

**Business Arising
from Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meeting held on October 30, 2014.

**Standing Committee
Reports and
Recommendations**

Deputy Mayor Masters presented the report from the Council Committee meeting held on November 18, 2014:

Boundary Review: Public Consultation Results and Next Steps

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council approves that, in the application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, the size of Council remain the same and the existing electoral boundaries do not change; and

That staff look into changing the property boundary located at 5347 Highway 311, from District 8 to District 7.”

Motion Carried.
(Councillor Blair opposed)

Personnel Policy – 5.03 Overtime Administration

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That Council approves that the current policy 5.04 (Overtime Administration) be repealed; and,

That Council approves that policy numbered 5.03 (Overtime Administration), be approved, as presented.”

Motion Carried.
(Councillor Parker opposed)

List of Roads – Three Year Cost Share Agreement for Subdivision Streets

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council approves that Macland Drive be put forward to the province for consideration under the three year cost sharing agreement No. 2015-008, subject to a successful petition process.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

GEO-Archaeological Survey at Debert Park/Millen Request

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council approves that a Committee be established to negotiate with the Province to review/change the Debert Archaeological Standards and/or provide significant contribution to the archaeological investigational costs; and,

That the Committee consist of the Executive and Audit Committee and the area Councillor.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

New Federal Gas Tax Program – Authority to Sign

Mr. Ramesh Ummat, CAO, advised that the Council is in receipt of the new Municipal Funding Agreement under the Federal Gas Tax Program. Changes to the agreement include: more project categories; new eligible expenditures; and, changes to reporting and asset management requirements.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council authorizes the Mayor and CAO to sign the Municipal Funding Agreement (MFA) as prescribed under the Canada – Nova Scotia Administrative Agreement on Federal Gas Tax Fund 2014-2024.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Boundary Review Report – Authority for December Committee to Approve

The CAO reported that staff is currently developing a final Boundary Review Report based on Council recommendations to date. Given that there is no Council meeting in December, before the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board deadline, staff is recommending that Council authorize December Council Committee to approve the final report.

Moved by Councillor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That Council authorizes Council Committee to approve the Boundary Review final report, at its meeting on December 11, 2014.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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ERP (Accounting Software) – Authority for December Committee to Approve

As part of the process of replacing the Municipalities Accounting Software, a Request for Proposals was conducted. Staff are currently in the process of reviewing the proposals and receiving demonstrations from proponents. Staff are requesting that December Council Committee be given authority to award the contract for the software.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That Council authorizes the Council Committee, at its meeting on December 11, 2014, to award the contract for the ERP (Accounting) Software.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Operation and Maintenance, Salmon River School – Authority for December Committee to Approve

The RCMP has been leasing the old Salmon River School since 2012, with the current agreement expiring on December 14, 2014. A recent decision of the RCMP was made to discontinue use of the school due to some issues of mould and asbestos. This was brought to the attention of the Municipality by the Debert Hospitality Centre and then informally by telephone, by the RCMP. With the building now being vacant and winter heating costs of approximately \$2,000 per month, staff is seeking direction from Council on the future maintenance and operation of the school.

An inquiry was made as to whether the Municipality was aware of the issue of mould and asbestos. The RCMP had reported the issue and there was communication on allowing the Municipality to enter the premises for the purposes of cleaning, however, the RCMP did not respond to the communication. The Municipality has not received documentation of any testing results.

Discussion was held regarding the potential uses of the building, including possible future use by the RCMP, and an external organization who has expressed interest in purchasing the property. It was suggested that the Municipality be given opportunity to work with the RCMP for potential continued usage of the building.

Further discussion was held on the cost associated with building demolition. In 2012, a quote for demolition was received at \$45,000 plus an additional \$20,000 for fill. This number could be much higher if asbestos is present.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That the matter be tabled for two weeks, allowing time for the

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Municipality to contact the RCMP regarding potential future use of the building; and,

That authority be given to Council Committee, at its meeting on December 11, 2014, to make a final decision on maintenance and operations of the Salmon River School property.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Public Works
Maintenance Worker
Position
Reclassification**

Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, advised that this item involves the re-classification of one of the six positions at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. With the retirement notice of one of the Plant Maintenance Workers, staff sees this as an opportunity to re-classify the position prior to the recruitment process.

Over the past 5 to 10 years, our facilities have been substantially upgraded, evolving in more technical equipment and more complex instrumentation systems. As such, treatment processes have also become increasingly more complex resulting in the need for changes in qualifications for the position including mechanical, electrical and computer. The same duties would be carried out for the position but with the additional responsibilities, an additional skill set would be required.

The reclassification would result in an increase on the pay scale by one level, equivalent to approximately one dollar per hour or \$2,000 per year. It is expected that more savings would be realized through less external contracting, with the increased qualifications in the position.

Concern was expressed about the position requiring papers in order to perform electrical work.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council approves the reclassification of one of the existing Plant Maintenance Worker positions under the existing Collective Agreement to a Plant Maintenance Technician, with the associated pay scale matching that of the Process Technicians, as already defined in the Collective Agreement.”

Motion Carried.
(Councillors Parker and Gibbs opposed)

**Provincial/Municipal
Fiscal Review**

Mr. Ramesh Ummat, CAO, advised that subsequent to the Provincial Municipal Fiscal Review Report released by the Review Committee and the workshops held across the province, municipal units are

required to submit responses to the recommendations and questions in the Report to the Review Committee by December 15, 2014. Given this deadline, staff is requesting that Council Committee be given the authority to approve the response to the Provincial Municipal Fiscal Review recommendations at its meeting on December 11, 2014.

Mayor Taylor, for clarification purposes regarding the provincial governments stance on the fiscal review, advised that the UNSM Executive met with a number of Ministers and urged them to support the release of the Fiscal Review report for consultation purposes. The Minister of Municipal Affairs indicated to the President of UNSM that the government fully supported the release of the report and that all responses will be reviewed prior to any decision being made.

Councillor Blair expressed concern regarding the Report, given that it lacks consultative process and that incorporated villages were ignored throughout the process.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council authorizes the Council Committee to approve the response to the Provincial Municipal Fiscal Review recommendations at its meeting on December 11, 2014.”

Motion Carried.
(Councillor Blair opposed)

Plains Road Sidewalk Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, advised that in January 2011, Council adopted the Active Transportation Plan, which includes a new sidewalk on Plains Road in Debert. At that time, a public open house was held, with approximately 30 residents in attendance, to review plans and costs for the Debert Sidewalks.

Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal has indicated that they will be repaving Plains Road in 2015, and Ms. Newell indicated that this would be an opportune time to construct the sidewalk project from the Post Office to Colchester Park Development Society, simultaneously.

The sidewalk project estimated cost is \$1.76 million and has been approved and included in the capital budget. \$400,000 would be funded via the gas tax fund and the remainder through an area rate. The area rate for this sidewalk would be 3 cents for maintenance and 15.5 cents for construction. The boundary for this area rate would be defined by staff, based on anticipated usage of the new sidewalk.

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Concern was expressed that people cannot afford such an increase and it was suggested that another public meeting be held to receive input.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That staff proceed with a sidewalk from the Shannex to the existing sidewalk; and,

That staff proceed with a public consultation process prior to a final decision on the sidewalk project from the Post Office to CPDS; and,

“That Council authorizes the Council Committee, at its meeting on December 11, 2014, to make final decision on the Plains Road Sidewalk.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Correspondence
ACTION

**Parker Donham,
Seaside Wireless
Communications**

An email to the Mayor dated November 6, 2014 requesting a Municipal Council Resolution to support a funding application to Industry Canada for proposed internet speed upgrades.

Brief discussion was held with concerns being raised of past problems with internet connections provided by Seaside. It was suggested that Council receive a presentation from Seaside, to answer questions of Council.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That, before Council can make an informed decision on supporting their application for federal funding, Seaside Wireless Communications be invited to Council to make a presentation.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Mayor Bill Mills,
Town of Truro**

A letter to Mayor Taylor and Chief Gloade requesting Council support for the Hilden Interchange Project.

Discussion was held with concern being raised that Council should be at the table to see what is being discussed about the Hilden Interchange Project. Council indicated support of the project but at this point, not financial support.

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Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That a letter be written to Mayor Mills advising Council’s support for the Hilden Interchange Project, however, in the absence of details at this point, is not financially committed to the project.”

Motion Carried.
(Councillor Cavanaugh opposed)

**Ms. Glenda Bower,
Scotia Pool Society**

A letter to Colchester County Council dated November 20, 2014, requesting release of funds in the amount of \$50,000 and requesting opportunity to present to Council.

The CAO advised that one of the issues in releasing the funds to Scotia Pool is the pending lease with the Province. Scotia Pool does now have a lease but is seeking clarification from the Province prior to executing the agreement.

Moved by Councillor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That Scotia Pool be invited to make a presentation to Council at its presentation meeting on January 20, 2015.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Cindy Johnson, Pipe
Major, Colchester
Legion Pipes and
Drums**

A letter to the Mayor and Council requesting funding in support of the band members attending the 70th Anniversary Celebration of the Liberation of the Netherlands.

Moved by Councillor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the request for funding be referred to Council Committee in December for consideration; and,

That Council authorize Council Committee to take a decision at its meeting on December 11, 2014.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Correspondence
INFORMATION**

Building Inspector

A copy of the Building Permit Statistics received from the Building

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Inspector for the month of October 2014. Council agreed to receive this report for information purposes.

Development Officer A copy of the Development Activity Report received from the Development Officer for the month of October 2014. Council agreed to receive this report for information purposes.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Community Trail Funding Program – Fall 2014 Application Under the Community Park Funding Program, one application was received for the Fall deadline for a total amount of \$6,150 for the Fundy Trail Snowmobile Club. Pending confirmation of funding from another source, staff has approved a capital grant of \$6,150 which represents 14% of the total project cost.

Friendship Accord with Millbrook First Nation Councillor MacInnes brought this item forward indicating that a motion was made back in June 2014 regarding the Friendship Accord with Millbrook First Nation and requested information on how staff prioritize motions of Council to move items along quicker.

The CAO advised that this initiative is linked with economic developments and, with the newly established Business and Economic Development Advisory Committee, this would form part of the agenda during one of the Committee's first meetings.

Councillor MacInnes advised that this is more than an economic development initiative, it is also about building a relationship with neighbouring First Nation communities, in this case, Millbrook First Nation.

Reports from Councillors appointed to Outside Boards and Agencies Copies of reports from the Mayor and Councillors were circulated with the package or placed on table for this evening's meeting.

Extended Producer Responsibility and Product Bans Councillor Taggart reported that he attended a Northern Region Waste Board meeting on Friday, November 21st. The main topic of discussion at the meeting was the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), an issue which Council has discussed recently. In addition to the landfill bans being considered, there is discussion of adding a recycling charge to these items being collected. It was noted that there are two different EPR models in place and a brief overview was provided on each, as well as the problems with each of the models.

In his report, the following points were noted:

- At this point, there are still a large number of unknowns and a lot of unanswered questions;
- The potential significant impact on us, as a Municipality;
- The possibility for Colchester to capitalize on this as we are centrally located; and,
- The opportunity to tie this into a potential waste to energy project.

Councillor Taggart indicated that proceeding with the EPR is likely to happen fairly quickly, within the next six months or so, and municipalities will have very little say in this, if any, The Department of Environment will have the final say in this matter. It is important that Council and staff continue to stay on top of the matter as it progresses.

A detailed report on the Extended Production Responsibility, as submitted by Councillor Taggart, was circulated for this evenings meeting.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Masters

“That a letter be written requesting a meeting with the Minister of Environment and senior bureaucrats; and,

That in the letter, an invitation be extended for a tour of the Balefill and Materials Recovery Facilities.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

RECESS

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting go into closed session at 9:57 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 10:27pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Modified Titles and Pay Range – Public Works Supervisors

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That Council approves that the position of Wastewater Treatment

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Maintenance Supervisor be changed to Wastewater Supervisor, and that the position be shifted from Range 7 to Range 8; and,

That the position of Wastewater Collection Supervisor, be changed to Manager of Operations – Transportation and Wastewater Collection, and that the position be shifted from Range 7 to Range 8; and,

That the position of Utility Supervisor be changed to Water Utility Manager, and that the position be shifted from Range 7 to Range 8.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting be adjourned at 10:32 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary