

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, November 12, 2015.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Bob Taylor	
Councillor Christine Blair	District 1 (arrived @ 7:17 pm)
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

Regrets

Councillor Wade Parker	District 11
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Staff Present

Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Interim Chief Administrative Officer
 Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
 Mr. Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager
 Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Ms. Tracey Veno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
 Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the agenda be approved with the following amendments:

- Add Item 7b, Reports from Councillors Appointed to Outside Boards;
- Add Item 7c, Arenas;
- Add Item 7d, Hillvale/Hillridge/MacCallum Paving;
- Add Item 7e, Letter to RECC – Pinty’s Curling Event;
- Add Item 10b, Meeting with Millbrook First Nation;
- Add Item 10c, CNTA Meeting.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Stewart
 Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

November 12, 2015

“That the minutes from the meeting held on October 15, 2015, be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meeting held on October 15, 2015.

ACTION ITEMS

Returning Officer – 2016 Municipal Election

Referring to the Returning Officer’s 2012 Post Election Report as attached to the Action Item, concern was expressed with the number of names that had to be added to the Final List of Electors and discussion was held about benefits of enumerating versus use of provincial lists. Also, in light of recent experiences with the federal election, concern was expressed about the process of being sworn in at polling stations for those whose names are not on the list.

Mr. Crawford Macpherson, CAO, advised that this Action Item deals with the hiring of the Returning Officer for the 2016 Municipal Election. Issues such as generating voters lists through enumeration versus provincial lists and requirements for voting can be addressed with the Returning Officer once in place.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that as per Section 4(1c) of the Municipal Elections Act, Council designates its powers of appointment, of both the Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer positions, to the Chief Administrative Officer, with approval to re-offer the position of Returning Officer to Lorraine Dawson; and,

That the Returning Officer coordinate all aspects of the 2016 Municipal Election with a base salary of \$21,000; and,

That the Assistant Returning Officer be hired at an hourly rate of \$18.00; and,

That space be made available to accommodate these positions in either the Courthouse or at the SHRU/Emergency Operations Centre.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

It was agreed that the Returning Officer be invited to make a presentation to Council early in the new year.

November 12, 2015

**RECC General Manager
Emergency Spending
Policy**

Mayor Taylor indicated that this item relates to a Policy on emergency spending for the RECC. The CAO advised that the Policy would allow a mechanism for reacting to emergencies. This Policy is very similar to the Inter-municipal Emergency Management Agreement.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the RECC General Manager/Designate Emergency Spending Policy, be approved as presented, pending approval of same from the Town of Truro Council.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Donation Drop Boxes

Councillor Stewart indicated he has had a number of calls concerning unsightly conditions of Donation Drop Box locations such as the Red Cross, Arthritis and Diabetes Association. The areas where the items are being dropped off should be cleaned up on a more regular basis. In particular, the Drop Box in Hilden is an area of concern. Council agreed that a letter be written to the property owner and the charity regarding the condition of these sites. Another suggestion was to have “No Dumping” signage erected at the locations.

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

Concerns have been raised on the length of time being spent on Reports from Councillors Appointed to Outside Boards and Agencies. The CAO advised that written reports, similar to Director’s Reports, should be submitted on the outside boards and agencies that Council members are appointed to.

Discussion was held on reporting structure for other boards and committees, such as the Police Advisory Board and Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Committee. The CAO advised that if there is an issue of significance, it should be brought to the attention of Council. For clarity purposes, Council requested that staff prepare a list of Committees that Council should be reporting on during this section of the Council agendas.

Arenas

Councillor Taggart advised that he, along with the CAO, recently met with a local consulting business who have been involved with FIFA and other events. Discussion was held regarding arena boards and the struggles they are currently facing, the need to get more users into the arenas and the possibility of bringing the boards together with the local consulting business to discuss potential opportunities to address these challenges. It was suggested that the local consulting business get together with the Arenas Association to discuss further.

November 12, 2015

Hillvale/Hillridge/McCallum Paving A public meeting was held earlier today regarding the paving of Hillvale/Hillridge/McCallum Drives. The meeting was attended by Mayor Taylor, Councillor MacKenzie and Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works.

Mayor Taylor and Councillor MacKenzie indicated that they do not agree with the existing provincial policy on paving J Class Roads. The residents in attendance at the meeting were not happy with the process and potential costs that are excessively high.

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That a letter be written to MLA Karen Casey and MP Bill Casey requesting that they meet with the residents of Hillvale/Hillridge/McCallum Drives and that staff facilitate the meeting at an agreed upon date.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Letter to RECC – Pinty’s Curling Event

Referring to the recent Pinty’s Grand Slam of Curling Event held at the RECC, Council members commented that they were astounded by the quality of the event. The facility, staff and all of the volunteers should be acknowledged for the level of service provided throughout the entire event. It was also noted that local sponsors should be recognized as well.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That a letter be written to the RECC commending everyone involved in the success of the Pinty’s Grand Slam of Curling Event.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Insurance for Not-for-Profit Organizations – Grant Applications

Mr. Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager reported that the fall application deadline for the Not-for-Profit Insurance Program was October 9th. The County received 23 applications, all of which qualified under the Program criteria. The total amount approved was \$7,761.

Noxious Weeds on Cobequid Trail

Due to concerns regarding a noxious weed appearing in areas throughout the County, staff were directed to investigate what measures could be taken to help control this weed known as the Cow Parsnip. Mr. Craig Burgess provided a brief overview of what is being done to control it. Mr. Jared Pentz, Parks and Trails Supervisor, is

November 12, 2015

familiar with the weed and has received feedback from Perennia and Dalhousie Agricultural Campus on controlling the weed including removing the plants and continued maintenance such as mowing. The work is being carried out by Parks and Recreation and Public Works staff and is scheduled for completion this fall.

Council requested that staff report back on what was done and the actual costs involved.

Dhugald Drive Water Extension

Councillor Gibbs indicated that an inquiry was received from a developer regarding a water extension to Dhugald Drive due to arsenic problems with the existing water. As a result of this request, staff had been directed to provide information on servicing Dhugald Drive with water. This would involve a two kilometre extension of the existing watermain on Fir Avenue, up Harmony Road to Dhugald Drive. There would be approximately 50 serviceable homes and the cost of the extension would be in the \$1.5 million range. Additionally, extending the waterline to the side streets west of Harmony Road, would increase the extension to 3.9 kilometres and could add 120 serviceable lots. The total cost of the 3.9 kilometre extension would increase to \$3.1 million which equates to about \$18,300 per home. This project would not qualify under the Local Improvement By-law.

This water extension would require approval from the Town of Truro. Staff have been in contact with Town staff and have been told informally that this development is undesirable as it is near their reservoirs' watershed area.

Concerns were expressed with regards to further development in an area that is experiencing problems with arsenic levels. Also, discussion was held about homes not being required to hook up to the water line just because it is extended to the area.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That a response be sent to the developer advising the costs associated with a water extension to Dhugald Drive."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Joint Meeting with Millbrook First Nation

Mayor Taylor advised that a letter was sent to Chief Gloade with suggested dates for a joint meeting between Millbrook First Nation and the Municipality. The date has been confirmed for November 30th November 30th from 6-8 pm. County Council will make a presentation on the Palliser Redevelopment, as well as the Truro Heights Pedestrian Bridge at this meeting. Staff were directed to book the Millbrook Room at the RECC for the meeting.

CNTA Meeting

Council was reminded about a public information meeting being held at "The Peg" in Masstown on November 19th from 1:30-3:30 pm. A reminder email will also be sent from staff with a copy of the agenda for the meeting.

Directors Report

A report from the Director of Public Works was circulated prior to this evening's meeting. Council was reminded that the Pedestrian Bridge in Truro Heights is being put in place on Sunday, November 15th early in the morning.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That the meeting go into closed session at 8:46 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:09 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Salmon River School
Demolition**

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff prepare a public request for proposals for the sale of the Salmon River School property located at 2084 East Prince Street."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That the meeting adjourn at 9:15 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary