms of Reference for such a joint committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**UNSM Resolution
on Water Utility
Regulations**

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the resolution in support of reducing the amount of testing required of small water utilities be approved, as presented; and,

That this same resolution be forwarded to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities Resolutions Committee for consideration at the 2011 Fall Conference.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Councillor Blair raised the issue of sending another resolution to the UNSM regarding payment of royalties for bottling of water. During discussion on this matter, it was noted that Council had previously submitted a royalties resolution in the past which did not receive support from the provincial government. It was recommended that, given Council’s support for this issue, another resolution be sent to the UNSM.

Moved by Councillor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That staff be directed to draft a resolution in support of payment of royalties for bottling of water for Council’s consideration and if approved, that this same resolution be forwarded to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities Resolutions Committee for consideration at the 2011 Fall Conference.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Low Income Tax
Exemption Policy**

Councillor Taggart indicated that he had requested this item be put on the agenda as he would like to see a review of the Low Income Tax Exemption Policy in order to better achieve the goals for which the policy

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was intended. For a family of two, the current policy states the low income threshold must be less than \$27,500. For seniors who depend only on the Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security, their average income is around \$28,200 which puts them just over the threshold by \$700.

Councillor Taggart requested that Council consider asking staff to look at the policy with a view of increasing the threshold and rebate and the cost implications this would have on the Municipality.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor McKenna

“That staff be directed to review the Low Income Tax Exemption Policy, including what the cost would be to the Municipality of Colchester should Council choose to increase the income threshold and tax exemption.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Bay of Fundy - 7
Wonders of Nature

Councillor Taggart indicated that he had requested this item be put on the agenda as he felt that nothing significant had been done to help make the Bay of Fundy one of the seven wonders of nature. At this point, the Bay of Fundy is Canada’s only finalist in the Seven Wonders of Nature competition. He would like to see a concerted effort made to promote this event and encourage people to vote.

During discussion on this matter, it was noted that this event has been promoted by CoRDA, the CBC Radio, and through the Premier’s office. It was recommended that contact be made with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to seek their assistance in getting Canadians across the country to vote.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That contact be made with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to seek their assistance in getting Canadians across the country to vote for the Bay of Fundy and help it become one of the Seven Wonders of Nature.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Odours in Lower
Truro

Councillor Masters voiced his concern about the calls he is still receiving about the odour issue in Lower Truro. He hopes that the expansion to the wastewater treatment facility in Lower Truro and the hiring of necessary staff will help in remediating the odour issue and if it does not, that the Municipality has a contingency plan in place.

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In response to Councillor Masters' concerns, the Director of Public Works, Ramesh Ummat, provided a brief project and staffing update. At this point, there are three items that staff are looking at:

- hiring a process technician and filling the recently vacated Wastewater Treatment Manager position
- looking at first draft of revised sewer by-law
- upgrade of wastewater treatment facility

INFORMATION ITEMS

Director's Report

A Director's Report from the Director of Corporate Services was circulated to Council in the Committee package for this evening's meeting.

Blue Rodeo Concert

Councillor Masters reported on the success of the Blue Rodeo concert held on August 5, 2011. The Fundraising Committee will have a report on the concert in the next couple of days but it is expected that approximately \$50,000 was raised from the concert for the civic centre.

UNSM Appointments

Mayor Taylor reported on the recent appointments of two Councillors to UNSM committees - Councillor McKenna appointed to the UNSM Resolutions Committee and Councillor Taggart appointed to the UNSM Sustainable Practices Committee.

Mayor's July Schedule

In the absence of a Council meeting in July, Mayor Taylor reported that he had a copy of his July meetings/events schedule placed in Councillor mailboxes.

Meeting with MP Scott Armstrong

Mayor Taylor reminded Councillors of an upcoming meeting with MP Scott Armstrong on Wednesday, August 24th at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. The purpose of this meeting will be to give Council the opportunity to voice any concerns they have before Mr. Armstrong heads off to Ottawa in September.

Update on Palliser Restaurant Property

Mayor Taylor reported on the upkeep of the Palliser Restaurant property. The lawn is being mowed and raked, the lights are in working order and the garbage is being collected.

Water/Wastewater Forum

Staff noted a recent email sent out by the UNSM regarding a water/wastewater forum being held in Truro on September 15th. Any Councillors wishing to attend should contact the CAO's office.

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Seconded by Councillor McKenna

“That the meeting go into closed session at 9:10 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor White

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:38 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Purchase of
Property and
Obtaining Easement
in Lower Truro**

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor White

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the CAO be authorized to enter into a purchase agreement for a land parcel bearing PID #20218137 (approximately 1.25 acres), up to the amount presented in an Action Item dated August 11, 2011, including the reasonable transaction expenses; and,

That the CAO be authorized to enter into an easement agreement for a land parcel bearing PID #20218145, both parcels being located in Lower Truro.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor McKenna

“That the meeting be adjourned at 9:40 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sheila Arsenault
Recording Secretary