

February 23, 2012

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

The Regular Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Courthouse, Truro, N.S. on Thursday, February 23, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Bob Taylor, Chair	
Councillor Bill Masters	District #2
Councillor Gerald Buott	District #3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District #4
Councillor Glen Edwards	District #5
Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District #6
Councillor Jimmie LeFresne	District #7
Deputy Mayor Ron Cavanaugh	District #8
Councillor Bob White	District #9
Councillor Earl McKenna	District #11

Regrets:

Councillor Christine Blair	District #1
Councillor Tom Taggart	District #10

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Edwards
Seconded by Councillor McKenna

“That the agenda for February 23, 2012 be approved with the following additions:

- add Item #12b: Financial Statement Information - Automatic Budget NPO's (on table)
- add Item #12c: Robie Street Roundabout Design
- add Item #9b: Snowplowing Highway 311
- add Item #12d: Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowl for Kids
- Item #6(1), Council Committee Report on 'Lawn Bowling Facility - Additional Request for Funding' - move forward on agenda, before Presentations.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That the minutes of the meeting held on January 26, 2012 be approved as circulated.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

February 23, 2012

**Business Arising
from Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meeting held on January 26, 2012.

**Standing Committee
Reports and
Recommendations**

Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh presented a report from the Council Committee meeting held on February 9, 2012:

**Lawn Bowling
Facility - Additional
Request for Funding**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor McKenna

“That Council approves an additional \$30,000 grant to the lawn bowling facility project in fiscal year 2012-13, source of funds to be general operations; and, that the donation be conditional upon the Cobequid Lawn Bowls Club agreeing to use the Agridome for its off-season facility, if available; and, that this condition may only be varied by Council.”

Motion Carried. *(Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh opposed)*

Presentations

Michelle Misener, Executive Director -
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Colchester

In her annual report to Council, Ms. Misener provided an overview of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization. In the past year, the agency has served 256 children through various programs, including two new ones - Go Girls and Peer Mentoring. The organization also continues to provide a service to approximately 50 children on their waiting list through monthly group outings.

Ms. Misener indicated that the bulk of the grant received from the County was designated for public relations and recruitment.

Moved by Councillor Buott
Seconded by Councillor White

“That the presentation from the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Colchester be received.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Dawn Heintz and Sue King-Darvey
- Colchester Anti-Poverty Network

Ms. Heintz indicated that the purpose for this presentation was to educate Council on the work that the Colchester Anti-Poverty Network does and the poverty situations that exist in the

February 23, 2012

community. The organization was established in 1999 with a mission to educate the public about issues surrounding poverty; seek action in reducing poverty in areas such as food security, safe affordable housing, other areas of social inclusion and a provincial poverty strategy.

Ms. Heintz also provided a snapshot of the poverty situations that exist in the community, including:

- 20,000 individuals, including 6,200 children were served by the Colchester Food Bank from January to November 2011;
- 10,516 food boxes were distributed in 2011;
- from December 2010 to March 2011, 'Out of the Cold' provided 592 bed nights for individuals

Ms. King-Darvey spoke on the Network's priorities and moving forward.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That the presentation from the Colchester Anti-Poverty Network be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Mr. Ron Smith and Ms. Cathy Parker
- Colchester Regional Development Agency

Mr. Smith indicated that CoRDA is moving into its 20th year of operation this coming summer. Tonight's presentation will focus on CoRDA's business plan and budget for 2012-13. CoRDA had met previously with Council's Executive and Audit Committee to try and match CoRDA's priorities with those of the Municipality. A copy of the business plan will be circulated to Council within the next week or so.

Ms. Parker reported on CoRDA's revenue sources for 2011-15. For 2012-13, there will be an increase in the core funding request from CoRDA to the Municipality from \$170,900 to \$175,846. Funding for regional promotions will remain the same.

February 23, 2012

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That the presentation from the Colchester Regional Development Agency be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Mr. Gary Burrill, MLA-Colchester/Musquodoboit Valley

Mr. Burrill indicated that he is in the middle of his term as MLA and during that time, he has gotten to know and work with five County Councillors who serve the same people as he does. He wanted to go on record by expressing his appreciation of the working relationship that has developed with these Councillors by working together on matters of importance to our residents and getting some things accomplished. Mr. Burrill then invited Council to bring forward any issues they would like him to take back to the Province. Council responded with several issues - subsidization of school lunches, royalties on bottled water, Park Street flooding/closure, boundary review - area versus population.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the presentation from MLA Gary Burrill be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Mr. Doug Benedict - Colchester Ground Search & Rescue

In his presentation, Mr. Benedict updated Council on what Ground Search and Rescue has been doing this year, including a number of things they were able to do because of the increase in funding from the County.

Mr. Benedict indicated that Ground Search and Rescue is looking to purchase a 3/4 ton truck for towing their trailer which serves as their command post or base facility operation. He is looking to the regional municipal units for funding assistance to purchase this truck.

Mr. Benedict agreed to provide the organization’s budget and financial statements in support of this request.

Moved by Councillor Buott

February 23, 2012

Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the presentation from Colchester Ground Search and Rescue be received and that the request to regional municipal units for funding assistance to purchase a truck be referred to Council Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Standing Committee
Reports and
Recommendations
(Cont'd)**

Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh resumed the presentation of the Council Committee report from a meeting held on February 9, 2012:

**Non-Profit Grant
Policy Review**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor LeFresne

“That Council approves amendments to the Grants to Non-Profit Organizations Policy as presented, and that these amendments go into effect in fiscal year 2013-14; and,

That the administrative changes, as noted in the second bullet of the Action Item dated February 9, 2012, be amended as follows, effective in fiscal year 2012-13:

- applicants to submit quotes for capital improvements for projects over \$1,000.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Street Paving -
Raven Road and
Junco Court**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

“That Council approves the inclusion of Raven Road and Junco Court in the provincial priority list of street paving; and, that the Province of Nova Scotia be requested to include these two streets in its street paving priority list under the Cost-Shared Paving Program for 2012-13.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Low Income Tax
Exemption Policy**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor White

“That Council approves the following amendment to the Low Income Tax Exemption Policy:

- Single Family: - income increase from \$20,900 to **\$22,154**

February 23, 2012

- exemption increase from \$157.28 to **\$166.72**
- Family of 2: - income increase from \$27,500 to **\$29,150**
 - exemption increase from \$209.70 to **\$222.28**
- Family of 3: - income increase from \$33,000 to **\$34,980**
 - exemption increase from \$262.13 to **\$277.86.**

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Appointment of
Elections Returning
Officer**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That Council approves the appointment of Mrs. Lorraine Dawson as Returning Officer for the period March 1, 2012 to December 31, 2015 to conduct all regular and special elections required under the Municipal Elections Act; and,

That, as per Section 4(1C) of the Municipal Elections Act, Council designates its powers of any future appointments of the Returning Officer and, effective immediately, appointment of Assistant Returning Officer(s), to the Chief Administrative Officer.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Property Tax and
Other Write-Offs**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor White

“That Council approves the write-off of property taxes and interest totalling \$773.47 and a Debert Water Utility billing of \$120.39, as detailed on the attached listings.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Executive and Audit
Committee**

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meeting held on January 26, 2012.

ACTION ITEMS

**First Reading -
Amendments to
Central Colchester
MPS and Land Use
By-law**

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor McKenna

“That Council approves at First Reading the amended Central Colchester Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law, as presented, for purposes of forwarding this document to a public hearing,

reserving consideration of the amendments until Second Reading

February 23, 2012

meeting.

INFORMATION

Building Inspector

A copy of the Building Permit Statistics received from the **Building Inspector** for the month of January 2012. Council agreed to receive this report for information.

Development Officer

A copy of the Development Activity Report received from the **Development Officer** for the month of January 2012. Council agreed to receive this report for information.

INFORMATION
ITEMS

**Wastewater Process
Technician Position**

Ms. Tristan Forrester has been hired for the position of Wastewater Process Technician and commenced duties on February 13, 2012.

**Community Trail
Funding Program -
Winter 2012
Applications**

Under the Community Trails Funding Program, seven applications were received and approved for the January 27, 2012 deadline for a total amount of \$53,157. This round of applications will be subject to budget approval for the 2012-13 budget year and the allocations will be made in the upcoming fiscal year.

**Robie Street
Roundabout Design**

Councillor Masters made reference to a memorandum from staff regarding a briefing by Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal being offered to Council on Friday, February 24, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in Council Chambers. He encouraged Councillors to attend this briefing if they have any concerns about Robie Street. Some residents in his district are upset about this project and do not think it is going to work.

**Financial Statement
Information -
Automatic Budget
NPO's**

Letters were sent by the Manager of Recreation to the five groups who received automatic operating grants from the Municipality requesting their financial information. This information has now been received and available from Recreation or Corporate Services.

**Big Brothers/Big
Sisters Bowl for Kids**

Mayor Taylor reported that Council has a team participating in the Bowl for Kids event being held on March 3, 2012.

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

Councillor Masters reported that he had attended a Planning Advisory Committee meeting and a Civic Centre meeting. A general manager has been hired for the Civic Centre who will start on Monday, February 27th.

Councillor Buott reported that he had attended a meeting of the Joint Library Committee and an RRFB meeting in Amherst.

February 23, 2012

Councillor Cooper reported that he had attended a meeting today of the Executive and Audit Committee and a meeting of the School Advisory Council.

Councillor Edwards reported that the Central Nova Tourist Association meeting for today was cancelled. He attended a focus group on improving tourism at the Nova Scotia Community College.

Councillor LeFresne reported that he had attended the Firemen's banquet and the Tatamagouche PAC meeting.

Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh reported that he had attended two fire brigade banquets, one for Valley-Kemptown and one for North River. He also attended two PAC meetings, one in Truro and one in Tatamagouche.

Councillor White reported that he had attended a CoRDA meeting on February 22nd and will be going to an Industrial Parks meeting next week.

Mayor Taylor presented his written report for activities he was involved in during the month of February. A copy of his report was circulated on table for this evening's meeting. He also reported that he is sitting on the UNSM Planning Committee for this year's annual fall conference and encouraged Councillors to bring forward any ideas they had for inclusion in the program.

Closed Session

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor McKenna

"That the meeting go into closed session at 10:00 p.m."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor White

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 10:45 p.m."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

February 23, 2012

“That the meeting be adjourned at 10:46 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sheila Arsenault
Recording Secretary