

February 13, 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, February 13, 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 Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the agenda for February 13, 2014 be approved with the following additions:

- add Item #13b: Colchester Arenas
- add to Item #16, Closed Session: Negotiations
- add Item #13c: Bible Hill Master Plan
- add Item #14b: FCM Sustainability Conference
- add Item #14c: Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition
- add Item #14d: Ray Ivany Report - One Nova Scotia.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That the minutes of the meeting held on January 16, 2014 be approved as circulated.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meeting held on January 16, 2014.

Presentations

Rath-Eastlink Community Centre (RECC)

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Representing the Rath-Eastlink Community Centre were Mr. Nevin Jackson, Chair of the Operating Board; Mr. Jim Lambert, General Manager; and Mr. Brad Lawrence, Finance and Accounting Manager.

Mr. Jackson described the RECC as a facility that encourages people to become more active, thus improving the quality of life for residents throughout Colchester County. He would like to see a more detailed presentation to Council sometime in the spring that focuses on the facility itself and the services it has to offer.

Mr. Lambert indicated that the presentation will provide an overview of the RECC's expected financial performance for the upcoming year as well as a brief history of events that had an impact on the budget in 2013-14.

During the presentation and discussion, the following points were noted:

- removal of ice service this summer for net saving of \$22,000;
- concern with deficit of \$737,000 in 2013-14 and projected deficit of \$721,000 in 2014-15 (split 50-50 between the Town and the County);
- concern with proposed increase in General Manager's salary by over 12% - this number provided by the Human Resources Committee not the actual number of increase, still being negotiated;
- customer service training amount of \$4,500 for front desk staff;
- proposed salary increase to staff of 3% - could this be reduced to 1.5%;
- governance training amount of \$12,000 - confirmed as only a one-time charge;
- high power bill for pool and equipment too high - still being investigated;
- elevator budget of \$20,000 - contract required;
- cost of training and travel budget of \$38,000 is high;
- General Manager agreed to look at other facilities to compare what percentage of their budgets is allocated for salaries;
- request to Operating Board to try and reduce budget for 2014-15;
- look at increasing fees for aquatic centre;
- snow removal budget - may look at providing this service inhouse rather than outsourcing.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

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“That the presentation from the Rath-Eastlink Community Centre be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That the proposed 2014-15 operating budget for the Rath-Eastlink Community Centre be referred to budget deliberations.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

**Low Income Tax
Exemption Policy**

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council approval of the Low Income Tax Exemption Policy, as presented, to adopt the threshold and exemption amounts approved by Council on November 28, 2013.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

March Meeting Dates

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee approves Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. for the maintenance budget meeting and Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. for the additions/deletions meeting.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Former Maple Leaf
School, Salmon River**

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff be authorized to sell the former Maple Leaf School property in Salmon River “as is” at market value through a Request for Proposals process.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Temporary
Borrowing
Resolution -**

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

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**Wastewater
Treatment Facility**

“That Council Committee recommends to Council approval of the Municipality of Colchester requesting a temporary borrowing resolution in the amount of \$4 million, subject to an agreement with the Town of Truro that the full borrowing costs, including principal, interest and debenture discount, are Truro’s responsibility.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Tax Exemption By-
law - Amendment to
Property List**

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council Committee recommends to Council approval of the addition of the Colchester Ground Search and Rescue Association located at 73 Ventura Drive, Debert, to the Tax Exemption Property List for fiscal year 2014-15 and beyond.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Property Tax
Write-Offs**

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council approval to write off property taxes and interest totalling \$1,652.80, as detailed on the attached listings to the Action Item dated February 13, 2014.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Maritime Broomball
Tournament**

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee recommends to Council approval of a grant in the amount of \$2,000 in support of the 2014 Maritime Broomball Tournament being held in Tatamagouche at the North Shore Recreational Centre on February 28-March 2, 2014, source of funds to be the Economic Development Grant Fund.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Extension of Water
Line to Dhugald
Drive**

Councillor Gibbs reported that he had a request from the owner of a mini-home subdivision in his district about getting Town water extended from Princeton Heights to Dhugald Drive. The owner currently has a central water chlorinated system which is very costly to maintain. Councillor Gibbs asked Council to consider having this matter referred to staff for review.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That staff be directed to look into extending the Town of Truro water

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system from Princeton Heights to Dhugald Drive.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Colchester Arenas

Councillor Stewart voiced his concern with the Rath-Eastlink Community Centre having an impact on the other arenas in Colchester County. He would like to see the Municipality’s Recreation Department meet with the Colchester Arenas Association to look at ways to put the local rinks in Brookfield, Debert and Tatamagouche on a more solid financial footing since the opening of the Rath-Eastlink Community Centre. Councillor MacInnes indicated that the Debert Arena was experiencing similar issues.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the Recreation Department be directed to meet with the Colchester Arenas Association with a view to developing a plan that would put local arenas on a more solid financial footing since the opening of the Rath-Eastlink Community Centre and that a report be brought to Council for review.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Bible Hill Master Plan

At the request of Councillor Parker, Council agreed to having staff revisit the Bible Hill Master Plan to see if it is still viable.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Economic Development Officer Position

The position of Economic Development Officer was advertised with a closing date of October 25, 2013. Fifty-three applications were received. Following the short-list and interview process, Ms. Joy O’Neill was offered and accepted the position, commencing her duties on February 3, 2014. Council agreed that a press release should be issued announcing the appointment.

Councillor Gregory left the meeting at this point to prevent from travelling to Tatamagouche in poor weather conditions.

FCM Sustainability Conference

Councillor Taggart reported that he had spent three days in PEI attending an FCM Sustainability Conference. He recommended that Council and staff should look at attending this conference on an annual basis.

Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition (NSPE)

Mayor Taylor briefed Council on the NSPE Board meeting he attended last evening. The Minister of Agriculture was at the meeting along with five other provincial officials. The Province is going to conduct a forensic audit and take over the loan from the Farm Loan Board with no more interest charges. The Minister stated that the NSPE can still have a Board

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but it would be one with no authority. The Minister plans on appointing an interim Board and in time, he will appoint a new Board of Directors. The Province plans on taking over operations of the NSPE and will look at updating the facilities.

The CAO recommended that as a result of the actions taken by the Province, Council should consider a motion to declare the documents associated with the Municipality's negotiations with the NSPE as no longer being valid.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the management agreement, purchase and sale agreement and the lease agreement between the Municipality of Colchester and the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition, be declared null and void.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Cavanaugh opposed)*

**Ray Ivany Report -
One Nova Scotia**

Mayor Taylor referenced a meeting in Halifax to announce the release of the Ray Ivany Report entitled ‘One Nova Scotia’. Unable to attend the press conference, Mayor Taylor stated that he live-streamed the announcement in his office. Mayor Taylor expressed his interest in getting a copy of this press conference video and perhaps holding a special session for Council specifically related to economic development. Staff agreed to email the link to the report to Councillors.

Closed Session

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the meeting go into closed session at 10:14 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 10:37 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Debert CPDS
Property Sale**

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council approval of an expenditure of up to a maximum of \$8,100 to cover the cost of relocating copper and fibre cables leading to the Colchester Park Development

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Society property known as “The Diefenbunker” in the Debert Business Park, source of funds to be the Debert House Sales Fund.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded Councillor Gibbs

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

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sheila Arsenault
Recording Secretary