

## **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, June 11, 2015.

### **Roll Call**

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Bob Taylor	
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 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 Karen MacKenzie	District 6
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### **Also Present**

Mr. Ramesh Ummat, Chief Administrative Officer  
 Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services  
 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

### **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Councillor MacInnes  
 Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Item A-7, Spring and Fall Clean Up;
- Item A-8, Palliser Visitor Centre Staffing – Funding Request from CNTA;
- Item A-9, West Colchester Regional Development Association Signage;
- Item A-10, Wastewater Treatment Facility;
- Item A-11, Electronic Voting;
- Item I-2, Appeal to UARB;
- Item I-3, FCM Conference;
- Item C-1 in Closed Session, Property Matter;
- Item C-2 in Closed Session, Property Matter.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

It was also noted that an addendum to Item A-6, Visitor Centre at the Tidal Bore Viewing Park/Palliser Property, was distributed on table.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor MacInnes  
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the minutes from the meeting held on May 14, 2015 be approved with the following amendment:

Councillor MacInnes was in favour of the motion to table discussion on source of funding for the Palliser property.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

### **Business Arising from Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meeting held on May 14, 2015.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Sunrise Film Festival – Request for Funding**

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council funding in the amount of \$3,000 be approved for the Sunrise Film Festival with source of funds being Economic Development Grants; and,

That a full report, including number of attendees and overall results of the event, be received from the Sunrise Film Festival after conclusion of the event.”

Motion Carried.  
*(Councillor Taggart opposed)*

#### **Festimagouche – Request for Funding**

Councillor Gregory indicated that this request was previously turned down by Council, however, after receiving correspondence clarifying the issue of amounts being charged for the event, it is being requested that this be reconsidered.

Brief discussion was held on funds remaining in the Economic Development budget for this fiscal year and having to make choices on how these funds are best spent. Further discussion was held on the importance of events providing economic development to the area.

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council funding in the amount of \$1,000 for the Festimagouche event with source of funds being Economic Development Grants.”

Motion Carried.  
(*Councillors Stewart, Parker and Taggart opposed*)

**Land Purchase Request  
from Debert Military  
Museum**

At its meeting on April 30, 2015, Council referred a letter from the Debert Military Museum requesting to purchase a small piece of municipal land, located between the Museum and Plains Road, for the purpose of installing a memorial on the property. The letter was referred to staff for investigation.

Staff recommendation is to enter into a long term lease with the Museum to allow for use of the property to erect a memorial. A long term lease would serve the purpose without the Museum having to incur costs associated with a purchase and sale agreement such as legal and survey costs.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes  
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that a long term lease be negotiated with the Debert Military Museum for the property located between the Museum and Plains Road, to accommodate memorial development plans; and

That the terms of the lease be \$1.00 per year.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

It was noted that the lease, once drafted, would be brought back to Council for review.

**Truro Heights Pedestrian  
Overpass**

Mr. Ramesh Ummat, CAO, advised that staff were still in the process of reviewing the tender submissions and requested that this item be removed at this time. Council agreed to remove the item and that it would be brought back before Council at the June Council meeting.

**Tidal Bore Park and  
Canada 150 Community  
Infrastructure Program**

Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, advised of a possible funding opportunity through the Canada 150 Program. This program supports projects that rehabilitate existing community facilities and a qualifying project could receive up to \$1 million. Funding must be matched with 50 percent funding from other sources. The timeline is quite short, with a deadline of March 31, 2018 for project completion. Mr. Macpherson advised that this

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might be a good program for the development of the Palliser property. A motion of Council would be required for the application.

Moved by Councillor Blair  
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that a development plan be put in place for the Tidal Bore Park and staff be authorized to proceed with an application for funding under the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program.”

Motion Carried.  
*(Councillor Cavanaugh opposed)*

Discussion was held regarding the future development of the Palliser property, the importance of public input/engagement as well as support from other partners including the business community, Towns of Stewiacke and Truro and Millbrook First Nation.

**Visitor Centre at the Tidal Bore Viewing Park/Palliser Property**

As mentioned earlier this evening, an addendum to this Action Item, which deals with the Visitor Centre at the Tidal Bore Viewing Park, was distributed on table. Staff feel that since this is a short term solution to accommodate having a Visitor Centre in place for the 2015 season, both options as presented in the original Action Item are too expensive. The recommendation is to proceed with renovation of the existing interpretation building using in-house staff resources with temporary washrooms provided.

Concern was raised about the use of portable washrooms at the Palliser property. It was stressed that the portable washrooms would need to be kept clean and that they must be wheelchair accessible.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes  
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Municipality proceed with the renovation of the existing Visitor Centre at the former Palliser property using in-house staff resources, with temporary washrooms to be provided at the site for the 2015 season.”

Motion Carried.  
*(Councillor Parker opposed)*

**Spring and Fall Clean Up**

Councillor Cavanaugh advised that he has had a lot of calls regarding Spring Clean Up and requested that this be brought forward to August Committee for discussion.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh  
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Spring and Fall Clean Up be referred to the August Council Committee meeting for review and discussion.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Palliser Visitor Centre  
Staffing – Funding  
Request from CNTA**

Moved by Mayor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Municipality provide a \$5,000 grant to CNTA to provide tourism services at the Palliser for six hours a day, seven days per week during July and August, and reduced services in September and October, for the 2015 season.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**West Colchester Regional  
Development Association  
Signage**

Councillor Taggart advised that the West Colchester Regional Development Association had community signs made to erect along the shore in various communities. Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requires the support of Council before the signage can be erected.

Moved by Councillor Taggart  
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council Committee supports the West Colchester Regional Development Association request for signage in the communities of West Colchester.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Wastewater Treatment  
Facility**

Councillor MacInnes advised that the odours from the Wastewater Treatment Facility are worse this year than ever before and it has to stop.

Discussion was held with the following concerns/issues being raised:

- Length of time this odour issue has been going on;
- Effect odours are having on area residents/quality of life;
- Tax dollars already spent to correct the problem;
- It is known which industry is responsible for these odours;
- Monitoring samples show that recent discharge into the system exceed requirements;

- Possible measures or actions to stop the odours.

Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor, advised on the legalities around extreme measures such as shutting the industry in question off from the main system. As well, it is the Town of Truro who has to enforce their By-law for industries located within the Town. There is a reciprocating agreement in place between the Town and County. Discussions need to be initiated with the Town of Truro to find out what steps have been taken by the Town with the industry to remedy the problem.

Council directive on this matter was to have the Mayor and staff arrange a meeting, as early as tomorrow, with the Town of Truro and the industry causing the odours.

## **Electronic Voting**

Mr. Ramesh Ummat, CAO, advised Council of an email received from the Association of Municipal Administrators (AMA) regarding a Request for Proposal (RFP) on bulk purchasing for E-Voting. The objective is for all municipalities interested in E-Voting, to join in the RFP for bulk purchasing. There is no commitment or obligation for municipalities to purchase should the municipal unit decide not to pursue E-Voting. The CAO indicated that Council direction is being sought on this issue.

Council discussed E-Voting with the following points and questions being raised:

- E-Voting could be difficult to administer in rural areas;
- More information is needed to make an informed decision;
- What are the costs associated with E-Voting;
- The need for back up voting method in case of failure; and,
- Issues regarding secure voting.

Moved by Councillor Taggart  
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That the Municipality of Colchester not be involved in the E-Voting Request For Proposal process being offered through the Association of Municipal Administrators.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **Directors Report**

A report from Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, was circulated in the package for this evening's meeting.

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Brief discussion was held on the feasibility of an Agri-Food Business Venture Park, possible sources of funding for the Debert airport improvements, status of the electric car charging stations and a request for an update on the current financial situation of the three arenas in the County.

### **Appeal to Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board**

Councillor Gibbs provided Council with an update on the appeal to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board by the Friends of Harmony/Camden regarding wind turbines. Councillor Gibbs expressed concern with allegations being made by the developer, Mr. Reuben Burge, against him. The allegations are that confidential personal information that was distributed on a CD to the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) was disclosed by Councillor Gibbs.

Councillor Taggart advised that the CD being referred to was never received at a PAC meeting. It was received at a Council meeting in open session. It was also noted that PAC meetings are open public meetings. It was suggested that a letter be prepared on behalf of the PAC for Councillor Gibbs.

Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor, advised that a letter is not evidentiary and suggested that Council not intervene. An affidavit with Councillor Gibbs' recollection of record with assistance from Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development and Ms. Pam Macintosh, Planner, should suffice.

### **FCM Conference**

Mayor Taylor reported briefly on a few items from the FCM Conference:

- Letters have been written to the FCM and the Atlantic Rural Caucus regarding the current requirement of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans regarding municipalities needing a letter of credit to carry out flood remediation work. Every avenue is being explored regarding the letter of credit requirements.
- Councillor Taggart was one of the successful candidates running for the position on the FCM Board. It was noted that only one candidate should be nominated in future.
- Accommodations at the Conference were inconvenient for the delegates attending as well as for the spouses. There was quite a commute from the hotel to the conference.

A full report on the Conference would be provided at the end of the month.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Moved by Councillor Parker  
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting go into closed session at 10:03 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh  
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 10:30 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting be adjourned at 10:31 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno  
Recording Secretary