

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, December 14, 2017.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Christine Blair	
Councillor Eric Boutilier	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 Ron Cavanaugh	District 8
Councillor Bob Pash	District 9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Others Present

Mr. Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer
 Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development
 Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
 Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr. Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste
 Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Mr. Mark Austin, Acting Economic Development Officer
 Ms. Tracey Veno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary
 Mr. Paul Smith, Project Manager
 Mr. Devin Trefry, Acting Research, Policy and Comm. Engagement Officer

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Gregory
 Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Item 12b, Wayne Smith, Hockeyville Sign;
- Item 12c, Street Light;
- Three Legal Matters in Closed Session;
- One Property Matter in Closed Session.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
 Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That the minutes of November 6 and 16, 2017 be approved with the following amendments:

- On page 1740, Halifax Cheer Elite Event Request for Funding - Councillors Boutilier and Parker were opposed to the motion; and,

- On page 1742/3, East Court Road School - Councillor Boutilier seconded the motion."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meetings held on November 6 and 16, 2017.

ACTION ITEMS

Tatamagouche Water Utility Three Year Operating Budget

At their meeting on November 30, 2017, Council authorized Council Committee at their meeting on December 14th to approve the Three Year Operating Budget for the Tatamagouche Water Utility.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

"That Council Committee approves the Tatamagouche Water Utility Three-Year Operating Budget (2017/18, 2018/19, and 2019/20) as presented."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Debert Water Utility Three Year Operating Budget

At their meeting on November 30, 2017, Council authorized Council Committee at their meeting on December 14th to approve the Three Year Operating Budget for the Debert Water Utility.

Moved by Councillor Pash
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

"That Council Committee approves the Debert Water Utility Three-Year Operating Budget (2017/18, 2018/19, and 2019/20) as presented."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Half Ton Truck Purchase – Award of Tender

At their meeting on November 30, 2017, Council authorized Council Committee at their meeting on December 14th to award the purchase of a half ton truck for Debert Water Utility/Debert Maintenance.

Councillor Parker declared a conflict of interest and removed himself from the table.

Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works advised that staff issued a public call for tenders for the purchase of a half ton truck, advertising on both the Municipal and Provincial websites, with a total of four bids being received. The lowest bid as submitted by Blaikies Dodge was deemed to be incomplete. The second lowest bid was submitted by Pye Chevrolet and was deemed to be complete.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That Council Committee authorizes staff to award the tender for the purchase of a half ton truck for Debert Water Utility/Debert Maintenance to Pye Chevrolet in the amount of \$28,023.00 excluding HST, with source of

funds being 50% Public Works Vehicle Reserve and 50% Debert Water Utility.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

At this point, Councillor Parker returned to the table.

**Public Washroom Project –
Fundy Discovery Site**

At their meeting on November 30, 2017, Council authorized Council Committee at their meeting on December 14th to make a final decision on the Fundy Discovery Site Public Washroom Project.

Mr. Paul Smith, Project Manager, advised that Council previously approved an interim capital budget for Phase 1A for the Fundy Discovery Site which included a public washroom facility. Staff issued a call for tenders for a modest 650 square foot building. Three bids were received, ranging from approximately \$350,000 to \$500,000, all of which well exceeded the \$165,000 budget allotted for the washroom facility. Reasons for the excessive tender bids include an accelerated construction market, high cost of construction materials, higher costs for winter work, and design components and details.

Options for Council consideration are:

1. Accept the lowest bid and make internal allocation to finance the cost overrun;
2. Retender the project in 2018;
3. Examine a number of redesign options and assign staff to act as a general contractor for the project obtaining pricing and coordinating the work of sub-trade packages and performing some of the work in-house by municipal staff.

Staff believe that there may be several advantages which could realize significant cost savings with option 3.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh

Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That Council authorizes municipal staff to assume duties to self-contract the public washroom project at the Fundy Discovery Site and further re-allocate an additional \$75,000 from the project’s capital budget to be used as a contingency to manage any costs over the existing \$165,000 budget.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Dissolution of Business and
Economic Development
Advisory Committee**

Mr. Devin Trefry provided a brief overview of this item indicating that the Nominating Committee had previously discussed whether there would be a need for the County’s Business and Economic Development Advisory Committee (BEDAC) once Regional Enterprise Network (REN) was formally up and running.

Brief discussion was held on the possibility of reinstating the BEDAC in the future if necessary.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Business and Economic Development Advisory Committee be dissolved.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Debert Water Tower Project
– Award of System Controls
Contract**

At their meeting on November 30, 2017, Council authorized Council Committee at their meeting on December 14th to award the contract for System Controls for the Debert Water Tower Project.

Ms. Newell provided a summary of this item indicating that the system controls is one component of the Debert Water Tower Project. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued with a total of three bids received. Staff reviewed all proposals and scored each of them based on approach, methodology, team, experience and price, with the top scoring proposal being from Marcel Belanger/Crandall.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee awards the contract for the design and installation of the new Debert Water System Controls to Marcel Belanger/Crandall for a contract amount of \$153,979 excluding HST; and,

That an internal contingency of \$15,000 be included, to be spent only on authority of the Director of Public Works.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Tatamagouche Source Water
Protection Advisory
Committee – Staff Support**

Ms. Newell advised that this item relates to a request from the Tatamagouche Source Water Protection Advisory Committee (Committee) for staff support on a watershed protection issue.

Over the past year, there have been discussions with the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding the potential presence of gold deposits within the French River watershed. DNR representatives have attended meetings of the Committee and provided regular updates on activities within the watershed. DNR informed the Committee of plans to promote the closure area at an upcoming Prospectors and Developers Conference and to subsequently request proposals from companies interested in exploration rights for the area. The Committee has been asked to work with DNR to prepare Best Management Practices for exploration and mining activities. At their meeting of December 5, 2017, the Committee passed a motion requesting that Council direct staff to assist with the development of these Best Management Practices.

DNR has agreed to work with staff in the preparation of the Best Management Practices and are prepared to make a presentation to Council and address any questions or concerns. Brief discussion was held on resource requirements for this project.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That Council Committee directs staff to prepare draft Best Management Practices for mining and exploration within the French River Watershed.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

MRF Marketing Challenges

Mr. Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste, provided an update on the current marketing challenges relating to recycled items, specifically plastic bags. These challenges are primarily due to China's intent to implement the “Green Fence & National Sword”, a plan to enhance solid waste import management by prohibiting the entry of foreign waste. Other municipal units have similar concerns and are facing the same challenges. The Colchester Solid Waste Department recently held a meeting with representatives from other municipal jurisdictions as well as the Nova Scotia Department of Environment (NSE) for the purpose of addressing the situation. Mr. Wamboldt suggests that a letter be written to NSE requesting assistance in locating alternative markets and temporarily lifting the ban on the landfilling of plastics.

Discussion was held with regards to the approach to take with the letter with suggestions being to request a resolution to the situation. Mr. Wamboldt indicated that NSE representatives attended the meeting in Kempton and at that time did not offer any information. Additional discussion was held on Lafarge no longer being interested in plastics, landfilling the plastics being the safest option, and the need to educate the public on plastics.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee authorizes the Director of Solid Waste to send a letter to Nova Scotia Environment requesting assistance in locating alternative markets and the temporary lifting of the ban on landfilling of plastics.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Cavanaugh opposed)*

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That a letter be written to Premier McNeil and the Minister of Environment requesting the development of a solution to address the crisis situation regarding plastics.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That staff be directed to develop a communication strategy relative to public education regarding the situation with plastic materials.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Wayne Smith, Hockeyville Sign

Councillor Gibbs indicated that Wayne Smith generously offered to redo the Kraft Hockeyville sign. This has now been completed and installed in its original location at the intersection of East Prince and Brunswick Streets.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That a Certificate of Appreciation be done for Wayne Smith for the donation of the Kraft Hockeyville sign and ongoing contributions to the community.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Street Light

Councillor Parker advised that he has received complaints regarding the lack of sufficient street lighting in the area of Homestead Drive and Cambridge Drive and indicated that he would like to have another light added to an existing pole in the area.

Discussion was held on the existing Street Light Policy. Given that this is the second request for street lighting within the last month or so, it was suggested that the Policy be reviewed with possible amendments to allow for some flexibility for additional street lights relative to addressing safety concerns.

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that a street light be placed on an existing pole on Homestead Drive adjacent to Cambridge Drive.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That staff review the existing Street Lighting Policy and bring back to Council for consideration.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Solar Electricity for Community Buildings Pilot Project

Mr. Paul Smith provided a brief overview of this item indicating that Council had previously directed staff to make applications under the Solar Electricity for Community Buildings Pilot Program for solar projects on behalf of the Brookfield Sportsplex and the RECC.

Approximately 70 applications were received under this Pilot Program with the possibility that thirteen 50kW projects could be awarded. The Municipality was not successful in its two applications. A complete list of the successful applicants was provided with the Information Item.

Northern Region Waste

Councillor Taggart provided a brief report from the Northern Region Chairs meeting held on December 1st. The meeting included a presentation from GFL Environmental Inc., who are interested in partnering with municipalities offering funding for capital municipal solid waste infrastructure; a report from Nova Scotia Environment with reference to ban compliance; and a report from Divert NS on education and enforcement funding. It was noted that a full copy of the report would be distributed to Council via email.

Director's Report

A report from the Director of Corporate Services was circulated in the package for this evening's meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That the meeting go into closed session at 9:13 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Masters left the meeting at 9:24 pm.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Pash

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 10:44 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Collective Agreement – Local 3945

At their meeting on November 30, 2017, Council authorized Council Committee at their meeting on December 14th to make the final decision on the Local 3945 Collective Agreement, as well as the annual increment for non-union staff.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That Council Committee approves the Collective Agreement for Local 3945, commencing July 1, 2017 and authorizes the Mayor and CAO to sign the Agreement; and,

That Council Committee authorizes the annual Non-Union salary increase of 2.25% be awarded for the period of April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

C&D/Glass Waste Disposal Agreement

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Director of Solid Waste identify a suitable portion of land at the Kempton Solid Waste

Facility for the storage of glass food containers and begin the storage of this material in the designated area until a suitable market is developed.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

“That the meeting adjourn at 10:46 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary