

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, September 25, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

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|----------------------------|--------------|
| 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 Glen Edwards | District #5 |
| Councillor Jimmie LeFresne | District #7 |
| Councillor Soley Lynds | District #8 |
| Councillor Keith Baas | District #9 |
| Councillor Earl McKenna | District #11 |

Absent:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Councillor Ron Cavanaugh | District #6 |
| Councillor Doug Cooke | District #10 |

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Elliott
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That the agenda for September 25, 2003 be approved as circulated.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor Lynds

“That the minutes of meeting held on August 28, 2003 be approved as circulated.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

Responding to an inquiry from Deputy Mayor Matheson, staff advised that the log and debris jam had been removed from the Bass River.

Standing Committee Reports and Recommendations

In order to allow time for equipment to be set up for Presentations, Council agreed to move forward the Council Committee report for September.

Deputy Mayor Matheson presented a report from a Council Committee meeting held on September 11, 2003:

**Funding Request -
Colchester
Community
Workshop
Foundation**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That Council approves a donation of \$100,000 to the Colchester Community Workshops Foundation allocated over a five-year period at \$20,000 per year, source of funds to be general operations.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Revised Fire Safety
Policy**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson
Seconded by Councillor Elliott

“That Council approves the adoption of the attached Municipal Fire Inspection Policy dated July 2003.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Lower Truro Water
Supply**

Council agreed to postpone this item until after Presentations.

**Funding Ratios -
Colchester Regional
Development Agency**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That Council approves the adoption of the funding formula for the new economic development agency as set out in the memorandum from the CAO’s of Colchester, Truro and Stewiacke dated August 13, 2003.”

Motion Carried.

(Councillor Baas opposed)

**Special Hazards
Response Unit -
Cost-Sharing
Agreement**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council authorizes the Municipality to enter into the Special Hazards Response Unit Memorandum of Understanding, effective April 1, 2003 and the Mayor and CAO be authorized to sign the necessary documents.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Balefill Facility -
Staffing**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson
Seconded by Councillor Elliott

“That Council approves the addition of a permanent part-time employee (.6 FTE) and casual assistance at the Balefill using the existing salary budget and authorize Administration to proceed to recruit for the positions.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Executive and Audit
Committee**

There was no business arising from the minutes of meetings held on August 26 and September 17, 2003.

Nominating Committee

Mayor Smith presented a report from the Nominating Committee meeting held earlier this evening. In August, Council had appointed Robert Stone as one of the County representatives on the Colchester Regional Development Agency/Colchester Park Development Society Board of Directors. Mr. Stone has since resigned from this position and the Nominating Committee met to consider nominees to replace him. The Committee is recommending Mr. Andrew Mirtle.

Moved by Councillor Baas
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Matheson

“That Council approves the appointment of Mr. Andrew Mirtle to the Colchester Regional Development Agency/Colchester Park Development Society Board of Directors, for a two-year term.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Presentations

Meggan Colpitts, Pam Isenor, Tasha Ransome
Stewiacke and Area Resource Centre

The group reported that Human Resources Development Canada provided project funding to the Stewiacke and Area Resource Centre for three interns and one youth coordinator. Part of the interns' job description was to plan and organize a Youth Action Forum. The forum focused on youth ages 18-29 to improve the social and economic development of the Stewiacke area. The main focus of the forum was to look at the barriers and come up with ways to overcome them. The forum was held on June 23, 2003 at the Stewiacke Community Centre with 19 in attendance. A complete report on the forum was circulated to Council members during the presentation.

Moved by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Elliott

“That the presentation from the Stewiacke and Area Resource Centre be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Having received no further public presentations, Deputy Mayor Matheson continued with the Lower Truro Water Supply item from the Council Committee report of September 11th.

**Council Committee
Report (Cont'd)**

**Lower Truro Water
Supply**

Staff provided an update on this issue. The boil order is still in effect. Test results showed for the first time a fecal coliform count of less than "1". The Department of Environment and Labour has agreed to provide the County with a camera to be put down into the well to determine if groundwater infiltration has occurred through a crack in the well. If so, the well will be shocked and then retested. If the shocking is successful, the underground pipe to the public water supply will be replaced. If there are any additional capital costs, staff will bring the issue back to Council.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson
Seconded by Councillor Masters

"That Council approves the investment of up to \$10,000 to replace the underground pipe to the public water supply in Lower Truro."

Motion Carried. *(Councillors Elliott, Edwards, Lynds
and LeFresne opposed)*

Staff Presentation

Debt Payment Reserve Fund

Mr. Gary MacIsaac, CAO, presented an overhead presentation on the status of County Operating Surpluses and Reserves and details on County projects where funds have been committed. Given the size of reserves, it is appropriate for Council to review amounts in reserves and set direction on unallocated money. The lengthy presentation tonight will be followed up with an Action Item at October Committee and then October Council. Highlights of the presentation included:

- S Subject to Council approval, items recommended by staff for \$3.94 unallocated totals \$1.85 million for Tatamagouche Sewage Treatment Plant, Public Works Building, Great Village Sewage Treatment Plant, MRF Sprinkler Upgrade, Kemptown Water, leaving a balance of \$2.09 million unallocated
- S possible policy options for this unallocated amount include lowering taxes, increasing services, accelerating debt repayment or leaving some or all unallocated for the present time
- S At March 31, 2003, net debt was \$13.7 million (Colchester's share only) - higher if funds owing by Truro and Stewiacke included
- S With accelerated debt recommendations, less current reserve amount, total required for transfer in 2003 is \$1.29 million, leaving a balance of \$800,000 unallocated

Council requested that a copy of this presentation be placed in their mailboxes.

**Strategic Planning
Process**

Council met on September 17, 2003 with Dr. Jack Novack to discuss the Strategic Planning Process. Mr. MacIsaac indicated that it is now

time for Council to make a decision on whether they wish to proceed in this direction, are they committed to this process or do they wish to go in another direction. Following a debate on this issue, it was recommended that the strategic planning sessions should take place between now and Christmas but that a facilitator would not be necessary. It was also recommended that Council have a separate meeting to begin the process and define how much time is required to complete it.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson
Seconded by Councillor Lynds

“That Council proceed with the strategic planning process between Council and staff, without the hiring of a facilitator.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Second Reading -
Garbage By-law
Amendment**

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor LeFresne

“That Council hereby approves by way of Second Reading the amended Garbage By-law as attached to these minutes.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Application for
Municipal Heritage
Property Registration -
Eastville School**

Moved by Councillor Elliott
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council hereby approves the application to register the Eastville School in Eastville as a Municipal Heritage Property.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Application for
Municipal Heritage
Property Registration -
Wilson’s School**

Moved by Councillor LeFresne
Seconded by Councillor Lynds

“That Council hereby approves the application to register the Wilson’s School in Central New Annan as a Municipal Heritage Property.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Correspondence

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

- S No. 4: letter dated September 9, 2003 from Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia regarding 2003 Tourism Summit Expo and Crystal Tourism Awards for Excellence Dinner
- S No. 10: letter dated September 17, 2003 from Brooke Taylor, MLA, regarding plight of beef industry

- S No. 7: Litterature newsletter for Fall 2003 from N.S. Adopt-A-Highway Program
- S No. 12: letter dated September 5, 2003 from Helen and Shirley Guest concerning a trailer located at 172 Guest Drive and the Municipality's response dated September 19, 2003

ACTION

Heidi Barbrick, Board of Directors, Maggie's Place

A letter to Mayor Smith and Council dated September 19, 2003 from **Heidi Barbrick, Board of Directors, Maggie's Place**, requesting a letter of support of Maggie's Place to the federal government.

Moved by Councillor Elliott
Seconded by Councillor Masters

"That the Municipality send letters in support of Maggie's Place to the five federal government officials as noted in the correspondence dated September 19, 2003."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Chris Larsen, Tourism Industry Association of N.S.

A letter to Mayor Smith dated September 9, 2003 from **Chris Larsen, Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia**, regarding the 2003 Tourism Summit Expo and Crystal Tourism Awards of Excellence Dinner.

Moved by Councillor LeFresne
Seconded by Councillor McKenna

"That Council appoint Councillor Glen Edwards to attend the 2003 Tourism Summit Expo and Crystal Tourism Awards of Excellence Dinner being held in Halifax, November 15-18, 2003."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Brooke Taylor, MLA, Colchester/
Musquodoboit Valley &
Murray Scott, MLA,
Cumberland South**

A copy of a letter dated September 17, 2003 from **Brooke Taylor, MLA, Colchester/Musquodoboit Valley and Murray Scott, MLA, Cumberland South**, to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries regarding the plight of the beef industry as a result of the BSE crisis in Canada.

Moved by Councillor Elliott
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Matheson

"That the Municipality send a letter of support for the beef industry to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, copy to MLA's Brooke Taylor and Murray Scott, and urge the provincial government to speed up the process to provide assistance to the farmers who have been affected as a

result of the BSE crisis in Canada.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

N.S. Adopt-A-Highway Program

A copy of the Litterature newsletter received from the **N.S. Adopt-A-Highway Program** for Fall 2003.

In response to an inquiry from Deputy Mayor Matheson, staff indicated that a report will be coming to Council this fall on the clean-up of secondary highways during the summer months.

Helen and Shirley Guest, Bridgewater and 143 Guest Drive, Truro AND Response letter from Mr. Gary MacIsaac, County CAO

A letter to Mayor and Council dated September 5, 2003 from **Helen and Shirley Guest, Bridgewater and 143 Guest Drive, Truro**, concerning a trailer located at 172 Guest Drive and a response to this letter dated September 19, 2003 from **Mr. Gary MacIsaac, County CAO**.

The letter from the CAO to the Guests indicated that they have a trailer that has been illegally moved onto the lot at 172 Guest Drive without permits and is now sitting there with no power connection. The Guests were requested to remove the trailer from the property within a 30-day period from the date of the letter or the file would be turned over to the Municipal Solicitor for enforcement. Councillor Taylor indicated that after discussions with the CAO and a couple of residents, he believes that the response is correct; however, when you look at the area in question and what the Guests are trying to do, he requested that the issue be revisited. Council then debated whether PAC should review and if so, should it be Guest Drive only or include Guest Drive extension.

Moved by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor McKenna

“That the issue concerning Guest Drive and Guest Drive Extension be referred to the Planning Advisory Committee for further review and that no enforcement action be taken at this time.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

INFORMATION

Councillor Don Zwicker, President, UNSM

A copy of a memorandum dated August 28, 2003 from **Councillor Don Zwicker, President, Union of N.S. Municipalities**, regarding the by-laws for Caucus elections. Council agreed to receive this memorandum for information purposes.

Colchester East Hants Health Authority

A copy of the July-August 2003 Healthlines newsletter received from the **Colchester East Hants Health Authority**. Council agreed to receive

this newsletter for information purposes.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities

A copy of a Members Advisory dated September 2, 2003 from the **Federation of Canadian Municipalities**, concerning the National Antenna Tower Policy Review. Council agreed to receive this correspondence for information purposes.

Colchester East Hants Health Authority

An invitation to the annual general meeting on September 30, 2003 and a copy of the District Development Strategy Project Summary from the **Colchester East Hants Health Authority**. Council agreed to receive this correspondence for information purposes.

**Carolyn Kelly,
Corresponding
Secretary, N.S. Society
of Occupational
Therapists**

A copy of a letter dated September 12, 2003 from **Carolyn Kelly, Corresponding Secretary, N.S. Society of Occupational Therapists**, concerning National Occupational Therapy Week. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

Development Officer

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

Building Inspector

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

**Sandra Fisher,
Concerned Farmer**

A copy of a letter dated September 9, 2003 to the Minister of the Emergency Measures Organization from **Sandra Fisher, Concerned Farmer**, regarding the Disaster Financial Assistance Program. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**Dwight Bishop,
A/Commissioner,
RCMP**

A letter dated September 16, 2003 from **Dwight Bishop, A/Commissioner, RCMP**, enclosing a copy of the RCMP's annual report (copy of report on file in Clerk's office). Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities

A copy of a Members Advisory dated September 19, 2003 from the **Federation of Canadian Municipalities**, regarding the release of a report on the economic benefits of transit. Council agreed to receive this correspondence for information purposes.

**Brooke Taylor, MLA,
Colchester-
Musquodoboit Valley**

A letter to Mayor Smith dated September 23, 2003 from **Brooke Taylor, MLA, Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley**, concerning the replacement of bridges in Upper Stewiacke. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities

A copy of a Members Advisory dated September 24, 2003 from the **Federation of Canadian Municipalities**, regarding applications for

leave to appeal the CRTC Vancouver-Ledcor Decision. Council agreed to receive this correspondence for information purposes.

**Harry MacGillivray,
481 Jollytown Road**

A petition for paving from **Harry MacGillivray and other residents of Jollytown Road** and a response to this petition from Mayor Smith. Council agreed to receive this correspondence for information purposes.

AND

Mayor Michael Smith

**Union of N.S.
Municipalities**

A copy of an e-mail dated September 25, 2003 from the **Union of N.S. Municipalities** regarding the County of Antigonish's support for compensation program for beef producers in Nova Scotia. Council agreed to receive this e-mail for information purposes.

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

Colchester Regional Development Agency

Councillor Taylor reported that the old CoRDA Board held its final meeting on Monday evening, at which time resignations were received.

A breakfast meeting held this morning with the industrial sector was well attended.

St. Andrews River Stewardship Committee

Councillor Elliott reported that the Committee is back again meeting on a monthly basis and is in the process of drafting a forestry agreement.

Central Nova Tourist Association

Councillor Edwards reported that the American Bus Association has recently announced its top 100 events in North America for 2004, of which the Congrès Mondial Acadien was selected as the No. 1 event in Canada.

Recess

Council agreed to recess to an In-Camera session at 9:35 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 10:50 p.m.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That the meeting be adjourned at 10:53 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sheila Arsenault
Deputy Clerk