

January 16, 2014

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, January 16, 2014 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 Blair

“That the agenda for January 16, 2014 be approved with the following additions:

- add Item #11b: February Council Date
- add Item #12b: Postal Service
- add Item #12c: Emergency Flood Protocol
- add Item #11c: Relocation of House at 13 Onslow Road
- add to Item #12, Closed Session: Debert Bunker
- add Item #11d: Time of Meetings
- add Item #12d: Rath-Eastlink Community Centre.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

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

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meeting held on December 12, 2013.

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Presentations

There were no public presentation requests received for this evening's meeting.

ACTION ITEMS**North Colchester River Restoration Association**

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee recommends to Council approval of the request from the North Colchester River Restoration Association for \$5,000 per year for the next five years being included in the draft budget for the next five fiscal years beginning in 2014-15.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

CoRDA - Council Nominees to Joint Board

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council the appointment of Councillor MacInnes and Councillor Parker as County Council representatives on the Joint Committee for the transition windup period for the Colchester Regional Development Agency.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Emergency Dispatch Services Agreement

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council the approval of the Municipality of Colchester entering into a contract extension with Valley Communications on a new emergency dispatch services agreement of up to three years; and,

That the Municipality's tendering and procurement policy (Section 2a) be waived for this instance only.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

High School Scholarship Program

Discussion was held on the amount currently in place for the scholarship program as well as Councillors offering the following suggestions regarding the draft policy and criteria:

- Municipality should have some input as to who receives the scholarships;
- Schools should continue to be involved in who receives scholarships;
- Consider students who are most improved, not just those with the

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- highest marks, also look at community involvement;
- Scholarships not go to just those who have received a number of scholarships from other sources
 - Include under the “Purpose” section of draft policy, ‘in a recognized university or community college’ to allow students going forward for trades training to be eligible.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That Council Committee recommends to Council the addition of \$3,000 to the Municipality of Colchester’s High School Scholarship Program, with \$1,000 to each of the three high schools in Colchester County to be used for students attending a recognized trade school upon graduation.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That the draft Scholarship Program Policy be referred back to staff for further review after receiving feedback from Council.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**2014 FCM
Conference -
Niagara Falls, Ont**

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That, in addition to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Councillors Stewart, MacInnes and Gibbs be authorized to attend the FCM annual conference being held May 30-June 4, 2014 in Niagara Falls, Ontario, with Councillor Gregory being an alternate should it become necessary; and,

That the Chief Administrative Officer also be authorized to attend the 2014 FCM annual conference.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Former Bass River
Elementary School**

Councillor Taggart reported that there had not been a lot of community interest in the school from a public meeting he organized. He would like to see the Municipality take over the school as he is concerned about it becoming a derelict building in the community. Councillor Masters reported that, unfortunately, it is too late for the Municipality to step in as

the School Board has already advertised for a request for proposals for the purchase and redevelopment of the school. Closing date for submissions

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was January 14, 2014.

**February Council
Date**

To allow Councillors the opportunity to attend an information session from CN on goods shipped through the Truro and Colchester area being held on February 27th at 7:00 p.m., Mayor Taylor thought Council may wish to consider changing the date of its February meeting which is scheduled for the same date and time.

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the date of the regular session of the Municipal Council be changed from Thursday, February 27th to Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Relocation of House
at 13 Onslow Road**

Councillor MacInnes indicated that the structural engineer hired to move the house on the property at 13 Onslow Road had informed the owners that the floor joists had to be replaced and that it would cost an additional \$6,259.38. This issue was not discovered until after the house was moved. Councillor MacInnes asked Council to consider reimbursing the property owners for this additional expense as the joists would not have been discovered if the County had not requested that the property owners move the house from its current location on the property.

Moved by Councillor Blair
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council Committee recommends to Council the authorization of a payment of \$6,259.38 to cover the additional expenses incurred by the property owners of 13 Onslow Road for the replacement of floor joists involved in relocating their home.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Time of Council
Meetings**

Councillor Blair raised this issue as she is concerned with in-camera issues being dealt with late at night when Councillors are not at their best. Councillor Blair requested that Council consider having the in-camera portion of the agenda at the beginning of meetings rather than at the end. Discussion was held on various ways to reduce the length of the meetings.

Moved by Councillor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

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“That Council Committee recommends to Council that Council and Council Committee meetings end no later than 11:00 p.m., with the agenda being reviewed at 9:30 p.m. to determine whether it can be completed by the designated time; if not, that the Tuesday following the meeting be used as an alternate date to complete the balance of the agenda.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Postal Service

Mayor Taylor made reference to a public meeting he attended on January 10, 2014 with the Canadian Union of Postal Workers. Councillors Gibbs, Cavanaugh and MacKenzie indicated they had also attended. Mayor Taylor asked if it would be appropriate for Council to send a letter to Canada Post and copied to MP Scott Armstrong, expressing Council’s concerns with the elimination of door-to-door delivery service.

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That a letter be written to Canada Post and copied to MP Scott Armstrong, to voice Council’s concerns with the elimination of door-to-door delivery service in the Truro and urban Colchester areas.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Emergency Flood Protocol

Mayor Taylor reported on some flood issues that took place this past week. The Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee has a good protocol system in place through the Regional Emergency Coordinator. This protocol should be followed to allow the Coordinator to do his job and not have his time taken up by people who do not know what they are doing.

Rath-Eastlink Community Centre

Councillor Stewart expressed his concern with an ad posted at the Rath-Eastlink Community Centre (RECC) regarding ice time bookings and its negative effect on local arena revenues. As members of the RECC Operating Board, Mayor Taylor and Deputy Mayor Masters indicated that this has already been addressed with the ad being withdrawn.

Councillor Stewart also raised the issue of a snow plowing tender for the RECC. Mayor Taylor and Deputy Mayor Masters agreed to confirm at the next meeting of the Operating Board if the tender was publicly advertised or not.

Closed Session

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

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“That the meeting go into closed session at 9:15 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 11:15 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Nova Scotia
Provincial
Exhibition**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That a decision on the three agreements involved in the negotiations with the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition be referred to a Special Council session being held immediately following this Council Committee meeting.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That the meeting be adjourned at 11:17 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sheila Arsenault
Recording Secretary