

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

The Regular Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Courthouse, Truro, Nova Scotia, on Thursday, April 30, 2015.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Bob Taylor, Chair	
Councillor Christine Blair	District 1 (<i>arrived at 7:40 pm</i>)
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

Also Present

Mr. Ramesh Ummat, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
Mr. Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste
Ms. Tracey Veno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Recess

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting go into closed session at 7:02 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 7:22 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Add Item # A-4b, CNTA;

- Add Item # A-4c, Small Flood Projects;
- Add Item # A-6d, Immigration;
- Add Item # I-3b, Legion Pipes and Drums;
- Add Item # I-3c, Sewer Use Appeals Committee; and
- Add Item # C-1, Closed Session Property Matter.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That the minutes from the meeting on March 26, 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 March 26, 2015.

Standing Committee Reports and Recommendations

Deputy Mayor Masters, Councillor Cooper, presented the report from the Council Committee meeting held on April 16, 2015:

Compost Giveaway

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council approves continuing with the compost giveaway and establishing only one price for bulk sales and a fixed price for compost sold by the bag.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Electric Charging Stations

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council approves the expenditure of up to \$3,600 for the installation of three Electric Car Charging Stations within Colchester, with the location of the three stations to be decided with Municipal Staff assistance and guidance.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Petitions for Paving on Hillridge/Hillvale

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

“That Council approves that staff initiate a petition process for the repaving of the provincially owned section of Hillvale, Hillridge and McCallum Drives in accordance with the Local Improvement By-law.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Recycling Styrofoam (EPS)

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council approves the Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) be added to the list of recycled/recyclable materials at the MRF to be placed curbside in the bluebags; and,

That staff be authorized to move ahead with the project of recycling densified EPS at an estimated cost of \$200,000 with source of funds being MRF Capital Reserves.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Murray Siding Brook – DFO Requirements

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council approves proceeding with the Letter of Credit, or another acceptable form of security, in the amount of \$45,000 to proceed with Phase II of the Murray Siding Brook Project.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Property Purchase – Art Hill

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council approves the purchase of a 1.5 acre piece of property on Onslow Road from Arthur, Angus and Darlene Hill, to accommodate an existing pumping station, at a cost of \$10,000 plus survey and legal expenses, and applicable taxes; and,

That the Mayor and CAO be authorized to execute all documents

required to complete the purchase of said property.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Jeux de l’Acadie – Joint Bid with Town of Truro

The CAO noted that after the Council Committee meeting, correspondence from the Town of Truro was received indicating that they are withdrawing from the bidding process as liabilities are greater than the perceived benefits. Reasons include inability in acquiring sponsors as well as the need for 800 plus bilingual volunteers.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council supports partnering with the Town of Truro to make a formal bid for the 39th Acadian Games in 2018, with a commitment of \$18,000 from the Municipality of Colchester for the application/bidding process.”

Motion Defeated.

(all Council members opposed)

Sewer Use Appeals Committee

Minutes of the Sewer Use Appeals Committee meeting held on February 24, 2015 were distributed in this evening’s package. There was no business arising from these minutes.

ACTION ITEMS

Site Supervisor Position – One Year Term to Full Time

Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works advised that this term position was approved last September. It was awarded internally to Mr. Randy Currie and has proven to be a huge asset to the Public Works Department. Under the Collective Agreement, there is a six month window which would allow for Mr. Currie to return to his former position within the bargaining unit. In fairness to Mr. Currie, staff felt it was best to seek a decision on the long term prospects for the Site Supervisor position prior to the expiry of the 6 month deadline.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That the Site Supervisor Position within the Wastewater Collection Department, be converted from a one year term to a full time position, to be paid within Range 7 of the salary scales.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Emergency Medical Travel Insurance

Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, advised that this item resulted from Council members having to acquire medical coverage for the trip to Pune, India in September 2014. Staff have investigated options of medical insurance coverage for members of Council and have found coverage through SSQ Insurance Company Inc. that would be comparable to the Blue Cross Benefits Plan. Mr. Fraser noted however that this is not benefits coverage but instead, is travel insurance coverage.

Annual costs would be a minimum deposit of \$1,000 per year; with \$4.50 per day of travel from ages up to 69; and, \$15.00 per day of travel from ages 70-79. It is not expected that the costs per day would exceed the annual deposit of \$1,000.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council approves the addition of Emergency Medical Travel Insurance as provided through the SSQ Insurance Company policy for travelling outside Canada.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Provincial Media Release on Villages

Mayor Taylor provided a brief overview of the recent provincial announcement on Towns and Villages indicating that changes to the Municipal Government Act would prevent the creation of new Towns and Villages. The changes would not dissolve any existing Towns or Village but does prevent Towns from becoming Villages and vice versa.

Debert Military Museum – Yearly Connection/Disconnection Charge

The Debert Military Museum closes annually in the Fall and reopens in the Spring. In order to prepare for the shut down, they are required to disconnect the water in the Fall and reconnect in the Spring, a task which could be provided by a plumber at no cost to the Museum. However, the Debert Water Utility requires that the disconnection and reconnection be done by the Utility with a \$50 charge for each. Councillor MacInnes advised that he would like to see these charges waived annually.

Mr. Ramesh Ummat, CAO, advised that the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board does not allow charges such as these to be waived. There are other avenues for the Municipality to indirectly provide funding such as through the Grants to Non-Profit Organizations.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters

Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That a yearly grant in the amount of \$100 be provided to the Debert Military Museum under the Grants to Non-Profit Organizations to offset the Debert Water Utility disconnection and reconnection charges.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Central Nova Tourist Association (CNTA)

At previous meetings, discussions regarding CNTA and funds for tourism were held. These discussions included using the funding for the Palliser Property. Councillor Stewart advised that at the recent Saltscape Expo, every municipality in the province had representation. CNTA had a large booth set up at the Expo but there was nothing promoting Colchester County. Councillor Stewart indicated that we need to promote Colchester and suggested that the Municipality support CNTA for one more year.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That Council approves support to the Central Nova Tourist Association with a financial commitment for this fiscal year in the amount equivalent to 2014-15.”

Brief discussion was held on the short and long term plans for the Palliser Property. Discussion was also held and concern expressed about being too quick to cut off funding to CNTA.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the motion on the floor be tabled.”

Motion Defeated.

(Councillor Blair, Stewart, Cooper, Gibbs, MacKenzie, MacInnes, Taggart, and Parker opposed)

The motion to table the original motion being defeated, the original motion was voted on and carried.

(Mayor Taylor, Deputy Mayor Masters, Councillors Cavanaugh and Gregory opposed)

Small Flood Projects

Referring to budgeted amounts in 2014-15 for small flood projects, Councillor Stewart requested clarification on amounts and approved projects.

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Councillor Cavanaugh advised that the Flood Advisory Committee reviews the list of projects and makes decisions based on priority. The Committee may intend to complete a project in a fiscal period but emergencies arise which could result in projects not getting completed as anticipated. The Flood Committee has a small window of opportunity and sometimes there is just not enough time to complete all of the projects.

Deputy Mayor Masters raised a concern of an area along Highway # 236 which was paved and ditched by Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal approximately five to six years ago. Water is accumulating in one particular spot causing erosion of the lawn. Ms. Newell indicated that she would get the location of the property and have staff take pictures to look into the matter.

An inquiry was made as to the dates for the next Flood Advisory Committee (FAC) and Joint Flood Advisory Committee (JFAC) meetings. Ms. Newell confirmed that the FAC meeting is scheduled for May 19th and the JFAC on May 26th.

Immigration

Councillor Parker advised Council of an issue with immigration where an individual is experiencing difficulties in becoming a Canadian citizen. The individual works with Councillor Parker. All paperwork has been filed however, criteria regarding level of education indicates that he does not qualify. Councillor Parker is seeking a letter of support from Council to aid in the individual's application process.

Councillor Parker declared a conflict of interest and removed himself from the remainder of the discussion.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Masters

"That Council write a letter of support for Mr. Marvin Dabu for the Provincial Nomination Program to assist in acquiring Canadian citizenship status."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

At this point, Councillor Parker returned to the table.

Correspondence ACTION

**Susan Taylor, President,
Debert Military History
Society**

A letter dated April 15, 2015 regarding the Debert Military History Society being interested in acquiring green space property owned by the Municipality located adjacent to Plain's Road and Acadia

Avenue.

Councillor MacInnes advised that this is a small piece of land in front of the Museum, which is currently maintained by them. The Museum is interested in acquiring the piece of land to set up a monument there.

Debate was held on whether it is necessary for the Museum to own the property to put a monument on it. Further discussion was held regarding the possibility of the Museum leasing the land for a small amount.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the letter for the Debert Military History Society regarding acquiring a piece of land owned by the Municipality located adjacent to Plain’s Road and Acadia Avenue be referred to staff for investigation.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Wayne Smith

A letter dated April 28, 2015 from Wayne Smith regarding a Mayor’s Poetry Challenge.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That the letter from Wayne Smith regarding a Mayor’s Poetry Challenge be referred to staff.”

Motion Carried Unanimously

**Pam Osborne, Councillor,
Town of Stewiacke**

A letter to the Mayor and Council regarding the possibility of setting up a presentation/information session with the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission.

Discussion was held on the purpose of the session. Some members of Council received telephone calls on this and indicated that it is intended to be an information session about how human rights can affect municipalities. The session is tentatively scheduled for May 14, 2015 from 9:00 – 10:00 am. Concern was expressed regarding the time of the session and not everyone could be available. Mayor Taylor indicated that staff would advise Ms. Osborne of the number available to attend the session and confirm with Council. Members of Council who indicated they were available were Deputy Mayor Masters, Councillor Gibbs, Councillor

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Taggart and Councillor MacInnes. Mayor Taylor and Councillor Stewart indicated that they may be available as well.

Correspondence INFORMATION

Building Inspector

A copy of the Building Permit Statistics received from the Building Inspector for the month of March 2015. Council agreed to receive the report for information purposes.

Development Officer

A copy of the Development Activity Report received from the Development Officer for the month of March 2015. Council agreed to receive the report for information purposes.

The Honourable Keith Colwell, Minister, Nova Scotia Agriculture

A letter to the CAO dated April 20, 2015 regarding upcoming regulatory changes related to development on marsh land. Council agreed to receive the letter for information purposes.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Community Trail Funding Program – Winter 2015 Applications

Four applications were received for the January 30, 2015 deadline for the Community Trail Funding Program. Total funding approved was \$42,920. Following is a breakdown of the groups that applied and amounts approved: the Tatamagouche Area Trails Association - \$7,794; Brookfield Elementary Home and School - \$7,776; Cumberland Snowmobile Club - \$17,350; and Nova Scotia Off-Road Riders Association - \$10,000.

Community Park Funding Program – Winter 2015 Applications

Four applications were received for the February 27, 2015 deadline for the Community Park Funding Program. Following is a breakdown of the groups that applied and amounts that have been tentatively approved: Winding River Elementary School - \$9,047 (pending confirmation of equipment costs); North River Elementary School - \$14,923 (pending confirmation of equipment costs and funding from other sources); Brookfield Elementary School Home and School - \$30,000 (pending confirmation of costs, funding from other sources and CCRSB approval); and Evangeline Pentecostal Camp - \$24,652 (pending confirmation of funding from other sources and demonstration of local community support and involvement). Total funding approved was \$78,622.

Sewer Use Appeals Committee Public Hearing Expenses

Council decided to forego this item as it would be dealt with in Item # I-3c – Sewer Use Appeals Committee, which was added to the agenda earlier this evening.

Colchester Legion Pipes and Drums

Earlier this year, Council approved funding for the Colchester Legion Pipes and Drums for their trip to the Netherlands. The group is departing on May 15th from the Legion and there is a send off planned between 2:00 - 3:00 pm.

Sewer Use Appeals Committee

As Chair of the Sewer Use Appeals Committee, Councillor Taggart presented a press release, as discussed earlier this evening in closed session. The press release was to announce the Committee's decision to overturn the decision of the Director of Public Works on the approval of releasing treated fracking wastewater from AIS into the Debert sewer system. Copies of the press release will be provided to the media by staff.

Reports from Councillors Appointed to Outside Boards and Agencies

Copies of reports from the Mayor and Councillors were circulated with the package or placed on table for this evening's meeting.

RECESS

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That the meeting go into closed session at 9:06 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:45 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

"That the meeting be adjourned at 9:46 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary