

## **SPECIAL COUNCIL**

A Special Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Court House, Truro, N.S. on Thursday, June 19, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

### **Roll Call**

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Mike Smith, Chair	
Councillor Bob Taylor	District #1
Councillor Bill Masters	District #2
Deputy Mayor Hugh Matheson	District #3
Councillor Richard Elliott	District #4
Councillor Glen Edwards	District #5
Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District #6
Councillor Soley Lynds	District #8
Councillor Keith Baas	District #9
Councillor Doug Cooke	District #10
Councillor Earl McKenna	District #11

### **Absent**

Councillor Jimmie LeFresne	District #7
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### **Purpose of Meeting**

The purpose of the meeting was to review the recommendations contained in two consultant reports which had been commissioned following two separate fires at the Balefill in 2002. This discussion was originally scheduled for a regular Council session on May 27, 2003 but was referred to a special meeting to allow ample opportunity for debate.

### **Background Materials**

Council had previously received copies of a Water Study prepared by MGI Limited and a second report prepared by Landfillfire.com. Also before Council was an Action Item dated May 27, 2003.

Those minutes will refer to the recommendations in the same order as set out in the Action Item.

### **Approval Process**

While this was a special meeting of Council, it was agreed that given the expenditures involved, that the usual practice of two reviews by Council would be followed. Therefore, the recommendations approved at this meeting will be brought forward to the June 26<sup>th</sup> regular session of

Council.

### **Presentations**

Mr. Merlyn Smith, Chief, Valley-Kemptown Fire Brigade, commented on the recommendations before Council and made the following observations:

- S There seems to be a conflict with the volume of water in the fire ponds. Has the fact that the outlet in the pond is one foot from the bottom been taken into effect?
- S The report references an allowance of 6-14 inches for ice in the pond in the winter. A worker in Middle River in Pictou County told him that the ice level in Middle River was three feet last year.
- S What is the impact of using the sedimentation pond as a water source?
- S What is the backup system if the firefighting system fails?
- S Does the report take into account the tire recycling facility in terms of water demands?
- S The recommendation to connect the three ponds is a short-term solution. The Brigade recommends that a water tower be installed with an adequate water supply and hydrant system.

### **Staff Presentation**

Mr. Susheel Arora provided an overview of the MGI recommendations. The amount of water required is calculated using the insurance standard which is twice as high as the NFPA Standard. The calculation was arrived at by using the Materials Recovery Facility which is deemed to be the highest fire risk.

In terms of the calculation of the amount of water in the ponds, the bottom foot of the pond has not been included and an assumption was made that there was 14 inches of ice on top of the ponds.

Staff recommend the option of connecting the MRF pond, Balefill pond and the sedimentation pond. This will provide an adequate water supply to meet our needs and in addition will improve the access from the sedimentation pond to the Balefill cell area which was deemed to be a problem during the fires. Mr. Arora also commented that if Council pursues this option, that it would still allow a water tower to be added at

a later time if the need arises.

**Upgrading of MRF  
Sprinkler System**

Mr. Gary MacIsaac, CAO, advised that during the investigation of the water demands that the consultant discovered that the existing sprinkler system at the MRF requires an upgrade. At this time, staff do not have the necessary information regarding the requirements and associated costs but this is an important issue that must be dealt with from an insurance perspective.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Lynds

“That staff be instructed to report back at a future Committee meeting on the proposed cost of upgrading the sprinkler system in the Materials Recovery Facility.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Increase of  
Firefighting Water  
Supply**

Council reviewed the recommendation of connecting the three ponds at length. The Director of Public Works was asked about the possibility of building additional fire ponds or expanding the existing fire ponds as an alternative to connecting the existing ponds with a piping system. Following this line of discussion, Council enquired about the possibility of raising the berms of the existing ponds and the additional water supply that would result.

Responding to a question from a member of Council, Mr. Arora advised that the pumping system would enable the water to flow in both directions depending on the location where the water is required.

During the course of discussion on this matter, Council confirmed that it supported the option involving increasing the water supply through a combination of either connecting or enlarging the fire ponds or building additional fire ponds.

Moved by Councillor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor Elliott

“That the Municipality connect the three ponds at an estimated cost of \$900,000.”

Motion **Defeated**.

*(Mayor Smith, Deputy Mayor  
Matheson, Councillors Masters,*

*Edwards, Lynds, Baas and Cooke  
opposed)*

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Lynds

“That staff look at other alternatives relating to construction of additional fire ponds or the expansion of the existing ponds.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Taylor opposed)*

A discussion was held concerning the timing of this recommendation. The CAO advised that if the additional information is available for the June 26<sup>th</sup> Council session, then it will be brought forward at that time. If not, it will be brought forward in August.

**Daily Cover  
Application**

Council was advised that new cover practices are underway and confirmed that no additional action is required.

**Monthly  
Intermediate Cover**

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Baas

“That Council adopt the practice of compartmentalizing cells at a size not to exceed 6,100 cubic meters.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Stockpile of Soil**

Council was advised that this practice is underway and confirmed that no additional action is required.

**Tire Fluff**

Council was advised that recently, Atlantic Recycled Rubber Inc. had begun practice of disposing their tire fluff waste in a landfill in Antigonish County.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That staff investigate the issue of banning tire fluff entirely from the Balefill site and report back to a future meeting.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Locking of Electrical Rooms**

Rather than leave the electrical rooms unlocked as suggested in the staff report, it was agreed that they should be locked and a glass key lock installed to allow easy access in the event of an emergency.

**Propane Cylinders and Tires**

Council was in support of the staff action of storing these materials outside and constructing a small secure structure.

**Keep Fire Ponds Full at all Times**

This matter is being dealt with through the earlier discussion involving expanding the water supply at the fire and sedimentation ponds.

**Purchase Dozer and Water Truck**

These matters were considered as separate items. In a memorandum to the CAO dated June 19, 2003, Mr. Tom MacMillan, Solid Waste Manager, amended the staff recommendation to purchase a D-6 dozer to instead purchase a smaller D-5.

Moved by Councillor Baas  
Seconded by Councillor Lynds

“That the Municipality purchase a D-5 Dozer for the Balefill site.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the Municipality purchase a good, used water truck for the Balefill site.”

Motion **Defeated**.

*(Mayor Smith, Deputy Mayor Matheson, Councillor Masters, Elliott, Edwards, McKenna, Lynds, Baas, Cooke opposed)*

**Install Landfillfire.com Fire Monitoring Wells**

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Council agreed that staff be instructed to report back on this item in one-year's time.

**Design and Construct Alternate Road Access**

It was agreed that this recommendation would be brought forth for consideration at the same time when the water supply issue is before Council again.

**Mark Manholes and  
Confined Spaces**

Council was advised that this practice is ongoing and confirmed that no additional action is required.

**Spark Proof Lids on  
Manholes**

Council was advised that this practice is ongoing and confirmed that no additional action is required.

**Venting of Leachate  
Tank**

Council was advised that this will be done later this year.

**Confined Spaces  
Monitoring**

Council was advised that this practice is ongoing and confirmed that no additional action is required.

**Evaluate Leachate  
Pump**

Staff advised that this will be evaluated later this year.

**Zero Tolerance for  
Waste on Balefill and  
MRF Tipping Floors**

Staff advised that while this is a laudable objective, that it is not achievable without a substantive change in operating practices and resources.

Council confirmed that no additional action be taken on this matter.

**Limit Size of  
Compost Piles**

Council was advised that this practice is ongoing and confirmed that no additional action is required.

**Reduce Size of Wood  
Waste and Metal  
Piles**

Council agreed that staff should report back on this matter within one year.

**On-Site Security**

Staff advised this had previously been considered by Council and recommended no further action be taken.

Council confirmed that no further action be taken.

**Joint Training  
Exercises with Fire  
Department**

Staff advised that all information to date had been forwarded to the Fire Brigade.

**Training for New  
Employees**

Council instructed that staff ensure that written procedures are in place.

**Increase of Water  
Supply**

This matter was considered as part of the MGI Water Study.

**Dedicated Pipe to the  
Cell Area**

This matter was considered as part of the MGI Water Study.

**Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Cooke  
Seconded by Councillor Baas

“That the meeting be adjourned at 10:00 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Gary MacIsaac  
Chief Administrative Officer