

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, April 14, 2016.

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

Staff Present

Mr. Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
 Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development
 Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
 Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr. Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste
 Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Ms. Tracey Venno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Certificate Presentation to Karlee Burgess

Mayor Taylor began the meeting with a certificate presentation to Karlee Burgess in recognition of her recent team wins at the Canadian Junior Curling Championships in Stratford, Ontario; the 2016 Youth Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway; and, the World Junior Curling Championships in Taarnby, Denmark.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
 Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Item 8b, Request to Host the Underdog’s Show ‘n’ Shine at the Palliser Property;
- Item 8c, Council Salary Review;
- Item 8d, Policing
- Item 11b, Fundy Gateway Project - Palliser;
- Item 13, Legal Matter in Closed Session.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That the minutes from the meeting held on March 10, 2016, be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meeting held on March 10, 2016.

ACTION ITEMS**Tax Exemption By-law – Amendment to Property List**

Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, advised that a request for a tax exemption was received from the Tim Horton Children’s Foundation. The property, PID # 07352581, was formerly a private dwelling but has recently changed ownership and is now being used as part of the camp facility. The property meets the current criteria of the Tax Exemption By-law.

Discussion was held regarding the uses of the property, whether it is being utilized for camp purposes on a year round basis and solely for charitable purposes.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That staff investigate if the property is used directly and solely for charitable purposes and report back to Council.”

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the motion be tabled.”

Motion Defeated.

(Mayor Taylor, Deputy Mayor Masters, Councillors Blair, Stewart, Cooper, Gibbs, MacKenzie, Gregory, MacInnes, Taggart, and Parker opposed)

The motion to table having been defeated, the original motion was voted on and defeated with *Mayor Taylor, Councillors Blair, Stewart, Gibbs, MacKenzie, Cavanaugh, MacInnes and Taggart opposed.*

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

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That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Tim Horton Children's Foundation property # 07352581 be added to the Tax Exemption By-law Property List for fiscal year 2016-17 and beyond."

Motion Carried.

(Councillors Parker, Gregory and Cooper opposed)

Earth Day Proclamation

Discussion was held regarding Council Committee having authority to approve a proclamation. Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor, advised that unless it is in the policy to allow, Committee does not have the authority to approve.

Mayor Taylor indicated that there have been a number of meetings held and a lot of planning involved for Earth Day celebrations and asked that this request be considered.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes

Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That Council Committee proclaims April 22, 2016 as Earth Day."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cooper

Seconded by Councillor Stewart

"That staff review policy with the intent to make amendments to allow for proclamations be approved by both Council and Council Committee and bring back to Council for approval."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Maintenance and Improvements to Private Roads

Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, advised that after much debate of the draft by-law at First Reading and considerable public input, Second Reading was cancelled to allow staff to review with the intention of making improvements and bringing back to Council for consideration on proceeding with a Maintenance and Improvements to Private Roads By-law.

One of the concerns among residents was that the proposed By-law was intended as mandatory. Suggested changes to the By-law are including the addition of a statement to clearly state the intent of the By-law; increasing the support rate from 66% to 75% for the petition process; Council reviewing and approving the methodology for establishing a collection rate; adding a clause which would allow the Association and Council flexibility to approve a variation in lot levy charges based on seasonal vs. year round use; and approval of the

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initial petition and road maintenance budget for the Association being held at a meeting of Council.

Discussion was held regarding the merits of proposed by-law in that it is intended to provide a mechanism for residents, through an Association, to pay maintenance on private roads. However, discussion also included the by-law being more problematic than beneficial.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council not proceed with a By-law Respecting the Maintenance and Improvement of Private Roads.”

Motion Carried.
(Mayor Taylor and Councillor Taggart opposed)

Request to Host the Underdog’s Show ‘N’ Shine at the Palliser Property

Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, advised that a request was received to allow the 2nd Annual Underdog’s Show ‘n’ Shine at the Palliser property.

Council expressed concern about the need for security and washroom facilities for the event, as well as with this being an annual event, what happens in future years if it does not fit with the development plans for the property.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the organizers of the Underdog’s Show ‘n’ Shine be invited to make a presentation to Council to provide more information about the event.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Council Salary Review

Councillor MacInnes raised the issue of the review of Council salaries. The By-law indicates that remuneration be reviewed at least two months prior to each Municipal Election.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council remuneration not be reviewed at this time.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Policing

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That a letter be written to the Truro Police about the possibility of receiving a presentation on coverage and costs for policing in Colchester County.”

Motion Defeated.

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

During debate on the motion, there was discussion on Town Police and RCMP jurisdiction.

Concern was expressed on some aspects of RCMP services as well as the costs to the County being in the \$5 million range, however, Council was in favour of continuing to work with the RCMP to address the areas of concern. Councillor Blair indicated that a number of issues, as discussed at the March Council meeting, would be brought forward at the Police Advisory Board meeting being held on April 18th. Council members also indicated concern regarding a lack of contact with district liaison officers, and in most cases, Council members were unaware of who their liaison officers were. Interest was expressed in having the RCMP make regular presentations to Council.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Biosolids

Council was recently advised that biosolids were no longer being sent to Fundy Compost and would be handled temporarily at the Compost Facility in Kemptown. The Director of Solid Waste provided a brief report on this, indicating that due to the efficiency of the new Compost Facility, building number 3 was cleared for the composting of biosolids and kept separate from Source Separated Organics (SSO). Staff estimate there is sufficient capacity in the building for about one year's worth of biosolids production. After processing on a regular schedule, the material has to go to a curing pad for final maturation but must be kept separated from SSO. Therefore a separate curing pad is required for the composting of biosolids with costs in the range of \$300,000 to \$450,000 for the curing pad.

A financial cost comparison was provided to show costs for handling biosolids through Fundy Compost vs. handling at our own Compost Facility with annual savings of approximately \$150,000.

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It was noted that before proceeding with such costs as a new curing pad, information would be brought back to Council for review and consideration.

Alton Gas

Mayor Taylor advised that approximately one year ago, a presentation was received on the Alton Gas project and, at that time, Council was supportive of the project. Since that time, the Mayor indicated that he was asked to sit on a Community Liaison Committee. The Committee is now requesting a brief bio and photo of the Mayor to post on their website. Before providing such information, Mayor Taylor wanted to hear Council views on this.

Council members felt there are benefits to the Mayor being on the Committee but see no value in having a bio on their website. The Municipal Solicitor stated that the Mayor is on the Committee as an individual and is not reflecting the views of Council. The Mayor indicated that he is being identified by the Committee as the Mayor of Colchester County and therefore was reluctant to provide the bio and photo for the website.

Municipal Structural Change

Mayor Taylor provided a brief report on the topic of Municipal Structural Change which was discussed at the recent CAO/CEO Forum held in Truro. Three Mayors were on a panel to discuss the experiences during and after amalgamation of their regions.

For discussion on Municipal Structural Change, two options were put on the screen: amalgamation or dissolution. The Mayors of Colchester, Truro and Stewiacke challenged that there was another option, regional Cooperation, which works well in our region.

The CAO for the Town of Yarmouth spoke in favour of our option, stating they have similar regional cooperation in their region.

Fundy Gateway Project - Palliser

Councillor Stewart reminded Council of the Open House on the Fundy Gateway Project scheduled for April 25th from 4 to 8 pm in the Millbrook Room at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre. Another meeting is being arranged to be held at the Peg in Masstown. In addition to these meetings, there were also a number of stakeholder meetings.

Directors Report

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

Recess

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That the meeting go into closed session at 9:27 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:44 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That the meeting adjourn at 9:45 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary