

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

A Regular Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Court House, Truro, N.S. on Thursday, March 27, 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 Jimmie LeFresne	District #7
Councillor Soley Lynds	District #8
Councillor Keith Baas	District #9
Councillor Doug Cooke	District #10
Councillor Earl McKenna	District #11

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Elliott
Seconded by Councillor Cooke

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions/deletions:

- S delete No. 10: First Reading - Street Improvement By-law - Rural Areas
- S add 11b: Night Light for Kemptown Intersection
- S add 11c: Position Vacancy - Public Works (Wastewater Collection) (on table)
- S add 14b: Ratepayers' Meeting - District 6
- S add 14c: Green Municipal Investment Fund
- S add 15(2): Negotiations”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That the minutes of meeting held on February 27, 2003 be approved with the following amendment:

- S Page 2002-126 - Add Mayor Smith to those opposed to motion on the Village of Bible Hill - Recreation and Sidewalk item”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Business Arising
from Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes of meeting held on February 27, 2003.

Presentations

There were no public presentations received.

**Council Committee
Reports and
Recommendations**

Deputy Mayor Matheson presented reports from Council Committee meetings held on March 6 and 13, 2003:

**Budget Approval/Tax
Rate**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson
Seconded by Councillor Elliott

“That Council approves the 2003-04 Operating Budget with Additions/Deletions as set out on March 6, 2003, with a residential tax rate of \$0.775 and a commercial tax rate of \$1.86; and,

That the remaining funding in the amount of \$158,000 be transferred to reserves to prepare for accelerated debt payment for the Materials Recovery Facility.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Fire Safety
Inspection - Provision
of Service**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson
Seconded by Councillor Cooke

“That Council approves the Colchester Fire Safety Inspection Program being provided in-house through the Building Inspection Program and that staff be instructed to prepare a policy outlining how the Municipality will administer the Program.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Property Tax
Write-Offs**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That Council approves the write-off of property taxes and interest totalling \$16,502.16 as detailed on the attached listing dated February, 2003.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Executive and Audit
Committee**

The CAO advised that the minutes of the meeting held on March 25, 2003 will be distributed at April Council.

**Planning Advisory
Committee**

Councillor Masters reported that the Clifton District Planning Advisory Committee met on March 20th. At the meeting, the Committee established the boundary for the planning area and approved a letter to be sent to ratepayers that outlined the planning process. The

Committee also agreed to guiding principles of the plan.

Business Survey

In the form of an overhead presentation, Mr. MacIsaac walked Council through the draft business survey. Comments received from Council include the following:

- S Section 1 on Amalgamation: may wish to ask businesses if they think tax rate for businesses would be higher or lower with amalgamation.
- S Question 14: could add as #6 - are businesses relocating; if yes, why?
- S Question 15: businesses experiencing problems with immigration (bringing resources in from other countries)
Under Personal Resources, should the business community be asked what are the County's strengths and weaknesses
- S Question 16: property tax incentive programs - may be misleading - suggest rewording or add in brackets "not currently permitted"
- S Question 17: may wish to ask businesses if they think smoking regulations should be the same province wide or that municipalities have various sets of rules - may wish to add that the Province now has a smoking by-law and that the municipalities can go beyond these regulations
- S Question 18 - Sunday Shopping: may wish to ask businesses if they think this is a provincial or municipal decision. Also ask businesses how it would affect them personally versus profits made. Add new part "Personal Effects". May want to reword to "the **expansion** of Sunday shopping" or "to include shopping malls"
- S VLT's - should this be a question - is it a problem for employers and/or employees
- S Question 20: Add "how do you feel your commercial tax rate is in comparison with other municipalities?"
- S Question 26: Under "Size of Business", add "at your Colchester site"
- S Question 27: May want to ask members of these organizations how they think the Truro and District Chamber of Commerce and the Central Nova Tourist Association are doing - this question could be grouped with Question 13
- S Question 28: Under "Identify Region": Add Bayhead to North Colchester

Moved by Councillor Baas
Seconded by Councillor McKenna

"That Council approve the content of the Business Survey with any amendments agreed to at this meeting."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Council agreed that it was not necessary to present a final draft for approval.

**Industrial Promotions
Officer Funding**

The CAO referred to correspondence attached to this Action Item from CoRDA dated March 18, 2003 in which CoRDA indicated its willingness to take on the Industrial Development, Promotions and Marketing role until such time as economic integration is complete. The CAO also read into the minutes correspondence on table from CPDS dated March 24, 2003 in which CPDS advised that they would not be requesting County support for industrial development and marketing.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That the Municipality reallocate the \$40,000 in industrial promotions and marketing funding to the Colchester Regional Development Authority.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Resolution to
Approve 2003-04
General Tax Rates**

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor Lynds

“That the resolution pertaining to the 2003-04 General Tax Rates be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Dates of May
Council Committee
and Council**

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That the regular session of Council Committee be held on Thursday, May 8, 2003 and the regular session of Council be held on Tuesday, May 27, 2003.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Night Light -
Kempton
Intersection**

Councillor Cavanaugh asked that a request for a night light at the Kempton intersection by the old schoolhouse be referred to Council Committee.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Lynds

“That the request for a night light at the Kempton intersection by the old schoolhouse be referred to Council Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Position Vacancy -
Public Works
(Wastewater
Collection)**

Moved by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Baas

“That Council authorize Administration to open competition for the position of Wastewater Collection Worker (Term Position) in accordance with the Collective Agreement and the County Personnel Policies.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Correspondence

Council requested the following ‘Correspondence’ items be moved from Information to Action:

- S No. 8: letter from Miniature Aircraft Society of Truro dated March 11, 2003 regarding public awareness of flying facilities at George Lacey field
- S No. 5: letter from RCMP dated March 6, 2003 concerning vacancies and billing for policing services in Colchester County
- S Nos. 4 and 10: letter from Emergency Measures dated March 3, 2003 regarding municipal emergency preparedness evaluation, and letter from EMO dated March 12, 2003 regarding National Emergency Preparedness Week
- S No. 11: letter from CPDS dated March 18, 2003 concerning the municipal appointee to CPDS Board
- S No. 19: letter dated March 20, 2003 regarding lease of land at Murray Siding to Central Nova Horse and Pony Association

ACTION

**Peter G. Christie,
Minister, Service
N.S. & Municipal
Relations**

A copy of a memorandum to CAO’s dated February 24, 2003 from **Peter G. Christie, Minister, Service N.S. and Municipal Relations**, requesting comments on proposed amendments to the provincial subdivision regulations.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That the letter from Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations requesting comments on the proposed amendments to the provincial subdivision regulations be referred to Council Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Kenneth Simpson,
Executive Director,
UNSM**

A copy of correspondence to Mayors/Wardens and Council dated March 10, 2003 from **Kenneth Simpson, Executive Director, UNSM**, requesting comments on a list of issues associated with the

proposed Police Act.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That the correspondence from the Union of N.S. Municipalities requesting comments on a list of issues associated with the proposed Police Act be referred to Council Committee; and, that Committee be given the authority to act in order to meet the response deadline of April 14, 2003.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Scott Fisher,
Secretary, Hilden
Fire Brigade**

A letter to the County dated October 15, 2002 from **Scott Fisher, Secretary, Hilden Fire Brigade**, requesting a tax exemption for the Hilden Fire Brigade for property No. 07396260.

AND

**Clair Peers, C. Peers
Property Consulting**

A letter to the CAO dated February 15, 2003 from **Clair Peers, C. Peers Property Consulting**, requesting a tax exemption for the Onslow-Belmont Fire Brigade for property located at 12377 #2 Highway in Onslow.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson
Seconded by Councillor Elliott

“That the letters from the Hilden Fire Brigade and the Onslow-Belmont Fire Brigade requesting tax exemptions be referred to Council Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**William Grundy,
Secretary, Miniature
Aircraft Society of
Truro**

A letter to Mayor Smith dated March 11, 2003 from **William Grundy, Secretary, Miniature Aircraft Society of Truro**, regarding public awareness of flying facilities at the George Lacey field.

The CAO advised that this letter has already been referred to Sue Burley, Manager of Recreation, with the request that she include the Miniature Aircraft Society of Truro in the Leisure Time/Your Time publication and that a letter be forwarded to the Society advising them accordingly.

**Dwight Bishop,
Assistant
Commissioner,
RCMP**

A letter to Mayor Smith dated March 6, 2003 from **Dwight Bishop, Assistant Commissioner, RCMP**, in response to our letter dated February 11th concerning the vacancies and billing for policing services in Colchester County.

Mayor Smith indicated his disappointment on the content of this letter not being as strong as he would have expected with respect to

reimbursement to the County for policing services. The RCMP indicated that they had referred the matter to the Province requesting that consideration be given to a rebate to the County. The CAO recommended that a time period of four to six months be allowed to see if the County is reimbursed before any further action is taken.

**T.A. Olive, Minister
Responsible for
Emergency
Measures Act**

A letter to Mayor Smith dated March 3, 2003 from **T.A. Olive, Minister Responsible for Emergency Measures Act**, regarding the municipal emergency preparedness evaluation.

AND

**M.R. Lester,
Executive Director,
EMO (N.S.)**

A copy of a letter to CAO's dated March 12, 2003 from **M.R. Lester, Executive Director, Emergency Measures Organization**, containing information on National Emergency Preparedness Week.

Councillor Taylor asked that the Emergency Measures Coordinator make a presentation to Council on what plans are in place, what Councillors should know in the event of an emergency and how the regional approach is working.

**Ed Koenig, Executive
Director, CPDS**

A letter to the CAO dated March 18, 2003 from **Ed Koenig, Executive Director, Colchester Park Development Society**, in response to the County's letter of February 27th concerning the municipal appointee to the CPDS Board.

Council were advised that although not acknowledged by CPDS in this letter, it is the Municipality's legal opinion that Mayor Smith is the County appointee to the CPDS Board. Council agreed that the letter from CPDS dated March 18, 2003 did not warrant a response at this time.

**Rosalind C.
Penfound, Executive
Director, Land
Services, Natural
Resources**

A copy of a letter dated March 20, 2003 from **Rosalind C. Penfound, Executive Director, Land Services, Natural Resources**, regarding the leasing of land at Murray Siding to the Central Nova Horse and Pony Association.

The CAO advised that the Province has agreed not to pursue back rent with respect to the expired lease with the Municipality and that they are prepared to enter into a lease directly with the Central Nova Horse and Pony Association for a reduced area at the standard non-profit rate of \$5.00/acre.

INFORMATION

**Rennie Bugley, CAO,
County of
Cumberland**

A copy of a memorandum to the CAO's dated February 19, 2003 from **Rennie Bugley, CAO, County of Cumberland**, regarding the availability of solid waste management services. Council agreed to receive this memorandum for information purposes.

**Darlene Stone,
Debert**

A copy of a letter to Whom It May Concern from **Darlene Stone, Debert**, attaching a Debert Community Road Safety Petition. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**Kenneth Simpson,
Executive Director,
UNSM**

A letter to Mayor Smith dated February 25, 2003 from **Kenneth Simpson, Executive Director, UNSM**, concerning the 2004 UNSM Annual Conference. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**Krista Wood,
Director of Public
Relations, Colchester
East Hants Health
Authority**

A copy of the January/February newsletter for the Colchester East Hants Health Authority from **Krista Wood, Director of Public Relations, Colchester East Hants Health Authority**. Council agreed to receive this newsletter for information purposes.

**Ian Glasgow, CAO,
Municipality of East
Hants**

A letter to the CAO dated February 20, 2003 from **Ian Glasgow, CAO, Municipality of East Hants** and the CAO's response dated March 11th concerning provision of residual garbage disposal services to East Hants. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**Kenneth Simpson,
Executive Director,
UNSM**

A copy of correspondence to Mayors/Wardens and Council dated March 12, 2003 from **Kenneth Simpson, Executive Director, UNSM**, regarding a review of the UNMS communications practices. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

Development Officer

A copy of the Development Activity Report from the **Development Officer** for the month of February 2003. Council agreed to receive this report for information purposes.

Building Inspector

A copy of the Building Statistics Report from the **Building Inspector** for the month of February 2003. Council agreed to receive this report for information purposes.

**Colchester Regional
Development Agency**

A copy of Board minutes from meeting held on February 18, 2003 from the **Colchester Regional Development Agency**. Council agreed to receive these minutes for information purposes.

**Sandra Inglis,
Fisheries & Oceans
Canada**

A letter to Mayor Smith dated February 28, 2003 from **Sandra Inglis, Fisheries and Oceans Canada**, concerning consultation on the proposed province-wide shoreline speed restrictions. Council agreed

to receive this letter for information purposes.

**James Knight, CEO,
FCM**

A copy of a Members Advisory dated March 5, 2003 from **James Knight, Chief Executive Officer, Federation of Canadian Municipalities**, regarding funding for smoke-free public places. Council agreed to receive this correspondence for information purposes.

**Jennifer Sipkins,
Sustainable Tourism
Coordinator, Tourism
Industry Association
of N.S.**

A letter to Mayor Smith dated March 17, 2003 from **Jennifer Sipkins, Sustainable Tourism Coordinator, Tourism Industry Association of N.S.**, regarding the 2003 provincial edition of Communities in Bloom. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**Krista Wood,
Colchester East
Hants Health
Authority**

A copy of an e-mail dated March 19, 2003 from **Krista Wood, Colchester East Hants Health Authority**, concerning the launch of the Authority's new website. Council agreed to receive this e-mail for information purposes.

Local Senior Games

Councillor McKenna asked if Councillors would distribute copies of posters and brochures relating to this year's Local Senior Games. Information on this event is also found on the County's website.

**Reports from
Councillors
Appointed to Outside
Boards and Agencies**

Wind Power Project and Acadian Festival

Councillor Baas reported that the wind power project is going well. A new organization has been established known as the Colchester Renewable Energy Association. He also reported the 2004 Acadian Festival is expected to attract over 100,000 people to this area.

Northern Region Inter-Municipal Management Committee

Deputy Mayor Matheson reported that he has been appointed Chair of the Northern Region Inter-Municipal Management Committee. He indicated that the issue of C&D sites will be coming before Council in the near future.

St. Andrews Stewardship Committee

Councillor Elliott reported that the Committee has met with the Department of Environment and Labour concerning on-site septic systems.

CoRDA

Councillor Taylor reported that CoRDA is doing a business survey on the labour market issue. Staff were asked to place a copy of this survey in Councillor mailboxes.

**Ratepayers' Meeting
- District 6**

Councillor Cavanaugh announced that the Ratepayers' meeting for District 6 has been scheduled for April 7, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Kemptown Recreation Centre.

**Green Municipal
Investment Fund**

Councillor Edwards indicated that he had read in the UNSM's Open Line that this \$250 million initiative is available to help Canadian municipalities with projects to improve environmental performance or reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The CAO reported that there are two sources of funding through this initiative, the first being cost sharing for the technical feasibility of projects by engineers and the second being low-interest loans for green projects.

Recess

Council agreed to recess to an In-Camera session at 8:40 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 9:59 p.m.

**Recreation Manager
Position**

Moved by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

"That Council authorize the CAO to not re-advertise the position of Recreation Manager and instead to offer the position to the incumbent, Sue Burley."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor Lynds

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

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sheila Arsenault
Deputy Clerk