

April 26, 2006

**MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

A Regular Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Courthouse, Truro, N.S. on Wednesday, April 26, 2006 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 Hughie Matheson	District #3
Councillor Glen Edwards	District #5
Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District #6
Councillor Jimmie LeFresne	District #7
Councillor Bob White	District #9
Councillor Doug Cooke	District #10
Councillor Terri Mingo	District #11

Absent:

Councillor Mike Cooper	District #4
Councillor Soley Lynds	District #8

**Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Councillor Mingo  
Seconded by Councillor Cooke

“That the agenda for April 26, 2006 be approved with the following additions:

- add under No. 5, Presentations: Mr. Fred Blois - Biosolids; and Mr. Jay Underwood and Bill Linley, N.S. Railway Heritage Society
- add 9b: Robie Street Sidewalk
- add 13b: County Mileage Rates (on table)”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That the minutes of meeting held on March 29, 2006 be approved as circulated.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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**Business Arising  
from Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes of meeting held on March 29, 2006.

**Presentations**

Fred Blois

In his presentation to Council, Mr. Fred Blois, a resident of Old Barns, expressed concern about the disposal techniques used in the spreading of sludge as fertilizer in the community of Old Barns. The sludge comes from the Rothsay rendering plant. Mr. Blois would like to see Council revisit the Biosolids By-law.

The following two recommendations resulted from Council's debate on this issue:

Moved by Councillor Mingo  
Seconded by Councillor White

“That the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer request a meeting with executives of Maple Leaf Foods Inc. to discuss the land application of biosolids and its effects on the community of Old Barns, Colchester County, and that the Area Councillor be part of this meeting.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor LeFresne  
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Matheson

“That a letter be written to the provincial Minister of Environment and Labour indicating that the Community Liaison Committee, originally set up on the biosolids issue, should meet; and,

That the Area Councillor, as a representative on this Committee, should be invited to participate in any meetings that take place.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

In support of this last motion, staff were asked to locate any correspondence from Environment and Labour regarding the appointment of the Area Councillor to the Community Liaison Committee.

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Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That the presentation from Mr. Fred Blois be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

*Conflict of Interest*

*Councillor LeFresne declared a conflict of interest on the following matter and removed himself from the table.*

Mr. Jay Underwood, President, N.S. Railway Heritage Society

In his presentation, Mr. Underwood provided a general overview of the Nova Scotia Railway Heritage Society and its current initiatives. A copy of this information was circulated to Council.

Mr. Underwood stressed the importance of the railway to the Village of Tatamagouche and indicated that the Society supports the proposed municipal heritage designation of the Tatamagouche Intercolonial Railway Station which is before Council this evening.

Moved by Councillor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor White

“That the presentation from the Nova Scotia Railway Heritage Society be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

To accommodate those in the audience, the Action Item regarding this matter was moved forward on the agenda.

**Municipal Heritage  
Designation -  
Tatamagouche  
Intercolonial  
Railway Station**

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh  
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That Council hereby approves the application to register the Tatamagouche Intercolonial Railway Station in Tatamagouche as a Municipal Heritage Property.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

*At this point in the proceedings, Councillor LeFresne returned to the table.*

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**Staff Presentations**

**Alternative Voting Methods/Options**

Ms. Kim Paterson, Administrative Assistant/Researcher, indicated that the purpose of the presentation was to give Council a brief overview of some of the alternative methods of voting currently available and details about methods used in other municipalities. This matter was referred to Committee in October 2005. Council had requested specifically that staff look into the use of mail-in ballots and electronic voting methods.

Council had a brief discussion on this presentation. Staff were requested to look further into the mail-in and electronic voting methods and report back to a future Council Committee. It was recommended that this not come back to Committee until after the Fall municipal election in Ontario in order to obtain feedback from them on the pros and cons of voting via the internet.

Moved by Councillor Cooke  
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That the issue of Alternative Voting Methods, specifically mail-in ballots and electronic voting, be referred to Council Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Salmon River Water Distribution System**

Mr. Ramesh Ummat, Director of Public Works, provided a presentation on the extension of the municipal water system into the community of Salmon River. A new elementary school is proposed to be built in the area between Spruce Drive, Prince Street and Harmony Road. The Town of Truro and Colchester County have been approached by the provincial Department of Transportation and Public Works to explore the possibility of extending the Town water supply to the school. The new school could be serviced by either water from Truro or from wells on school property.

An Action Item on this matter will be brought back to May Council Committee at which time two principal decisions will be required:

1. Should the water line be extended to the school?
2. If yes, should the water line be sized for extension of water supply to the community?

**Councillor Taylor left the meeting at 9:10 p.m. before the following motion was put on the table.**

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Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh  
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That the extension of water services into the community of Salmon River be referred to Council Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Standing Committee  
Reports and  
Recommendations**

Deputy Mayor Matheson presented a report from the regular session of Council Committee held on April 13, 2006:

**North and Salmon  
River Flood Study**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council approves that Recommendations No. 15, 16, 18, 19 and ‘C’, as attached to Action Item dated April 13, 2006, go forward as priorities and that staff be directed to determine the implications and resources required to address these priorities and report back to Council.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Capital Budget and  
Gas Tax**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Mingo

“That Council approves the five-year Capital Plan as presented in Schedule ‘A’ and ‘B’ of Action Item dated April 13, 2006, subject to the removal of the Great Village Lornevale Sewer Project; and,

That Council approves the gas tax revenues being disbursed on a priority basis for eligible green infrastructure projects.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Purchasing Card  
Policy**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That Council approves the implementation of the Purchasing Card Policy as amended to include the Mayor as a cardholder; and that staff be directed to develop procedures prior to the implementation.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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**Skate Park Action  
Team - Request for  
Funding**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council approves the donation of \$35,000 to the Skate Park Action Team, subject to the scope and location of the project being confirmed, source of funds to be 2006-07 general operating.”

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

**Maritime  
Firefighters Bowling  
Championships**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Cooke

“That Council approves the donation of \$500 toward the Maritime Firefighters Bowling Tournament being held in Bible Hill May 5-7, 2006, source of funds to be grants under economic development.”

Motion Carried. *(Deputy Mayor Matheson, Councillors Mingo and Edwards opposed)*

**Local Service  
Boundaries -  
Colchester Park  
(Debert)**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor White

“That Council approves the boundaries and defined service areas for water, fire hydrant protection, sewer, and streetlights in Colchester Park (Debert) as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Policy on Promotional  
Materials**

*Conflict of Interest*

*Councillor White declared a conflict of interest on the following matter and removed himself from the table.*

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That Council approve the Promotional Materials Policy as presented.”

motion amended.

Moved by Councillor Mingo (In

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Amendment)  
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That a statement be added to the policy stating that members of Council be allocated 25 County pins per year for handout to constituents as needed and if necessary, request additional pins for conferences.”

motion amended.

Moved by Councillor LeFresne (In  
Amendment)  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That the statement be changed to state that Councillors be allocated 50 County pins per year for handout to constituents as needed.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Cooke opposed)*

The motion to amend having carried, the main motion as amended was voted on and carried with Councillor Cooke opposed.

*At this point in the proceedings, Councillor White returned to the table.*

**Letter from Truro  
Dykeland Park Marsh  
Body**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council approves that a letter be written to the Truro Dykeland Park Marsh Body expressing support for the project and authorizing permission to access County lands to undertake improvements and advising that if they choose to replace culverts as part of this project, that this work should be funded by all property owners in the area.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Canada Games -  
Preliminary Funding  
Approval**

The Central Nova Bid Committee is presently preparing a fourth stage bid to the Province. For the purposes of this bid, the local municipalities will be required to commit to jointly funding a minimum capital amount of \$2 million. In addition, there is a requirement that the local municipalities commit to funding 32 percent of any operating deficit arising from the Games.

During discussion on this Action Item, Council had concerns

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regarding the following four issues:

- absence of a local cost-sharing formula
- uncertainty of what the operating deficit will be
- concern whether Canada Games will make money
- possible withdrawal of funding partners

Mayor Smith indicated that this is a regional bid in which the Town of Truro and the County must negotiate the local cost-sharing formulas for the Civic Centre and Canada Games. If that cannot be accomplished, the Region would have to withdraw from the bid process.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That the Municipality of the County of Colchester authorize the Mayor to sign a letter committing that Colchester will share in the \$2 million capital requirement with other local municipalities and further that Colchester recognizes the requirement for local municipal units to fund any operating deficit.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

### **Robie Street Sidewalk**

Mr. MacIsaac made reference to an Executive and Audit Committee meeting held today during which this issue was discussed. Council had previously looked at this project during the capital budget process. At that time, Council had removed the project but instructed staff to bring it back for consideration if Transportation and Public Works went ahead this year with its paving project for Robie Street.

Transportation and Public Works are now moving forward with the paving of Robie Street this year and have made an offer to the Municipality to include an upgrade of Robie Street sidewalks as part of the construction package. If Council chooses to go this route, there is potential for cost savings.

The Executive and Audit Committee recommended that this be brought forward to Council this evening for general discussion and referral to Council Committee. As Transportation and Public Works require a response from the Municipality in order to expedite the tendering process for this project, it was recommended that Committee be given authority to act.

