

SPECIAL COUNCIL

A Special Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Courthouse, Truro, Nova Scotia on Tuesday, August 20, 2013 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
Deputy Mayor Bill Masters	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
Councillor Wade Parker	District #11

Purpose of Meeting

At the Council Committee meeting on August 15, 2013, a motion was passed to hold a Special Council meeting specifically to discuss the financial review report as well as the current financial situation of the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition and decide on the level of support to be recommended to Council for its meeting on August 29th.

Request from N.S. Provincial Exhibition Board for Takeover of Operations

Mayor Taylor opened the meeting by providing an overview of the NSPE facilities:

- County Fire Inspector conducted an inspection this June and major deficiencies addressed.
- Sprinklers in MacMillan Centre and Agridome certified this year
- 160 two-way hookup and dumping station for trailers
- activities/events that bring people - the Exhibition, 4-H, Grand Circuit Week, Car Show, weekly harness racing, demolition derbies, festivals (Dutch Mason and Downeast Blues)

Mayor Taylor also thanked those Councillors who were able to attend a tour of the facilities earlier this evening.

Discussion was then held on the request to Council for assistance to the NSPE. Questions and issues raised included:

- is facility important to the community
- will Municipality be held to higher standards if it takes over facility
- future of NSPEC is their decision to make
- two facilities need to be independent - NSPE and raceway
- not Council's responsibility to take facility over but to support it financially
- no decision on takeover until further into negotiations
- residents not supporting takeover of facility by Municipality, particularly the raceway
- need a short-term solution to keep it open until long-term decisions are made
- could be opportunity for partnership with Municipality, Town, Province and business community
- Council needs to decide on whether to support or not and if so, how to support

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council authorizes the Executive and Audit Committee and staff to enter negotiations with the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition and other persons or parties to:

- determine whether a financially viable strategy for the continuation of the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition can be developed;
- define an appropriate role for the Municipality of Colchester; and,
- develop agreements that support long-term commitment to the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That a letter be written to the Minister of Agriculture to determine what, if any, commitment will be forthcoming from the Province of

Nova Scotia regarding the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition, and to suggest that any commitment should be provided sooner rather than later.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

It was also recommended that if doable, the Executive Committee and staff meet with the NSPE Board prior to the next Council meeting on August 29th so that a report could be provided at that time.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting be adjourned at 8:48 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sheila Arsenault
Recording Secretary