

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, August 27, 2015.

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 Ron Cavanaugh	District 8
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Regrets

Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor Doug MacInnes	District 9

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 Venno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
 Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That the agenda be approved with the following amendments:

- Delete Item C-1 Negotiations;
- Add Item 5(2), Minutes from Executive and Audit Committee meetings held on June 25 and 29, 2015;
- Add Item 5(3), Report from Business and Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting held on July 8, 2015;
- Add Item A-9b, Small Wind Turbines CoMFIT Project – Authority for September Council Committee to Approve;
- Add Item A-9c, Demolition of Salmon River School;
- Add Item A-9d, Heritage Conference;
- Add Item A-9e, Noxious Weed;
- Add Item A-9f, Letter to Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal; and,

- Add Item A-9g, Plowing of Private Roads.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the minutes from the meeting held on June 24, 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 June 24, 2015.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Report and Recommendation from August 13, 2015 Council Committee Meeting

*Deputy Mayor Masters presented the report from the **Council Committee** meeting held on August 13, 2015:*

Request for Funding – Remembering Canada’s Heroes

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That Council approves funding in the amount of \$1,000, as an unbudgeted expense, to support Remembering Canada’s Heroes.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Letter of Support – Mattatall Lake Group

Councillor Parker declared a conflict of interest on this matter and removed himself from the table.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That Council approves funding in the amount of \$5,000, as an unbudgeted expense, for 2015 for future research for Mattatall Lake; and,

That a letter in support of the Mattatall Lake Group be written to the Province.”

Motion Carried.

(Mayor Taylor, Councillors Stewart and Cavanaugh opposed)

Moved by Councillor Taggart

Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That a letter be written to the Department of Environment requesting a full investigation into the problems in Mattatall Lake and ensure that the septic systems are working properly; and,

That this letter be copied to Cumberland County.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

At this point, Councillor Parker returned to the table.

Personnel Policies (5.09 and 5.10)

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters

Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That Council approves that Policy 5.10 Employee Service Recognition and 5.10 Employee Recognition Upon Retirement be repealed; and,

That Policy 5.09 be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Watermain Relocation, Dakota Road

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters

Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council approves proceeding with the relocation of the Dakota Road watermain along Dakota Road, and advancing this project to 2015-16 in the capital budget, at a total cost of \$200,000; and,

That source of funding be the Debert House Fund.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Letter of Support to FCM

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters

Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council approves the resolution as presented and that said resolution be forwarded to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Special Hazards Response Unit (SHRU) Fleet Replacement

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council approves funding to the Special Hazard Response Unit in the amount of \$375,000, temporarily out of the Fire Insurance Reserve, with the funds being repaid from operations in the amount of \$50,000 annually over a period of 7.5 years.”

Motion Carried.
(Councillor Taggart opposed)

Police Advisory Board

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That Council approves that the Municipality of Colchester and Town of Stewiacke Police Advisory Boards join to form one Policy Advisory Board, conditional upon approval from the Council of the Town of Stewiacke.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Councillor Blair advised that the joint board would consist of two Council representatives, two citizen representatives (one each from the Municipality and Town) and one provincial representative. It was noted that if approved, both Councils would have to write letters to the Department of Justice for final approval.

Ground Fix Remediation Agreement

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council approves the Municipality entering into a five (5) year “Service Agreement” with Ground Fix Remediation for the

processing and disposal of hydrocarbon impacted soil on behalf of the Municipality, pending Ground Fix Remediation receiving approval from Nova Scotia Environment; and ,

That the Mayor and CAO be authorized to sign the Service Agreement.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Executive and Audit
Committee Minutes**

There was no business arising from the meetings held on June 25 and 29, 2015.

**Business and Economic
Development Advisory
Committee Report**

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council approves the appointment of Councillor MacInnes to the Joint/Regional Economic Development Committee once it is established.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Loader Purchase

Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works advised that Council had previously authorized August Committee to approve the award of tender for the purchase of a new loader to replace the existing aging loader being utilized by Public Works staff. However, the tender closing was delayed until August 25th. Staff is now seeking approval to award the tender this evening.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Masters

“That Council authorizes staff to award the tender for the purchase of a new loader to Strongco, at an amount of \$267,000, excluding HST.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding the value of the old loader. The Director of Public Works confirmed that the approximate value is \$25,000. Further discussion was held on looking into the trade in value at the time of tenders versus the benefits of keeping the aging loader for continued use.

**Truro Heights Connector
Trail Award of Tender –**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

Authority to September Council Committee to Approve

“That Council authorizes September Council Committee to award the construction tender for the Truro Heights Connector Trail.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Rescheduling October Council Meeting Date

Mayor Taylor advised that the October Council meeting date conflicts with the Atlantic Mayors Congress this year and is requesting that Council consider changing the October Council meeting date.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That the date of Tuesday, October 27, 2015 be approved for the October Council meeting.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Water Extension to Dhugald Drive

A letter was received in July 2015 requesting water extension up Harmony Road as far as the Dhugald Drive Subdivision. A similar request was received in March of 2014 and at the request of Council, staff reviewed servicing Dhugald Drive with water with preliminary cost estimates at \$1.8 million.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the request for water extension to Dhugald Drive be referred to staff for further research and report back to Council.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Five Year Capital Budget

Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, advised that as per the request of Council, the Five Year Capital Budget document was distributed to Council after the August 14th Committee with changes to the budget being highlighted. Some of the items to note include the McClures Mills Connector and Sidewalk, the Wind Energy and the Palliser property.

Mr. Fraser provided a brief overview of the Five Year Capital Budget documents which include:

- Schedule A – Infrastructure projects by year and funding sources;
- Schedule B – Equipment/Building capital projects by year and funding sources;

- Debt Ratio Projections;
- Impact on Area Rates; and,
- Reserve Projections with closing balances as of March 31, 2020.

Discussion was held on the implementation process of the area rate for the Brookfield sidewalks as well as changing from the urban service area rate to the active transportation rate charged to the whole central core.

Councillors requested clarification about whether the Five Year Capital Plan was subject to review. The CAO advised that it is a five year plan however, it is reviewed annually with the ability to change as Council deems necessary.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council approves that the Five Year Capital Budget be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Review of Municipal Elections Act

The CAO advised that information including a feedback summary and discussion paper on a recent workshop held to review the Municipal Elections Act, was recently distributed to Council by email. A deadline for providing comments on the summary is September 4th and September 11th for the discussion paper. Any Council members wishing to provide comments can do so by emailing the CAO for compiling and submission.

Council members agreed that municipal and school board elections be held independently and administered by the school board. Additionally, municipalities should not have to absorb the costs for the school board portion of the election. The CAO advised that he thought a portion of the costs for the school board elections are recovered and staff would look into this to confirm.

Reorganization of Municipal Funds and Reserves

The CAO advised that a recent review of County reserves was conducted to determine if the existing reserves are serving their intended purposes. The review was also to determine how the reserves could best be organized to meet the strategic priorities of Council.

Staff provided a brief overview of the reserves and indicated that there may be opportunities to merge some of the existing

reserves, including:

- The Balefill Equipment Reserve and the MRF Equipment Reserve - these two reserves were originally created when the facilities were managed independently. The two reserves could be merged into one Solid Waste Equipment Reserve, providing more flexibility in use for capital replacement.
- The Bible Hill Master Plan Reserve, the Debert Master Plan Reserve and the Municipal Infrastructure Reserve – these three reserves are all earmarked for infrastructure and development and are replenished from the general tax revenue. Merging these three reserves into one Municipal Infrastructure and Development Reserve would create a bigger and more versatile reserve for use of funding the Council’s strategic plan and development projects across the entire Municipality.

Included with the Action Item is Appendix A, a listing of existing reserves; and, Appendix B, a listing of the amended reserves.

Staff also suggest that Council may want to consider increasing annual contributions to the reserves in future Operating Budget deliberations.

Moved by Councillor Blair
Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

“That Council approves merging the existing Balefill Equipment Reserve and the existing MRF Equipment Reserve to create a new Solid Waste Equipment Reserve with a starting balance in the new reserve equal to the sum of the current balances of the two existing reserves (\$1,083,790) and annual contribution to the new reserves being equal to the sum of contributions to the two existing reserves (\$183,483).”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council approves merging the existing Bible Hill Master Plan Reserve and the existing Debert Master Plan Reserve and the existing Municipal Infrastructure Reserve to create a new Municipal Infrastructure and Development Reserve with a starting balance in the new reserve equal to the sum of the current balances of the three existing reserves (\$1,408,641) and

annual contribution to the new reserve being equal to the sum of contributions to the three existing reserves (\$125,000).”

Motion Carried.
(Councillor Blair opposed)

**Paving of Dieppe Avenue
in Fiscal 2015-16**

In Councillor MacInnes’ absence, Councillor Taggart requested an update on the paving of Dieppe Avenue in fiscal 2015-16. Ms. Newell advised that the project has gone out to tender and expects to have an Action Item coming forward at September Council to award the tender.

Onslow Zoning

Since the recent changes to the Land Use By-law and Planning Strategy for the Onslow area, an issue which negatively impacts existing agricultural lands has surfaced. Councillor Taggart advised that this was an oversight and as Chair of the Planning Advisory Committee, he will address this with Planning staff and if necessary, the matter will be referred back to the Planning Advisory Committee for review.

**Small Wind Turbines –
CoMFIT Project**

Legal Counsel is currently reviewing the contract documentation for the Small Wind Turbines – CoMFIT Project. Staff expect the review will be completed in time for September Council Committee and are seeking authority for September Council Committee to approve.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council authorizes September Council Committee to approve the contract for the supply and installation of the wind turbines and that the Mayor and CAO be authorized to sign the contract on behalf of the Municipality.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Demolition of Salmon
River School**

Ms. Michelle Newell reported that the previous estimated costs for demolition of the former Salmon River School was \$65,000. A public tender was issued for the demolition of the building including the removal and disposal of hazardous materials. The results of the tender for demolition were much higher than anticipated due to the handling of the hazardous materials, which were not factored into the original estimates of \$65,000. Staff are seeking direction from Council on how to proceed with this project.

Moved by Councillor Taggart

Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the matter be referred back to staff to investigate other options for ultimate disposal of the school and associated lands.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Heritage Conference

Councillor MacInnes is requesting Council approval to attend the Heritage Conference in Digby from October 7-9, 2015.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Masters

“That Council approves Councillor MacInnes attend the Heritage Conference in Digby from October 7-9, 2015.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Noxious Weed

Deputy Mayor Masters advised that a noxious weed called ‘Wild Parsnip’ have been found along some of the trails in Colchester as well as in areas of North River. The sap from the noxious weed can cause severe burns. If someone should come into contact with this weed, they should wash the area immediately and avoid exposure to the sun.

Discussion was held about getting information out to residents about this noxious weed, possibly through the County website and newsletter. Additionally, discussion was held on the timely process to get rid of this weed. It was requested that staff look into ways to address the weed on County properties.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the matter be referred to staff to come back to Council with possible options on dealing with ‘Wild Parsnip’ on County properties; and,

That a notice and information about the noxious weed be included in the newsletter.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Letter to Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal

Councillor Parker advised that the issue of stormwater on Teakwood Court has been an ongoing issue for 12 years and needs to be addressed. He is requesting that a letter be written to Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) in support of

the Village of Bible Hill's letter to TIR.

Mayor Taylor advised that the next Quarterly TIR meeting is scheduled for September 10th and suggested that this issue be brought forward at this meeting. Councillor Parker indicated that he would provide a copy of the letter from the Village for the meeting.

Plowing of Private Roads

Councillor Taggart advised that he was approached by a group on a private road about the County issuing a tender for plowing private roads and billing through the tax bills. This has been done in Lunenburg and HRM at no cost to municipalities.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Masters

"That staff investigate what other municipal units have done in terms of maintenance to private roads through the tendering process, with billings to residents through the tax bills and report back to Council in the Fall for discussion."

Motion Carried.
(Councillors Cooper and Stewart opposed)

Leave of Absence – Councillor MacKenzie

Councillor MacKenzie advised that she has just received confirmation regarding a temporary work transfer and is requesting an item be added to the agenda for Council to consider approving a leave of absence from Council. Council agreed to add an item to the agenda.

The transfer involves relocating to Saskatoon and would be for a term of three months from September 3rd to December 7th, with a possible extension of an additional three months. Councillor MacKenzie is requesting that Council approve a leave of absence.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That Council approve a three month leave of absence from Council for Councillor MacKenzie."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Correspondence _____ -
ACTION

August 27, 2015

Mayor Mills, Town of Truro

A letter to Mayor and Council dated July 10, 2015 regarding a shared Regional Events Coordinator.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council approves moving forward with establishing a six member Steering Committee to deal with regional events coordination.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Debbie Smith, President, Public Health Association of Nova Scotia

A letter to the Mayor dated August 25, 2015 requesting sponsorship for a provincial learning event called Upstream Action for Health Equity and Social Justice: Practices for Creating Change.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That the letter requesting sponsorship for a provincial learning event called Upstream Action for Health Equity and Social Justice: Practices for Creating Change, be referred to staff.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Leslie Dunn, Executive Director, Dartmouth Learning

An email to the Mayor dated August 27, 2015 requesting that September 8th be proclaimed UNESCO International Literacy Day and the month of September be proclaimed Literacy Month.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

“That Council proclaims September 8th as UNESCO International Literacy Day; and,

That the month of September be proclaimed Literacy Month.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Correspondence - INFORMATION

Building Inspector

A copy of the Building Permit Statistics received from the Building Inspector for the months of June and July 2015. Council agreed to receive the reports for information purposes.

Development Officer

A copy of the Development Activity Report received from the Development Officer for the months of June and July 2015. Council agreed to receive the reports for information purposes.

INFORMATION ITEMS

**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.

Mayor Taylor provided a overview of the UNSM Board meeting held on August 21, 2015 including brief updates on the closing of provincial courts; Municipal Awareness Week (November 16-22); privatizing motor vehicles and land registry; and Extended Producer Responsibility.

Councillor Cavanaugh provided an update on completed flood projects and projects scheduled for completion this year including Lower Harmony/Harmony; two in North River; Farnham Brook; Great Village and Murray Siding. Councillor Gibbs asked if approval from Nova Scotia Environment for the work at Murray Siding has been received as yet. The Director of Public Works advised that as of Wednesday, August 26th, the approval had not been received.

RECESS

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

"That the meeting go into closed session at 10:15 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 10:17 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

"That the meeting be adjourned at 10:20 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary