

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, November 10, 2016.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Christine Blair	
Councillor Eric Boutilier	District 1
Deputy Mayor Bill Masters, Chair	District 2
Councillor Geoff Stewart	District 3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District 4
Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District 8
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10

Regrets

Councillor Lloyd Gibbs	District 5
Councillor Doug MacInnes	District 9
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Staff Present

Mr. Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer
 Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development
 Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
 Mr. Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste
 Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Ms. Tracey Veno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary
 Ms. Heather Maddigan, Senior Accounting Officer

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Gregory
 Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the agenda be approved with the following amendment:
 - Add Item # 9b, Force Tidal Energy.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
 Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That the minutes from the meeting held on September 15, 2016, be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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Business Arising from Minutes

Referring to the Livestock Control By-law on page 1659 of the September 15, 2016 minutes, Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor, advised that the provincial fencing legislation is anemic and the Municipal By-law is still needed. A review of the provincial legislation will be done and reported back to Council.

ACTION ITEMS

Debert Water Utility – Three Year Operating Budget

At the October 27th Inaugural Session, Council granted authority to November Council Committee to approve the Debert Water Utility – Three Year Operating Budget.

Ms. Heather Maddigan, Senior Accounting Officer, advised that the Debert Water Utility Three Year Operating Budget was distributed in the Council package for this evenings meeting and staff is recommending that Council approve the budget as presented.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council approves the 2016/17 Debert Water Utility operating budget as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tatamagouche Water Utility – Three Year Operating Budget and Rate Review

At the October 27th Inaugural Session, Council granted authority to November Council Committee to approve the Tatamagouche Water Utility – Three Year Operating Budget and Rate Review.

Ms. Maddigan advised that the Tatamagouche Water Utility Committee met on October 26th to review the financial statements and budget. The outcome of that meeting resulted in recommendations to approve the three year operating budget as presented as well as proceeding with a rate review.

Discussion was held on the financial status of the Tatamagouche Water Utility and how to address the growing deficit. Reasons for the growing deficit include improper budgeting for depreciation, and more users being needed to hook into the water system. Long term plans to help address the deficit situation is to make a request through the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board to have rate increases spread out over four or five years as opposed to over the current three years. This would result in gradual increases over longer periods which would help to reduce the deficit and be less of an impact on the users.

Clarification was sought on the number of current users versus the number of potential users within the system but not hooked up. The

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Director of Public Works reported that there are approximately 240 users currently hooked into the system but would have to look into the number of potential users not hooked into the system and report back to Council.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council approves the 2016/17 Tatamagouche Water Utility operating budget as presented; and,

That Council approves that a rate review study for the Tatamagouche Water Utility be conducted, to be filed with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Water Quality and
Quantity Survey Results –
Truro Heights**

Mr. Paul Smith, Senior Planner, advised that staff was previously directed to investigate water quality and quantity in Truro Heights. With the help of a summer student, a survey was conducted with 200 surveys being sent out. 127 surveys were completed and returned to the Municipality. 49% of the returned surveys reported quality issues; 17% reported mild to moderate water shortage issues; and 45% of the respondents indicated that they would be interested in connecting to a water system. It was noted that no potential costing information was provided at the time of the survey. Staff are seeking directive from Council on proceeding with a design and costing study.

Mr. Smith indicated that residents who completed the surveys expressed interest in learning the results. Staff is seeking the approval of Council to post a generalized report of the results on the County’s website.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee grants permission to staff to post the generalized report on the Water Quality and Quantity Survey Results on the County’s Website.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Municipality’s Public Works Department initiate a preliminary design and costing study of an extension to the central water system located

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in the Millbrook Power Center to service areas to Truro Heights presently experiencing well water problems and report their findings back to Council.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Balefill Forklift – Award of Tender

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Director of Solid Waste be authorized to accept the lowest bid as submitted by Wajax, at a total cost of \$67,747, and to surrender the current Balefill forklift as a trade-in.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Commemorative Medals for 150th Anniversary of Confederation

Councillor Stewart advised Council that the Canadian Government has decided that it is not appropriate, at this time, to issue Commemorative Medals for the 150th Anniversary of Confederation. He is seeking the support of Council in writing a letter to the Federal Government indicating that the Municipality does not agree with not issuing the Commemorative Medals to the many volunteers for the 150th Anniversary of Confederation.

Discussion was held on the reasons why the Federal Government is not proceeding with the medals. The CAO suggested and Council agreed that staff contact the Chancellery of Honours in Ottawa requesting information on this matter and report findings back to Council.

Force Tidal Energy

Councillor Taggart indicated that he would be interested in receiving a presentation from Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy (FORCE) and the Department of Fisheries on the Tidal Energy Project.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That staff extend an invitation to Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy (FORCE) and the Department of Fisheries to make a presentation to Council on the Tidal Energy Project.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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Insurance for Not-for-Profit Organizations – Grant Applications

The fall application deadline for the Not-for-Profit Insurance Program was October 14, 2016. The County received 23 applications, four of which were not eligible. The Brookfield Athletic Association, the Tatamagouche Trails Association and the North Shore ATV Club were approved in February 2016 and will be eligible in February 2017. The Tatamagouche Skating Club was not eligible due to the following:

- *Sport/Recreation Associations whose policy fall under their Provincial or National Sport Organization and/or if individuals pay insurance based on participation will not qualify for funding.*

The total amount approved for the Fall 2016 deadline was \$8,760.24.

Director's Report

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

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That the meeting adjourn at 7:52 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary