

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

The Regular Session of Council Committee of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Courthouse, Truro, Nova Scotia, on Thursday, March 12, 2015.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Councillor Christine Blair	District 1
Deputy Mayor Bill Masters, Chair	District 2
Councillor Geoff Stewart	District 3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District 4
Councillor Lloyd Gibbs	District 5
Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor Doug MacInnes	District 9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10

Regrets

Mayor Taylor	
Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District 8
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Also Present

Mr. Ramesh Ummat, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
 Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr. Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste
 Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
 Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development
 Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Ms. Tracey Veno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Moment of Silence

Council observed a moment of silence for Ivan 'Pete' Johnson who passed away earlier this month. Mr. Johnson served on Council representing District 10 from 1973-1976.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
 Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- add item # A-3b Flood Remediation – Department of Fisheries and Oceans/UNSM/FCM;
- add item # A-3c, Personnel Policy;
- add item # A-3d, Collection Calendars;
- add item # I-3b, Rath Eastlink Community Centre;
- add item # I-3c, Sunday Hunting;

- add item # C-2, Personnel Matter in closed session. ”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That the minutes from the meetings on February 12, 2015, be approved, as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meetings held on February 12, 2015.

Presentations

There were no public presentations at this evenings meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Council Committee and Council Meeting Dates for 2015-16

Brief discussion was held regarding the date for presentation meetings noting that the third Tuesday of the month does not work for all Councillors. Other dates were discussed and it was agreed that the dates be changed to the first Tuesday of the month. The third Tuesday of the month would remain the Alternate date for Regular Council Committee meetings.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the date for Presentations be the first Tuesday of the month rather than the third Tuesday of the month.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee approves the attached schedule of Council and Council meeting dates, including the alternate Tuesday for Presentations, for the 2015-16 fiscal year, as amended.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Property Tax Write Offs

Moved by Councillor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the property taxes and interest totaling \$2,115.91, and Debert Water Utility charges

totaling \$1,450.41, as detailed on the attached listing, be written off.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Electric Charging Stations

Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, advised that the Nova Scotia Electric Vehicle Highway Services is requesting the Municipality to participate in a program which would provide electric vehicle charging stations in locations in Colchester County. The Municipality is being asked to help secure sights for charging stations in three locations, namely Brookfield, Bass River and Bible Hill, and contribute up \$1,200 for installation. Electricity at the charging stations will be free of charge for drivers for the first year. After the initial year, it is the responsibility of the business to charge accordingly.

The following points and/or questions were raised during discussion:

- Suggestions of possible locations such as Dominion Chair Store in Bass River and Roop’s in Brookfield.
- No other costs to the host with the exception of electricity for the first year.
- Possibility of charging stations on Municipality of Colchester property.
- Ownership of the unit after installation; MGA stipulates no direct assistance to provide business.
- Initial correspondence circulated to Council indicated no cost to the Municipality; seeking help with locations only.
- Supports economic development by bringing groups to locations throughout the County where the stations are located.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That the matter concerning Electric Charging Stations be referred back to staff and legal for further investigations and more information to be brought forth to Council.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Flood Remediation – Department of Fisheries and Oceans/UNSM/FCM

Councillor Gibbs provided a brief update regarding the Department of Fisheries and Oceans regulations requiring municipal levels of government to provide a letter of credit for flood work being done in rivers. As yet, he has not heard back from the Minister since their meeting. MP Scott Armstrong is scheduled to meet with the Minister today so there should be an update soon. The Mayor advised that the issue of how municipalities are not recognized as a level of government was brought forward at a UNSM meeting. It was suggested that a letter also be forwarded to the FCM on this issue as well.

Moved by Councillor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That a letter be written to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, with a copy to UNSM, expressing concern regarding the Department of Fisheries regulations requiring municipalities to have a letter of credit to perform flood remediation work in rivers and that municipalities are not being recognized as a level/order of government.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Personnel Policy

Recent changes to personnel policies were discussed, specifically, the policy dealing with sick leave. Concern was expressed regarding certain information being requested of employees on medical leave. Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor, advised that employees have a responsibility to provide certain information to employers while on medical leave. Standard form letters, which are vetted through legal, are created for these and other types of requests.

A request was made of staff to distribute a copy of the personnel policy addressing sick leave be forwarded to Council members.

Collection Calendars

Discussion was held on changing from mailing out a collection calendar versus an electronic copy being made available to residents as well as costs associated with each. Concern was expressed about not all residences having access to computers or other electronic devices to receive their calendars electronically.

Mr. Wayne Wamboldt advised that this was an operations decision which was made to help improve efficiencies. The cost associated with the electronic version is approximately \$4,000 versus the mail out version being between \$15,000 to \$20,000. A web based app will send notifications to residents advising them of dates such as bi-weekly collection reminders, household hazardous waste dates, and spring/fall clean-up dates. If someone does not have access to a computer or other electronic device, a notification can also be sent to a land line. A hard copy of the calendar, specific to each residence in the County can also be provided, upon request, for those still wanting to receive a collection calendar.

Mr. Ramesh Ummat, CAO, advised that detailed notification of this change is being provided to all residences via the March issue of the newsletter and is also included in the new version of the Program Guide.

Given that this is a significant change in operations and for residents, members of Council expressed concern that notification should have

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been given to Council, possibly in the form of a presentation, prior to the new program rolling out.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Receptionist Position

Subsequent to the vacancy in the Receptionist position, an internal posting was carried out in accordance with County Personnel Policies. One internal applicant, who had been filling the position on a casual basis, applied and was interviewed for the position. An offer was made to Ms. Suzanne Graham, who accepted the offer and commenced duties on January 26, 2015.

Full Time Position – Recreation Support Clerk

At its meeting on January 29, 2015, Council approved the full time position for a Recreation Support Clerk. In accordance with County Personnel Policies, the position was posted internally. As a result, one application was received and an interview was conducted. An offer was made to Ms. Jennifer Boiduk, who accepted the position effective February 10, 2015. Ms. Boiduk had been working with the Recreation on a part time basis for over a year.

Truro Horsemen's Club – Request for Tax Exemption

A request for tax exemption, for the property located at 288 Main Street-Unit 34, Bible Hill, was received from the Truro Horsemen's Club in December 2014. The Club is a non-profit club, voluntarily run by members and staff, provides a bar and food service facility, as well as a sizeable event hall. To qualify for an exemption, under the Conditions of Eligibility of the Tax Exemption By-law, the non-profit organization must provide a service that might otherwise be the responsibility of the Council. Based on this criteria, the Truro Horsemen's Club would not qualify for an exemption.

As referenced in the initial correspondence from the Truro Horsemen's Club, the Air Force Club is tax free based on being assessed as Commercial Exempt Property by Property Valuation Service (PVSC) Corporation, not through the Municipality's Tax Exemption By-law.

In discussions with a member of the Truro Horsemen's Club, it was suggested that PVSC be contacted to determine if they qualify for a Commercial Exemption based on the Assessment Act.

Rath Eastlink Community Centre (RECC)

The topic of the low emissivity ceiling at the RECC was raised and it was questioned if this project was discussed at Council. Deputy Mayor Masters, who sits on the RECC Operating Board, advised that it is a capital project that was discussed at the Project Steering Committee level, and this Committee has the authority to approve the project. Engineers assessed the project and it has been determined that if the ceiling is put in, it will pay for itself in five to six years in energy savings.

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- Sunday Hunting** Due to incorrect reporting on the subject of Sunday Hunting, Councillor Stewart wanted to clarify that he voted against Sunday Hunting and that the issue of hunting on Sunday is not a Council issue.
- Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor, suggested that clarity of motions might help to prevent possible misinterpretations in future. In the case of Sunday hunting, the motion could have clearly indicated that the issue is not within municipal jurisdiction.
- Directors Report** A report from Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, was circulated in the package for this evening's meeting.
- Closed Session** Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded Councillor Gregory
- "That the meeting go into closed session at 8:55 pm."
- Motion Carried Unanimously.
- Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes
- "That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:17 pm."
- Motion Carried Unanimously.
- Palliser Property** Moved by Councillor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Cooper
- "That Council approves the purchase price of \$750,000 for the Palliser Property, subject to conditions as previously agreed upon, and a closing date of March 31, 2015; and,
- That back taxes are to be paid at time of closing."
- Motion Carried Unanimously.
- Adjournment** Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes
- "That the meeting be adjourned at 9:25 pm."
- Motion Carried Unanimously.
- Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary