

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, May 14, 2015.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Bob Taylor	
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 Ron Cavanaugh	District 8
Councillor Doug MacInnes	District 9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Regrets

Councillor Christine Blair	District 1
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Also Present

Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr. Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste
 Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
 Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Mr. Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager
 Ms. Tracey Veno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Scott Fraser advised that item # A-9, Development of Palliser Property-Next Steps, would be removed from the agenda and an information item would be placed on the Council Portal tomorrow with progress to date on the Palliser Property.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
 Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the agenda be approved with the above noted amendment.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mayor Taylor
 Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the minutes from the meeting held on April 16, 2015 be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

Referring to the Rath Eastlink Community Centre (RECC) financials, a question was raised regarding ice rental rates at the RECC versus other arenas in the County. Concern was expressed that the variance in rates being charged has changed. Mr. Burgess, Recreation Manager advised that the ice rental rates being charged at the RECC are higher than the other arenas. These ice rental rates were presented at a previous meeting, however, it did not include rates for minor hockey. Mr. Burgess indicated that he would re-distribute the rates as previously presented to Council and would look into rates for minor hockey.

ACTION ITEMS

Stewiacke Valley and Brookfield 4H Exchange – Funding Request

Mr. Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager, advised that a similar request was dealt with through the budget process during Additions and Deletions from another 4H club. It was noted at the Additions and Deletions meeting that this request may be coming forth at a later date and that Council agreed to consider it at that time.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That Council Committee recommends to Council funding in the amount of \$2,000 be approved for the Stewiacke Valley and Brookfield 4H Exchange with source of funds being Grants to Non Profit as an unbudgeted expense.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Musical Ride Tatamagouche – Funding Request

Mr. Craig Burgess advised that an application for funding in the amount of \$3,000 has been received for the RCMP Musical Ride being held in Tatamagouche from August 31-September 3. The funds will help offset the set up costs, portable washrooms and promoting/marketing the event.

Brief discussion was held with concern being raised as the Musical Ride is also being hosted in Bible Hill in early September 2015.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that funding be approved in the amount of \$1,500 for the Musical Ride Tatamagouche with source of funds being Economic Development Grants.”

Motion Carried.
(Councillor Parker opposed)

**Festimagouche – Request
 for Funding**

The Tatamagouche Centre is hosting an Arts, Justice and Spirit Festival from August 22-25, 2015. A request for funding in the amount of \$3,000 has been received.

It was noted that last year for this festival, a letter of support was requested for their funding application through Nova Scotia Economic Development. Brief discussion was held regarding the high costs of events at the Tatamagouche Centre.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
 Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the request for funding from the Tatamagouche Centre for the Arts, Justice and Spirit Festival, Festimagouche, be denied.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Area Rates and Budget for
 2015/16**

Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, provided a brief overview on this item noting that there are very few changes from last year. There have been a couple of increases to street light rates to cover power rate increases.

Moved by Mayor Taylor
 Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the 2015-16 Area Rate Budgets, be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Palliser Property Source
 of Funding**

This item pertains to the recent purchase by the County of the Palliser property. Staff is seeking direction on source of funding for the purchase and future development of the property. Options for funding as suggested by staff include use of the Bible Hill Master Plan Reserve or the Special Operating Reserve.

Moved by Mayor Taylor
 Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Bible Hill Master Plan Reserve Fund be utilized for the purchase and development of the Palliser Property.”

Concern was raised regarding the fairness of discussing this item in the absence of the area Councillor. It was noted that the motion as

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it stands is a recommendation to Council and the area Councillor would have opportunity for input at the month end Council meeting.

A brief history was provided on the Bible Hill Master Plan, the Bates property and the creation of the reserve fund. Discussion was held with the following points being raised:

- changes in County initiatives/plans since the implementation of the Bible Hill Master Plan;
- the County not being in the development business;
- lack of development interest from developers; and,
- rebuilding the fund reserve for potential future opportunity if required.

Moved by Councillor Parker

Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

“That the motion on the floor be tabled.”

Motion Defeated.

(Mayor Taylor, Deputy Mayor Masters, Councillors Stewart, Cooper, Gibbs, Gregory, Cavanaugh, and Taggart opposed)

The motion to table the discussion having been defeated, the original motion was voted on and carried.

(Councillors Parker, MacKenzie and MacInnes opposed)

Weekly Compost Pick-Up

Councillor Parker advised Council that he is being bombarded with calls concerning compost containers, specifically regarding maggots and odour. Residents are inquiring about changing from bi-weekly to weekly pick up during the summer months.

Discussion was held on the cost increases of switching to weekly pick up. The cost would be an additional \$8,000 per week. This would result in additional costs of \$96,000 over three months or \$128,000 over four months.

It was agreed that continued education on the use of compost bins during the summer is required. Mr. Wayne Wamboldt committed to providing this education and advised that all calls related to this should be directed to the Solid Waste Department.

RECC Operating Board Structure

Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services advised that the RECC Governing Board is requesting to increase the strength of the Board from 10 to 12 members, with an additional community representative from both the Town and County. This request has been considered and approved by the Town of Truro.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the creation of an additional Community Representative position on the Rath Eastlink Community Centre Board of Directors be approved and that a suitable community member be nominated to the position.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Small Wind Turbines under CoMFIT Project

Mr. Wayne Wamboldt advised that this item was tabled at the April Council Committee meeting and has been brought forward this evening with additional information on funding options.

Debate was held on the various funding sources including Gas Tax revenue, use of other reserves and borrowing. Discussion was also held on return on investment, and the disadvantages of borrowing and interest charges. Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, advised that 100% debt financing would not be recommended if Council chooses to proceed with the project.

One concern raised during discussion was with the number of other County projects currently in the works and that it may not be the best time for another project such as the small wind turbines.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the installation of two 50 KW wind turbines at the Kempton Balefill Facility property be approved under the Community Feed-In Tariff (CoMFIT) Small Wind Turbines Program; and,

That the source of funds to be internal, either from the Gas Tax Revenue or Reserves, with the final composition of which will be included either in the capital budget or determined by a future motion of Council.”

Motion Carried.
(Councillors Stewart and Gibbs opposed)

INFORMATION ITEMS

Hillridge/Hillvale/McCallum Paving Petition

Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works provided Council with a brief update on the paving petition for McCallum, Hillridge and Hillvale Drives.

There are 24 properties fronting the three streets with

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approximately 2,036 metres of frontage. Three of the 24 properties are municipally owned, totaling 549 metres of frontage or 27% of the total frontage. County properties are exempt from contributing to local improvement and the paving costs would have to be covered by all other properties with frontage on the streets. Based on paving costs for similar projects in 2013, the cost per metre of paving is estimated at \$375. Staff hope to hold the open house for the affected residents within the next 4 weeks.

Directors Report

A report from Mr. Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste, was circulated in the package for this evening's meeting.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That the meeting be adjourned at 9:20 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary