



Truro Town Council Meeting
Monday, November 3rd, 2008
Council Chambers – Civic Building

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A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, November 3rd, 2008 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Truro Civic Building.

Present: Mayor W. R. (Bill) Mills, Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur, Councillors R. Tynes, C. Cox, D. Bennett-Cook, B. Kinsman and S. Byers

In Attendance: CAO J. Langille, Director of Finance R. Putnam, Director of Planning J. Fox, Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon, Director of Parks and Recreation D. MacKenzie, Police Chief D. MacNeil, Fire Chief T. Bremner, Town Solicitor J. Rafferty

Mayor Mills opened the meeting and stated the first order of business would be the swearing in of the new Council including himself as Mayor. Judge John MacDougall was present to swear in Mayor Mills, who then carried out the swearing in of the other Council members.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councillor R. Tynes requested that "Sensitivity Training with Cross-Cultural Diversity Understanding" be added under "New Business" as item (h).

Councillor C. Cox asked for clarification on Council's ability to amend the agenda after it has been advertised. He was concerned that someone could amend the agenda to contain issues that were not on the agenda when it is advertised. If Council retains the ability to amend the agenda substantially, then there is the danger of offending a person's prior notice of what will be discussed at the meeting.

The Mayor advised that it was Council's decision as to what items would be added to the agenda when they are presented for approval. When approval of the agenda is asked for at a Council meeting, it is Council's decision to approve by majority vote any changes in the agenda.

The Town Solicitor advised that the Council Meetings By-law did not address this item. He advised he would research this request and report back to Council.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and D. Bennett-Cook, the agenda was approved as amended. Motion carried by 5 votes in favour of the motion and 2 nay votes cast by Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur and Councillor C. Cox.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councillor B. Kinsman requested an amendment be made to the minutes. At the October 6th, 2008 meeting, under Questions by Members, he had raised the issue of public participation at the Planning Advisory meetings. He had requested that every month when an ad listing all of the meetings for the month was placed in the newspaper, one more line be added, to the effect that agendas will be available three days before a meeting. He thought Council had agreed to this request.

On motion of Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur and Councillor B. Kinsman the minutes of the Public Council Meeting held on October 6th, 2008 were approved as amended. Motion carried.

MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

24 Henry Street, Development Agreement Application

An application had been made to the Planning Department to permit a development of Residential Care Facility that will house up to eight residents on the main floor and two more residents in two apartments on the lower level.

The CAO advised that this Development Agreement Application had been advertised. He advised that there are two pieces of correspondence. The CAO reviewed a letter received from Juanita Bigelow, Secretary of Truro Planning Advisory Committee, stating that they were recommending a public hearing date. The CAO also reviewed a letter received from Nancy Lynn Jackson and Doug Neil. They requested that they be allowed to make a brief oral presentation and present a written submission.

On motion of Councillor S. Byers and Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur, a public hearing will be held on November 17th, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. to hear the Development Agreement Application for 24 Henry Street. Motion carried.

100 Victoria Street, Development Agreement Application

The CAO reviewed a letter received from Juanita Bigelow, Secretary of Truro Planning Advisory Committee, stating that they were recommending a public hearing date be set for this application. The CAO also reviewed a letter received from Ken Henderson, Chair of the Heritage Advisory Committee, in support of the development. The letter included recommendations for the reconstruction of the building to make it more appealing.

On motion of Councillors D. Bennett-Cook and C. Cox, it was moved that Council enter into a Development Agreement with Joseph Pinto to permit the redevelopment of 100 Victoria Street into a 10 unit apartment building. Motion carried by a vote of five in favour of the motion.

Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur – Public Works Building

The CAO advised that at the last Council meeting, Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur introduced his intent to move a motion at this meeting to reconsider and rescind a motion made by Council in September to approve L & R Construction for the construction of the new Public Works building.

Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur stated that his decision to request that Council reconsider and rescind their motion was for two reasons. The first reason was that regarding the building make-up, he was not in favour of a tilt-up building for this project. He feels that after speaking with other contractors, that the best building for the Town for this project was a tilt-up, not a two storey steel building. Deputy G. MacArthur's second reason was that he was not happy with the tendering process, and felt that at the September 22nd, 2008 meeting, when some things were brought to Council, they did this very quickly and some things were put to them that he did not believe everyone understood.

The Town Solicitor advised that if this motion to reconsider and rescind was passed it would require 5 Councillors, including the Mayor, to vote in favour of the motion. Then the motion that was made and passed in September is, in effect, wiped out. Council would go back to having no motion regarding the Public Works building and a new motion would have to be made.

Councillor R. Tynes asked for the definition of a Request for Proposal and a Tender. The Town Solicitor advised that both a Tender and an RFP are ways of a project being awarded to a contractor. A Tender tends to be more specific in what is required so that there is detail on the project to the extent that a contractor can simply put in a bid knowing exactly what it is or fairly exactly what it is that the person wanting the project done wants built. A Request for Proposal would be more of a conceptual proposal.

Councillor B. Kinsman asked if the Town's tendering policy addresses tenders as well as RFP's in the same light. The Mayor responded to the question. Councillor B. Kinsman stated that his concern on a project this size was that the Town did not go to tender. He is not convinced that by going to three select groups that it necessarily gets the Town the best bang for their buck.

The CAO advised that the process of inviting tenders and RFP's is a process Council followed for major projects, including the Civic Building, and the difference is there had been a construction committee established for both the Civic Building and the Fire Hall to review the RFP proposals that were received. With the Public Works building, the Town did not start that way, although the process up to that point was the same. He advised that the Town is reviewing the tendering policy to make sure that in the future, there is not any question about that.

Councillor B. Kinsman asked that this come back to Council in a month or two so Council can review it. The CAO advised that the amendments to the tendering policy will be brought to Council in December.

The Town Solicitor advised that the policy specifically indicates that it can be either way, either through a public ad or by invitation. When the Town wants to do one or wants to do the other, that is a question of policy and Council needs to decide. But in terms of what the present policy is, it was certainly permitted.

Councillor R. Tynes asked why this was not sent to Audit Committee to review and update the tendering policy and proposal policy.

The CAO advised that it is Council's decision. Town staff will work with the Town Solicitor to prepare some amendments to the purchasing policy to accommodate the concerns raised. If Council wishes, those amendments can be reviewed with the Audit Committee prior to a recommendation to Council.

Councillor D. Bennett-Cook stated either way, there is either have a front end review where a tender is sent out or a request for proposals to people that the Town knows are capable and have a track record of being able to do these large, multi-million dollar jobs. There is a back end review where the application is put out to everybody and then the Town has to assess whether in fact the low bidders are capable of actually performing the job and not going to leave the project unfinished.

On motion of Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur and Councillor B. Kinsman, it was moved that Council reconsider and rescind their decision at the September 22nd, 2008 Council meeting regarding the awarding of the Public Works building construction to L & R Construction. Motion was defeated by 1 vote in favour of the motion cast by Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur, and 6 votes against the motion.

Comprehensive District Development Agreement, Farmington Village

The CAO reviewed a letter to Farmington Development Limited by Mr. Jason Fox, the Director of Planning.

The Director of Planning advised that he believed this was something that should be dealt with through the Planning Advisory Committee, and recommended that Council send this back to the Committee to review the implications of discharge of this agreement.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and B. Kinsman, this matter will be referred to the Town Planning Advisory for review and recommendation at the next Council meeting. Motion carried.

Councillor B. Kinsman asked if any response had been received from Farmington Development Limited. The Director of Planning advised that he has not received a response, and that the letter had been sent by registered mail.

PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

Presentation – Colchester Historical Society

A presentation was made by volunteers with the Colchester Historical Society. They outlined for Council their contribution to Truro and why it is such a benefit to the Town.

The Colchester Historical Society requested that due to the increase in costs in electricity and wages, they asked that for this year, Council provide them with an operating grant in the amount of \$7,000. This amount will not even cover one electrical bill. For a 2 month period, their electrical bill for the winter is running well over \$7,000. The Society also requested that Council consider putting this on their budget for each and every fiscal year.

All of Council commented on their recent tours of the Museum. They all enjoyed it and thought it was a wonderful service to have in the Town.

Councillor B. Kinsman noted that a year ago the Province undertook a Heritage Strategy for Nova Scotia and he believed that the Province owns the building and the local Heritage Society and Museum operates and are picking up the fuel bill. He was wondering if there was something in that Heritage Strategy that Council could pursue with the Province, was there any indication that additional funding should be made available to local museums or Historical Societies. Members of the Society advised that they were unsure. Councillor B. Kinsman suggested that it is something both the Society and Council could look into.

Councillor S. Byers moved that this matter be referred to budget for consideration. The Mayor called for a seconder for the motion three times. As there was no seconder, the motion was defeated.

On motion of Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur and Councillor C. Cox, Council will provide the Colchester Historical Society with \$10,000. Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur suggested that the Society's finance director and the Town's Finance Director meet and discuss issues affecting the Society's budget. Motion passed by six votes in favour of the motion and one vote against the motion cast by Councillor S. Byers.

Presentation – Community Radio Station

Melanie Grant presented to Council an overview of the radio station she was attempting to start up. The focus of the community radio station will be a local talent showcase, community member interviews, local Truro events, etc.

Ms. Grant advised that when starting a new radio station, Industry Canada mandates that if there is an antenna set up currently, that instead of building a new antenna, that a request for proposal to share the antenna be submitted. It was her intent to submit that proposal today, but requested first that Council provide her with the annual maintenance costs on this so that she could budget how she could share those costs, if her proposal is accepted by Council.

Ms. Grant also requested that Council consider her studio space, which she still needs. She advised that at the last Council meeting, Lenore Zann had requested to use the old Normal College building for school for the performing arts. Ms. Grant suggested that the radio station share this space with the performing arts school. The radio station does not need a lot of space.

The Mayor advised that Council would take her requests under advisement and consider them. The Mayor advised that the Town is not sure yet where the proposal regarding the Normal College is at and it is still in a stage where a lot of work is being done by Lenore Zann. They are unsure if something will be ready by next year. The Mayor asked Ms. Grant what her timeline was, in terms of getting on the air.

Ms. Grant advised that on Monday, they would be submitting their application to the CRTC. The CRTC has a public hearing, in either January or March. After that, it takes four to six months to get an approval back from the CRTC. Once approval is received, she will start by buying the transmitter and antenna. She stated that they are hoping to be on the air by September, 2009.

The Mayor asked how she proposed that they would be paying for this, if it was going to be through advertising or grants. Ms. Grant advised that it is less expensive to operate than to set up. She advised that they needed about \$10,000 for equipment and engineering costs in order to get up and running. They have 70 volunteers and they have put up the microphones and other equipment to support their project. Ms. Grant advised that they are offering memberships. It is \$10 for an individual membership and \$20 family memberships.

Councillor B. Kinsman asked for clarification on what Ms. Grant was proposing to share with the Town. Ms. Grant advised that she wants to share the tower, not the frequency of the Town radio station. Councillor B. Kinsman noted that the Town has another old building, the old Fire Hall, and they are not sure what is going to happen with that. Ms. Grant stated that it sounded like a good location.

OLD BUSINESS

Gero's Walk Way – Update (Lighting)

The Director of Public Works advised that construction on the lighting of the walkway started late last week. The trenching has been completed and the electrical conduit work is installed. The project should be completed by mid-month.

Marigold Cultural Centre Request

The CAO advised that during the budget discussions that ended on April 1st, 2008, Council had received two requests from the Marigold Cultural Centre. One request was for a contribution for the 2008/2009 year which Council had agreed to in the budget process. The second request was for Council to contribute an additional \$17,000 for the 2007/2008 year, or from last year's budget. During debate, both the CAO's records and the Director of Finance's records indicate that Council had agreed to the \$17,000 additional contribution to the Marigold Centre for the 2007/2008 year. Unfortunately in the process, the \$17,000 was set up as a payable on March 31st, 2008 and those funds were transferred to a reserve account.

On motion of Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur and Councillor B. Kinsman, the \$17,000 that was transferred to the reserve account will be withdrawn and provided to the Marigold Trust to meet the request for the 2007/2008 year. Motion carried.

IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT

The CAO advised that there were three personnel issues and four legal issues brought to Council's attention at the last in-camera meeting. There are four legal issues to be discussed with Council at the in-camera meeting following the Council meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Report

The Finance for the month of October was presented to Council.

On motion of Councillors S. Byers and D. Bennett-Cook, it was moved that the Finance report for the month of October, 2008 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Report

The Fire Report for the month of October was presented to Council.

Councillor S. Byers noted that there had been some issues pertaining to hot ashes and asked the Fire Chief to comment on this problem.

The Fire Chief stated that the Truro Fire Service was seeing an increase in the number of careless actions when it comes to ashes from wood burning appliances. The Fire Service has responded to three or four calls in the last couple of weeks, and neighbouring fire services have had major structure fires because of this problem. He stated that people need to become more aware, better educated and make sure that everyone in their household is aware of this danger.

Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur stated that he understands that one of the ways to prevent fires is for people to check their power lines coming into their homes and if they have trees that are close to them to get them trimmed.

Councillor R. Tynes advised that a year or so ago, Council had asked the CAO and the Fire Chief to provide them with a comprehensive report regarding upgrading the fire service's equipment. Council had discussed securing a new vehicle this Fall and he was wondering what the status on this matter was and noted that Council was to receive a copy of the comprehensive plan. The CAO advised that Councillor R. Tynes was correct and at the last Council meeting, Council was presented with a draft copy of an equipment management proposal that was prepared by the Director of Finance and the Fire Chief, which showed a long term replacement schedule for fire equipment. In that proposal, the replacement of one truck currently was included as part of that package. It is not on the agenda for today's meeting, but it will be on the December Council agenda.

Councillor R. Tynes asked if this would cause any undue delay if Council waited another month. The CAO advised that the Director of Finance and the Fire Chief have agreed that there is money in the Fire Service equipment reserve that would cover the cost of the vehicle. The money does not have to come from the Fire budget.

On motion of Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur and Councillor S. Byers it was moved that the Fire Report for the month of October, 2008 be approved as submitted. Motion carried.

Planning and Development Report

The Planning and Development report for the month of October was presented to Council.

Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur noted that he was also concerned about the fact that in regards to 24 Henry Street, residents ended up calling their own meeting, as most were unaware of the Town Planning Advisory Committee meeting and he admitted it also snuck up on him. He asked if there was something Council and the Town could do to make Council more aware of those types of things.

Councillor S. Byers noted that frequently when programs are going on, a banner on the program is erected and notices placed in the newspaper. She stated she did not know if it was possible for people to receive that or not, through local media. She wondered if the local media could possibly put a banner on that would indicate the Town's website and if the website was continually updated with this information about the public hearings.

Councillor B. Kinsman proposed that the property in which a development proposal has been received be posted before the Town Planning Advisory has heard the application, instead of after. Once staff received a proposal and deems it satisfactory, the property be posted because it always goes to a public hearing, and should be posted at least a week before the application goes to the Planning Advisory Committee.

The Mayor noted that years ago, the local media attended the Town Planning Advisory Committee meetings and as soon as indication was made that any kind of a development might take place, it was in the press.

Councillor D. Bennett-Cook noted that up until the Town Planning Advisory Committee meeting, the development is constantly changing and could even be rejected by the Planning Advisory Committee. She stated that in Halifax, if there is going to be a public hearing, they do have ads for that public hearing in quite a large square of the newspaper. Councillor D. Bennett-Cook believed that this would be the route to go, it maybe a little more expensive, but it will be in the newspaper and on the website and people will just have to learn to check the newspaper and the website.

The CAO advised that the current process that staff follows is one that Council had identified in the Municipal Planning Strategy. If Council wishes to change that process in any way, it will be a change to the policies respecting advertising and notice to the public. He noted that the Town Planning Advisory Committee is a referral body, so the real public process does not occur until the Public Hearing.

Councillor R. Tynes asked who gets the development agreement application first. The CAO advised that the Director of Planning receives the application first and then passes it on to the Planning Advisory Committee who makes a recommendation to Council. The Director of Planning notes every month in his report any applications that have been received.

Councillor R. Tynes asked if once the Director of Planning moves forward with sending the application to the Planning Advisory Committee, why couldn't a sign go up at the property at that time saying "Proposed Development Agreement" and include the scheduled Planning Advisory Committee meeting date and a proposed Council hearing date as well. The Director of Planning advised that there would not be any difficulty to this, however there would be some time required to make sure they had the sign complete and up, and it may delay some applications for a month.

Councillor C. Cox was concerned that the public is entitled to rely on the information provided on a sign. The Planning Advisory Committee and Council would have to keep the meeting dates as advertised, otherwise a resident could miss the opportunity to present regarding the development and then there could be problem.

The Mayor advised that the Town would take the suggestions under advisement and come back to Council with a recommendation.

The CAO summarized the direction of Council. Signs will be posted and notices be posted on the properties as soon as the Director of Planning receives a complete application. A notice may or may not include specific dates, and the Director of Planning will come back with a recommendation on what that notice will include. Also, that the Town will provide three or four days notice of agendas for both Planning Advisory Committee and Council meetings. And an ad will be placed in the paper to advertise the public hearing and that the ad be made more obvious to the reader.

It was agreed by Council that the Director of Planning would come back to Council with a recommendation at the December meeting.

On motion of Councillor S. Byers and Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur it was moved that the Planning and Development report for the month of October, 2008 be approved as submitted. Motion carried.

Police Report

The Police Report for the month of October was presented to Council for review.

Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur noted that he, Councillor S. Byers and the Police Chief had planned to meet with some of residents from Centre Street, Cottage Street and the East End before the election but it was postponed because the Police Chief was unavailable before the election. He advised that he would like to get together before Christmas or right after Christmas.

Councillor S. Byers advised that she had contacted some of the individuals in the area that are interested in forming a committee to deal with local issues. As soon as it can be organized, they will call for a meeting of the community.

On motion of Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur and Councillor S. Byers it was moved that the Police Report for the month of October, 2008 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Public Works Report

The Public Works report for the month of October was presented to Council for consideration.

Councillor D. Bennett-Cook asked the Director of Public Works when the leaf bags are collected each week. The Director of Public Works advised that the bags are collected on Monday of each week.

Councillor R. Tynes asked about the cost overruns on Kaulback Street. The Director of Public Works advised that the issue was the proximity of the property line on the West side of the street going up the hill, which meant by the time the sidewalk was put in, it was right out onto the old asphalt which left a very narrow street so they had to widen it over to the other side of the street which had a large bank and trees. Councillor R. Tynes asked if the area was surveyed before the job was started. The Director of Public Works advised that they do, but that unfortunately in this case it was not done until after the budget deliberations.

Councillor R. Tynes advised that he had received few complaints regarding West Prince Street where there is a large pool of water that lays there and does not reach the catch basin. He asked if the Director of Public Works could take a look at this problem.

Councillor R. Tynes stated that when Willow Street was done, there was supposed to have been a thin layer of asphalt put on the west side going up out towards Millbrook to deal with some of the potholes. He asked if this was something that was going to be done this year. The Director of Public Works advised that they will look into the potholes as soon as possible.

Councillor R. Tynes stated that there was concern at the Truro Centre regarding the walkway. He asked what the status was on getting lights installed. Councillor S. Byers confirmed that there is one light working at this location.

Councillor S. Byers asked if the Town was still able to do the sidewalk patching where required this time of year. The Director of Public Works advised that they can, as long as the weather holds, and will do it for as long as they can.

Councillor S. Byers noted that the Director's report mentioned the Leper Brook Dam. She stated that in the report it says that the Engineering Department will be implementing the procedures required to minimize the level of risk and prepare for emergencies. She asked for clarification on this matter. The Director of Public Works advised that the leak had to be repaired and in order to minimize the risk during the repair, the proper procedures have to be set up to repair the leak. He is meeting with the engineers this week to discuss this project. Councillor S. Byers asked where the money was going to come from to fix the leak. The CAO advised that money would come from the Water Utility. He noted that the repairs to the dam are not a matter of choice and will be completed as soon as possible.

Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur asked if the schedule for paving was being followed. He noted that the amount of paving he has observed in the last six months he has appreciated and he believes the Public Works Department has done a wonderful job.

On motion of Councillors D. Bennett-Cook and R. Tynes, it was moved that the Public Works Report for the month of October, 2008 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

The Mayor excused himself from the Council meeting as he had an event scheduled for that evening. Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur took over as Chair.

Parks and Recreation Report

The Parks and Recreation Report for the month of October was presented to Council.

On motion of Councillors D. Bennett-Cook and B. Kinsman, it was moved that Council take the extra money required for the renovations to the Armour Truck Building from Parks and Recreation reserve account and grant the contract to L & R Construction, the lowest bidder. Motion defeated by three votes against the motion, cast by Councillors S. Byers, C. Cox and R. Tynes, and three votes in favour of the motion, cast by Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur and Councillors D. Bennett-Cook and B. Kinsman.

Councillor R. Tynes noted that the capital budget amount for this project was \$45,000 and the lowest bid was for \$58,000. He asked if this was reviewed to see why there was such a difference. The Recreation Director advised that the increase in cost reflects the increase in cost of steel and steel products for the metal siding as the most significant factor in the estimate being above the budget price. He advised that the capital budget was put together during the budget debate last March and there has been a spike in the price of metals since then. The CAO and the Recreation Director both recommended that Council proceed with the lowest bidder, instead of waiting on the project in the hopes that steel prices would drop.

Councillor C. Cox advised that he had received numerous calls from residents wondering when and if the Town was going to continue the walk and biking trails from King Street up to Victoria Park, which he believed to be the plan at one point in time. The Recreation Director advised that that is an item that was noted during the Parks and Recreation Strategic Planning exercise and is one of the key component areas of the Strategic Plan that the Department will be addressing this Fall. Councillor C. Cox stated that he believed once the trails were completed up into Victoria Park that an access route could be achieved over towards Bible Hill. The Recreation Director noted that is an initiative that is important not only to the Town of Truro but to the Village and Colchester County as well.

Councillor S. Byers asked if taking this money out of reserves will interfere with the proposed lawn bowling project. The Recreation Director advised that those are separate funds, there is a specific fund for the lawn bowling project.

Councillor S. Byers noted that the difference in the estimated cost of the Armour Truck Building cost and the amount of the lowest bidder was due to the increase in the price of steel. She asked if another type of siding could be considered, instead of metal. The Recreation Director advised that the Department's mind set on this project in choosing metal was durability and they did not look at other options. If it is Council's wish to do so, they can look into other options.

The Recreation Director advised that the Department would look into other options for siding as soon as possible.

On motion of Councillors S. Byers and C. Cox, the Recreation Department will re-tender for renovations to the Armour Truck Building, that include different options for siding. Motion carried by five votes in favour of motion and one vote against motion, cast by Councillor D. Bennett-Cook.

Councillor D. Bennett-Cook noted that the Parks and Open Spaces are still working on developing an off-leash dog park in Truro.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and D. Bennett-Cook, it was moved that the Parks and Recreation Report for the month of October, 2008 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Safety Coordinators Report

The Safety Coordinators Report for the month of October was presented to Council.

On motion of Councillors S. Byers and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the Safety Coordinators Report for the month of October, 2008 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor B. Kinsman advised that he had received a copy of a letter sent to the Director of Public Works asking him to look at the intersection of Pleasant and Upham Drive regarding the possibility of four way stop signs. He asked for the status of that review. The Director of Public Works advised that he has reviewed it over the last few years and the situation is not unlike many other intersections in town. He noted that the traffic flows are very low, but the Public Works Department will continue to monitor the situation.

Councillor B. Kinsman stated that some properties in the Town were not connected to the sewer and asked if this was being look at and how best to connect these properties. The Director of Public Works advised that they are currently doing some level surveys in some areas to determine what can be done and the cost implications to our budget, as well as the property owner's to allow a connection

Councillor B. Kinsman advised that some residents were concerned about the compost pick-up through the summer, there are problems with smells and maggots, especially in July and August, since compost is only picked up every second week. He asked if there was any possibility of having the compost picked up weekly during the summer. The CAO advised that this option could be looked into and that the Director of Public Works could come back at next month's Council meeting with a report. The current contract with Truro Sanitation can be amended to look at extra pickups and find out from them the extra costs.

Councillor B. Kinsman advised that a resident had a sewer back up due to a blockage in the Town line. He stated that the property owner did not know who to call when this happened, as it was 11:00 at night. Councillor B. Kinsman noted that there is nothing in the phone book under Public Works. He wondered if in next year's phone book if something could be put in there that says for after hours for Public Works emergencies.

Councillor B. Kinsman noted that at the Colchester Legion Stadium, there is a skate shop. He suggested that a sign be placed out front with the hours of operation. The Recreation Director advised that there are plans to erect a sign on the exterior of the building. They are currently waiting for all of their renovation plans to fall into place so they know which side of the building will actually be the front. The hours of the skate shop are advertised on the stadium's answering machine. Councillor B. Kinsman suggested a temporary sign could be erected until a permanent one was in place. The Recreation Director advised that he would speak to the stadium manager regarding the placement of the sign.

Councillor R. Tynes asked about status of garbage pick up at the condos. The CAO advised that the tender with Truro Sanitation is a recent tender and before the tender specifications went out, the possibility of extending the current garbage collection to include condominiums with it was looked at. The Director of Planning advised that last year he looked into what the Halifax region was doing in this situation, although he did not recall the results.

The Director of Public Works advised that Truro Sanitation has met with at least one of the condominium owners and tried to work out the logistics of how they are going to physically do a pick up and they are currently working on how that is going to happen.

Councillor R. Tynes asked why there is no monthly report received from the Human Resources Officer regarding issues that affect the Town. The CAO advised that it is not specifically a department. The reports that Council receives are related to a department. It could be made part of the reports that Council receives but most of the issues dealt with in Human Resources are personnel related and not matter that would be considered public information. Council could be informed of the number of complaints that have been filed or dealt with during a particular period, without going into detail and this report would be part of the Financial Report.

Councillor R. Tynes asked if there was anything scheduled for Council to be involved in cross-cultural sensitivity training. The CAO advised that there was nothing scheduled at this time. There was a sensitivity training process for Senior Staff last year. Councillor R. Tynes asked whether that was part of an agreement with the Human Rights Commission and the Province of Nova Scotia, that any new Councillors must have this training. The CAO advised that there was a discussion regarding this last year and Council had agreed at the time to have a presentation. Councillor R. Tynes asked that the agreement made with the Human Rights Commission be reviewed. He also asked for a plan to be put in place that shows that the Town is on a continuous basis of sensitivity and cultural understanding.

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and D. Bennett-Cook, it was moved that this Council be involved in cross-cultural sensitivity training as soon as possible. Motion carried.

Councillor S. Byers noted that a couple of months ago, she mentioned having a couple of meetings. One of them was meeting with business organizations to discuss the lack of investment in the Town. Council was going to invite the business community in and see whether or not Council needs to go to work and do something in order to attract businesses to the community. She would like to see this meeting take place as soon as possible. The CAO advised that a meeting would be scheduled between Council and representatives from the Downtown Truro Partnership and the Chamber of Commerce, separate from a Council meeting.

Councillor S. Byers asked that in the next four years if she could encourage Council to have more committees of a whole so that maybe they would all have an opportunity to know what is going on.

Councillor S. Byers asked if there was a meeting scheduled to meet with John Ross & Sons. The last meeting was July 9th and they were supposed to meet shortly after that. She asked Council if they would consider allowing her to take the position of chair so there could be a continuation of this process. Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur advised that this matter would be left to the next Council meeting when the Mayor would be present.

Councillor D. Bennett-Cook advised that an issue she had talked to the CAO about was communication of Council. She agreed that there needed to be more committees of the whole, and information sessions so Council can talk about issues and brainstorm.

Councillor D. Bennett-Cook advised that regarding the Truro Elementary School, Councillor B. Kinsman and she have been meeting with the principal, Scott Armstrong, Angela Dwyer-James, the new School Board representative, the Director of Public Works and the CAO. The Town's issues are street parking, snow removal, crosswalks, and sidewalks. She advised that Scott Armstrong, the new school principal, makes sure that everything new is put on the website quite readily. The procedure for applying for courtesy busing is on the website. Sidewalks are just about done. Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur asked that either himself or Councillor S. Byers be on that committee as some students going to that school are from their Ward. Councillor D. Bennett-Cook said all of Council is welcome to come to the meetings whenever they are.

Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur noted that a couple years ago, water pumps were supposed to be installed at a few properties around town to help with water pressure. The Town had said the pumps would be installed at a reduced cost, approximately \$300, as it was not the residents' faults that they did not have them currently installed. Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur asked that this issue be revisited as these residents still do not have the pumps. The CAO advised that the minutes would be reviewed from the last time that issue was discussed and asked the Director of Public Works to look into supplying pumps to the properties in question.

Councillor R. Tynes stated that he would like an update at the next Council meeting on what the current status is of the Civic Centre.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting – Downtown Truro Partnership

The CAO advised the Mayor would like this matter to be postponed until the December Council meeting. Council agreed.

Notification – Request to Review Council Compensation at next Council Meeting

The CAO requested the permission of Council to review the current compensation for Mayor and Council in communities in Nova Scotia and prepare a report for Council to consider at the next Council meeting. Permission was granted.

Request from Truro Industrial Development Society re: Natural Gas

The CAO advised that he spoke with the Mayor and he would like this matter to be postponed until the December Council meeting. Council agreed.

UNSM Code of Conduct

The CAO advised that Council had received a copy of the proposed Code of Conduct as developed by the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities. They are asking for newly elected Council members to look at signing off approval on the Code of Conduct. He asked that Council review the draft Code and it will be on the agenda for the December Council meeting for their consideration.

The Town Solicitor advised that he had reviewed the Code and he had no difficulty with any of its contents. He did not believe that the Town could impose that as a condition on any Councillor or Mayor. When Council and the Mayor are elected and sworn in as required and they follow the statute law that effects them, he does not believe the Town can require anyone to adhere to that Code of Conduct.

Letter from James Martin re: Taxi License

The CAO reviewed a letter received from James Martin, appealing his refusal of a taxi license. The CAO suggested that Council should consider holding a hearing with Mr. Martin at the November 17th meeting. Mr. Martin and the Police Chief will be asked to attend this meeting.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and D. Bennett-Cook, a hearing for Mr. Martin will be held on November 17th, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. Motion carried.

Draft 3 Year Capital Budget, Gas Tax Reporting

The CAO reviewed the draft 3 year Capital Budget drafted by the Finance Director.

The CAO advised Council that the request was made under the understanding that the budgets for 2009, 2010 and 2011 fiscal years are estimates only, subject to the budget process for those years.

On motion of Councillor D. Bennett-Cook and Deputy Mayor G. MacArthur, it was moved that the draft 3 year Capital Budget be approved. Motion carried.

Energy Audit – Town Buildings

The CAO advised that at the last meeting of Council, Council approved funding for an energy audit for the Colchester Legion Stadium. The Town is looking at extending this project to do an energy audit on all municipally owned and operated buildings.

On motion of Councillors S. Byers and R. Tynes, the energy audit on all municipal buildings be approved and that the contribution of the Town will not be more than the \$4,500 already committed. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS

It was moved by Councillors S. Byers and R. Tynes that Council pay the accounts as approved for the month of October, 2008. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councillors R. Tynes and S. Byers, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 5:10 pm.
Motion carried.

W. R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

J.K. Langille
CAO