

## **SPECIAL COUNCIL**

A Special Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Courthouse, Truro, Nova Scotia on Wednesday, September 20, 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 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
Councillor Bob White	District #9
Councillor Doug Cooke	District #10
Councillor Terri Mingo	District #11

### **Purpose of Meeting**

The purpose of the meeting was twofold. The first part of the agenda was Council's opportunity to hear from the public on the Municipality's Boundary Review. The Municipal Government Act requires every municipality to conduct this review and apply to the N.S. Utility and Review Board to confirm or alter the number and boundaries of polling districts and number of Councillors.

Council had previously instructed that public consultation be conducted on boundary scenarios involving 10 Council districts and 11 Council districts.

The second reason for the meeting was to review the consultant's final report on the proposed civic centre and to seek Council's direction on where to go from this point on. A copy of this report had been circulated to Council at its regular meeting on August 31<sup>st</sup> at which time it was recommended that given the importance of this matter, a special meeting of Council should take place in order to have a more indepth debate on the report.

### **Boundary Review - Public Presentations**

Steve and Amanda McRae, Nuttby

Mr. McRae indicated that he and Mrs. McRae had travelled around to homes in their area to get a petition signed. The petition stated that the citizens did not agree with the proposed boundary review lines and that the community of Nuttby should remain in what is currently District 6. The petition containing 51 signatures was then circulated to Council.

Mrs. McRae reiterated her husband's position of requesting that Nuttby remain in Councillor Cavanaugh's district.

**Council Direction -  
Boundary Review**

The CAO indicated that an application with respect to boundaries must be submitted to the Utility and Review Board by the end of 2006. Part of this process requires that the application be accompanied by a record of public consultation and a map showing Council's decision on the boundary lines. The maps depicting 10 Council districts and 11 Council districts were included in the most recent County newsletter and placed on the County website and in the public library in Truro, Stewiacke and Tatamagouche.

The CAO stated that only one piece of correspondence had been received on this matter and that was from the Village of Bible Hill. The letter dated June 15, 2006, indicated the Village's support for the proposed new boundary changes and that either 10 or 11 districts is acceptable. The letter was then read into the record by the CAO.

Council discussed the fact that their decision here this evening will be forwarded as an application to the N.S. Utility and Review Board.

Moved by Councillor LeFresne  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

"That Council approves the 11 district option with the following amendments:

- move the communities of Nuttby and Upper Kemptown from District 7 to District 8;
- move a small portion of District 11, from the end of College road up to Valley Road, to District 6; and,

That an application reflecting this direction be submitted to the N.S. Utility and Review Board."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Civic Centre - Staff  
Presentations**

*Conflict of Interest*

*Councillor Taylor and Councillor Mingo declared a conflict of interest on this matter and removed themselves from the table.*

Mayor Smith explained how this portion of the agenda was somewhat different from the norm. To get a sense of context, the

meeting will begin with staff presentations followed by presentations from the public.

Gary MacIsaac, Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. MacIsaac's powerpoint presentation was broken down into the following components:

- consultant study recommendations - what's in and what's not in new facility
- 10 sites identified - down to three: Legion Stadium, Wade Road and Exhibition lands
- role of consultant - option still exists for consultant presentation
- recommendations of Civic Centre Steering Committee from July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting: (1) Stadium as preferred location subject to approval of joint-use agreement with School Board (2) funding formula subject to approval of both Town and County Councils - 50/50 sharing on both capital and operating
- Town of Truro agreed to 50/50 on operations - \$5 million from Town comprised of \$2.5 million in cash and \$2.5 million in credit toward existing land and rink (no mention of this credit at July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting)
- Truro position will delay certainty on Canada Games Bid
- potential funding from various public and private sources
- five funding options based on site, seating, single or double ice service, with or without pool
- what's missing in consultant's report - possibility of hotel being part of facility not mentioned
- Canada Games cannot occur without a Civic Centre but a Civic Centre could occur without Canada Games

Mr. MacIsaac concluded his presentation by asking for Council direction on, at a minimum, three of the five questions presented:

1. Is Truro still a part of these discussions?
2. If Truro is no longer a part of these discussions, is the project dead or does Colchester wish to go on its own?
3. Should we proceed with Canada Games Bid?

Before considering these questions, Council invited presentations from the public.

**Civic Centre - Public Presentations**

Wayne McCormick, Resident of Bible Hill

Mr. McCormick indicated that both the Canada Games and the Civic Centre are a passion of his and that it should be a passion of County Council. This Council has to show some leadership and

cannot be worried about Truro Town Council. He encouraged County Council to think very positively about this project. The County should go ahead on its own as this is the only way it will get done.

Jeff Yuill, Chair, N.S. Exhibition Commission

Mr. Yuill stated that he must applaud Council for taking on this initiative and that what he had to say is not only about the site but what should be looked at and what can be offered. Mr. Yuill indicated that the consultant's study had a lot of good points; however, the rating system used is of great concern to him and Council should take a look at it. He questioned why the consultant only did analysis on two of the sites. Mr. Yuill then described the benefits of building the Civic Centre on the Exhibition lands in Bible Hill.

Duane Rath and Jon Stanfield  
Co-Chairs of Canada Games Bid Committee

Mr. Rath indicated that he had concern with comments Council made about the consultant's study. Council must realize that the study was driven by five members of the Steering Committee and that the Committee looks at it for assessing the sites selected. Mr. Rath stated that he stands by the study and that although it has some grey areas, he thought all members of the Committee agreed that it was good.

In terms of the Canada Games, Mr. Rath indicated that he had attended a meeting today of the provincial Bid Review Committee which provided insight into the federal process that begins the first part of October, with site visits coming in late January. Time is of the essence. A clear commitment is needed that the Civic Centre is going to be built in order to put in the next bid for the Canada Games. The Civic Centre will require an international ice service, an NHL service will not do. This is something that must be looked at if the community is to continue forward with Canada Games.

Mr. Stanfield indicated that he would like to encourage the community to try and figure out a way to work together. He expressed passion for a Civic Centre and felt that the economic benefits this facility will bring to the community go beyond the Winter Games.

Mr. Stanfield stated that he is disturbed about the status of negotiations. He also expressed concern about whether the Committee has the time and the capacity to help facilitate the \$2.5 million credit question. If County Council decides to go on their own, that is their choice.

From the meeting today with the provincial Bid Review Committee, Mr. Stanfield said they were told that the provincial government will help on the side of infrastructure. They certainly know if we host the Canada Winter Games, we need a Civic Centre so things must move quickly in order for that to happen.

Mr. Stanfield stated that he thinks the direction of the study is good on what is needed in the Civic Centre and that the Canada Winter Games needs a decision on the Civic Centre.

Mike Moyles, President, Truro Centurions Swim Club

Mr. Moyles indicated that he thinks the pool is a great fit with the rinks. He has been to a lot of pools and the key thing is multi-use so it can be used by all members of the community. From the Club's experience, the pool in the Civic Centre should have eight 25-metre lanes rather than the normal six lanes. With eight lanes you can host any kind of an event. Other features that would work well in the Civic Centre are pull-out bleachers, good ventilation and natural lighting.

Lisa Aucoin, Head Coach, Truro Centurions Swim Club

Ms. Aucoin indicated that in addition to being Head Coach at the Club, she is also a physical education teacher so she sees what is happening to today's youth. She travels 12 months of the year with her team and cannot go to either Antigonish or Port Hawkesbury because they each have only six lanes in their pools. Hosting a swimming or diving event in this community is not going to happen with the facilities that are presently available.

Judy Smith, Athletic Director, N.S. Agricultural College

Ms. Smith, also Chair, Facility and Sport Committee for the Canada Winter Games, stated that she has been in the business of sports for 25 years. She indicated that the Civic Centre should be considered a long-term investment that is used 12 months of the year and as much during the day as possible. Expansion options should be a consideration to allow for additions if necessary.

In closing, Ms. Smith expressed her hope that the community will look at this project very seriously and make it happen.

Christine Blair, Chairwoman, The Village of Bible Hill

Ms. Blair indicated that both the Town and County Councils have tough decisions to make. Ms. Blair expressed her full support for both the Canada Games and the Civic Centre and that both will have a tax impact. She also believes that this centrally located

facility will assist and complement the existing stadiums in Tatamagouche, Brookfield, Truro and Debert.

Lesley Wilson, General Manager, Ski Wentworth and  
Member of Canada Games Bid Committee

Ms. Wilson indicated that she has been at two Canada Games events and it is an amazing experience. She would hate to see the community miss this opportunity.

Keith Baas, Debert

Mr. Baas asked Council not to lose sight of our taxes. He expressed concern that the people in Upper Stewiacke, Folly Mountain or Tatamagouche may not use the Civic Centre.

**Council Direction -  
Civic Centre**

Council began their discussion on the questions raised earlier in the evening during the staff presentation. Council agreed to deal with each of the questions one at a time, followed by a motion.

Question No. 1 - Is Truro still a part of these discussions?

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh  
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Matheson

“That Council approves the Municipality going forward with discussions regarding the new Civic Centre without the Town of Truro.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Cooper opposed)*

Question No. 2 - If Truro is no longer a part of these discussions, is the project dead or does Colchester wish to go on its own?

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor LeFresne

“That Council approves that if the Municipality proceeds on its own with the Civic Centre, that the Truro Legion Stadium not be considered as a potential site for this facility.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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

Mayor Smith then asked Council a question not included in the staff presentation:

Does Council wish to go forward to look at building a Civic Centre?

\_\_\_\_\_ Moved by Councillor Masters

Seconded by Councillor White

“That Council approves the further investigation into proceeding to build a Civic Centre on its own, subject to a report being brought back to Council at a later time for final decision.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Question No. 3 - Should we proceed with the Canada Games Bid?

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Matheson

“That Council approves the Municipality continuing on with the bid process to have the Canada Winter Games held in the Central Nova Region in 2011.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Given the information received from the public earlier this evening, Council chose to address questions 4 and 5 at a later date:

4. What should be in the new facility?
5. Where should it be located?

Having the consultant’s report and comments from presenters and Council, staff were directed to bring back various options, including costs, to assist Council in responding to these two questions. Costs should include those for an 8-lane pool, extra seating for the pool area, and the international ice service.

It was also recommended that Councillors take a tour of the other two sites located at Wade Road and the Exhibition lands in Bible Hill before meeting again on the Civic Centre.

Moved by Councillor White

Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting be adjourned at 11:10 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.