

October 17, 2013

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

The Regular Session of Council Committee of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Courthouse, Truro, Nova Scotia on Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Bob Taylor	
Councillor Christine Blair	District #1
Deputy Mayor Bill Masters, Chair	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

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That the agenda for October 17, 2013 be approved with the following additions:

- add Item #17b: West Colchester United Arena
- add Item #17c: Feral Cats
- add Item #16b: Letter to COMFIT
- replace #10, Scotia Pool - Release of Funds with Regional Library Funding (on table)
- add to Item #18, Closed Session: Rath Eastlink Community Centre
- add to Item #5, Presentations: Laurie Jennings, CoRDA
- add Item #16c: Letter to Colchester County MLA's.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That the minutes of the meeting held on September 12, 2013 be approved as circulated.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

In response to an inquiry from Councillor Stewart regarding the burning of fracking waste at LaFarge, the CAO reported that he had called Nova Scotia Environment who indicated as of that date, they had not received a formal application from either LaFarge or Atlantic Industrial Services.

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According to Environment, LaFarge is not burning fracking waste in its furnaces but is using treated water for cooling purposes. It was suggested that the water came from Atlantic Industrial Services. The CAO asked Environment to advise the Municipality if an application is received from either business.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That a letter be sent to Nova Scotia Environment expressing Council’s concerns with any use of fracking fluids and request that the Municipality of Colchester be kept apprised of such uses taking place at LaFarge.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Councillor Cooper was advised that Sean and Becky Platnauer have been allowed to stay in Canada. Mr. Platnauer has received a two-year work term which should give the family enough time to go through the proper process.

Presentations

Laurie Jennings, Past Chair, Colchester Regional Development Agency

In his presentation, Mr. Jennings provided a brief history of the Colchester Regional Development Agency (CoRDA) which was established 21 years ago. He indicated that he has been on the Board of Directors for ten years. The Board would like to see the organization continue and have concerns about time and resources being wasted.

Mr. Jennings made reference to a letter from CoRDA dated August 2, 2013 to the Mayor and Council. In the letter, CoRDA requested that the Municipality review the attached work plan and identify specific areas of focus as well as provide some clarity around their plans for future economic development. Mr. Jennings read the letter to Council and also handed out an activity report on what CoRDA has been doing for the last couple of months. The report also outlined CoRDA’s current contractual obligations.

Mr. Jennings concluded his presentation by asking the Municipality for direction on how CoRDA should spend the money that remains in their possession.

At Council’s request, Mr. Jennings agreed to provide a list of CoRDA’s achievements for the last 12 months.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Parker

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“That the presentation from the Colchester Regional Development Agency be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

County Personnel Policies

During discussion on this item, Council brought forward questions or changes to the following policies:

- Policy #4.01: remove item No 4, Part-Time Non-Permanent....., under Definitions in both the Employment Categories and Employee Definitions
- Policy #4.03: under definition of Relative - why did this change and is it different than the collective agreements?
- the term ‘special projects’ should be further defined by provision of examples

Council Committee agreed that the policies should be reviewed by the County Solicitor and then brought back to Council for consideration.

Municipal Physical Activity Plan

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the 2013 Municipality of Colchester Physical Activity Plan be adopted as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Art Acquisition Policy Amendment

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council recommends to Council that the amended Art Purchase Policy be adopted as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Art Selection Committee - Council Representatives

Council Committee agreed that Councillor Blair and Councillor MacInnes represent Council on the Art Selection Committee.

Regional Library Funding

As a member of the Joint Library Committee, Councillor MacKenzie reported that the Town’s recent announcement on choosing the Old

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Normal College building for the location of the new library was not where the County wanted to be. However, the design phase of the new facility is now complete and has to be signed off by the developer, architect and Library Board. Once the design is agreed to, nothing can change in that design as it will cost more money.

At this point in the discussion, Council Committee opted to go into closed session.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting go into closed session at 9:00 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:08 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that, as the decision of the Town of Truro does not satisfy the three conditions of Section 16 of the existing Memorandum of Understanding on Capital and Operating Costs for the new regional library, Council agrees to negotiate amendments to the existing Memorandum of Understanding in accordance with Option #4 identified in the Action Item dated October 17, 2013.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillors Gregory and Parker opposed)*

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council the appointment of Mayor Taylor, Councillor Stewart, Councillor MacKenzie, and Deputy Mayor Masters as an alternate, to the Library Construction Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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**District Fire
Commission**

“That Council Committee recommends to Council approval of the Municipality of the County of Colchester providing a letter of intent in support of a loan of \$60,000 for the Great Village & District Fire Commission for the re-manufacture of a box for an equipment utility truck; and,

In the event that this is not satisfactory to the lending institution, that the Municipality provide a loan guarantee for this amount.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Second Reading of
Chapter 56 - Wind
Turbine By-law -
Public Presentations
to Council**

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council approval of the process of receiving presentations and comments from the public for the second reading of the Wind Turbine Development By-law as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Letter to COMFIT

Councillor Gibbs voiced his concerns about the Department of Energy not providing the answers regarding the COMFIT Program (Community Feed-In Tariff) and its definition of community support. He wanted to go on record that if COMFIT deals with other projects as they are in his district, then the County and its citizens are in for a rough ride. Councillor Gibbs asked Council to consider sending a letter to the new Minister of Energy asking the same questions that have not been answered up to this point.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That a letter be written to the Minister of Energy requesting answers to questions regarding the Community Feed-In Tariff Program and its definition of community support for a project to qualify under this program.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Councillor Gibbs then requested that Council consider postponing the second reading of the amended Wind Turbine Development By-law until answers to these questions are received.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

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“That the second reading of the amended Wind Turbine Development By-law be postponed until answers are received from the Minister of Energy on the definition of community support under the Community Feed-In Tariff Program.”

Motion **Defeated**.

(Mayor Taylor, Deputy Mayor Masters, Councillors Blair, Stewart, Cooper, Gregory, Cavanaugh, MacInnes, Taggart opposed)

At this point, Councillor Gibbs left the meeting due to illness.

**Joint Flood
Advisory Committee
Cost Sharing
Agreement with
Town of Truro**

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Mayor and CAO be authorized to enter into an agreement with the Town of Truro for cost sharing of Joint Flood Advisory Committee projects which affect both the Town of Truro and the County of Colchester, with specific cost sharing percentages as determined by the Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**County & Joint
Flood Advisory
Committees Cost
Sharing Agreements
with NSE**

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Chairs of the Joint Flood Advisory Committee (JFAC) and the County Flood Advisory Committee (FAC) be authorized to execute the provincial cost sharing agreements for the following projects:

- River Training, Salmon and North Rivers (JFAC)
- North River Dyke and Weir Improvements (JFAC)
- Lorne Street Dyke (JFAC)
- Avon Street Dyke (JFAC)
- Winter Rock Work, Bank Stabilization, Salmon River (JFAC)
- Flow Monitoring Stations, Salmon River, North River and McClure’s Brook (JFAC)
- Murray Siding Flood Reduction Program, Phases 1, 2 and 3 (FAC).”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Deadline Extension,
BCF Funding,
WMMP Phase 3 -
Compost and**

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That Council Committee recommends to Council the adoption of the

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Biosolids Facility

resolution as provided by the Canada-Nova Scotia Infrastructure Secretariat for the extension of the Building Canada Fund deadline for the Waste Management Master Plan, Phase 3 - Compost and Biosolids Facility, from March 31, 2014 to March 31, 2015.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Five-Year Capital Budget Plan

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council Committee recommends to Council approval of the Five-Year Capital Budget Plan, commencing with fiscal year 2013-14, as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Letter to Colchester County MLA's

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That a letter be written to the three MLA's for Colchester County congratulating them on their win in the October 8, 2013 provincial election.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Mayor Taylor advised that he had already contacted each of the MLA's by phone to congratulate them as well as Premier Dexter and Minister MacDonell to thank them for the work they have done for Colchester County.

Director's Report

A report from the Director of Public Works was circulated in the package for this evening's meeting.

Councillor MacInnes asked that the Open House for the Central Colchester Wastewater Treatment Facility be held before next spring or summer if possible. Mayor Taylor requested that an invitation be extended to the Town of Truro.

West Colchester United Area

Councillor MacInnes reported that the West Colchester Arena for the first time is projecting a \$55,000 deficit this year because of the Truro minor hockey league either going to the Truro Stadium or the Rath Eastlink Community Centre (RECC). He mentioned that he and Councillor Taggart met with representatives from the Arena to talk about the issue. Councillor MacInnes would like to see Council come up with solutions to help the Arena address this deficit. Mayor Taylor stated that both the General Manager of the RECC and the County Recreation Manager will be talking to Arena staff to see if a solution can be worked out.

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Feral Cats

Councillor MacInnes indicated that he had received a complaint from a citizen who lives next door to a rental property where a lady looks after 40-60 cats that are roaming everywhere. Currently there is nothing provincially that addresses this issue and at some point it has to be addressed. Councillor Blair reported a similar circumstance in her district which was rectified by taking the food source away.

Councillor MacInnes asked if staff could contact the Department of Agriculture to see if there is a way that the County can work with the Province to help alleviate the problem.

Closed Session

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That the meeting go into closed session at 11:20 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 12:50 a.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Waste to Energy
Feasibility Study**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Mayor and CAO be authorized to enter into a contract to provide a feasibility study relating to the economic and environmental viability of a waste to energy system using municipal solid waste as feedstock; and,

That the estimated cost of \$85,000, excluding HST, to have this feasibility study completed will be funded through the Municipality’s general operations as an unbudgeted expenditure from the Solid Waste budget which is cost shared with the Towns of Truro and Stewiacke.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting be adjourned at 12:51 a.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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Sheila Arsenault
Recording Secretary