

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 Tuesday, November 18, 2014.

Roll Call The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Bob Taylor	
Councillor Christine Blair	District 1
Councillor Geoff Stewart	District 3
Councillor Mike Cooper, Chair	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

Regrets

Deputy Mayor Bill Masters	District 2
---------------------------	------------

Moment of Silence Council observed a moment of silence for Ms. Anna Parks, who passed away on November 10, 2014. Ms. Parks served as a member of Council from 1994-97.

Approval of Agenda Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- add Item # I-4b Atlantic Industrial Services, Update on Current Application;
- add Item # I-4c Atlantic Mayors Congress;
- add Item # 1-4d Flooding.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the minutes from the meeting on October 16, 2014 be approved, as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes There was no business arising from the minutes of the meeting held on October 16, 2014.

Staff PresentationBoundary Review Results – Mr. Ramesh Ummat, Chief Administrative Officer and Mr. Stephen Scannell, Administrative Services/Research Coordinator

Mr. Ramesh, CAO, reported that under Section 369 of the Municipal Government Act, a boundary review must be done every eight years. The last review was done in 2006. The purpose of tonight's presentation is to review the results of the 2014 Boundary and Governance Review survey and seek Council direction on the preferred size of Council and boundary options. A final report must be filed with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) by December 31, 2014.

Details on the survey results were provided including:

- Total of 16,262 mailed out to residents, as well as being available on the County's website;
- Response rate of 5%, or total of 866 completed surveys;
- 843 surveys returned by mail, 10 of which were deemed invalid, and 23 completed online;
- Geographic response data;
- Gender and age demographics with the median age of responders being 64;
- Respondent voting habits in past elections;
- Key areas of importance pertaining to Roles and Responsibilities of Councillors; and,
- Opinions on the size of Council.

In both the mailed and online responses, there was an overwhelming response for the Council to remain the same size, at 66% and 70% respectively. 23% and 26% indicated that the size of Council should be smaller.

Comments in the survey included key themes such as importance of accessibility, fiscal prudence, trust and awareness. Other observations made from the surveys were that respondents are publically engaged individuals; web response was very low but could change with better web access and tools; and, young voters and female voters were under represented.

At this point in the meeting, 7:35 pm, Councillor MacInnes arrived.

The NSUARB guidelines recommend a 10% variance (plus or minus) from the average number of electors per Councillor. Using numbers

from the 2012 voter database, Districts 1, 6, and 8 are outside this range. Directive from Council is being sought on preference of size of Council and, if Council prefers to have the Council remain the same size, the options include redrawing the district boundaries to correct the variance, or retain status quo.

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that in the application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, the size of Council remain the same and the exiting Electoral Boundaries do not change.”

Motion Carried.
(Councillor Blair opposed)

At the request of a resident, discussion was held about the possibility of changing the boundary line at the property located at 5347 Highway 311, which would have this residence in District 7 in the community of Earltown, as opposed to District 8 in the community of North River. This would involve changing the boundary line approximately 50 feet.

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff look into moving the boundary line so that the property located at 5347 Highway 311 changes from District 8 to District 7.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Personnel Policy Amendments – Policy 5.03 Overtime Administration

Ms. Kelly Gratto-McCarthy, Human Resource Specialist, reported that an updated Personnel Policy 5.03 has been redistributed for this evening after a few minor modifications by the Municipal Solicitor.

Minor changes to the policy include housekeeping wording and revising definitions. Some of the key changes include:

- increase in compensatory time off in lieu of overtime to Senior Management from five to seven days due to increased numbers of hours;
- increase in compensation for Managers required to work holidays and Sundays;
- time in lieu carryover of up to 40 hours maximum to the next year, upon approval of Director; and,
- provide compensation to employees required to respond to

systems alarms and monitor systems via remote computing.

Clarification was requested on allowable amounts to carry over to the next year. Ms. Gratto-McCarthy confirmed that employees can, with the approval of Directors, carry over one week of vacation time and up to 40 hours of time in Lieu. Concerns were raised about the potential problems these carry over hours can be for the Finance Department for recording and reporting, as well as the possible operational problems if staff take all vacation at one time. Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services reported that numbers could be easily accrued at the end of the year, and, Directors and/or Managers have the ability to deny vacation requests if it would result in a negative effect on operations.

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that current policy 5.04 (Overtime Administration) be repealed; and,

That policy numbered 5.03 (Overtime Administration) be approved, as presented.”

Motion Carried.
(Councillor Parker opposed)

**List of Roads – Three
Year Cost Share
Agreement for
Subdivision Streets**

The CAO reported that on October 24, 2014, the three year cost sharing agreement with the Province was executed for the paving of subdivision streets. A list of proposed roads for fiscal 2015/16 must be submitted to the Province by November 30, 2014.

Council discussed potential roads to be added to the list, and at this point, MacLand Drive in Onslow was the only potential road name put forth, subject to a successful petition process.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that, subject to a successful petition process, MacLand Drive be put forward to the province for consideration under our three year cost sharing agreement No. 2015-008.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**INFORMATION
ITEMS**

Insurance for Not-for- Mr. Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager, reported that, in addition to

**Profit Organizations
– Grant Applications**

what was reported in the Information Item before Council, two additional applications were received for the fall application deadline of October 10, 2014 for the Not-for-Profit Insurance Program. The additional applications were from the Lower Onslow Community Centre and the Brookfield Athletic Association. The amounts approved for these groups were \$625 and \$362.50 respectively. The total number of applications for Fall 2014 is 24, with the total amount approved being \$8,942.

An application received from the North Shore ATV Club is not eligible until February 2015.

**Property Taxation
Computation Errors**

The CAO reported that this item had previously been brought to Council and staff was directed to look at the feasibility of developing a policy dealing with correcting tax bill errors.

Staff have been working with Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) and there are a number of procedures in place to help ensure that correct information on changes to buildings and properties is transmitted to PVSC and the information is properly reconciled before assessment rolls are generated. Previously, the deadline for getting the information to PVSC was the end of September. The County is hoping to change this date to the end of November to better capture changes to the end of the year. In addition to this, PVSC is working on a program which will allow municipalities to upload information directly onto the system.

It is also very important that residents be aware that it is necessary to review their assessment notices and appeal the assessment if there are any inaccuracies. In an effort to help better inform tax payers of the importance of this, a detailed notice, as attached to the Information Item distributed to Council, is being placed in the December issue of the County newsletter. It was also suggested that some other type of notification be sent out around the same time as the assessment notices as a reminder to tax payers.

**Nova Scotia Music
Week**

Mayor Taylor provided a brief overview on the success of Nova Scotia Music Week reporting that the contributions from the Town of Truro and County of Colchester played a significant part in getting the event here. The Host Committee did an excellent job, a lot of venues were used throughout the four days and it was great for all businesses. There was a tour of West Colchester which took place on Friday and another to Sugar Moon Farm in Earltown on Saturday with attendees from all over including places such as California, Toronto, Montreal, New York, Great Britain and Germany. The event has a three year rotation schedule but is very interested in returning to this area.

Directors Report

A report from Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, was

circulated in the package for this evening's meeting.

Referring to the Debert sidewalk projects, Councillor MacInnes requested clarification on costs to the area residents. The Director of Public Works, Ms. Newell, advised that she would look into this and get back to Councillor MacInnes. Also, referring to the paving of Plains Road and Dieppe Avenue in Debert, the question was raised about possible cost savings in paving Passchendaele Avenue at the same time. Ms. Newell advised that this can be looked into at the time of paving.

Atlantic Industrial Services – Current Application Update

Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, reported that the purpose of this agenda item was to provide Council with an update on the January 2014 application from Atlantic Industrial Services (AIS), to discharge reverse osmosis treated flowback water into the County sewer system in Debert. A detailed review of the timeline of events regarding AIS and the flowback fluids was provided.

During debate on this topic, the following was discussed:

- AIS has no interest in bringing in any additional flowback fluids;
- The fluids have been treated through the process of Reverse Osmosis and the discharge into the system would be clean water;
- AIS has carried out what has been requested of them and Council should support the application;
- Nova Scotia Environment approved AIS to accept the flowback water and should be responsible for dealing with it;
- The flowback fluids are being tested by three independent labs;
- Lack of confidence in the fluids being clean, even after treatment;
- Continuing to send the treated flowback water for disposal through LaFarge's incineration process as opposed to discharging in the Debert sewer system ; and,
- Continued concern with the possibility of any untreated fluids going into the Bay of Fundy.

Council was reminded that the item as presented, is for information purposes. Staff is currently accumulating the necessary data, to be reviewed in accordance with the By-law, to make a decision on the current application of AIS and will provide Council with a report on the decision.

Atlantic Mayors Congress

Mayor Taylor advised that a report on the Atlantic Mayors Congress has been circulated in Councillor mailboxes. Input was sought on whether Council would have an interest in hosting this event next fall, cooperatively with the Town of Truro. The costs associated with the

event would be approximately \$10,000 which would be cost shared between the Town and County. Council expressed an interest in hosting the event and Mayor Taylor advised that he would pursue this.

Flooding

Since the September 22, 2014 flooding and with the recent rainfall amounts once again, Councillor Taggart provided an update on flooding conditions in West Colchester indicating that Great Village was very fortunate this time, with water levels remaining below the bridge. Elm River Park was flooded out to the pond, however, the water stayed within the berm. Work has to be done to get the silt and gravel out of the rivers. Dredging the rivers is not the only answer but it is part of the solution. It was stressed that flooding in West Colchester has to remain a key focus of the Flood Advisory Committee (FAC).

Mayor Taylor advised that a meeting was held with MLA Karen Casey, as well as two letters being written, regarding the recent flooding events and the need for financial support from the province to proceed with the necessary flood mitigation work. No responses have been received on the letters as yet.

Councillor Cavanaugh, as Chair of the Flood Advisory Committee (FAC), and Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, reported that the FAC will continue to work on flood mitigation in West Colchester. It was stressed that if significant amounts of money are being spent, it is necessary to have a complete study done to ensure that the remediation work is being done right.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting go into closed session at 9:50 pm”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 10:35 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Geo-Archaeological Survey at Debert Park and Millen Farm

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that a Committee be established to negotiate with the Province to review/change the Debert Archaeological standardss and/or provide significant contribution to the archaeological investigational costs.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that members of the Committee consist of the Executive and Audit Committee and the area Councillor.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting be adjourned at 10:40 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary