

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, August 11, 2016.

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 Ron Cavanaugh	District 8
Councillor Doug MacInnes	District 9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Staff 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. Craig Burgess, Manager of Recreation Services
 Ms. Tracey Veno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Gregory
 Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions/deletions:

- Remove Item#9, Parking on Municipal Property within Colchester Park (removed by Councillor MacInnes);
- Remove One Property Matter in Closed Session (removed by Deputy Mayor Masters);
- Add Item#10b, Strategic Priorities Workshop;
- Add Item#11b, Bible Hill Drainage Project;
- Add Item#11c, Palliser Project;
- Add Item#11d, Media Coverage.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
 Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That the minutes from the meeting held on June 16, 2016, be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

Referring to the item dealing with signage for access points at Shortt's Lake, Deputy Mayor Masters requested an update on this matter. Staff advised that an update would be provided via email the following day.

ACTION ITEMS

Non-Profit Insurance Policy

Mr. Craig Burgess, Manager of Recreation Services, provided a brief overview of the proposed amendments to the Non-Profit Insurance Policy which include eligibility for coverage of Directors and Officers Liability and coverage for festivals and events.

With the increase in groups applying for funds under this Policy, discussion was held regarding the possible need to increase the amount currently being budgeted annually. There was also discussion on the Municipality having a blanket policy for this type of insurance to help reduce the costs for groups. It was noted, however that this could be a liability for the County.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that the amendments to the Municipal Funding for Insurance for Not-for-Profits be approved as presented."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

School Crosswalk, College Road at Burriss Drive

Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, advised that this item has been discussed a number of times. At the June 30th Council meeting, staff were directed to bring forth possible changes to the Crosswalk Supervision Policy which would allow proceeding outside of the petition process. Staff discussed this with the Municipal Solicitor and although changes to the Policy are recommended, Council does have the authority to approve funding the immediate installation of a school crosswalk and crossing guard. This could be funded through the Active Transportation Fund. In anticipation of Council's approval of the construction of the school crosswalk, staff contacted Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal who have informally indicated their approval.

If Council should decide to proceed with the installation of the School Crosswalk, staff could work on suggested changes to the Crosswalk and Supervision Policies to bring forward for approval at a future meeting.

The following concerns were raised during discussion:

- Residents in Valley who are currently paying for the Crosswalk and Crossing Guard should be treated in the same manner and should no longer have to pay;
- Going against current Policy to allow this - should follow proper procedure and make changes to the Policy first.

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That Council Committee recommends to Council the installation of a school crosswalk on College Road at Burris Drive, subject to provincial approval, at a construction cost of \$7,500 and an operations cost of \$5,200 per year, to be funded by the Active Transportation Rate be approved; and

That Council directs staff to bring forward recommended changes to the Crosswalk Installation and Supervision Policies at a future meeting.”

Motion Carried.

(Councillors Stewart, Cooper, MacKenzie, Gibbs and Taggart opposed)

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that all existing and future crosswalks, including Valley, be covered under the Active Transportation Rate.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Five Year Capital Budget

Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, provided a brief overview of the Five Year Capital Budget, a copy of which was included in the package for this evening's meeting. New items added to the Five Year Capital Budget are highlighted in the attached documentation.

Referring to one of the additions as noted on Schedule B, the Solid Waste Excavator, clarification was sought on whether this is a new purchase or replacement of an existing piece of equipment. In the absence of the Director of Solid Waste, it was noted that this would be confirmed prior to the next meeting.

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Discussion was held on the process for the Five Year Capital Budget with general agreement that there should be a special session held to deal with capital budgets. Additionally, any new items being added to the Five Year Capital Budget must have a business case presented to Council before being added.

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the 2016/17 Capital Budget be approved, as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Municipal Alcohol Policy

Mr. Rob Simonds, CAO, advised that a draft copy of the Municipal Alcohol Policy had been distributed to Council in June. At that time, there was discussion on a sponsorship policy that could work hand-in-hand with a municipal alcohol policy. Staff is seeking further directive from Council regarding a possible sponsorship policy. Also, in the absence of the Municipal Solicitor to address any concerns arising from possible discussion at this evenings meeting, staff is requesting that this matter be deferred to a future meeting.

Councillor Blair indicated that she would like to see this item move forward with agreement in principle on the policy. Discussion was held regarding the need for more information to properly debate the issue prior to approval.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That the Municipal Alcohol Policy be referred to September Council Committee to present preliminary findings.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Dangerous and Unsightly Policy

Councillor Parker brought this item forward due to complaints received regarding a property on Pictou Road where vehicles are being dismantled. This is a complaint that has been brought forth time and time again. Concern was expressed that there is nothing in the existing Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Policy that addresses repeat offenders.

Discussion was held on various possibilities to deal with this property as well as repeat offenders in general. It was decided that the matter of dealing with repeat offenders be put on the agenda of the next Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Committee meeting and if there

is no meeting in the near future, that a special meeting be held to deal with this issue.

Strategic Priorities Workshop

Mr. Rob Simonds, CAO, indicated with the term of the current Council coming to an end and a new Council in place soon, it is important for the new Council to identify strategic priorities in the early stages of their term. This was discussed with the Executive and Audit Committee and approval was granted to start the planning process for a Strategic Planning Workshop.

Dr. Gordon McIntosh of the LGL Institute in North Saanich, BC, was approached to facilitate the Workshop. Fortunately, Dr. McIntosh will be coming to Nova Scotia in January to work with two other municipal units, and there is opportunity to co-share his expenses.

Dates for the Workshop would be January 18 and 19, 2017. Dr. McIntosh's normal fee for this Workshop is \$6,000 but he is willing to reduce this to \$4,500. Additionally, if Council is interested in a half-day session on Municipal Governance, there would be an additional charge of \$500.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that Dr. Gordon McIntosh of the LGL Institute, be engaged to deliver a Strategic Priorities Workshop and a half-day workshop on Governance on January 18 and 19, 2017 inclusive."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Director's Report

A report from the Director of Public Works was circulated prior to this evening's meeting.

Village of Bible Hill Drainage Project – Culvert

Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, provided Council with an update on the Village of Bible Hill Drainage Project. Work is being carried out by Webster's Trucking. Staff were recently made aware of a footing drain issue on a property on Pictou Road which requires the lowering of the new culvert at a cost of \$18,771. As this project is well under the CAO's authority to award through the County's Policy on Purchasing and Tendering for Goods, Services and Construction Projects, approval has been granted by the CAO. The Clerk for the Village of Bible Hill has confirmed that the Village is willing to cost share 50% of the cost to lower the ditch and culvert.

Fundy Gateway / Palliser Project

Councillor Stewart indicated that the Fundy Gateway Project Steering Committee met with the consultants, UPLAND, twice this summer. Two meetings are being planned for September 7th: the first being a Joint Council meeting at 3 pm; and, the second being a Public meeting at 7 pm.

Concern was expressed with the date of September 7th being in conflict with the Atlantic Mayors Congress, being held in Truro from September 7th to 9th. Councillor Taggart indicated that the week following that he would be in Hamilton for the FCM Board meeting.

Councillor Stewart advised that he would go back to the Committee to seek alternative dates and advise accordingly.

Media Coverage

Mayor Taylor advised that the Truro Daily News would no longer be attending Council meetings due to cut backs. If there is something of interest on the agenda, they may opt to send someone to cover.

Mr. Rob Simonds, CAO, advised that the currently vacant Administration/Researcher position is being modified to include communications and community engagement which will be brought forth in two weeks for Council consideration.

Recess

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting go into closed session at 9:06 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 10:25 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

North River Ball Field

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council approval of a land swap with the neighbouring property of the North River Ball Field, owned by Jeff Fancy, which would include moving the fence to the side of the driveway and changing the property line.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Trip to Owego, NY

Moved by Councillor Blair
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That staff bring forth three potential dates in November for members of Council to visit the Gasification Plant in Owego, New York.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Demolition of Salmon River School

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the bid of R.L. Harvey Service Station Ltd. be accepted for the immediate demolition of the former Salmon River School.”

Motion Carried.
(Councillors Parker, Gregory and Taggart opposed)

Regional Economic Development – Update

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council agrees in principle with the proposal on Regional Economic Development and that the Mayor and CAO proceed with negotiations.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the meeting adjourn at 10:27 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary