

April 16, 2015

- add item # I-1b, Sewer Use Appeals Committee;
- add item # C-2, Negotiations in closed session;
- reverse items A-7 and A-8. ”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That the minutes from the meetings held on March 3, 10, 12, 31, and April 7 be approved with the following amendment:

- on page 15 of the March 31st minutes, have it shown that in addition to the Council members being opposed, Councillor Cooper was also opposed to the motion regarding funding for Shakespeare in the Park.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meetings held on March 3, 10, 12, 31 and April 7, 2015.

Presentations

There were no public presentations at this evening’s meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Compost Giveaway

Mr. Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste advised that the Annual Compost Giveaway has been in place since 1997, with the exception of last year when compost was not available due to the new facility not being operational. The compost will not be available again this year as well, due in part to the start up of the new facility and the severe winter season.

In addition to the Compost Giveaway, compost is also sold in bulk with varying prices: \$34.50/tonne up to 50 tonne; \$23/tonne over 50 tonne; \$20.13/tonne to commercial clients purchasing in excess of 50 tonne; and, \$2/bag for customers wanting to purchase small volumes by the bag.

With the new facility starting up, staff felt it is an opportune time for Council to review and determine if the Compost Giveaway should continue and well as review the pricing structure for sale of compost.

Since the Compost Giveaway is a very well received program amongst residents, and the value of the compost is quite low, staff are recommending that the existing Compost Giveaway remain status quo. Regarding the pricing structure for the sale of compost, staff are recommending that this be changed to have one price for bulk sales

and a fixed price per bag.

“Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That Council Committee recommends to Council to continue with the compost giveaway and establish only one price for bulk sales and a fixed price for compost sold by the bag.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

NS Electric Charging Stations

This item was presented to Council earlier this year and it was referred to staff to bring more information back to Council, specifically regarding the ownership and maintenance of the charging stations.

Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, reported that Nova Scotia Electric Vehicle Services is a two person association working to promote the use of electric vehicles. There is opportunity to place three charging stations in locations throughout the County, encouraging locations in more rural areas.

Ownership after installation of the charging station would be with the recipient or host of the station. There is very little maintenance involved with the stations but any maintenance would be the responsibility of the owner. However, Mr. David Stevenson and Mr. David Swan can provide assistance to owners with any such maintenance and are committed to doing so.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That Council Committee recommends to Council the expenditure, of up to \$3,600 for the installation, for three Electric Car Charging Stations within Colchester, with the location of the three stations to be decided with Municipal staff assistance and guidance.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Petition for Paving on Hillridge/Hillvale

A letter from residents of Hillridge Drive in Valley was received regarding the deteriorated condition of McCallum Drive, Hillridge Drive and Hillvale Drive. The majority of these roads are J-Class and are provincially owned. The letter received was intended as a request to start the process of a local improvement petition.

The repaving of these roads could be done through the Three Year Cost Sharing Agreement between the County and the Province, should the request be acceptable to the Province. In such cases, the project would proceed with costs being shared 50/50 between the Province

April 16, 2015

and County with the County portion being collected from residents on a frontage basis.

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff initiate a petition process for the repaving of the provincially owned sections Hillvale, Hillridge and McCallum Drives in accordance with the Local Improvement By-law.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

CNTA Funding Request *At its meeting on March 26, 2015, Council granted authority to April Council Committee to make a final decision on the 2015-16 Budget and Tax Rate. The CNTA request for funding was part of the budget process and a decision on funding was deferred until after a presentation from the organization was received.*

Subsequent to the Additions and Deletions meeting, Council deferred making a decision on CNTA's request for \$7,500 until a presentation was received. CNTA made a presentation to Council on April 7, 2015.

The request from CNTA is for \$7,500 for co-op marketing, visitor services and the Roger Brooks International Destination Assessment. Additionally, CNTA also requested per capita funding which, during budget deliberations, this funding was approved in the budget for tourism based activities but not specified for CNTA. It was suggested that this be the same for the \$7,500 request.

Discussion was held regarding future support for CNTA and whether there is a need for Council representation on the CNTA Board.

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the \$7,500 requested by CNTA, be earmarked for tourism activity, but not specifically for CNTA.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**2015 Mi'kmaw NS
Summer Games
Funding Request**

At its meeting on March 26, 2015, Council granted authority to April Council Committee to make a final decision on the 2015-16 Budget and Tax Rate. The request for funding from the 2015 Mi'kmaw NS Summer Games was part of the budget process and a decision on funding was deferred until after a presentation from the organization was received.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes

April 16, 2015

Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That Council approves funding in the amount of \$10,000 for the 2015 Mi'kmaw NS Summer Games, and that source of funds be Economic Development Grants.”

Motion Defeated.

(Mayor Taylor, Councillors Blair, Stewart, Gibbs, MacKenzie, Gregory, Cavanaugh, Taggart and Parker opposed)

Moved by Mayor Taylor

Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That Council approves funding in the amount of \$6,000 for the 2015 Mi'kmaw NS Summer Games, and that source of funds be Economic Development Grants.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Purchasing Policy –
Suitable Contractors**

At its meeting on March 26, 2015, Council granted authority to April Council Committee to take a final decision on this Item.

Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, advised that changes to this policy include allowing for consideration of past contractor performance on County projects when awarding tenders. The changes would allow for the Director of Public Works to develop criteria which would be disclosed up front during the tender process. These changes have been vetted through the Municipal Solicitor.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh

Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That the current policy titled Purchasing and Tendering for Goods, Services and Construction Projects be repealed; and,

That the proposed changes to the policy for Purchasing and Tendering for Goods, Services and Construction Projects be accepted, as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously

**Recycling Styrofoam
(EPS Recycling)**

Mr. Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste, provided a brief overview of this new initiative. Currently styrofoam Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) is thrown in the garbage. After a number of waste audits it has been determined that the MRF could receive approximately 300 metric tonnes of EPS annually as well as realize additional revenue through tipping fee from other municipal units. There would be no additional cost in collection. A recycling company

April 16, 2015

has offered Colchester \$600 US per metric tonne for white Styrofoam and \$300 US per metric tonne for coloured.

Total costs for equipment and reconfiguring operations at the MRF would be approximately \$200,000. An additional full time sorter would also have to be hired. The estimated return on investment for this initiative is 1.2 years.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) be added to the list of recycled/recyclable materials at the MRF to be placed curbside in bluebags; and,

That staff be authorized to move ahead with the project of recycling densified EPS at an estimated cost of \$200,000 with source of funds being MRF Capital Reserve.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

COMFIT Small Wind

Mr. Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste advised that Council had previously authorized the Director of Solid Waste to complete “COMFIT” applications for installing two 50 kilowatt (KW) wind turbines at the Kemptown Balefill Facility. This would be a \$1.2 million investment which would be paid off in the 11th year. Suggested funding for this project is a portion of gas tax revenues, a portion borrowed from the Municipal Finance Corporation, and a portion from the Municipality’s own capital reserve.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That Council Committee recommends that Council approve the installation of two 50-KW wind turbines at the Kemptown Balefill Facility property under the COMFIT Small Wind Turbines Program.”

Discussion was held with Council expressing concern with the amount of this investment at a time when a number of projects currently in the works including: the Palliser property, waste-to-energy, Onslow development, Debert runway, and the RECC. Concerns were also expressed regarding length of time for return on investment as well as source of funding for this project, with the majority not in favour of using gas tax funding.

Moved by Councillor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

April 16, 2015

“That the motion on the floor recommending that Council approve the installation of two 50-KW wind turbines at the Kemptown Balefill Facility property under the COMFIT Small Wind Turbines Program be tabled.”

Motion Carried.

(Councillors Cavanaugh and Gibbs opposed)

Approval of 2015-16 Budget and Tax Rate

It was noted that at its meeting on March 26, 2015, Council granted authority for April Council Committee to approve the 2015-16 Budget and Tax Rate.

Moved by Mayor Taylor

Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council approves the transfer of \$350,000 from general operations in 2014/15 to the Operating Reserve Fund.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

At this point in the meeting, Council agreed to bring forward the agenda item dealing with Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce Funding.

Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce Funding

Discussion was held on the Chamber proposal and request for \$15,000 and that this request should be given consideration prior to dealing with and approving the budget. Points of discussion included:

- Possibility of approving funding amount but not committing for the Chamber proposal at this point;
- Elimination of the Executive Director from the original proposal;
- Major reduction in annual contribution;
- Maintaining control of Economic Development Officer;
- Both Towns being in favour of the proposal; and,
- Having a joint meeting with the Towns of Truro and Stewiacke before making a decision.

Returning to the discussion on the Approval of the 2015-16 Budget and Tax Rate, the following motion was made:

Moved by Mayor Taylor

Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That the 2015-16 Operating Budget be approved with the Additions & Deletions as set out at a Committee meeting held on March 31, 2015, with the residential tax rate to remain at \$0.85; and the commercial tax rate remain at \$2.25.” and;

That the following Tax Resolution be approved, as presented.”

RESOLUTION RE TAX RATES

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 **\$22,976,222** are required for the lawful purpose of the Municipality for the year ending **March 31, 2016**, 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 **eighty-five cents (\$0.85)** on each \$100.00 of the assessed value of the residential and resource property assessed in the **2015** Assessment Roll;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the said Council authorize the levying and collection of a rate of **two dollars and twenty-five cents (\$2.25)** on each \$100.00 on the assessed value of Commercial Property assessed in the **2015** 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 (\$0.25) cents per acre on holdings of 50,000 or less and forty (\$0.40) cents per acre on holdings 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 (\$0.01) 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 13th day of August, 2015;

FURTHER RESOLVED that said Council hereby imposes an additional percentage charge of 15% per annum on all rates and taxes remaining unpaid after the 13th day of August, 2015.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Provincial Budget

Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works provided a brief overview on the provincial budget, specifically relating to flood risk. Originally, funding in the amount of one million dollars per year over five years was approved for flood mitigation work. The recently released provincial budget has reduced this funding to half a million dollars per year and this amount is for all municipalities.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That a letter be written to the Premier of Nova Scotia, the MLA’s and the Minister of Municipal Affairs addressing the reduction in flood funding in the Provincial Budget.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Murray Siding
Brook/DFO
Requirements**

A brief update was provided by Councillor Gibbs about a meeting with MP Scott Armstrong regarding the DFO Letter of Credit requirements. Three meetings were held with Minister Gail Shea and these requirements are not going to change. Councillor Gibbs indicated that he feels municipalities should be exempt from these requirements; that the County should put forth a resolution to the UNSM; and, should lobby the FCM and the federal government.

Since this issue doesn’t seem as it will be resolved anytime in the near future, Councillor Gibbs indicated that he would like to see the Murray Siding Brook project be completed.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council Committee recommends to Council to proceed with the Letter of Credit, or another acceptable form of security, in the amount of \$45,000 to proceed with Phase II of the Murray Siding Brook project.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That a letter be written to Minister Shea, MP Scott Armstrong and the three area MLA’s, extending an invitation to a future Council meeting.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**RECC Financial
Statements**

Referring to the recent presentation on RECC Financial Statements, Councillor Blair made the request to have detailed financial statements,

April 16, 2015

broken down by department, distributed to members of Council. It was also suggested that a quarterly or semi-annual report/updated be provided to Council.

INFORMATION ITEMS

NS Agriculture, Dyke Access Agreement

Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works advised that in August 2013, Council approved entering into an agreement with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture for access to provincially maintained dykes. The agreement was necessary in order to allow access to the North and Salmon Rivers as part of flood improvement projects. The agreement expired on March 31, 2015 and the province suggested an extension of the agreement for one year. Since there were no changes to the agreement other than the extension date, the Mayor and CAO signed the extension agreement.

Councillor MacInnes suggested that staff investigate the possibility of access to the dykes through the trail system.

Sewer Use Appeals Committee

Councillor Taggart, Chair of the Sewer Use Appeals Committee (SUAC), advised Council that the Committee met earlier this evening. A public hearing date has been set for May 21st at the Debert Legion, where experts on reverse osmosis and water sampling will be heard as well as an opportunity for the appellants to speak. The SUAC will meet again on May 25th and will advise Council of their decision at the regular Council meeting on May 28th. A similar process for the public hearing as last time will be followed.

Directors Report

A report from Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, was circulated in the package for this evening's meeting.

Closed Session

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded Councillor Gibbs

"That the meeting go into closed session at 10:20 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 10:43 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Property Purchase – Art Hill

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council to purchase a 1.5 acre piece of property on Onslow Road from Arthur, Angus and Darlene Hill to accommodate an existing pumping station, at a cost of \$10,000, plus survey and legal expenses, and applicable taxes.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Joint Bid – 2018
Acadian Games**

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That Council Committee recommends to Council to support partnering with the Town of Truro to make a formal bid for the 39th Acadian Games in 2018, with a commitment of \$18,000 from the Municipality of Colchester for the application/bidding process.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That the meeting be adjourned at 10:45 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary