

November 27, 2008

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

The Regular Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Courthouse, Truro, N.S. on Thursday, November 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Bob Taylor, Chair	
Councillor Christine Blair	District #1
Councillor Gerald Buott	District #3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District #4
Councillor Glen Edwards	District #5
Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District #6
Councillor Jimmie LeFresne	District #7
Deputy Mayor Ron Cavanaugh	District #8
Councillor Bob White	District #9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District #10
Councillor Earl McKenna	District #11

Absent:

Councillor Bill Masters	District #2
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Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That the agenda for November 27, 2008 be approved with the following additions:

- add 11b: Rural Mail
- add 11c: Snow Removal
- add 15b: Gateway
- add 15c: Flag”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor White

“That the minutes of meeting held on September 25, 2008 be approved as circulated and those held on October 30, 2008 be approved with the following amendments:

- Page 56, under Election of Alternate Council Committee Chair, paragraph 5 should read ‘Mayor Taylor’, not ‘Mayor Smith’; and,

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- Page 59, under Land Purchase for Cobequid Trail Extension - Valley, second line of motion should read 'Farnham Brook Road', not 'Farnham Road'."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of meetings held on September 25 or October 30, 2008.

Presentations

Dr. Helene Van Doninck, Cobequid Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre

Dr. Van Doninck introduced herself as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and a volunteer at the Cobequid Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre (CWRC).

Dr. Van Doninck explained that the mission statement for the CWRC was to provide veterinary care and rehabilitation to injured, orphaned and sick wildlife, to release rehabilitated wildlife into suitable habitat and through education, to increase public awareness of wildlife, the environment and habitat. The CWRC, located in Hilden, was established in 2001 as a registered non-profit organization.

Dr. Van Doninck indicated that the purpose for her presentation this evening was to make Council aware of the organization and that at some point down the road, the CWRC would be looking for funding from the County. For now, the CWRC will apply for a grant under the municipal program for non-profit organizations.

Moved by Councillor Edwards
Seconded by Councillor Blair

"That the presentation from the Cobequid Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre be received."

Standing Committee Reports and Recommendations

Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh presented the report from the Council Committee meeting held on November 13, 2008:

Truro Sport Heritage Society

Moved by Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Buott

"That Council approves a donation of \$500 to the Truro Sport Heritage Society in support of Black History Month in February 2009, source of funds to be general operations as an unbudgeted item."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Cobequid Trail Extension in Bible Hill

Moved by Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That Council approves the draft Memorandum of Understanding for the portion of the Cobequid Trail through the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and the Bible Hill Recreation Park; and, authorizes municipal staff to negotiate the final terms of the Memorandum of Understanding for signature by the CAO and Mayor.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Road Name Change - Tattrie Settlement Road to Rocklyn Road

Moved by Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor LeFresne

“That Council approves the renaming of the Tattrie Settlement Road to Rocklyn Road and that staff be instructed to forward appropriate information to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tatamagouche Branch Library - Request to Purchase Land from School Board

Moved by Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor LeFresne

“That Council authorizes the Municipality to acquire the preferred site from the Chignecto Central Regional School Board for \$25,000 and that the land value go toward mutually agreed to recreation/sport based improvements at the North Colchester High School.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Request for Sewer Service Extension - Brookfield

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That the request from Mr. Greg Sutherland to extend the sewer line on Crystal Lake Road to include his property be denied.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor LeFresne opposed)*

Nominating Committee - Report and Recommendations

Council discussion on the Nominating Committee Report and Recommendations resulted in the following amendments to the report:

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- That the Joint St. Andrews River Watershed Planning Advisory Committee be removed from the report and replaced with the St. Andrews River Watershed Stewardship Committee with the Councillor from District 4 being the Standing Appointment and no citizen representatives required to be appointed by Council;
- That Councillor Buott fill the vacancy on the Library Board; and,
- That the Creamery Square Association be removed from the report. It was felt that Council representation on the CoRDA Board of Directors was sufficient to keep current on activities of the Creamery Square Association.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That Council approves the appointment of Councillor Buott to the Library Board in addition to Councillor MacKenzie.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council approves the Nominating Committee Report dated November 27, 2008 as amended; and,

That Councillor Masters be appointed as the Chair of the Planning Advisory Committee; and,

That Councillors from Districts 4, 5, 8, 10 and 11 be appointed to the Flood Advisory Committee; and,

That Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh be appointed as the Chair of the Flood Advisory Committee; and,

That the current citizen representatives on the various boards and commissions continue until January 2009 Council Committee when new appointments are approved; and,

That January 2009 Council Committee be given authority to approve the appointment of citizen representatives to the various boards and commissions as recommended by the Nominating Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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**Citizen Appointments -
Civic Centre Committee**

Moved by Councillor Buott
Seconded by Councillor White

“That Council appoints Debbie Elliot to the Civic Centre Project Steering Committee and to serve as Chair of the Public Relations Committee, subject to Truro Town Council’s acceptance of same.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Energy Efficiency
Amendments to NS
Building Code
Regulations**

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council authorizes the Mayor to write to the Minister of Labour and Workforce Development to raise concerns outlined in the Action Item dated November 27, 2008 and to ask that the one-year notice, as outlined in the Municipal Government Act, be honoured; and,

That, notwithstanding the one-year notice in the Municipal Government Act, that this initiative be implemented no sooner than April 1, 2010 or within 12 months of the municipalities receiving all necessary documentation required to effectively administer the new regulations, including the prescriptive standards, whichever is later; and,

That the correspondence to the Minister of Labour and Workforce Development be copied to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, and the local MLA’s.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council authorizes the Mayor to write to the provincial Premier indicating that the Municipality of Colchester is not in favour of the proposed amendments to the Building Code Regulations because of the effect these changes will have on housing starts given the current state of the economy; and,

That the correspondence to the Premier be copied to the local MP, the local MLA’s, the Minister of Labour and Workforce Development, and the Leader of the Opposition.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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**School Enhancements at
Harmony Heights
Elementary School -
Salmon River**

Conflict of Interest

The County Solicitor, Dennis James, declared a conflict of interest on this item and removed himself from the table.

Moved by Councillor Edwards
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh

“That Council authorizes the Mayor and CAO to negotiate with the Town of Truro and the Chignecto Central Regional School Board for a change in the Community School Agreement for Harmony Heights to reallocate school enhancement funds as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

At this point, Mr. James returned to the table.

Build Canada Priorities

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That the Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester identify the Waste Management Master Plan Project as its first priority for the next round of Build Canada applications.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Rural Mail

Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh indicated that things are not getting any better with Canada Post with respect to community mailboxes (CMB's) and rural mail delivery service. He stated that he had received a call from a resident last evening saying that at the location of her community mailbox, there is no place to turn her vehicle around except by way of someone else's yard. The resident also mentioned that it is over 2 km. from her home to the community mailbox and this could have an effect on being able to sell her home should she choose to do so.

Other Councillors reported on calls they had received from residents in their area with similar concerns regarding the location of the CMB's.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh

“That a letter be written to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities to determine what can be done on a more united front with respect to Canada Post's rural mailbox safety review project and its effects on rural municipalities.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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Snow Removal

Councillor MacKenzie indicated that she started getting calls after the last snow storm from residents complaining about the time that is being taken to get their road plowed. Some residents in Valley were not plowed out until some 36 hours later. Taking this long to plow out a road represents a safety issue. Councillor MacKenzie spoke to Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal who provided two or three reasons why this was happening, one being one type of pavement has priority over another type.

Councillor MacKenzie asked for direction from Council on what to tell residents and what kind of action is being taken to improve this service.

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That a letter be written to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal concerning the time it takes to have snow removed from residential roads in Colchester County.”

Motion **Defeated**. *(Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh, Councillors Edwards, Cooper, Buott, Taggart, White and LeFresne opposed)*

During discussion on this matter, it was recommended that a meeting with Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal may prove to be more effective than writing a letter.

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the Mayor and CAO arrange a meeting with Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal regarding snow removal service and subsequent to that meeting, that a letter be written to the Minister if necessary.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor MacKenzie opposed)*

Correspondence

ACTION

**Teresa Higgins,
Colchester
Transportation
Cooperative Ltd.**

An email dated November 14, 2008 from **Teresa Higgins, Colchester Transportation Cooperative Ltd.**, requesting a letter of support in order to access federal funding.

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Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That the request from the Colchester Transportation Cooperative Ltd. for a letter of support in order to access federal funding be approved.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Michele Charlton,
Alzheimer Society**

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Buott

“That January 2009 be proclaimed Alzheimer Awareness Month in Colchester County.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

INFORMATION

Building Inspector

A copy of the Building Permit Statistics received from the **Building Inspector** for the month of October 2008. 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 October 2008. Council agreed to receive this report for information purposes.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Insurance for Fire Brigades

This Information Item outlines the overall costs for the first two years of the insurance assistance program for County fire departments.

Councillor McKenna requested that the next report to Council include what fire brigades accessed the program and the amount for insurance premiums and coverage.

Furnace Oil and Diesel Fuel Tenders

Two bids were received in response to a tender call for furnace oil and diesel fuel service. The tenders are for a five-year period from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2013. Under the terms of the County’s Purchasing and Tendering Policy, the contract was awarded to Superline Fuels for supply of both fuels.

Courthouse Cleaner Position

Fifteen applications were received as a result of an external posting for the Courthouse Cleaner position. Jennifer Armitage was offered and accepted the position and commenced duties on November 24, 2008.

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Gateway

Councillor Taggart made reference to the Gateway initiative and his desire to see some kind of group take the lead on this in order to access any funding available through this project. Stakeholders could include the Truro and District Chamber of Commerce, County and Town Councils, CoRDA, and an invitation extended to the local MP and MLA's.

Mayor Taylor indicated that he would be attending a CoRDA meeting on Tuesday, at which time this project would be discussed with respect to a regional approach.

Flag

Councillor LeFresne made reference to a Council meeting a couple of weeks ago where discussion took place on the County flying the Aids Awareness flag in support of Aids Awareness Week. Councillor LeFresne had concern with the media referring to the flag as the Rainbow flag in order to create a story. He felt this was a disservice to Council.

Reports from Councillors Appointed to Outside Boards and Agencies

Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh reported that the Flood Advisory Committee has completed most of the projects scheduled to be done this fiscal year. In response to an inquiry from Deputy Mayor Cavanaugh, Council agreed that the Flood Advisory Committee could make the decision on spending the remaining \$4,000 in the budget on a project in District 10 rather than a project in District 7. The District 10 project is a greater priority and could be done now while the District 7 project could wait until the spring and be paid out of next year's budget.

Councillor White reported on a CoRDA meeting he attended last evening and the upcoming mid-year review meeting being held in Halifax.

Councillor Cooper reported that the Steering Committee for the new Winding River Elementary School had a tour a couple of weeks ago. The enhancements supported by the County are in place and look great.

Councillor Edwards reported the Central Nova Tourist Association is still crunching numbers from the tourist season and should be available soon.

Recess

Council agreed to an in-camera meeting at 10:20 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 10:25 p.m.

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CAO Overtime

Moved by Councillor McKenna
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That Council approves the 35 hours in overtime in lieu for the CAO for the 2008 calendar year.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor White

“That the Municipality’s Personnel Policy (Section 5.04) be referred to Council Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Edwards

“That the meeting be adjourned at 10:35 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sheila Arsenault
Recording Secretary