

March 29, 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, March 29, 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

Absent:

Councillor Mike Cooper	District #4
Councillor Soley Lynds	District #8
Councillor Terri Mingo	District #11

**Public Hearing -  
Zoning Map  
Amendment -  
Wright Avenue,  
Bible Hill**

Mayor Smith called the public hearing to order respecting an application for a zoning map amendment involving three properties located on the east side of Wright Avenue near its intersection with Pictou Road. The applicant, Mr. Doug Landsberg, has requested Council's consideration of a change in the zoning of these properties from R-2 Residential Double Unit to R-3 Residential Medium Density to allow for the establishment of three 4-unit apartment buildings on the site. The text for the application and a related staff report have been circulated to Council members and made available to the public.

Mr. Gary MacIsaac, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that all guidelines of the Municipal Government Act regarding advertising of the public hearing have been followed.

Mayor Smith reminded Council that only those Councillors present throughout the public hearing can vote on the amendment when it is eventually considered by Council. This is Council's opportunity to hear the application and every concern of area residents. Individual Councillors will have the opportunity to debate the merits of the amendment when the motion is presented to Council. Staff are present at this hearing to answer any technical questions that may arise as a result of the public's input.

March 29, 2006

Mr. Paul Smith, County Planner, presented members with an overview of the application. The subject properties are located on the eastern side of Wright Avenue and involve three vacant lots that are situated between the rear of Tim Horton's fronting on Pictou Road and the three duplexes that access Wright Avenue.

Mr. Landsberg's intention is to re-subdivide the lots. Along Wright Avenue, most of the properties have been developed for single detached dwellings, three duplexes and several mini homes near College Road. The subject properties are also bordered at the rear by several single detached dwellings along Johnson Avenue.

Mr. Smith indicated that surface water has been an issue in this area and that Mr. Landsberg is proposing to install a storm system which will connect to the storm drain owned by the Department of Transportation and Public Works on Wright Avenue.

Given that the proposed development is consistent with the policies and objectives outlined in the Municipal Planning Strategy, Mr. Smith is recommending that the request to rezone lots 1, 2 and 3 from R-2 Residential Double Unit to R-3 Residential Medium Density.

Mr. Landsberg, the applicant, indicated that his proposed development would be a perfect transition for the neighbourhood. Mr. Landsberg confirmed that he would be installing a drainage system which would take care of the service water problem.

Councillor Masters presented a report from the Planning Advisory Committee. The application was reviewed at a Committee meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Committee felt that the proposal was a good fit for the piece of land involved and recommended that the amendment be approved.

Mr. MacIsaac advised that no written submissions had been received regarding this application.

Mrs. Bev King, owner of the duplex next to the lots, indicated that she and the rest of the neighbourhood would like to see the property maintain its present R-2 zoning. She feels that with the existing traffic problems associated with Tim Horton's being located at the corner of Wright Avenue and Pictou Road, that consideration be given to purchasing one or two of these lots to redirect the traffic so that it does not come out on Wright Avenue. She questioned what would happen to the properties if the mini homes were moved. She did not oppose the building of duplexes on these lots.

March 29, 2006

Mr. George Murray, owner of Lot 5, indicated that his father owned the Norman Wright Subdivision. When the subdivision was developed, it was with the understanding that only duplexes be built there. Mr. Murray expressed concern with the water problems, traffic volume and safety. He would like to see the properties remain zoned for duplexes only.

Mr. Landsberg stated that he had met a lot of people on Wright Avenue and the only one who opposed his development was Mrs. King's mother.

As Chair of the Planning Advisory Committee, Councillor Masters placed the following motion on the floor:

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

"That Council approve the rezoning request made by Mr. Doug Landsberg to rezone lots 1, 2 and 3 on Wright Avenue from R-2 Residential Double Unit to R-3 Residential Medium Density to allow for the construction of a four-unit apartment building on each of the lots as depicted in the Planner's Report dated February 2006."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Councillor Edwards was excluded from voting due to arriving after the public hearing had commenced.**

Mayor Smith advised that this is a by-law rezoning application which does not require approval of the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations. Council's decision on this application is appealable to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board. Any appeal of Council's decision must be made within 14 days of the advertising of same in local newspapers.

As there was no further business, Mayor Smith declared the public hearing closed.

**Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Councillor Edwards  
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Matheson

"That the agenda for March 29, 2006 be approved with the following additions:

- add 12b: Nelson Park Capital Budget (on table)
- add 10b: Position Vacancy - Balefill Facility - Part-Time Position (on table)

March 29, 2006

- add an In-Camera Item: Property Matter
- add 10c: Hockeyville
- add 12c: Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowling Tournament”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor White  
Seconded by Councillor LeFresne

“That the minutes of meeting held on February 23, 2006 be approved as circulated.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

### **Presentations**

#### **Kendall Tattrie, Tatamagouche**

Mr. Tattrie indicated that he operates a local service station in Tatamagouche and was before Council this evening regarding the County’s rejection of his 2004 application for a property tax reduction under the Low Income Tax Exemption Policy. At the time he applied, he was told that his application was rejected because his income was too high and he did not qualify. Mr. Tattrie stated that he would be applying for this exemption in 2005 as he feels he is entitled to it.

Mr. Tattrie was accompanied by Mr. Mitch Primeau who has helped him with his business and is closely linked with his accountant.

Mr. Primeau stated that he was familiar with Mr. Tattrie’s business and family for a number of years. He has reviewed the application and the County’s policy regarding a tax reduction and did not see anywhere in the policy where it excludes someone because they are self-employed. It is his opinion that Mr. Tattrie qualifies for this exemption and that the documented evidence is available to support this.

At the request of the County Solicitor, Mr. Primeau confirmed that Mr. Tattrie is the owner of the garage and coffee shop and therefore controls the amount of income he is paid from this business. The Solicitor pointed out that if this is the case, then Council should consider that factor when deciding whether Mr. Tattrie’s 2004 application should be approved.

Council had a lengthy debate on Mr. Tattrie’s application and whether or not his situation was in line with the intent of the Low Income Tax Exemption Policy. In the end, Council recommended that Mr. Tattrie’s 2004 application for the low tax exemption be

March 29, 2006

approved and that the policy itself be reviewed at a future Council Committee meeting.

Moved by Councillor Cooke  
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the application received from Mr. Kendall Tattrie for the 2004 property tax reduction under the Low Income Tax Exemption Policy be approved.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That the Low Income Tax Exemption Policy be referred to Council Committee for review.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Joanne Cook, Ecology Action Centre

Ms. Cook introduced herself as the Coordinator of the Ecology Action Centre’s Standing Tall Campaign. She had requested a presentation before Council to provide a brief overview of the Ecology Action Centre and the Standing Tall Campaign. The Campaign seeks to conserve and restore native Acadian forest through environmentally responsible forestry and a network of protected areas.

Ms. Cook indicated that Councillors can join or support the Coalition by taking the message back to their communities, speak out for the forests, be informed, get copies of the Coalition’s fact sheets and check out their website.

**Councillor Cooper arrived at this point in the proceedings.**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the presentation from the Ecology Action Centre on the Standing Tall Campaign be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

March 29, 2006

Moved Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That the Ecology Action Centre’s request for support of the Standing Tall Campaign be referred to Council Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sandra Falle/Jacqueline Penny/Marian Farrell -  
Third Place Transition House

Through an overhead presentation, Third Place Transition House provided Council with a brief overview of their organization, including their mission statement and services provided.

The mission statement for the House is to recognize family violence as a problem and commit to providing physical shelter, counseling and support services to victims and educate communities, victims, abusers and the general public so as to prevent the occurrence of family violence.

In the last five years, the House has provided shelter for 814 women and children, and 3,650 women and 2,673 children and teens have been supported through their Outreach Services.

Because the current facility is deteriorating to the point where the organization must consider relocating, the Transition House is looking to secure partnerships at the municipal and provincial levels to support a federal grant application for government funding.

Moved by Councillor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor White

“That the presentation from the Third Place Transition House be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Taylor  
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Matheson

“That the request from the Third Place Transition House to secure partnerships at the municipal and provincial levels in order to support a federal grant application for government funding be referred to Council Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Council requested that staff meet with Third Place Transition House

March 29, 2006

to determine what role the Municipality can play in helping them reach their goal.

In preparation for Council Committee, Councillor Cooke requested more information on the other nine facilities in the province to see where the catchment areas are.

**Loan Guarantee -  
Valley-Kemptown  
and District Fire  
Brigade**

To accommodate those in the audience, Council agreed to move this item forward on the agenda. This item is No. 1 on the 'Report and Recommendations' from the Council Committee meeting held on March 9, 2006 and was presented by Deputy Mayor Matheson.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
\_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council approves the Municipality of the County of Colchester providing a “letter of intent” in support of a loan of \$400,000 for the Valley-Kemptown and District Fire Brigade for the expansion and renovation of their existing fire hall and the purchase of a new rescue truck, and, in the event that this is not satisfactory to the lending institution, that the Municipality provide a loan guarantee for this amount.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Staff Presentation**

**2006 Municipal Boundary Review**

Mr. MacIsaac made reference to correspondence from the N.S. Utility and Review Board regarding the number and boundaries of polling districts which was referred to Committee at February Council. This presentation is being made in advance of the item coming forward at April Committee at which time, a series of recommendations will be provided for Council's consideration.

The last Municipal Boundary Review was conducted in 1999. The Municipal Government Act requires that Council either confirm or alter the number and boundaries of polling districts and the number of councillors every eight years. As part of this review, there is also a requirement for public consultation.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh

March 29, 2006

Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That the 2006 Municipal Boundary Review be referred to Council Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Standing Committee  
Reports and  
Recommendations**

Deputy Mayor Matheson presented reports from the special session of Council Committee held on March 7, 2006 and the regular session on March 9, 2006:

**Budget  
Approval/Tax Rate  
Resolution**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That Council approves the 2006/07 Operating Budget with the additions/deletions as set out on March 7, 2006; and,

That the following Tax Resolution be approved as presented:

WHEREAS the Municipal Council of the County of Colchester is required to levy rates which it deems sufficient to raise the sum required to defray the expenditure of the Municipality of the County of Colchester for the current twelve month fiscal period;

RESOLVED that pursuant to **Section 72 of the Municipal Government Act**, the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester estimates that sums amounting to **\$15,282,040** are required for the lawful purpose of the Municipality for the year ending **March 31, 2007**, after crediting the probable revenue from all sources other than rates for the abatement and losses which occur in the collection of the taxes for the said year which may not be collected or collectible;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the said Council authorize the levying and collection of a rate of **seventy-nine (79 cents)** on each \$100.00 of the assessed value of the residential and resource property assessed in the **2006** Assessment Roll;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the said Council authorize the levying and collection of a rate of **one dollar ninety-one cents (\$1.91)** on each \$100.00 on the assessed value of Commercial Property and Business Occupancy assessed in the **2006** Assessment Roll;

FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to **Section 78 of the Municipal Government Act** in lieu of all rates and taxes of the Municipality, an owner of forest property to which the said section applies shall pay tax equal to twenty-five (25) cents per acre on holdings of 50,000 or less and forty (40) cents per acre on holdings

March 29, 2006

greater than 50,000 acres and where an area, village or commission rate is levied for fire protection, the owner shall pay an additional tax of one (1) cent per acre;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the said Council hereby requires payment of said rates to be made to the Tax Collector or Treasurer of the said Municipality on or before the 10th day of August, 2006;

FURTHER RESOLVED that said Council hereby imposes an additional percentage charge of 15% per annum on all rates and taxes remaining unpaid after the 10th day of August, 2006.”

Motion Carried. *(Deputy Mayor Matheson opposed)*

**Allocation of Gas  
Tax Revenues**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That Council approves in principle the allocation of gas tax revenues toward a significant large capital project or projects and if not spent in some years, the revenues would be rolled over into the year(s) when the capital project is planned; and,

For those projects paid for through the general rate, the Villages not receive a designated share; and,

For those projects paid for through an area rate, the Villages would submit a list of eligible projects for approval.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Increase to Tipping  
Fee**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor White

“That Council approves the tipping fee for residual garbage be increased from \$60 to \$75 per metric tonne; and,

That the accumulated deficit for balefill operations of \$70,000 be paid off using funding collected for the ponding project.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Hilden Community**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson

March 29, 2006

**Association's  
Request for  
Additional  
Crosswalks**

Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That Council approves the Municipality writing to the Department of Transportation and Public Works to request a review of two locations in Hilden for the possible installation of pedestrian crosswalks.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Public Works  
(Wastewater  
Collection) - Full-  
Time Position**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor LeFresne

“That Council authorizes the creation of a full-time position and the deletion of the term position in Wastewater Collection and that Administration proceed to fill the full-time position in accordance with the collective agreement and the County's personnel policies.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Amendment to  
Tatamagouche  
Sewer Boundary**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor LeFresne

“That Council approves the amendment to the Tatamagouche sewer service boundary and the Tatamagouche Water Utility boundary to remove the western portion of the land of Jack Halverson PID 20085627 as illustrated on the map attached to Action Item dated March 9, 2006.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Civic Centre Study -  
Steering Committee  
Terms of Reference**

\_\_\_\_\_ Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council approves the amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Civic Centre Study as requested in a facsimile from the Town of Truro dated March 7, 2006 and subject to final review by the Mayor and CAO.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Councillor Mingo arrived at this point in the proceedings.**

**Executive and Audit  
Committee**

There was no business arising from the minutes of meetings held on February 21 and 23, 2006.

**Planning Advisory**

Council was advised that there will be a report regarding a municipal

March 29, 2006

**Committee**

heritage property in April.

**Leave of Absence -  
Councillor Soley Lynds**

\_\_\_\_\_ Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh  
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That Council approves a leave of absence for Councillor Lynds for the March, April and May 2006 Regular Sessions of Council.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Authorization of  
Payment - Hospital  
Capital Fund**

\_\_\_\_\_ Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council approves the payment of \$400,000 from the 2005-06 Operating Budget to the Hospital Capital Fund.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Position Vacancy -  
Balefill Facility -  
Part-Time Position**

\_\_\_\_\_ Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh  
Seconded by Councillor LeFresne

“That Council declare a vacancy in the part-time Utility Worker/Scalehouse position at the Balefill and authorize Administration to fill this vacancy.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Hockeyville**

Councillor Taylor made reference to the competition that CBC has underway in search of a community that best embodies the spirit of hockey and hometown pride. The competition is split up into five zones with Atlantic Canada being one of the zones. An application has been submitted on behalf of Deuville’s Arena.

Councillor Taylor requested that Council consider helping Deuville’s in this competition by providing a link from the County website to the rink once their site has been established.

Moved by Councillor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That if Deuville’s Arena is amongst the finalists in the CBC Hockeyville competition, that a link be provided on the Municipality’s website to any website created by the Arena.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Correspondence**

Council requested the following ‘Correspondence’ items be moved

March 29, 2006

from Information to Action:

- No. 2: letter dated February 22, 2006 from the Village of Bible Hill regarding capital budget and Village's participation in Municipal Infrastructure Fund
- No. 11: letter from Gardiner Properties concerning expansion of municipal water system in Bible Hill
- No. 14: letter dated March 16, 2006 concerning cost sharing formula for assessment services
- No. 17: letter dated March 22, 2006 regarding new funding for municipal solid waste projects
- No. 15: letter dated March 17, 2006 regarding 2005-06 funding received under Gas Tax Agreement

ACTION

**Luther B. Sears,  
Cobequid Hills  
Properties**

A letter to Council dated February 21, 2006 from **Luther B. Sears, Cobequid Hills Properties**, requesting a development agreement between the County and Cobequid Hills Properties.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor White

“That the letter from Cobequid Hills Properties requesting a development agreement with the County be referred to the Planning Advisory Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Union of N.S.  
Municipalities**

An email dated March 2, 2006 from the **Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities** requesting support for a fair and equitable funding resolution.

Council agreed to receive this email for information purposes.

**Cindy Coles,  
Coordinator, Hepatitis  
Outreach Society**

A letter to Mayor Smith from **Cindy Coles, Coordinator, Hepatitis Outreach Society**, requesting that May 2006 be proclaimed Hepatitis 'C' Awareness Month and May 1<sup>st</sup> be proclaimed Hepatitis 'C' Awareness Day.

Moved by Councillor Mingo

March 29, 2006

Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That the month of May 2006 be proclaimed Hepatitis ‘C’ Awareness Month and May 1, 2006 be proclaimed Hepatitis ‘C’ Awareness Day in Colchester County.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Lion Shirley  
Douglas, Truro and  
District Lions Club**

A letter to Mayor Smith dated March 13, 2006 from **Lion Shirley Douglas, Truro and District Lions Club** requesting that April be proclaimed Lions Awareness Month.

Moved by Councillor White  
Seconded by Councillor Mingo

“That the month of April 2006 be proclaimed Lions Awareness Month in Colchester County.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**D. Bennett Cook,  
Chair, Truro  
Dykeland Park  
Marsh Body**

A letter to Mayor Smith dated March 6, 2006 from **D. Bennett Cook, Chair, Truro Dykeland Park Marsh Body**, regarding repairs to the dyke located in Lower Truro.

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor White

“That the letter from the Truro Dykeland Park Marsh Body regarding repairs to the dyke located in Lower Truro be referred to Council Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Union of N.S.  
Municipalities**

A copy of an email dated March 28, 2006 from the **Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities**, attaching a discussion paper on the proposed Governance Model for Assessment Services.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That the discussion paper on the Proposed Governance Model for Assessment Services be referred to Council Committee and that Committee be given authority to act.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

March 29, 2006

**Tom Burke, Deputy  
Chairman, The  
Village of Bible Hill**

A letter to Mayor Smith dated February 22, 2006 from **Tom Burke, Chairman, The Village of Bible Hill**, regarding the County's capital budget and the Village's participation in the Municipal Infrastructure Fund.

Councillor Taylor requested that a response to this letter should be sent to the Village defining the implications their decision will have on the residents of Bible Hill. Mayor Smith recommended that the letter include an invitation to the Village to make a presentation to Council on this matter.

Moved by Councillor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor Mingo

“That a letter be sent to the Village of Bible Hill indicating Council's concerns with their decision and the implications this decision will have on the residents of Bible Hill; and,

That the letter include an invitation to the Village to make a presentation to Council on this matter.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Alice Gardiner, Vice  
President, Gardiner  
Properties**

A copy of a letter to the Village of Bible Hill from **Alice Gardiner, Vice President, Gardiner Properties**, concerning the expansion of the municipal water system in Bible Hill.

Councillor Taylor indicated that Gardiner Properties had informed him that no response had been received as yet from the Village of Bible Hill.

**Rennie Bugley,  
CAO, Municipality  
of Cumberland**

A copy of a letter dated March 16, 2006 from **Rennie Bugley, CAO, Municipality of Cumberland**, concerning inequities in the cost recovery formula for assessment services.

At Councillor Cooper's request, the CAO provided a history of the current cost recovery formula for assessment services.

**Gloria Kovach,  
President, Federation  
of Canadian  
Municipalities**

A copy of a letter dated March 22, 2006 from **Gloria Kovach, President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities**, regarding new funding for municipal solid waste projects.

The CAO advised that staff are looking into this announcement of new funding for municipal solid waste projects to see where it fits with the County's future plans in this area.

March 29, 2006

**Grant Brennan,  
Manager,  
Canada/N.S.  
Infrastructure  
Secretariat**

A letter to the CAO dated March 17, 2006 from **Grant Brennan, Manager, Canada/N.S. Infrastructure Secretariat**, regarding the 2005-06 funding received under the Gas Tax Agreement.

Council was advised that the Municipality's share of the 2005-06 gas tax revenue has been received.

### INFORMATION

**Union of N.S.  
Municipalities**

A copy of an email dated February 14, 2006 from the **Union of N.S. Municipalities**, regarding the municipal greenhouse gas reduction report (report on file in CAO's office). Council agreed to receive this email for information purposes.

**Leanne Hachey,  
Director of Provincial  
Affairs, Canadian  
Federation of  
Independent Business**

A letter to Mayor Smith dated February 23, 2006 from **Leanne Hachey, Director of Provincial Affairs, Canadian Federation of Independent Business**, regarding elimination of the Business Occupancy and Assessment Tax. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**Charles Cirtwill, Vice  
President, Atlantic  
Institute for Market  
Studies**

A copy of a letter dated February 24, 2006 from **Charles Cirtwill, Vice President, Atlantic Institute for Market Studies**, concerning the release of the AIMS' annual report card on Atlantic Canadian high schools. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**Union of N.S.  
Municipalities**

A copy of an email dated March 1, 2006 from the **Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities**, regarding a public awareness initiative to promote the guiding principles and recommendations within the 'Question of Balance: An Assessment of the State of Local Government in Nova Scotia' report. Council agreed to receive this email for information purposes.

**Debbie Kampen,  
CAO, Town of  
Trenton**

A letter to Mayor Smith dated March 2, 2006 from **Debbie Kampen, CAO, Town of Trenton**, regarding possible closure of Trenton's elementary school. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**Union of N.S.  
Municipalities**

A copy of an email dated March 7, 2006 from the **Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities**, regarding a request from the RRFB for nominations for the Mobius Environmental Award. Council agreed to receive this email for information purposes.

March 29, 2006

**Deborah Bourque,  
National President,  
Canadian Union of  
Postal Workers**

A copy of a letter to Mayor and Council dated March 8, 2006 from **Deborah Bourque, National President, Canadian Union of Postal Workers**, with an update on a campaign to stop plant and post office closures in rural areas. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**Warden Lloyd Hines,  
Municipality of  
Guysborough**

A copy of an email dated March 13, 2006 from **Warden Lloyd Hines, Municipality of Guysborough**, attaching a summary of the Board outcomes and standing committee meetings of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board meeting held in Quebec. Council agreed to receive this email for information purposes.

**Alex Steeves,  
Department of Justice  
Policing & Victim  
Services**

A letter to the CAO dated March 14, 2006 from **Alex Steeves, Department of Justice Policing and Victim Services**, regarding the 2006-07 RCMP budget request. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**Building Inspector**

A copy of the Building Permit Statistics report received from the **Building Inspector** for the month of February 2006.

**Development Officer**

A copy of the Development Activity Report received from the **Development Officer** for the month of February 2006.

**The Honourable  
Richard Hurlburt,  
Minister for Service  
N.S. & Municipal  
Relations**

A letter to Mayor Smith dated March 22, 2006 from the **Honourable Richard Hurlburt, Minister for Service N.S. and Municipal Relations**, regarding his appointment as Minister for the Department. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**Fire Inspection  
Program - Update**

*Conflict of Interest*

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

The County Solicitor made reference to the two letters attached to this Information Item. The Province responded to concerns raised by the Municipality in its letter dated March 7, 2006. Staff believe that the letter ignores or fails to address significant concerns that were raised by the Municipality.

The Solicitor indicated that Council may choose to write back to the Province if they still think the Program is an inefficient process.

March 29, 2006

Moved by Councillor Taylor  
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Matheson

“That the Municipality continue to keep the Fire Inspection Program in abeyance and that the CAO be instructed to write back to the Province encouraging them to continue on with the background work of the Program that will provide the Building Inspectors with the ability to make decisions in the field.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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

**Nelson Park Capital Budget**

At the Additions/Deletions budget meeting on March 7, 2006, Council approved a final amount of \$20,000 for capital expenditures at Nelson Park. Attached to this Information Item is a memorandum from the Manager of Recreation Services which reflects expenditures of \$20,000 and a renewed emphasis on day-park use.

**Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowling Tournament**

Councillor Taylor reported that Council has a team on board for the tournament being held on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. He is looking for additional players and financial sponsorship.

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

Councillor Edwards advised that the Truro and District Chamber of Commerce has a new President. In addition, the Tatamagouche Chamber of Commerce has been disbanded and the North Shore region is now served by the Truro and District Chamber of Commerce.

Councillor Edwards also reported that an annual general meeting of the Central Nova Tourist Association is being held this weekend. Ninety-seven gifts have been received for the silent auction.

Councillor LeFresne reported that the French River Watershed Advisory Committee held its first meeting with 31 people in attendance.

Councillor White reported on CoRDA's last Board meeting which focused on their five-year business plan and support for the proposed civic centre.

**Recess**

Council agreed to recess to an in-camera session at 11:15 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 11:50 p.m.

March 29, 2006

**Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh  
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the meeting be adjourned at 11:51 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sheila Arsenault  
Recording Secretary