

## **SPECIAL COUNCIL**

A special session of Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the County Court House, Truro, N.S. on Thursday, October 2, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

### **Roll Call**

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Michael Smith, Chair	
Councillor Bob Taylor	District #1
Councillor Bill Masters	District #2
Deputy Mayor Hugh Matheson	District #3
Councillor Richard Elliott	District #4
Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District #6
Councillor Jimmie LeFresne	District #7
Councillor Soley Lynds	District #8
Councillor Keith Baas	District #9
Councillor Earl McKenna	District #11

Absent:

Councillor Glen Edwards	District #5
Councillor Doug Cooke	District #10

### **Purpose**

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. The purpose of the meeting was to update Council on the emergency measures taken and services provided by the County in the aftermath of Hurricane Juan.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Baas

“That the agenda be approved with the addition of five related items.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

### **Staff Presentations**

Carl Shaw, Emergency Measures Coordinator

Mr. Shaw gave an overview of events commencing chronologically prior to the storm. He described EMO consultation on Saturday and preparation with the Special Hazards Response Unit on Sunday.

During the storm, he travelled around the core area of Truro and noted the damage that was taking place. He stayed in regular contact with the RCMP, Red Cross and other officials. He noted the SHRU Building was accessible during the storm and with its backup generator, served as a station for battery charging for the RCMP.

After the storm had run its course, Mr. Shaw described the process of power coming back on in various areas and the contacts made with the Nova Scotia Power. He discussed the use of backup generators. He indicated that as of tonight, Thursday, power remained out in approximately 8,500 households in Northern Nova Scotia, with about 900 of those residences deemed isolated cases.

Mr. Shaw defined “state of local emergency”, and explained that such a declaration was not required because the REMO had the powers necessary to deal with the hurricane. Furthermore, there is no link between federal compensation programs and the calling of a state of local emergency. There was some discussion that communications from the radio media were not available, and that radio operations should be a priority during emergency situations.

Councillor Cavanaugh expressed an opinion that “a state of emergency” should have been called in any event.

Mayor Smith indicated that Council should consider development of a briefing process to maintain communication when a crisis situation occurs.

#### Gary MacIsaac, County CAO

Mr. MacIsaac gave an overview of services by site. He indicated when services went down (due to lack of power) and when they were back up.

He indicated that the major operations still without power were the Balefill and Materials Recovery Facility. Presently, municipal staff are landfilling at the Balefill until power returns. At the MRF, excess material is being diverted to Sydney, and it is expected that 10-hour shifts will be implemented in the short term to deal with the backlog once electricity returns.

Mr. MacIsaac indicated that the tipping fee at the Balefill on brush drop off would be waived until October 18. The Young Street facility in

Truro would also accept brush drop off.

Mr. MacIsaac indicated that the issue of backup generator for all municipal infrastructure needed to be reviewed.

### **Volunteers**

Discussion followed on the use of volunteers in cutting trees. This included an offer from the Army Reserve in Pictou. As a federally funded agency, the request would have to go through Ottawa and this has not occurred at this time.

### **Brush Clearing**

Much discussion followed on the logistics of clearing brush from the curbside in the County.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh  
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That the County be responsible for removing brush after it is put at the side of the road for collection, and that staff research the most efficient way of providing this service.”

Motion **Defeated**.

*(Councillors Elliott, McKenna,  
LeFresne, Lynds, Baas, Mayor  
Smith, Deputy Mayor Matheson  
opposed)*

### **Electrical Hookups**

The process for electrical hookups was described for those residences where the power mast required an electrician to re-install and the inspections that had to then be done by Nova Scotia Power. Council expressed concern with the bureaucracy of the process.

### **Correspondence**

Moved by Councillor Lynds  
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council correspond with Nova Scotia Power to expedite the process of electrical hookups for those residents who require the services of electricians and inspections by NSP personnel and that staff contact NSP directly for confirmation of these requirements.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Elliott  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council correspond with the provincial government to request compensation for damage to farm businesses.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Lynds  
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Matheson

“That Council correspond with the Department of Transportation and Public Works on clean up of DOT rights-of-way beside County roads.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh  
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That an advertisement be placed in the Truro Daily News recognizing Volunteers for their assistance in the aftermath of the hurricane.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

### **Lower Truro Water**

Councillor Masters commented on the extensive use of this site over the last few days and stated that the water supply had provided a valuable public service in the aftermath of the hurricane.

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor McKenna  
Seconded by Councillor Elliott

“That the meeting be adjourned at 9:27 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Bruce Purchase  
Director of Corporate Services