

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

The Regular Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Courthouse, Truro, Nova Scotia, on Thursday, February 25, 2016.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Bob Taylor, Chair	
Councillor Christine Blair	District 1
Deputy Mayor Bill Masters	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
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Also Present

Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Interim Chief Administrative Officer
 Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
 Mr. Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste
 Ms. Tracey Veno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Public Hearing and Second Reading – Amendments to the Central Colchester Land Use By-law

Mayor Taylor called the Public Hearing to order respecting proposed administrative amendments to the Central Colchester Land Use By-law. The proposed amendments and a related staff report has been circulated to Council members and has been made available to the public.

Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Interim CAO, advised that the guidelines of the Municipal Government Act regarding advertising of the Public Hearing process have been followed.

Mayor Taylor reminded Councillors that only those Councillors present throughout the Public Hearing process can vote on the amendments when they are eventually considered by Council. The Public Hearing is Council's opportunity to hear the amendments and any concerns of area residents. Individual Councillors will have an opportunity to debate the merits of the amendments when the motion is presented to Council. Staff are present at this hearing to answer any technical questions that may arise as a result of the public's input.

Mr. Paul Smith, Senior Planner, provided a brief overview of the Planners Report and Recommendation indicating that in addition to an amendment to correct an unanticipated oversight in the recent designation and zoning of the Onslow-Upper Onslow Growth Centre, there are a number of administrative amendments to the Central Colchester Land Use By-law before Council for consideration. While these were administrative in nature, Mr. Smith highlighted three changes of potential significance.

Council's designation of the Onslow – Upper Onslow Growth Centre in June of 2015 created an unintended consequence affecting the future development of the Hill farm as well as the Kent farm in Lower Truro. Mr. Smith noted Council never intended to limit the expansion of existing intensive agricultural uses adjacent (or within) Growth Centres and proposed a change that would eliminate the separation distance of 600 metres between farm buildings and areas zoned Residential.

Other amendments of note deal with limiting the amount of livestock in residential zones and expanding the definition of accessory buildings which would exclude construction trailers or a trailer from a semi-trailer truck in residential zones and subdivisions in the Rural General zone.

Discussion was held regarding intensive and non-intensive agricultural uses which deal with number and type of animals/livestock. Clarification was sought on whether the administrative amendments relating to limiting the number of livestock would affect existing farms. Mr. Smith advised that as long as farms continue with existing uses, they can continue to do so. If existing uses were to cease, then the amendments would apply.

Councillor Taggart provided a brief report from the Planning Advisory Committee indicating that the Committee held their regular meeting on January 26, 2016. Staff presented the draft amendments and the Committee reviewed the background information concerning proposed administrative amendments to the Land Use By-law. The Committee recommended the amendments proceed to Council for their consideration, with two minor wording changes.

Mr. Macpherson, advised that no written submissions were received concerning this application.

There were no members of the public present to address these amendments.

With no further discussion on the matter, Councillor Taggart , Chair of the Planning Advisory Committee, placed the following motion on the floor:

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council approves at Second Reading, the amended Central Colchester Land Use By-law, as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Mayor Taylor indicated these are administrative amendments which do not require approval of the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations. Council’s decision on these amendments is appealable to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board. Any appeal of Council’s decision must be made within 14 days of the advertising of same in the local newspaper.

As there was no further business on this matter, Mayor Taylor declared the Public Hearing closed.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Add Item 11b, Building Security;
- Add Item 11c, Rodents; and,
- Add Item 11d, New Library Parking.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the minutes from the meetings held on January 5 and 28, 2016, be approved, as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meetings held on January 5 and 28, 2016.

**STANDING COMMITTEE
REPORTS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Council Committee
Report from February 11,
2016**

Deputy Mayor Masters presented the report from the Council Committee meeting held on February 11, 2016:

Property Tax Write-Offs

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council approves that property taxes and interest totalling \$10,235.14 and Tipping Fee charges totalling \$1,232.04, as detailed in the attached listing, be written off.”

Motion Carried.
(Councillor Parker opposed)

Tax Exemption By-law – Amendment to Property List

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council approves 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 2015-2016 and beyond.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Low Income Tax Exemption Policy

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council approves that the Low Income Municipal Tax Assistance Program Policy, formerly named the Low Income Tax Exemption Policy, be approved as presented; and,

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

Motion Carried.
(Councillor Gregory opposed)

Business and Economic Development Strategic Plan

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That Council approves 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

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That Council approves 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 wage rate of \$20.24 per hour be approved; and,

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

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Position Change – MRF Operations Supervisor to Solid Waste Maintenance Supervisor

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That Council approves 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 of 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.

Brookfield Fire and Emergency Services Department – Request for Funding

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That Council approves funding 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.

ACTION ITEMS

Budget Meeting Dates

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council approves April 19th for the maintenance budget meeting and April 26th for the additions/deletions meeting.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Pump Station 3 – Authority for March Committee to Award

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council authorizes Council Committee at its meeting on March 10, 2016, to award the tender for the replacement of Pump Station 3 on Highway 311 in North River.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Truro Heights Multi-Use Trail – Authority for March Committee to Award

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council authorizes Council Committee at its meeting on March 10, 2016, to award the tender for the Multi-Use Trail in Truro Heights.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Storage and Application
of Biosolids -
Presentation**

Councillor MacInnes advised that Council had previously agreed to invite Ms. Lise LeBlanc of LP Consulting Services to make a presentation to Council on the storage and application of biosolids. Ms. LeBlanc has suggested that it would be beneficial for Council to tour the N-Viro Facility at the Aerotech Park followed by a presentation. The invitation was also extended to interested residents. March 15th is the suggested date for the tour and presentation and if Council is in agreement, staff could look into arranging a bus for the tour.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Masters

“That a tour of the N-Viro Facility at the Aerotech Park followed by a presentation on the storage of biosolids be arranged for March 15th and that staff organize a bus to pick up those attending at 4:30 pm in the Courthouse parking lot.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

It was noted that Council members should contact staff to confirm attendance and advise if any residents would be joining the tour.

**Tatamagouche Sewer
Upgrade – Subway
Restaurant Project**

Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works advised that the capital budget includes sewer upgrades in Tatamagouche. Some of the work was completed in 2015 and more work is scheduled for 2017/18 and beyond. A section of sewer line along the frontage of the proposed new Subway Restaurant development is scheduled for replacement in 2017/18. The developer plans to start construction in the Spring of 2016. As such, staff feel it is best to replace this section of pipe prior to new connections.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That Council authorizes staff to retain the services of SW Weeks Construction for the immediate replacement of 100 metres of sewer pipe along Main Street in Tatamagouche, at an estimated cost of \$81,500, excluding taxes, with source of funds being the Sewer Capital Fund; and,

That an internal contingency of \$5,000 be carried for the project, to be spent only on authority of the Director of Public Works.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Building Security

Councillor Stewart raised the issue of building security, expressing concern that there is still free access to the building and that measures need to be taken to tighten security. These measures should include but not be limited to cameras positioned at the back door and protective glass cover at the tax office window. Concern of the building being wide open during night meetings was also raised. It was suggested that Commissionaires be hired for security on evenings when there are Council related meetings.

Discussion was held on possible access options for the building including swipe cards, redesign of the building and restrictions due to limited space, and the issue of having the Justice Department located in the building. The CAO advised that the Municipal Solicitor is in the process of drafting a letter to address the issue of the Department of Justice's space in the Municipal Building. It was noted that staff would provide an update on the status of building security in March.

Rodents

A concern was raised of rodents being rampant and residents not knowing how to deal with them. Discussion was held regarding the need to remove the food source when dealing with rodents. Potential food sources include backyard composters, dumpsters and birdfeeders. Eliminating the food source is key in helping to get rid of rodents. Suggested ways on educating the public would be through articles in the newspaper, in the County newsletter and through discussions with schools.

New Library – Parking

Bringing forth a concern from a constituent, Deputy Mayor Masters raised the issue of parking at the new library. The concern is that there may be less parking available at the new space than is currently available at the existing library. Mayor Taylor indicated that the parking issue has been addressed. Space is being reconfigured and there will be sufficient parking available.

Correspondence - ACTION

**Nicole Monaghan,
Community Public
Relations Officer, Nova
Scotia Paramedics Union**

A letter dated January 28, 2016 seeking sponsorship for an event, a Walk for PTSD, taking place in Halifax.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That the letter from Nicole Monaghan seeking sponsorship for the Walk for PTSD, taking place in Halifax, be received for information."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Terry S. Canning,
Secretary, Brookfield Fire
Commission**

A letter to the CAO dated February 4, 2016 concerning the Brookfield Fire Commission's long term financing through the Municipal Finance Corporation.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That the request from the Brookfield Fire Commission regarding renewal of the long term financing through the Municipal Finance Corporation be referred to Committee, and that March Committee be authorized to make a final decision on the matter."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Mr. & Mrs. Reid, Mellish,
Tedford and Hamilton**

A letter dated February 12, 2016 requesting that commemorative plaques for fallen soldiers from Truro and Colchester be placed on the new library building in Truro.

Discussion was held about the new library being owned by the Town of Truro and that the decision should rest with the Town. Also, it was suggested that the Legions should be contacted for input regarding this request.

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

"That on behalf of the residents requesting commemorative plaques be placed on the new library, a request be made to the Library Board for consideration with the understanding that as owners of the building, final approval from the Town of Truro would be required."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Chris van den Heuvel,
President, Nova Scotia
Federation of Agriculture**

A letter dated February 18, 2016 regarding formalizing a Committee on Agriculture for Colchester Council.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

"That the Municipality be involved in a Joint Committee with the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and the matter be referred to a future Committee meeting for discussion."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Correspondence - INFORMATION

Building Inspector

A copy of the Building Permit Statistics received from the Building Inspector for the month of January 2016. Council agreed to receive the reports for information purposes.

Development Officer

A copy of the Development Activity Report received from the Development Officer for the month of January 2016. Council agreed to receive the reports for information purposes.

The Honourable Diana Whalen, Minister of Justice and Attorney General

A letter dated February 3, 2016 to Mayor Taylor regarding approval to merge the Stewiacke and Colchester Police Advisory Boards. Council agreed to receive the letter for information purposes.

Gary Harbers, Resident, MacKay Siding, NS

A letter to the Mayor dated February 14, 2016 regarding Stewiacke River Park. Council agreed to receive the letter for information purposes.

The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

A letter to the Mayor dated February 18, 2016 advising of approval in principle of the Debert Water Tower Replacement Project through the new Build Canada Fund. Council agreed to receive the letter for information purposes.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Corporate Identity

The CAO indicated that previous management was not in favour of branding, however, there is a need for rebranding within the Municipality. Staff will be exploring options and possibly will need to invest funds toward branding in efforts to better market our communities with a focus on identifying what makes Colchester County communities special.

Reports from Councillors Appointed to Outside Boards and Agencies

Copies of reports from the Mayor and Councillors were circulated in the package or placed on table for this evenings meeting.

Councillor Stewart provided a brief update on the Palliser Project Steering Committee indicating that the citizen representatives have been selected, the RFP for consulting services closes on February 26th and the Committee will review the proposals and make a decision next week.

RECESS

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That the meeting go into closed session at 9:05 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:34 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the meeting be adjourned at 9:35 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary