

## MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

A Regular Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Court House, Truro, N.S. on Thursday, February 28, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.

### Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Mayor Mike Smith, Chair    |              |
| Councillor Bob Taylor      | District #1  |
| Councillor Bill Masters    | District #2  |
| Deputy Mayor Hugh Matheson | District #3  |
| Councillor Richard Elliott | District #4  |
| Councillor Glen Edwards    | District #5  |
| Councillor Ron Cavanaugh   | District #6  |
| Councillor Jimmie LeFresne | District #7  |
| Councillor Keith Baas      | District #9  |
| Councillor Earl McKenna    | District #11 |

### Absent

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Councillor Soley Lynds | District #8  |
| Councillor Doug Cooke  | District #10 |

### Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Elliott  
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Matheson

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- S 9b: Honorariums
- S Add In-Camera Item, Property Matter”

Motion Carried.

### Minutes

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Baas

“That the minutes of meeting held on January 31, 2002 be approved with the following amendment:

- S The motion on Page 2001-110 regarding Pension Plan Review should read as follows:

*“That Council approves:*

- *Administration be given the authority to review the appropriateness of base year upgrades at the time of each actuarial evaluation of the pension plan and to implement such improvements to the pension plan;*
- *The Pension Plan retirement age for non-union employees be amended from 65 to a combined retirement age and years of service of 85;*
- *Non-union employees contribute to the Plan at the rate of 4-1/2% up to the YMPE and 6-1/2 above the YMPE;*
- *The benefit for earnings up to the YMPE for non-union employees increase from 1.3% to 1.4% for both past and future service;*
- *The authorization of staff to direct the pension consultant to implement these Plan amendments effective April 1, 2002; and,*
- *Amendments to Personnel Policy 6.17, Group Pension Plan.”*

Motion Carried.

**Business Arising  
from Minutes**

Councillor Baas asked if there had been any response to the CAO’s letter to the residents of Broderick Lane regarding snow removal. Mr. MacIsaac indicated that he had not received any response to date.

**Presentations**

Mr. Michael Adams, President/Search Director, Colchester Ground Search and Rescue Association

Mr. Michael Adams, President/Search Director, Colchester Ground Search and Rescue Association, made a presentation regarding the Association’s request for inclusion on the General Tax Rate beginning fiscal year 2002-03.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor McKenna

“That the presentation from Mr. Michael Adams be received.”

Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor LeFresne  
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the letter from Mr. Michael Adams dated February 18, 2002 in support of this presentation be referred to Additions/Deletions on March 7, 2002.”

Motion Carried.

### Correspondence

Council requested the following ‘Correspondence’ items be moved from Information to Action:

- No. 2: copy of letter dated January 28, 2002 regarding Towns’ Caucus organization and meetings
- No. 8: letter to Mayor Smith dated February 11, 2002 concerning municipal taxation of natural gas distribution systems
- No. 14: copy of letter dated February 20, 2002 regarding details of education funding arrangements
- No. 15: letter to Mayor Smith dated February 4, 2002 regarding options for calling a local state of emergency

### ACTION

**Joel Dawe, Don Henderson Memorial Sportsplex; Randy Webb, West Colchester United Arena; Richard Halverson, North Shore Recreation Association**

*Conflict of Interest:* Deputy Mayor Matheson declared a conflict of interest on this matter and left the table for the duration of the discussion.

A letter to the CAO dated February 7, 2002 from **Joel Dawe, Don Henderson Memorial Sportsplex; Randy Webb, West Colchester United Arena; and Richard Halverson, North Shore Recreation Association**, requesting a change in present funding policy for arenas.

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Elliott

“That the letter from the Don Henderson Memorial Sportsplex, West Colchester United Arena and the North Shore Recreation Association requesting a change in the present funding policy for arenas be referred to Additions/Deletions.”

Motion Carried.

*At this point, Deputy Mayor Matheson returned to the table.*

**K. Wayne McCormick, Chairman, Village of Bible Hill**

A letter to Mayor Smith dated February 6, 2002 from **K. Wayne McCormick, Chairman, Village of Bible Hill**, requesting the County to share costs with Bible Hill on the paving of Village Line Avenue.

Moved by Councillor McKenna  
Moved by Councillor Taylor

“That the letter from the Village of Bible Hill requesting the County to share the cost of paving Village Line Avenue be referred to Committee.”

Motion Carried.

**Michael Adams, President/Search Director, Colchester Ground Search and Rescue Association**

A letter to the CAO dated February 18, 2002 from **Michael Adams, President/Search Director, Colchester Ground Search and Rescue Association**, requesting inclusion of the Association on the General Tax Rate beginning fiscal year 2002-03.

This issue was dealt with earlier in the meeting under ‘Presentations’.

**Robert Christianson, Clerk & Treasurer, Village of Bible Hill and Gary MacIsaac, County CAO**

A letter to the CAO dated February 1, 2002 from **Robert Christianson, Clerk and Treasurer, Village of Bible Hill**, and a response from **Gary MacIsaac, County CAO**, concerning the water contamination issue in Bible Hill.

Moved by Councillor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor McKenna

“That the correspondence concerning the water contamination issue in Bible Hill be referred to Council Committee.”

Motion Carried.

**Duane Rath, President, Truro and District Chamber of Commerce**

A copy of a letter dated January 23, 2002 from **Duane Rath, President, Truro and District Chamber of Commerce**, announcing a “Show and Tell” conference in early April.

Mayor Smith indicated that the Truro and District Chamber of Commerce will be advised that the Municipality will be represented at the conference on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Keith Hunter, Warden, Municipality of Cumberland**

A copy of a letter dated January 28, 2002 from **Keith Hunter, Warden, Municipality of Cumberland**, regarding Cumberland’s support of the Town of Bridgewater’s concern that the formation of a Town Caucus organization could be the beginning of the demise of the UNSM.

Following a general discussion on this issue, Council agreed to have staff look into the development of a position paper for presentation at the UNSM Spring Conference in Digby. Council was advised that attendance at this Conference is on the agenda for March Committee. In the interim, staff will provide Council with the dates for the conference.

**Angus MacIsaac,  
Minister, Service  
N.S. and Municipal  
Relations**

A letter to Mayor Smith dated February 11, 2002 from **Angus MacIsaac, Minister, Service N.S. and Municipal Relations**, in response to his letter concerning municipal taxation of natural gas distribution systems.

Mr. MacIsaac advised Council that, other than having already forwarded a copy of the Mayor's letter to the Petroleum Directorate on February 15<sup>th</sup>, this is not an issue that Council can go much further with as Minister MacIsaac's letter states the Province is going ahead with the energy policy as presented in the strategy paper released in December 2001.

**Angus MacIsaac,  
Minister, Service  
N.S. and Municipal  
Relations**

A copy of a letter dated February 20, 2002 from **Angus MacIsaac, Minister, Service N.S. and Municipal Relations**, regarding details of education funding arrangements.

In response to an inquiry from Deputy Mayor Matheson, Mr. MacIsaac confirmed that the 17% shown in Minister MacIsaac's letter as Nova Scotia's portion of education cost funded by property taxes seems to be consistent with Colchester paying 35 cents on the dollar.

**Jamie Muir, Minister  
Responsible for the  
Emergency  
Measures Act, N.S.  
EMO**

A letter to Mayor Smith dated February 4, 2002 from **Jamie Muir, Minister Responsible for the Emergency Measures Act, N.S. EMO**, regarding options for calling a local state of emergency.

Mayor Smith indicated that the next step following the meeting with Minister Muir on January 31<sup>st</sup> will be to reconvene the Regional Emergency Measures Advisory Committee to amend the bylaw.

## INFORMATION

**Dale Kinnear,  
Canadian Police  
Association and  
William Gibson,  
Toronto Police  
Service**

A copy of an announcement from **Dale Kinnear, Canadian Police Association and William Gibson, Toronto Police Service**, regarding a study entitled "Strategic Human Resources Analysis of Public Policing in Canada" (study on file in Clerk's office). Council agreed to receive this correspondence for information purposes.

**Gary Rankin,  
CAO/Town Clerk,  
Town of New  
Glasgow**

A copy of a letter dated February 11, 2002 from **Gary Rankin, CAO/Clerk, Town of New Glasgow**, regarding concerns with the Towns' Caucus organization. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**Richard Dauphinee,  
Warden, Municipality  
of West Hants**

A copy of a letter dated February 15, 2002 from **Richard Dauphinee, Warden, Municipality of West Hants**, concerning the formation of a Town Caucus. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**N.S. Department of  
Agriculture and  
Fisheries**

A copy of Farm Practices Act Highlights received from the **N.S. Department of Agriculture and Fisheries** (additional information on file in Clerk's office). Council agreed to receive this correspondence for information purposes.

**N.S. Department of  
Tourism and Culture**

A copy of a Heritage newsletter for Winter 2002 and Annual Report for fiscal year ending March 31, 2000 received from the **N.S. Department of Tourism and Culture** (report on file in Clerk's office). Council agreed to receive this correspondence for information purposes.

**Provincial Electoral  
Boundaries  
Commission**

A copy of an information package from the **Provincial Electoral Boundaries Commission** regarding a review of the current constituency boundaries for the N.S. House of Assembly. Council agreed to receive this correspondence for information purposes.

**Susan Horne,  
Manager, Legislative  
Services, N.S. Dept.  
of Agriculture and  
Fisheries**

A copy of a discussion document from **Susan Horne, Manager, Legislative Services, N.S. Department of Agriculture and Fisheries**, concerning proposed amendments to the Fences and Detention of Stray Livestock Act. Council agreed to receive this correspondence for information purposes.

**Building Inspector**

A copy of the Building Permit Statistics Report received from the **Building Inspector** for the month of January 2002. Council agreed to receive this report for information purposes.

**Development Officer**

A copy of the Development Activity Report received from the **Development Officer** for the month of January 2002. Council agreed to receive this report for information purposes.

**Gary Miller,  
Superintendent of  
Schools, Chignecto-  
Central Regional  
School Board**

A letter to the CAO dated February 18, 2002 from **Gary Miller, Superintendent of Schools, Chignecto-Central Regional School Board**, concerning a review of the School Board's organizational structure. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**Jack Layton,  
President, Federation  
of Canadian  
Municipalities**

A copy of a Member Advisory dated February 14, 2002 from **Jack Layton, President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities**, concerning the FCM-CH2M Hill Sustainable Community Awards. Council agreed to receive this correspondence for information purposes.

**Federation of  
Canadian  
Municipalities**

A copy of a Member Advisory dated February 15, 2002 from the **Federation of Canadian Municipalities**, regarding the potential effect of international trade negotiations on municipal powers. Council agreed to receive this correspondence for information purposes.

**Gabrielle Verri,  
A/Director, Nova  
Scotia, Canadian  
Heritage  
Multiculturalism**

A copy of a letter dated February 2002 from **Gabrielle Verri, A/Director, Nova Scotia, Canadian Heritage Multiculturalism**, regarding International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**Chignecto-Central  
Regional School  
Board**

A letter dated February 27, 2002 from the **Chignecto-Central Regional School Board**, inviting the CAO and Council to a meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup> concerning a review of the School Board's organizational structure. Council agreed to receive this letter for information purposes.

**Council Committee  
Reports and  
Recommendations**

**Council Committee  
Report**

Deputy Mayor Matheson presented the report from the Council Committee meeting held on February 14, 2002:

**Green Cart Financing**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That Council approves that:

- The capital costs for the new green carts be split on a 50/50 basis between the general rate and the garbage area rate;
- The general rate portion of costs be funded by a \$150,000 allocation from the operating reserve;
- The area rate portion be internally financed at a rate of 5 percent;
- The garbage area rate for homes with new green carts be the same as for homes with existing green carts for a two-year period;

- A third garbage rate be created when the capital cost of the existing green carts is paid off; and,
- Replacement carts be funded through cost recoveries where possible and RRFB grant monies be used to fund the remaining portion.”

Motion Carried.

**Establishment of a  
Permanent  
Household  
Hazardous Waste  
Depot**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor McKenna

“That Council authorizes the Municipality to enter into a contract with Safety Kleen for a one-year period for the establishment of a permanent household hazardous waste facility in Debert and that the final contract be subject to approval of the Chief Administrative Officer and Municipal Solicitor; and,

That the \$30,000 cost associated with the former paint swap and household hazardous waste program be allocated to the new contract with Safety Kleen.”

Motion Carried.

**Request to Fund the  
Trails Coordinator  
Position**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Elliott

“That Council authorizes staff to advertise and fill a one-year term contract for a Manager of Recreation Services; and,

That the Municipality not fund the Trails Coordinator position for the Colchester Trails Association at this time.”

Motion Carried.

**Tax Exemption  
Request - 143 Pictou  
Road**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That Council approves the addition of property owned by the Tru-Fel Building Society and located at 143 Pictou Road, to Schedule “A” of the Tax Exemption Bylaw, subject to approved readings of the amended Bylaw.”

Motion Carried.



**Development  
Agreement - Atlantic  
Mini and Modular  
Homes**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That Council approves the dissolving of the Development Agreement dated September 12, 1997 with Atlantic Mini and Modular Homes, subject to the Developer paying for the filing of the discharge with the Registry of Deeds.”

Motion Carried.

**Funding for Design of  
Rural Treatment  
Plants**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That Council approves the \$323,797 associated with design costs for the three rural treatment plants be funded from Operating Reserve.”

Motion Carried.

**Association of  
Municipal  
Administrators’  
Workshop**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Elliott

“That Council approves a \$500.00 donation to the Association of Municipal Administrators in support of its 2002 Spring Workshop scheduled for May 16-17, 2002 in Truro, source of funds to be the Economic Development Grant Fund.”

Motion Carried.

**International Tulip  
Festival**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That Council approves a \$1,200.00 donation to the International Tulip Festival in support of this event scheduled for May 10-12, 2002 in Truro, source of funds to be the Economic Development Grant Fund.”

Motion Carried.

**Property Tax and  
Tipping Fee Write-  
Offs**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Matheson  
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That Council approves the write-off of property taxes and interest, and tipping fees totalling \$9,604.28 as detailed in a listing dated February, 2002.”

Motion Carried.

**Executive Committee**

There was no business arising from the meeting held on January 30, 2002.

**Planning Advisory Committee**

Councillor Masters reported that the Planning Review is complete and that staff are in the process of making revisions. There are two proposed public meetings set for Bible Hill and Lower Truro. He will advise Council when the dates for these two meetings are known.

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

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**UNESCO Biosphere Designation**

Councillor Baas presented and circulated a copy of his report on the UNESCO Biosphere Designation. He indicated that the Steering Committee is requesting a letter of support from the Municipality; therefore, the following motion was put forward:

Moved by Councillor Baas  
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That the Municipality send a letter of support to the Steering Committee of the Upper Basins Biosphere Initiative to have the Bay of Fundy designated by UNESCO as a Biosphere region.”

Motion Carried.

**Colchester Park Development Society**

Councillor Baas reported that Don Dobson, Manager, Industrial Development, CPDS, will make a presentation at the March Committee session. It is expected that Mr. Dobson will have

CPDS financial statements at that time; however, they will not have been approved by the Board.

**Central Nova Tourist Association**

Councillor Edwards reported on the removal of unauthorized signs from primary and secondary highways and rural roads within the province. Further information can be obtained from the Department of Transportation and Public Works.

**St. Andrews' River Watershed Planning Advisory Committee**

Deputy Mayor Matheson attended one meeting of this Committee and reported that a second meeting will be held on March 4<sup>th</sup>. The Committee is looking for a Chairperson.

**Tax Exemption  
Bylaw Amendment -  
First Reading**

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Baas

“That Council hereby approves by way of First Reading the Tax Exemption Bylaw as presented.”

Motion Carried.

**Debert Sidewalk  
Application**

In a letter dated February 5, 2002, applicants withdrew their application requesting a sidewalk in Debert.

**Honorariums**

In response to Councillor LeFresne’s suggestion that there be a yearly cost-of-living increase in Council honorariums, the following motion was put forward:

Moved by Councillor LeFresne  
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

“That the issue of a yearly cost-of-living increase in Council honorariums be referred to Additions/Deletions.”

Motion Carried.

**Recess**

Council agreed to recess to an In-Camera meeting at 8:30 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 8:40 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Edwards  
Seconded by Councillor Baas

“That the meeting be adjourned at 8:44 p.m.”

Motion Carried.

Sheila Arsenault  
Deputy Clerk