

Mayor, Councillors Sworn In For New Term



Mayor Christine Blair signs the oath of office to become Colchester's first female mayor. (Rees Photo)

By Maurice Rees

The October 27th agenda for Colchester council's first meeting following the municipal election was relatively short. Council got into lengthy discussion over appointment of the Nominating Committee to nominate members for council's committee. The Meeting started with Rob Simonds, CAO swearing in ceremony for Christine Blair as Mayor who then swore in the other councillors.

Eric Boutilier representing District 1 is the only new addition to council. Bill Masters was chosen as

Deputy Mayor, and Mike Cooper was selected as the alternate council committee chair.

Any member of council can attend the Department of Municipal Affairs orientation session for new councillors, which will be held at the Holiday Inn, Truro, November 9 and 10. Council will hold its internal orientation session on December 6th starting at 6:00 pm. An orientation binder of all municipal programs and activities is being assembled and will be delivered to all councillors.

Councillor MacInnes and Mayor Blair were appointed



to serve on the Art Selection Committee for the municipality's art selection program for 2016. The 29th Annual Art Show will be held November 9-25 at the McCarthy Gallery, NSCC Campus. The opening reception will be held November 9th from 7:00-8:15 pm.

Council's Christmas Dinner will be held at Debert Hospitality Centre with a date to be determined. Council authorized the writing off of a water utility bill for the Tatamagouche Creamery, as a result of a break in the water line, after the creamery had asked for the water to be shut off over the winter months. Council will send a letter to the creamery asking, in future, a letter is to be sent to council asking for water service to be terminated over the winter months.

Provincial Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal asked for submissions for J Class Paving requests be submitted by October 31st. Several streets were suggested by councillors, but the final decision was for Public Works to prepare a list for submission. Under the three year program which expires in 2017, the province pays for 50%, while property owners pay the remainder, based on property frontage.

The program has been a contentious one, with many councillors expressing the thought since the province owns the streets, they should be paying the entire bill and not be downloaded to residents.

With councillor Wade Parker declaring a conflict of interest council awarded a tender to Hollis Ford for \$35,945.55, including HST for a ¾ ton truck for the Balefill facility. The current vehicle will be retained and sold privately prior to expiration of safety sticker.

Council authorized committee meeting on November 10th to approve the three year capital budgets for Tatamagouche and Debert Water Utilities and staff proceed with rate review for Tatamagouche.

Council spent considerable time deciding how to appoint the nominating committee to bring forth recommendations for various committees of council. A motion

to appoint Mayor Blair to the committee authorizing her to appoint three additional councillors was defeated. Several times solicitor, Dennis James intervened to explain the process used in the past and how the matter fits with current policy. Policy outlines the nominating committee should be appointed at the November meeting.

In the past committees have been appointed at the November meeting, since only committee meets in December. James suggested council could proceed with past practices, but should endeavour to change policy at a later date.

On composition of the committee, solicitor James stated in 2008 Mayor, Deputy, alternate and one other councillor were appointed, whereas in 2004 and 2012, the Mayor was chosen and asked to appoint three members from council to serve on the committee.

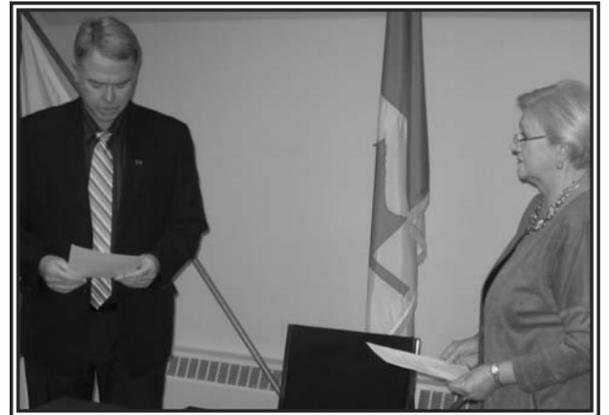
Councillor Taggart insisted instead of the mayor appointing committee members, he wanted to see the committee comprised of Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Alternate chair and one other member. After a lot of discussion over appointment of a temporary nominating committee council approved motion that Councillor Stewart be added to Taggart's suggestion.

There were no comments to the Building Inspector or Development Officer's report. For the month of September, fifty six building permits have been issued for 2016 with a value of \$4.9-Million compared to \$2.5-Million in same period in 2015. Year over year, the municipality has issued 389 permits totaling \$29.4-Million compared to 349 permits in 2015 with a total of \$28.6-Million the previous year.

Two information items were circulated to council. The first concerned NSTIR's Salt Marsh project following its purchase of a large tract of land nor other the Salmon River between Hwy 102 and the confluence of the North River. Secondly, the UNSM Fall conference will be held in Halifax November 29-December 2. Councillors are to advise staff by November 1st if they plan to attend.



Colchester CAO, Rob Symonds administers the Oath of Office to install Christine Blair as Mayor of Colchester on October 2th. (Rees Photo)



Eric Boutilier, the only new councillor on Colchester council reads the oath of office to be sworn in as District 1 councillor. He occupies the position formerly held by Christine Blair, who vacated to run as Mayor. (Rees Photo)

Mary-Emma Barnhill New OB 4-H Club Reporter

Every fall at about this time, the 4-H clubs appoint a new executive and committees, and the Shoreline Journal gets a new set of club reporters. This year Mary-Emma Barnhill is reporter for the Onslow-Belmont 4-H Club.

Even though she's new in that position, Mary-Emma sent a fantastic report, which included five great photos and a complete listing of the club members who participated in the Pro-Show. However, since we already had five pages dedicated to the pro-show and the awards banquet, we have had to hold her report over until next month.

We'll combine her December report with the one we already have.

However, we ask members of the various clubs to send along photos for "My Favourite Pet" contest we run each issue.

A winner will receive a \$20.00 Gift Certificate compliments of The Shoreline Journal and Clarence Farm Services Limited.



Councillor Tom Taggart reads the Oath of Office, in council chambers, to commence his third four year term as Councillor District 10. (Rees Photo)



District 9 Councillor, Doug MacInnes, reads the oath of office to commence his second four year term during swearing in ceremonies on October 27th. (Rees Photo)

Bass River United Baptist Church
5692, Hwy 2 - Bass River NS - BOM 1B0

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