

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, December 10, 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 Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District 8
Councillor Doug MacInnes	District 9 (arrived at 7:40 pm)
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Staff Present

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

Service Recognition

Mayor Taylor and Crawford Macpherson, Interim CAO, presented employees with awards in recognition of years of service with the Municipality. 2015 recognized four employees receiving five year awards; four employees for 10 years; four employees for 15 years; three employees for 20 years; one employee for 30 years; and one employee for 35 years.

Additionally, Mr. Herb Corbett, Compost Supervisor at the Balefill in Kemptown, was presented with a retirement plaque in recognition of 16 years of service with the Municipality. Mr. Corbett retires on December 31, 2015.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Cooper
 Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Item 10b, Funding Request – Nova Scotia Music Week;
- Item 10c, Letter of Support – Debert Hospitality Centre;
- Item 10d, LED Enhanced Crosswalks;

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- Item 10e, Walking Trails – Mosswood Lane and Second Court;
- Item 10f, Letter to Town of Truro re: Dhugald Water Extension;
- Item 12b, Meeting with Health Authority.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the minutes from the meeting held on November 12, 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 November 12, 2015.

ACTION ITEMS

Art Purchase Policy Amendment

The current Art Purchase Policy allows for an annual art purchase in the amount of \$1,000. It is being requested that this amount be increased to allow more flexibility in acquiring the desired piece or pieces of art.

Discussion was held on who prices the art pieces, the method of judging, and the importance of the policy as it recognizes local talent. Concern was expressed about purchasing more than one piece of art whereas the policy stipulates one piece annually. Selecting two pieces may diminish the prestige of the selected piece.

Moved by Councillor Blair
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the current Art Purchase Policy be repealed; and,

That the amended Art Purchase Policy, which increases the amount for the annual art acquisition from \$1,000 to \$2,500, be approved, as presented.”

Motion Carried.
(Councillor Cavanaugh opposed)

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Blair

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“That any unused portion of the \$2,500 for the annual art purchase be put in an operating reserve for art acquisition.”

Motion Carried.

(Councillors Cavanaugh and Cooper opposed)

Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, advised that Council approval would be required prior to the spending of funds set aside in an operating reserve for art purchases.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor MacInnes arrived.

**Endorsement of Trans
Canada Trail Route in the
Municipality**

Moved by Councillor Parker

Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council the endorsement of the proposed route of the Trans Canada Trail within the geographic area of the Municipality of Colchester, as presented by staff on December 1, 2015.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Draft Municipal By-law
Respecting the
Maintenance and
Improvement of Private
Roads**

The CAO provided a brief overview of the draft By-law Respecting the Maintenance and Improvement of Private Roads. The By-law provides land owners with a mechanism to generate revenue for the purpose of maintenance and improvements to private roads.

Discussion was held on whether the 5% administrative charge is sufficient; the approval rate of 66% for the petition process; that residents must form an Association; County responsibilities being collection of funds on behalf of the residents; and, residents/Association responsibilities being maintenance and improvements of the road.

Moved by Councillor Gregory

Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That the By-law Respecting the Maintenance and Improvement of Private Roads proceed to First Reading at January Council”.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Onslow Sewer Boundary

Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, advised that as a result of the new Granville Drive Sewer Project, Council approval is now required to establish a new sewer boundary for the area and to charge applicable properties the Sewer Service Rate. A map showing all properties to be included within the new Sewer Service

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Boundary was circulated to Council with this Action Item. 32 properties on Granville Drive and 75 properties on Onslow Road are included within the boundary.

Under the existing Sewer Bylaw, the Engineer may require any properties fronting on a sewer system to connect into the system. Residents on Granville Drive are being notified that they will be required to complete their connection within 1 year, by October 2016. There is no timeline set for residents along Onslow Road however, because they are within the boundary they would be required to pay the Sewer Service Rate.

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the new Sewer Service Boundary for Onslow, as presented by staff, be approved.”

Motion Carried.
(Councillor Taggart opposed)

Water in Truro Heights

Deputy Mayor Masters indicated that he would like the issue of water extension in Truro Heights referred to staff.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the matter of water extension in Truro Heights be referred to staff for investigation.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Request for Support – 2016 Nova Scotia Music Week

Mr. Macpherson, CAO, advised that a request has been received for support for the 2016 Nova Scotia Music Week event. In 2014, this event was hosted in the region and was a tremendous success.

A similar request for hosting the 2016 event was made to the Town of Truro and was approved contingent on approval by the Municipality. In order to secure the event, each municipal unit is being asked to provide \$25,000, which is comprised of \$10,000 for licensing fee to Music Nova Scotia, \$5,000 operating funds for the local host committee and \$10,000 guarantee in case of shortfall in in-kind contributions.

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Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Municipality of Colchester partner with the Town of Truro in hosting the 2016 Nova Scotia Music Week; and,

That funding be approved in the amount of \$25,000 (\$10,000 for licensing fee to Music Nova Scotia, \$5,000 operating funds for the local host committee, plus a \$10,000 contingency fund), with the source of funds being 2016/17 Economic Development Grants.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Letter of Support – Debert
Hospitality Centre**

A request has been received from the Debert Hospitality Centre for a letter of support for their bid for the Regional Gliding School. The contract closes on December 18, 2015 and the Debert Hospitality Centre would like to submit their bid by December 16th.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That a letter be provided to the Debert Hospitality Centre in support of their bid for the Regional Gliding School.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**LED Enhanced
Crosswalks**

Referring to correspondence previously distributed to staff via email on LED Enhanced Crosswalks, Councillor Parker indicated that this could be a solution to the existing crosswalk issue, specifically on Burriss Drive.

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That staff investigate the total costs associated with the LED Enhanced Crosswalks and if Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal would permit one at the Burriss Drive location.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding the local Traffic Authority with Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) and concern was expressed regarding the attitude and lack of cooperation from the Traffic Authority.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That the matter of the local Traffic Authority with Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal be brought forward at the January 2016 TIR Quarterly Meeting.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Walking Trails (Second Court and Mosswood Lane)

Councillor MacKenzie advised that the walking trails on Second Court to Mosswood Lane (off Teviot) are not maintained in the winter. The Municipality does not own the trails and deeds could not be found. These trails are used by residents in Valley but are not up to standard.

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That staff investigate the costs to bring the trails from Second Court to Mosswood Lane up to standard, as well as the cost of continued maintenance.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Letter to the Town of Truro – Dhugald Water Extension

Referring to correspondence previously received regarding water extension to Dhugald Drive, Councillor Gibbs expressed concern about the lack of formal response from staff at the Town of Truro.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That a letter be written to the Town of Truro requesting a response on water extension from Harmony Road to Dhugald Drive.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Funding Requests from Private Entities

As a result of a recent request for support from a resident for their project of building a traditional schooner, staff were instructed to investigate the legalities in providing support to private entities.

Under Section 57(2) of the Municipal Government Act, a municipality is not permitted to grant a tax concession or other form of direct financial assistance to a business or industry. A business, as defined by the Canada Revenue Agency includes a profession; a calling; a trade; a manufacturer; an undertaking of any kind; and an adventure or concern in the nature of trade. Therefore, staff feel that

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the Municipality would not be permitted to provide financial support as requested by the resident.

Waste Receptacles at Drive Thru Restaurants (Roadside Litter)

Mayor Taylor advised that he received a call from a concerned business owner regarding a recent article in the newspaper about waste receptacles at Drive Thru Restaurants and roadside litter. The business owner explained that the reason for pulling the waste receptacles from the drive thru window is the bulk of the garbage being collected in those receptacles is not generated from the business. The business owner felt that they were being unfairly targeted and indicated that he would be open to working with the County regarding a solution to the litter problem.

It was noted that the removal of the waste receptacles is not the cause of the accumulating litter issue but it has contributed to the problem. Replacing the receptacles is not a fix to the problem but will help.

Discussion was held regarding raising awareness on roadside litter and the importance of working towards a resolution with the following points noted:

- RCMP enforcement with charges being laid - issue to be raised at the next Police Advisory Board meeting;
- Replacing waste receptacles at drive thru restaurants;
- Reimplementation of the former Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) summer student program;
- Approaching TIR regarding re-installing "Do Not Litter" signage along roads and highways;
- Placing waste receptacles along roads and highways, in safe locations, to be emptied/maintained on a regular basis;
- Solid Waste staff to put on an educational workshop on littering;
- Issuing a challenge to be the Cleanest Municipality in Canada.

Meeting with Health Authority

Mayor Taylor provided Council with a brief update on a meeting he attended earlier today with Ms. Janet Knox, President and CEO of the Health Authority. The meeting was a result of a request from Andrew Lake, President of the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce, followed by a letter from the Mayor, regarding physician shortages in the area. Ms. Knox indicated that they are looking at more Collaborative Health Centres and that things are in the works. Mr. Lake extended an invitation to Ms. Knox to attend a Chamber dinner in the near future.

Mayor Taylor shared the information provided by Councillor Gregory regarding the Tatamagouche area. Ms. Knox agreed that a meeting take place with Councillor Gregory to discuss in detail.

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Directors Report

A report from the Director of Community Development was circulated prior to this evening's meeting.

Councillor MacInnes inquired about acreage at the Debert Industrial Park airport. Mr. Macpherson advised that final figures are not available as yet. The information will be shared once it is available.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That the meeting adjourn at 9:40 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary