

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 11, 2016.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Bob Taylor	
Councillor Christine Blair	District 1 (arrived at 7:25 pm)
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 Doug MacInnes	District 9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Regrets

Councillor Ron Cavanaugh District 8

Staff Present

Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
 Mr. Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste
 Ms. Joy O'Neill, Economic Development Officer
 Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Ms. Tracey Veno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Gregory
 Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Item 12b, Storage of Biosolids in Crowes Mills;
- Item 12c, Saywood Estates;
- Item 12d, Brookfield Fire and Emergency Services Request for Funding;
- Item 13b, RECC.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
 Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the minutes from the meeting held on January 14, 2016, be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

Referring to the item on LED Crosswalks, Councillor Parker inquired about whether staff received any cost information. Ms. Newell, Director of Public Works reported that the cost of the lights is approximately \$5,500. Total costs including installation would be around \$10,000.

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That the Mayor follow up with Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal on the possibility of LED Crosswalk at Burriss Drive and report findings back to Council.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

March Budget Meeting Dates

Discussion was held on delaying the budget meetings until April to allow the new CAO to be part of the process. Staff were directed to bring an Action Item back to the next meeting with suggested April meeting dates for Council consideration.

Meeting Dates Schedule for Fiscal Year 2016-17

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council approves the schedule of Council and Council Committee meeting dates, including the alternate Tuesday for Presentations, for the 2016-17 fiscal year, as amended.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Property Tax Write-Offs

Deputy Mayor Masters declared a conflict of interest and removed himself from the table. Councillor Cooper assumed the position of Chair.

Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, advised that annually Council considers write-offs for accounts that are unlikely to be collected. There are a lot of mobile homes on the list this year. Included in the list are write-offs for property taxes as well as Debert Water Utility. In reviewing the list, staff suggest that NewMac be removed from the list at this time as this may be collectible. If it cannot be collected, staff will bring back to Council for approval.

At this point in the meeting, 7:25 pm, Councillor Blair arrived.

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Councillor Taggart expressed concern that a similar issue regarding a mobile had been brought forward previously but had been advised that it was not permitted under the Municipal Government Act.

Discussion was held regarding collection methods and other possible avenues for collecting these funds.

Concern was expressed regarding how people are not paying for tipping fees if payment is required at the scale house. Mr. Fraser advised that some businesses have accounts and once the account goes into arrears, the Solid Waste Department would be notified to not allow further activity without payment.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that property taxes and interest totalling \$10,235.14 and Tipping Fee charges totalling \$1,232.04, be written off; and

That NewMac Mfg Inc be removed from the list.”

Motion Carried.
(Councillors Parker and Taggart opposed)

At this point, Deputy Mayor Masters returned to the table.

Tax Exemption By-law – Amendment to Property List

Mr. Scott Fraser advised that a request for a tax exemption has been received from the St. James Church of Great Village Preservation Society. The request meets the requirements under the Tax Exemption By-law.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council Committee recommends to Council the addition of the St. James Church of Great Village Preservation Society, for properties located at 8729 Highway 2, Great Village; and 8723 Highway 2, Great Village, to the Tax Exemption By-law Property List for fiscal year 2015-16 and beyond.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Low Income Tax Exemption Policy

Mr. Fraser advised that this item comes before Council every February for consideration. The Policy as presented has minor housekeeping amendments, a schedule has been added detailing the income thresholds and exemption amounts, and staff are

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recommending the name of the policy be changed to the Municipal Tax Assistance Program Policy.

Discussion was held regarding the name change with concern being expressed that residents know this Policy as the Low Income Exemption Policy and by adding Low Income to the suggested name change might alleviate confusion with the residents. Others felt that 'Low Income' has a stigma attached to it and thought it should be omitted from the title.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Municipal Tax Assistance Program Policy, formerly named the Low Income Tax Exemption Policy, be approved as amended, which would include Low Income in the policy name; and,

That the 2016 Annual Income Threshold and Exemption Amount Schedule, be approved as presented."

Motion Carried.

(Mayor Taylor and Councillors Parker, Blair, and Gregory opposed)

**Business and Economic
Development Strategic
Plan**

A copy of the Business and Economic Development Strategic Plan was distributed for this evening's meeting.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Parker

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Strategic Plan for the Business and Economic Development Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Position Change –
Compost Supervisor to
Compost Technician**

Council agreed that the next two items be discussed jointly.

and

**Position Change – MRF
Operations Supervisor to
Solid Waste Maintenance
Supervisor**

Mr. Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste, advised that with the recent retirement of Mr. Herb Corbett and the upcoming retirement of Mr. Murray Dawson, these recommended staffing changes would allow staff to be utilized more effectively. There are no changes in the overall number of persons, just a shift in duties and responsibilities.

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Parker

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“That Council Committee recommends to Council the elimination of the Compost Supervisor (Non-Union) and Compost Maintenance Worker (Union) positions and the creation of a new Union position Compost Technician, as per the attached job description, at a wage rate of \$23.15 per hour, pending Union approval; and,

That the hiring of one additional Compost Utility Worker at the hourly wage rate of \$20.24 be approved; and,

That recruitment be carried out in accordance with the Collective Agreement and County Personnel Policies.”

Motion Carried.
(Councillor Cooper opposed)

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council the elimination of the MRF Operations Supervisor position and the creation of a new Non-Union position of Solid Waste Maintenance Supervisor as per the attached job description, at Step 1 of Range 7 in the Municipality of the County of Colchester Salary Scales; and,

That recruitment be carried out in accordance with the County Personnel Policies.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Storage of Biosolids in Crowes Mills

Referring to biosolids currently being stored in Crowes Mills, Councillor MacInnes indicated that he would like to have a presentation on the storage of biosolids. He would like to see this presentation take place sooner rather than later.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Ms. Lise LeBlanc of LP Consulting Services be invited to make a presentation to Council on the topic of Biosolids; and that a copy of the invitation be extended to the local Department of Environment.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Saywood Estates

Councillor Parker indicated that the residents of Saywood Estates are not happy with the plowing of their street and feel they are being treated unfairly. Vehicles are being damaged due to the plowing

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conditions. Councillor Parker asked if the Municipality could take over the plowing of Saywood Estates.

Council agreed that there is really nothing that can be done as roads are plowed according to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal's priority list.

**Brookfield Fire and
Emergency Services
Department – Request for
Funding**

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council Committee recommends to Council funding be approved in the amount of \$1,000 to the Brookfield Fire and Emergency Services Department in support of their hosting the 2016 Maritime Fire Fighters Curling Championships being held at the Brookfield Curling Club from March 11-13, 2016; and,

That the source of funds be the 2015/16 Economic Development Grants budget.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Directors Report

A report from the Director of Solid Waste was circulated prior to this evening's meeting.

Referring to information on leachate in the Director's Report, Council suggested that an article be placed in the newsletter outlining the cost savings being realized due to the leachate pre-treatment.

RECC

Councillor MacKenzie stated that she has received two calls from very irate residents who requested the following information be passed along to Council. They feel that Council is being irresponsible with taxpayers money and that we should not be funding the RECC. They suggested a possible solution would be to close the facility three days per week.

Recess

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That a Property Matter to be dealt with in Closed Session, be added to the agenda.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Taggart declared a conflict of interest and removed himself from the meeting.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting go into closed session at 8:57 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Masters

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:09 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Property Acquisition –
Broderick Lane**

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Masters

“That Council not pursue the acquisition of the parcel of land located on the corner of Broderick Lane.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting adjourn at 9:10 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary