

February 24, 2005

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, February 24, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.

RCMP Presentation

The meeting began immediately with a presentation from the RCMP on the status of the Northeast Nova Drug Section in Truro. In addition to Colchester Council, the Towns of Truro and Stewiacke, local MLA's and M.P. were in attendance:

Municipality of Colchester

All Councillors in attendance except Councillor Bill Masters (an official roll call followed the presentation)

Town of Truro

Mayor Bill Mills
Deputy Mayor Sharron Byers
Councillor Brian Kinsman

Town of Stewiacke

Councillor Jacqueline Baker

MLA's

The Honourable Jamie Muir, Truro-Bible Hill
Mr. Bill Langille, Colchester North
Mr. Brooke Taylor, Colchester/Musquodoboit Valley
The Honourable Murray Scott, Cumberland South

MP's

Mr. Bill Casey, Cumberland/Colchester/Musquodoboit Valley

RCMP

- Assistant Commissioner Ian Atkins, Commanding Officer, RCMP "H" Division, Halifax
- C/Supt. Tom Bennett, RCMP "H" Division, Halifax
- Supt. Ted Upshaw, Northeast Nova District Officer, RCMP
- Inspector Dan Tanner, RCMP "H" Division, Halifax
- Gary Smith, RCMP "H" Division, Halifax
- S/Sgt. Hugh Walker, RCMP, Bible Hill

February 24, 2005

A/Commissioner Atkins and Inspector Tanner provided background on the RCMP organization and funding structure. Drug enforcement is a federal responsibility and therefore, funded by the federal office of Treasury Board.

The RCMP indicated that the drug issue is a top priority in the province, particularly marijuana growing operations and amphetamines. There are three interdiction teams located in Nova Scotia to address this problem, one of which has been located on Prince Street in Truro. This Unit, although located in Truro, is not specifically dedicated to this area only.

The building on Prince Street that housed the Drug Section will soon be fully occupied by the N.S. Communications Centre for the RCMP. A decision on whether or not the Northeast Nova Drug Section will be moved out of Truro will not be made until a review of RCMP funding resources is completed later this year in Ottawa. In addition, a local review is also ongoing. Assurances were given that “there would be no work that would not get done” regardless of where the Drug Section was physically located.

At the conclusion of the presentation and subsequent discussion, the following motion was put forward by M.P. Bill Casey:

Moved by M.P. Bill Casey
Seconded by Councillor Ron Cavanaugh

“That all levels of government in this area, including municipal, provincial and federal representatives, insist that the Northeast Nova Drug Section be continued with the same level of service as has been provided in the past and that the RCMP in the province be given the resources to maintain this level of service.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

This concluded the RCMP Presentation and the regular session of Council continued.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Mike Smith, Chair	
Councillor Bob Taylor	District #1
Deputy Mayor Hugh Matheson	District #3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District #4
Councillor Glen Edwards	District #5
Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District #6
Councillor Jimmie LeFresne	District #7
Councillor Soley Lynds	District #8

February 24, 2005

Councillor Bob White
Councillor Doug Cooke
Councillor Terri Mingo

District #9
District #10
District #11

Absent:

Councillor Bill Masters

District #2

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Cooke
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the agenda for February 24, 2005 be approved with the following additions/deletions:

- add 13b: Tree Planting Program
- add 13c: Stanley Cup
- defer No. 8, CoRDA Position Paper, until March Committee”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor LeFresne
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That the minutes of meeting held on January 27, 2005 be approved with the following amendment:

- Page 2004-152: amend Public Hearing title to read “Public Hearing - Rezoning - College Road, Bible Hill”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

Councillor LeFresne inquired as to the status of pricing on County flags. Staff advised that some pricing has been obtained and a report will be coming back to Council.

Councillor was advised that the final amount given to the Colchester Legion Pipes and Drums was \$7,000. The Town of Truro contributed \$1,000 to the band for their trip to Holland.

Presentations

Mr. Herman Smith, Carter Road, Brookfield

Mr. Smith indicated that he has lived on Carter Road in Brookfield for 23 years. There has been an issue with the ditch running along three properties, one of which is his. All three properties have a septic tank with the overflow running into the ditch. During the summer months, weeds block the runoff causing a constant smell. During the winter months, ice blocks the runoff causing gaseous fumes.

February 24, 2005

Mr. Smith stated that he has a petition signed by his neighbours and himself requesting that these properties be connected to the Brookfield Sewage Treatment Plant.

Moved by Councillor Lynds
Seconded by Councillor White

“That the presentation by Mr. Herman Smith be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Staff advised that Carter Road has been included in the sewer extension proposals that will come back to a future Council meeting.

Barton Cutten, Inglewood Farms

Mr. Cutten requested Council’s support on a revised land application from Inglewood Farms. The revised application states that Inglewood Farms will not take any human biosolids for the next five years.

Mr. Cutten was asked to put his request in writing. He agreed to do so and have it for Council’s next meeting.

Moved by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the presentation by Barton Cutten be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Keith Baas, Debert

Mr. Baas expressed his concern regarding the lands at the Debert Industrial Park. He stated that the land has been laying there for 60 years and nothing has been done with it. He suggested taking another look at the situation and maybe giving it to the companies that are already established in the Park.

**Standing Committee
Reports and
Recommendations**

Deputy Mayor Matheson declared a conflict of interest on Item No. 1 of the Council Committee report and removed himself from the table.

Councillor LeFresne presented Item No. 1 of the report from a Council Committee meeting held on February 10, 2005:

February 24, 2005

**Colchester Arenas
Association Funding
Request**

Moved by Councillor LeFresne
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That Council approves the amendment to the Arenas Funding Policy to state that the Municipality will fund 100% of approved capital and 100% of standard insurance expenses.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Cooke opposed)*

At this point, Deputy Mayor Matheson returned to the table and continued with presenting the report.

**Regional Emergency
Operations Centre**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That Council approves the identification of the former Bible Hill Village Administration Building as the site for the Regional Emergency Operations Centre; and,

That a budget of \$7,500 be approved for capital repairs to the building.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Property Tax Write-
Offs**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson
Seconded by Councillor White

“That Council approves that property taxes and interest totalling \$31,608.37 as detailed on the attached listings be written off.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Trail Strategy for
Colchester County -
Part II - Projects
and Implementation**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson
Seconded by Councillor LeFresne

“That Council approves the adoption of the Trail Strategy for Colchester County - Part II, Projects and Implementation; and,

That an annual contribution of \$200,000 for five years be referred to Additions/Deletions, source of funds to be general operations; and,

That a trails reserve be established for any remaining portion of the \$200,000 allocation.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillors Cavanaugh and Lynds opposed)*

February 24, 2005

**2011 Canada Winter
Games - Resource
Requirements**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council approves the reassignment of Paul Smith, Senior Planner, to provide staff support to the Canada Games Bid Committee for a period commencing immediately and until May 31, 2005.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Executive and Audit
Committee**

There was no business arising from the Executive and Audit Committee minutes of meeting held on February 4, 2005.

**Tatamagouche
Water Utility
Committee**

Moved by Councillor LeFresne
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Matheson

“That Council approves the general operating budgets for the Tatamagouche Water Utility for 2004-05 and 2005-06.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**CoRDA Position
Paper**

As mentioned earlier, this item has been deferred to March Committee and staff requested that the final decision on the CoRDA position paper be vested with Committee at that time.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson
Seconded by Councillor White

“That the final decision on the CoRDA Position Paper be vested with Council Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Second Reading -
Tax Exemption
By-law Amendment**

Moved by Councillor Cooke
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

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

Motion Carried Unanimously.

February 24, 2005

**Snowplowing -
County Sidewalks
and Roads**

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Lynds

“That Council authorizes the Municipality to purchase another used trackless machine and attachments for sidewalk plowing, at an estimated budget of \$55,000, source of funds to be Public Works Vehicle Reserves.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Matheson

“That Council authorizes the Municipality to provide County roads and parking lot snowplowing service in-house and purchase the required equipment at an estimated budget of \$25,000, source of funds to be general operations.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Director of Public
Works**

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor White

“That Council declare a vacancy and authorize the Selection Committee to fill the position.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Low Income Tax
Exemption Policy**

Councillor LeFresne asked Council to consider amending the Low Income Tax Exemption Policy. The first amendment would remove the clause which states that in order to be eligible for the tax exemption, applicants must have their taxes paid in full for the previous fiscal year. The second amendment would raise the income thresholds.

Moved by Councillor LeFresne
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Matheson

“That Council approves an amendment to the Low Income Tax Exemption Policy by the removal of Section 8.b. in its entirety.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

February 24, 2005

Moved by Councillor LeFresne
Seconded by Councillor White

“That Council approves an amendment to the Low Income Tax Exemption Policy of the table in Section 5 by replacing \$17,500 with \$18,500 and \$20,000 with \$22,200.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

For March Council, staff were asked to look into the legality of 3.c of the policy; specifically, the term ‘adverse possession’.

**Canada Games - Bid
Committee
Composition**

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That Mayor Smith be appointed to the 2011 Canada Games Bid Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Mingo

“That Mr. Gary MacIsaac, Chief Administrative Officer, be appointed to the 2011 Canada Games Bid Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tree Planting Program

Councillor Mingo asked Council to consider creating a tree planting program to help replace those trees lost from Hurricane Juan, insects and forest mismanagement. The program could be designed whereby homeowners could purchase and plant trees in their own area. The Municipality could have its own program or collaborate with neighbouring municipalities on existing programs.

Moved by Councillor Mingo
Seconded by Councillor Lynds

“That a municipal tree planting program be referred to Council Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

February 24, 2005

Stanley Cup

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Mingo

“That a letter be written to Prime Minister Paul Martin and Premier John Hamm, copy to Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, asking them to pursue a mechanism to award the Stanley Cup in the 2004-05 hockey season.”

Motion Carried. *(Mayor Smith, Councillors Cooke, Edwards and Lynds opposed)*

Correspondence

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

- No. 1: letter from Sport & Recreation N.S. dated January 21, 2005 concerning seminar for municipal officials
- No. 4: copy of UNSM 2005 priorities
- No. 3: letter from Joyce Spencer dated January 31, 2005 concerning sewer line extension to Great Village Sewage Treatment Plant
- No. 17: letter from CoRDA/Industrial Park Committee/Colchester County dated February 17, 2005 regarding transfer of property at Debert

ACTION

Anne Perigo, Executive Director, Downtown Truro Partnership

A letter to Mayor Smith dated January 20, 2005 from **Anne Perigo, Executive Director, Downtown Truro Partnership**, requesting funding assistance for the 2005 Tulip Festival.

Moved by Councillor LeFresne
Seconded by Councillor Lynds

“That the request from the Downtown Truro Partnership for funding assistance for the 2005 Tulip Festival be received for information.”

Motion **Defeated**. *(Mayor Smith, Councillors Mingo, Cooke, White, Cavanaugh, Edwards and Taylor)*

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Cooke

“That the request from the Downtown Truro Partnership for funding assistance for the 2005 Tulip Festival be referred to Council Committee.”

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

February 24, 2005

**John W. Patterson,
Chair, Colchester-East
Hants Regional
Library Board**

A letter to Mayor Smith dated January 31, 2005 from **John W. Patterson, Chair, Colchester-East Hants Regional Library Board**, seeking municipal support of the Board's request that the federal government reinstate funding for the Community Access Program.

Moved by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Cooke

"That the request from the Colchester-East Hants Library Board seeking municipal support to have the federal government reinstate the Community Access Program be referred to Council Committee."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Jim Campbell,
Director, Regional
Services, Sport &
Recreation N.S.**

A letter to Mayor Smith dated January 21, 2005 from **Jim Campbell, Director, Regional Services, Sport & Recreation N.S.**, concerning a seminar for municipal officials.

In response to an inquiry from Councillor Taylor, the CAO advised that, to his knowledge, the Manager of Recreational Services was not scheduled to attend this seminar.

**Union of N.S.
Municipalities**

A copy of the 2005 Priorities from the **Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities**.

A brief discussion of the 2005 UNSM priorities ensued.

**Joyce Spencer, 457
Great Village-
Lornevale Road, Great
Village**

A letter to Mayor Smith dated January 31, 2005 from **Joyce Spencer, 457 Great Village-Lornevale Road, Great Village**, requesting a sewer line connection to the Great Village Sewage Treatment Plant.

Councillor Cooke advised that he has spoken to Mrs. Spencer regarding this issue. She now wishes to withdraw the request as she was not aware of the cost involved in getting an extension of the sewer line to her and neighbouring properties on the Great Village-Lornevale Road.

**Ron Creighton,
CoRDA/Stuart Rath,
Industrial Park
Committee/Mayor
Mike Smith, Colchester
County**

A letter to the Minister of Economic Development dated February 17, 2005 from **Ron Creighton, CoRDA/Stuart Rath, Industrial Park Committee/Mayor Mike Smith, Colchester County**, requesting a meeting with the Minister regarding the transfer of property at Debert.

Staff confirmed that the meeting requested in this letter is the same one referred to in the CoRDA Position Paper.

**Mayor Charles Crosby,
President, UNSM**

A copy of a memorandum dated February 22, 2005 from **Mayor Charles Crosby, President, Union of N.S. Municipalities**, concerning the provincial formula for distribution of fuel tax revenues.

February 24, 2005

Mayor Smith indicated that it looks like the municipalities, when they receive the census data, will probably be quite supportive of the funding formula proposed in Mayor Crosby's letter.

INFORMATION

David Morse, Minister of Community Services

A letter to Mayor Smith dated January 27, 2005 from **David Morse, Minister of Community Services**, regarding Cobequid Housing Authority emergency planning. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

Alex Steeves, Executive Director, Dept. of Justice

A copy of a letter dated February 3, 2005 from **Alex Steeves, Executive Director, Department of Justice**, enclosing a copy of a draft copy of the Cross-Border Policing Act. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

Darlene Connolly/Wendy Christmas, Royal Bank

A copy of a letter dated February 4, 2005 from **Darlene Connolly/Wendy Christmas, Royal Bank**, regarding a donation to security systems for libraries. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

Ken Simpson, Executive Director, UNSM

A copy of a letter to the editor dated February 9, 2005 from **Ken Simpson, Executive Director, UNSM**, concerning UNSM's position on mandatory municipal contributions to education. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

Karen Theriault, Director of Public Relations, Colchester East Hants Health Authority

A copy of an e-mail dated February 16, 2005 from **Karen Theriault, Director of Public Relations, Colchester East Hants Health Authority**, regarding a site announcement for the new hospital. Council agreed to receive this e-mail for information purposes.

Mayor Charles Crosby, President, UNSM

A copy of a memorandum dated February 16, 2005 from **Mayor Charles Crosby, President, Union of N.S. Municipalities**, regarding an education partners program. Council agreed to receive this memorandum for information purposes.

Janice Wentzell, Association of Municipal Administrators

A copy of an e-mail dated February 16, 2005 from **Janice Wentzell, Association of Municipal Administrators**, concerning a Council/Staff relations workshop. Council agreed to receive this e-mail for information purposes.

Development Officer

A copy of the Development Activity Report for the month of January 2005 from the **Development Officer**. Council agreed to receive this report for information purposes.

February 24, 2005

- Building Inspector** A copy of the Building Permit Statistics Report for the month of January 2005 from the **Building Inspector**. Council agreed to receive this report for information purposes.
- Peter Gurnham, N.S. Utility and Review Board** A copy of a memorandum dated January 21, 2005 from **Peter Gurnham, N.S. Utility and Review Board**, concerning a review of hearing processes for regulatory and adjudicative hearings. Council agreed to receive this memorandum for information purposes.
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities** A copy of a Members' Advisory dated February 1, 2005 from the **Federation of Canadian Municipalities**, regarding a major step by Government toward a new deal on fuel tax. Council agreed to receive this correspondence for information purposes.
- Charles Clerk, N.S. Tourism Partnership Council** A copy of a letter dated January 2005 from **Charles Clerk, N.S. Tourism Partnership Council**, enclosing a copy and CD of the 2005 tourism plan (plan and CD on file in Clerk's office). Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.
- Liz Pace, Sport Consultant, N.S. Sport and Recreation** A letter to Mayor Smith dated February 16, 2005 from **Liz Pace, Sport Consultant, N.S. Sport and Recreation**, regarding the results of bid proposals received for Phase I of hosting the 2011 Canada Winter Games. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.
- Colchester Regional Development Agency** A copy of the Colchester Communities in Action newsletter for Winter 2005 received from the **Colchester Regional Development Agency**. Council agreed to receive this newsletter for information purposes.
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities** A copy of a Members' Advisory dated February 23, 2005 from the **Federation of Canadian Municipalities**, concerning the federal budget and the new gas tax deal. Council agreed to receive this correspondence for information purposes.
- The Hub Bid, Central Nova Region** A letter to Mayor Smith and Council dated February 23, 2005 from **The Hub Bid, Central Nova Region**, regarding the results of bid proposals received for Phase I of hosting the 2011 Canada Winter Games. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.
- Group Insurance Renewal** The Municipality has renewed the group benefits package for Life, LTD, AD&D, Medical and Dental insurance, effective March 1, 2005. The group benefits are sponsored through the UNSM package. The renewal runs from March 1, 2005 to February 28, 2006.
- Reports from Councillors Appointed to Outside Boards and Agencies** St. Andrews River Watershed Stewardship Committee
Councillor Cooper reported that the Committee held its first meeting in seven months. Guest speakers at the meeting were Lawrence Nason from the N.S. Federation of Agriculture and Malcolm Black, Agriculture

February 24, 2005

and Agri-Food Canada. Mr. Black informed the Committee of a testing program that demonstrates scientifically that agriculture is having an effect on the watershed. There will be federal/provincial funding available under this program.

A policy paper on best management practices is being drafted by the Committee. Plans are not to present the paper in public forum.

Colchester-East Hants Library Board

Councillor Cooke indicated that he had attended a meeting of the Board a couple of weeks ago but had nothing to report to Council.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Cooke

“That the meeting be adjourned at 10:30 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sheila Arsenault
Deputy Clerk