



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

COUNCIL PASSES FINAL READING OF WIND TURBINE BY-LAW

ANNAPOLIS CO. MARCH 25, 2010 – Warden Peter Newton said Council’s decision to pass final reading of an interim wind turbine bylaw during a Special Council on March 23rd, wasn’t intended to shut-out potential wind farm developers; but rather allow Council time to develop a by-law that is right for the County and ensure residents have the opportunity to be included in any decisions made in this regard.

According to CAO Brenda Orchard, until yesterday’s decision, there was nothing in place to regulate the development of wind farms in Annapolis County. A company could come into the County and erect wind turbines without any consultation with the County or the communities affected. In fact, during the development of this interim by-law, there have been 13 building permits taken out by two developers for wind turbines. The by-law does not take effect until it receives Ministerial approval and an ad is placed in the local newspaper confirming it has been passed. Until that time, the County cannot control the initiation of wind farm projects. The by-law does not restrict mini wind turbines meant to supplement individual homes or cottages.

“The County of Annapolis is a very large area,” Warden Newton explained. “The development of this interim by-law, which states that Council will have to review it within one-year, gives us time to research the issue further and create a by-law that is appropriate for this County.”

In the course of developing the interim by-law, the County had to allow one area for wind farm development in accordance with provincial regulation. Council chose an area on the South Mountain with very little population for this purpose.

Warden Newton noted it is important to be aware that this interim by-law does not prohibit the development of commercial wind farms in the County. However, it does mean the developer would have to request an amendment to the by-law which would trigger a public consultation process that includes public meetings. In this respect, once the by-law is enacted, Council will have reached its goal of having the residents informed and able to have their say because a public process will be required to amend the by-law.

“Council has already passed a motion to consider the creation of development zones on the North Mountain. We are planning a series of public meetings throughout the year to provide residents the opportunity to share their thoughts on this issue. A new by-law that is most suitable for the County of Annapolis will be developed after taking into consideration knowledge and experience of other jurisdictions, as well as what Council hears from the public.,” said Warden Newton.

The first public meeting is scheduled for April 14th, 7:00 p.m. at the Bridgetown Regional High School gymnasium.