**Councillor Taylor returned to the proceedings at 10:25 p.m.**

Moved by Councillor White

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Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That the Robie Street Sidewalk project be referred to Council Committee and that Committee be given authority to act.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Correspondence**

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

- No. 1: letter from RCMP dated March 27, 2006 regarding resource levels at Colchester County District
- No. 10: letter from EMO (NS) dated April 12, 2006 regarding approval of JEPP funding

**ACTION**

**Dawn Stegen,  
Executive Director,  
Recreation Nova Scotia**

A copy of a letter to the Mayor dated February 6, 2006 from **Dawn Stegen, Executive Director, Recreation Nova Scotia**, requesting that June be proclaimed Recreation Month.

Moved by Councillor Mingo  
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Matheson

“That June 2006 be proclaimed Recreation Month in Colchester County.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Morgan Hicks,  
Fundraising & Events  
Coordinator, Child  
Care Connections**

A letter to Mayor Smith dated March 16, 2006 from **Morgan Hicks, Fundraising and Events Coordinator, Child Care Connections Nova Scotia**, requesting that June be proclaimed Child Care Awareness Days.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor White

“That June 2006 be proclaimed Child Care Awareness Days in Colchester County.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**North American  
Occupational Safety &  
Health**

Correspondence from **North American Occupational Safety and Health** requesting that the week of April 30-May 6, 2006 be proclaimed North American Occupational Safety and Health Week.

Moved by Councillor Taylor

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Seconded by Councillor Mingo

“That the week of April 30-May 6, 2006 be proclaimed North American Occupational Safety and Health Week in Colchester County.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**S/Sgt. Hugh Walker,  
Detachment  
Commander, RCMP  
Colchester County  
Detachment**

A letter to the CAO dated March 27, 2006 from **S/Sgt. Hugh Walker, Detachment Commander, RCMP Colchester County Detachment**, regarding resident policing positions in Districts 4 and 10.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh  
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That S/Sgt. Hugh Walker from the RCMP Colchester County Detachment be invited to a future Council meeting for an update on policing matters in Colchester County.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Alex Steeves, Executive  
Director, Policing &  
Victim Services, Dept.  
of Justice**

A copy of a letter dated April 5, 2006 from **Alex Steeves, Executive Director, Policing and Victim Services, Department of Justice**, regarding the Province’s requirement for municipalities to have a police advisory board.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That the Province’s requirement for municipalities to have a police advisory board be referred to Council Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Glen Boone, Director of  
Real Estate &  
Development, Sobeys  
Atlantic**

A letter to the Mayor and Council dated April 4, 2006 from **Glen Boone, Real Estate and Development, Sobeys Atlantic**, requesting an amendment to the development agreement for Sobeys on Robie Street and the CAO’s interim response.

Moved by Councillor Edwards

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Seconded by Councillor White

“That the request from Sobeys Atlantic to amend the development agreement for the Robie Street store be referred to the Planning Advisory Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Ron Mekers, 102 Maple Boulevard**

A letter to the Mayor and Council dated April 4, 2006 from **Ron Mekers, 102 Maple Boulevard**, requesting that vacant lots on Blanchard Avenue be reverted to R-2 zoning and the CAO’s interim response.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That the request from **Ron Mekers** to revert the zoning to R-2 on vacant lots on Blanchard Avenue be referred to the Planning Advisory Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Tracy McRae, Chair,  
Valley School Advisory  
Council**

A letter to the Mayor and Council dated April 3, 2006 from **Tracy McRae, Chair, Valley School Advisory Council**, requesting a sidewalk be installed from the corner of Eagle Drive and Salmon River Road and the CAO’s response.

Moved by Councillor Mingo  
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That the request from the Valley School Advisory Council requesting that a sidewalk be installed from the corner of Eagle Drive and Salmon River Road be referred to Council Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Statistics Canada**

Correspondence from **Statistics Canada** requesting that the week of May 14-20, 2006 be declared Census Week.

Moved by Councillor Taylor  
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Matheson

“That the week of May 14-20, 2006 be proclaimed Census Week in Colchester County.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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**Ken Ma**

A letter to the Mayor and Council dated April 21, 2006 from **Ken Ma**, regarding a development agreement for three 4-unit senior buildings at 494 Pictou Road.

Moved by Councillor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor Mingo

“That the request from Ken Ma regarding a development agreement for three 4-unit senior buildings at 494 Pictou Road be referred to the Planning Advisory Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Charles Henderson**

A letter to the Mayor and Council dated April 10, 2006 from **Charles Henderson**, regarding the possible sale of municipal land in Lower Onslow and the CAO’s interim response.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor White

“That the request from **Charles Henderson** regarding the possible sale of municipal land in Lower Onslow be referred to Council Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Susan Finlayson,  
Secretary, Cobequid  
Interpretative Centre**

A letter to the CAO dated April 17, 2006 from **Susan Finlayson, Secretary, Cobequid Interpretative Centre**, regarding funding assistance for the Centre.

Moved by Councillor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor Cooke

“That the request for funding assistance from the Cobequid Interpretative Centre be referred to Council Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Asst. Commissioner Ian  
Atkins, Commanding  
Officer, RCMP-NS**

A letter to Mayor Smith dated March 27, 2006 from **Asst. Commissioner Ian Atkins, Commanding Officer, RCMP-NS**, regarding resource levels at Colchester County District.

As indicated earlier in the meeting, the RCMP will be invited to a future Council meeting to address policing matters, including resource levels in Colchester County. It was recommended that this

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invitation be extended by way of a letter to allow them the opportunity to come prepared to address the issues of concern to Council.

**Craig MacLaughlan,  
CEO/Deputy Head,  
EMO-NS**

A letter to the CAO dated April 12, 2006 from **Craig MacLaughlan, CEO/Deputy Head, EMO-NS**, regarding approval of JEPP funding.

Staff confirmed that the JEPP funding would be used for the Emergency Operations Centre, including the purchase and installation of a generator in the facility.

INFORMATION

**Jamie Muir, Minister  
of Education**

A copy of letter dated March 28, 2006 from **Jamie Muir, Minister of Education**, announcing additional funding for library boards. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**Warden Lloyd Hines,  
Municipality of  
Guysborough**

A copy of an email dated April 3, 2006 from **Warden Lloyd Hines, Municipality of Guysborough**, regarding draft terms of reference for the Municipal Boundary Review. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**The Honourable Barry  
Barnet, Minister of  
Health Promotion**

A letter to Paul Smith dated April 4, 2006 from the **Honourable Barry Barnet, Minister of Health Promotion**, indicating Health Promotion's provision of funding to a planning study for the new civic centre in Colchester County. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**Ron Creighton, Chair,  
CoRDA**

A letter to the CAO dated April 6, 2006 from **Ron Creighton, Chair, Colchester Regional Development Agency**, concerning CoRDA's support to the new civic centre. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**Jack Novack, Professor  
& Director, College of  
Continuing Education,  
Dalhousie University**

A letter to the Mayor dated April 6, 2006 from **Jack Novack, College of Continuing Education, Dalhousie University**, regarding a contribution to the Municipal Endowment Fund. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**Gloria Kovach,  
President, FCM**

A copy of a Members' Advisory dated April 7, 2006 from **Gloria Kovach, President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities**, regarding FCM's advocacy kit. Council agreed to receive this correspondence for information purposes.

**Building Inspector**

A copy of the Building Permit Statistics report received from the **Building Inspector** for the month of March 2006. Council agreed to receive this report for information purposes.

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**Development Officer**

A copy of the Development Activity Report received from the **Development Officer** for the month of March 2006. Council agreed to receive this report for information purposes.

**Michael Price, Co-Chair, Canada Wide Science Fair 2007**

A letter to the Director of Corporate Services dated April 18, 2006 from **Michael Price, Co-Chair, Canada Wide Science Fair 2007**, requesting the fourth installment of the County's funding commitment and an update on finances. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**Peter Newton, Warden, Municipality of Annapolis**

A copy of a letter to the Mayor dated April 18, 2006 from **Peter Newton, Warden, Municipality of Annapolis**, regarding support for volunteers. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**Community Park Funding Program**

The Community Park Funding Policy supports community recreation capital projects by contributing up to 50% of the total cost of their capital project up to \$40,000. During the last budget year, there was a total of \$59,508 given out to 10 applicants. For the first application deadline this budget year, there have been five requests received asking for a total of \$75,172.

**Wastewater Collection Worker Position**

At the March 2006 meeting, Council approved making this term position into a permanent position. One application was received as the result of an internal competition for this full-time position. The offer was made to Tim MacKay who accepted the offer and commenced duties effective April 17, 2006.

**County Mileage Rates**

The Province of Nova Scotia announced changes to mileage rates retroactive to April 1, 2004. Mileage rates for Councillors and County staff have been maintained in the past at the same rates given provincial employees. Calculation of adjustments retroactive to April 1, 2004 for Councillors and staff will take place over the next couple of months.

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

Deputy Mayor Matheson reported that he and Councillor Cooke attended the provincial volunteer dinner and awards ceremony in Halifax on April 18, 2006. The Elliott family from Economy were recognized as the volunteer family of the year.

Various members of Council also attended the local County volunteer dinner and awards ceremony and acknowledged those involved of doing an exceptional job in organizing this event.

Councillor White reported that CoRDA had given the Creamery Square Association \$10,000.

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**Recess**

Council agreed to recess to an in-camera session at 10:55 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 11:38 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh  
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That the meeting be adjourned at 11:40 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sheila Arsenault  
Recording Secretary