

March 13, 2014

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, March 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

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 Doug MacInnes	District #9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District #10
Councillor Wade Parker	District #11

Regrets:

Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District #8
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Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the agenda for March 13, 2014 be approved with the following additions:

- add Item #9a: Brookfield Fire Commission
- add Item #9b: Loss of Economic Opportunities, Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition
- add Item #9c: Miss Teen Canada
- add Item #10b: Onslow/Belmont Fire Tax Rate
- add Item #10c: Land Sales Debert
- add Item #10d: Taxi By-law.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the minutes of the meeting held on February 13, 2014 be approved as circulated.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meeting held on February 13, 2014.

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Presentations

There were no public presentations for this evenings

ACTION ITEMS**Cougar Dome -
Request for Funding**

Mr. Bruce Purchase, Director of Corporate Services advised that the business plan from the Cougar Dome was distributed on table this evening. The Cougar Dome has indicated that they are requesting \$100,000 but would be fine with any amount received. Mr. Purchase advised that they have requested \$10,000 through the Grants to Non-Profit Organizations and \$100,000 for capital.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee refers a decision on the Cougar Dome request for funding to the Special Council Committee (Additions/Deletions) meeting scheduled for March 18, 2014.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Special Hazards
Response Unit -
Request for Funding**

The Director of Corporate Services indicated that Bruce Langille, a representative from the Special Hazards Response Unit (SHRU), has requested an increase in operational funding in the amount of \$15,000. In addition, funding for capital equipment upgrades has been requested with funding coming from a County wide area rated of approximately 1/4 of one cent, which would generate about \$46,000.

Concerns were raised about the request for the capital funding through a County wide area rate with the following points discussed:

- Staff should arrange a meeting with Colchester Fire Fighters Association (CFFA) and bring back to Council;
- Any additional funding for SHRU should come from the area rate already collected through the area rate for fire brigades;
- Smaller fire brigades not having large enough tax base for excess funds to be contributed;
- Colchester not being the only municipal unit being served by SHRU and whether other units contribute to or are being pursued for additional funding.

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Moved by Councillor Blair
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council Committee refers the request from the Special Hazards Response Unit for an additional \$15,000 in operational funding to the Special Council Committee (Additions/Deletions) meeting scheduled for March 18, 2014 and that the request for capital funding be referred to staff.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

High School Scholarship Program Policy

At the January Council Committee meeting, staff were directed to make additional modifications to the draft policy presented as per Council’s discussion at that meeting. The second draft of the policy was distributed in the package for this evening’s meeting.

Discussion was held with Council Committee expressing interest in further modifications to the policy. The following points were noted:

Under Program Policy

- Point #4 - modify to include that the Councillor for the area be part of the selection process in conjunction with the school selection committee for the Municipality of Colchester scholarship, should the Councillor wish to participate.

Under Selection Criteria

- Point #1 - Change wording to reflect that students must be resident within the Municipality of Colchester.
- Point #2 - There was some disagreement about the recipient of the Municipality’s scholarship not being a recipient of other scholarships. It was suggested that the recipient not be awarded other scholarships by the school;
- Point #4 - Concern was expressed about the student average being no less than 75%.
- Point #5 - Specify that the policy set an additional \$1,000 for each of the three schools for trades; and there needs to be clarification on the definition of trade.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee refers the Scholarship Program Policy back to staff to be modified to address Council’s key points as noted above”.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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**CNTA Marketing
Levy**

Council had previously received three presentations from the Central Nova Tourist Association (CNTA) seeking Council's support by way of resolution, memorandum of understanding and by-law, in implementing a marketing levy to apply to accommodations with 10 or more lodgings in Colchester County. Additional information was distributed on table this evening indicating what other municipal units within Colchester are doing with regards to this levy.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

"That Council Committee is not in support of proceeding with the implementation of a marketing levy to apply to accommodations with 10 or more lodgings in Colchester County."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Brookfield Fire
Commission**

Mr. Ramesh Ummat, CAO, advised that a letter from the Brookfield Fire Commission was received requesting a letter of intent in continuing to collect the fire protection area rate on behalf of the Brookfield Fire Commission. The letter is being requested to help secure a loan to purchase a new tanker truck.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

"That a letter be written to the Brookfield Fire Commission advising that the Municipality will continue to collect the fire protection area rate on behalf of the Brookfield Fire Commission and the letter is not intended to be a letter of guarantee for the loan."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Loss of Economic
Opportunities - Nova
Scotia Provincial
Exhibition**

Concerns were expressed regarding the current situation with the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition (NSPE) and the potential loss of economic opportunities resulting from events pulling out. Fees for hosting events are doubling with requests for large amounts of the fees up front. The events noted during discussion were the Golden Age Auto Club Annual Show and Shine, the Bluegrass and Oldtime Music Festival and the 4H Annual Pro-Show.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That a letter be written to the Minister of Agriculture expressing grave concern regarding the economic spin off due to the potential loss of events hosted at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition; and,

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That the letter be copied to the Premier, Minister of Economic Development, MLAs, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Town of Truro.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillors Blair, MacInnes and Parker opposed)*

Miss Teen Canada

Councillor Cooper advised that a young lady from Upper Stewiacke, Ms. Kylee Graham, competed to represent Atlantic Canada in the Miss Teen Canada competition. Ms. Graham was awarded most popular of the contenders for Atlantic Canada..

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That a letter be written to Ms. Kylee Graham congratulating her on her accomplishments regarding the Miss Teen Canada competition.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Director’s Report

A report from the Director of Public Works was circulated in the package for this evening’s meeting.

At this point in the meeting, Mayor Taylor extended congratulations to Michelle Newell on her recent appointment as Director of Public Works.

Onslow/Belmont Fire Tax Rate

Councillor MacInnes advised that last year, the Onslow/Belmont Fire Brigade dropped the fire protection area rate from 12 cents to 11 cents. This year the rate has dropped again, from 11 cents to 9 cents. A letter to this effect was submitted to staff by Councillor MacInnes.

Land Sales Debert

A brief update was provided on the company looking to purchase land in Debert. A meeting was held with Joy O’Neill, Economic Development Officer, and Tony Richards who helped get negotiations back on track. The deal should be signed in the near future.

Taxi By-law

Councillor Taggart reported that a local taxi company expressed concerns with not moving forward on the Taxi By-law and suggested that the Town indicated that the County was the cause of delays. The County tried without success, to arrange meetings with the Town of Truro to proceed with this issue.

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Moved by Councillor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That a letter be written to Mayor Mills, with a copy to the CAO requesting a meeting take place in the near future; and,

That the letter be copied to the three taxi companies.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Closed Session

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the meeting go into closed session at 9:02 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:45 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded Councillor Gibbs

“That the meeting be adjourned at 9:46 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary