

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, June 14, 2018.

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. 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, Economic Development Officer
 Ms. Tracey Veno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Gregory
 Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Item # 8b, Services Contract Agreement (Taxi);
- Item # 8c, Possible Contamination in Cobequid Mountains;
- Item # 8d, Teakwood Drainage;
- Item # 8e, Cannabis Conference Update;
- Items # 11 and 12, Legal Matter in Closed Session;
- Item # 13, Negotiations in Closed Session;
- Item # 14, Personnel Matter in Closed Session.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mayor Blair
 Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the minutes of May 1 and 17, 2018, be approved, as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meetings held on May 1 and 17, 2018.

ACTION ITEMS**Purchase of a Colchester Nova Scotia Tartan Kilt for Display in Courthouse**

Council previously received a presentation from representative of the Colchester Highland Games and Gathering and at that time, Council expressed interest in purchasing a Colchester Nova Scotia Tartan Kilt for display in the Courthouse.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Municipality purchase a Colchester Nova Scotia Tartan Kilt to be displayed in the Courthouse, at a cost of up to \$2,500.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Wood Heat Presentation from North Nova Forestry Co-operative

Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, advised that Council recently received a presentation from the North Nova Forestry Co-operative. At the time of the presentation, Council was asked to give consideration to joining the Co-operative to introduce forest management on municipally owned forestlands; and, exploring the Municipality’s participation in a wood boiler conversion.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff be directed to:

Explore the possibility of becoming a member of the North Nova Forestry Co-operative to improve forest management of municipally owned lands; and,

Explore the potential for commercial scale, wood heating systems for municipal buildings, including the feasibility of a wood fired, district heating system at the Debert Business Park; and,

Report findings back to Council for further direction.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Rural Broadband

Councillor Taggart noted that FCM is aware of the broadband issue and challenges with rural broadband and this is a problem across all of rural Canada. The CAO has had discussions with the CAOs from both Cumberland and Pictou Counties who are facing the same challenges. All have expressed interest in working cooperatively on this initiative.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That an Ad Hoc Committee for rural broadband be formed, with the Committee being comprised of two Council members each from Colchester, Pictou and Cumberland Counties, as well as the CAO from each municipal unit.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Old Salmon River School Property

Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, advised that this item deals with the old Salmon River School property. Council had discussions in the past about retaining the property as a land holding for future sale/development or issuing a tender for the sale of the property. All residual work following the demolition of the building has been completed.

Brief discussion was held on the property and past interest expressed by the Salmon River Fire Commission. Mr. Crawford Macpherson indicated that if Council is interested in selling the property, typically this would be done through the Request For Proposals (RFP) process which ensures a public component.

It was agreed by Council to proceed with the sale of the property through the RFP process.

Services Contract Agreement (Taxi)

Staff have recently received inquiries from a taxi company looking to set up office in Tatamagouche. In 2015 Council approved Chapter 20 – Taxi By-law and corresponding Taxi Business Fees, Metered Fare Rate and Surcharges Policy. At the same time, Council also approved the Services Contract Agreement and authorized staff to negotiate the terms of the agreement with the Town. Negotiations for the agreement were not carried out as the taxi company at the time was no longer in operation in the County.

Council agreed that staff proceed with the negotiations with the Town for the Taxi Services Contract Agreement.

Possible Contamination in Cobequid Mountains

Councillor Taggart advised that he has heard of some concerns from a trails group regarding possible contamination in Gamble Lake due to gold mining exploration in the Cobequid Mountains. The exploration is being closely monitored and mineral is being removed from a small pond in the ditch. There is no contamination at this time.

Teakwood Drainage

Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, advised that a meeting took place about a month ago with staff from Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR). Ms. Newell noted that NSTIR would assist with flushing of the lines and this will be done before the end of July. Also, NSTIR has agreed to pay the charges.

Discussion was held on poor installation of culverts, however, it is not known whether this was responsibility of NSTIR or the residents. Further discussion was held on videoing the lines. Ms. Newell indicated that we do videoing of our own infrastructure but Teakwood is a provincial responsibility and as yet, this has not been done.

Cannabis Conference Update

Mr. Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer, provided a brief update on the recently attended O'Cannabiz Conference in Toronto noting that a lot of time was spent with exhibitors and he met with a number of companies in the sector. A large company in Quebec indicated that it is not likely to come to Nova Scotia due to sales being restricted to the Nova Scotia Liquor

Commission. Another barrier is no other legal existing grow-op or medical license for sales to the province. Mr. Austin also noted that Millbrook is very well situated and he brought back information to share with them.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting go into closed session at 8:40 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 10:20 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Canadian Mental Health Association – Colchester-East Hants Branch

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

“That Council Committee recommends to Council the approval of the \$100,000 funding for the Canadian Mental Health Association – Colchester-East Hants Branch, be disbursed with \$50,000 in year one (2018-19) and \$10,000 per year for the next five years, with the final year being 2023-24; and,

That the source of funds be the Special Operating Reserve, and that these funds be paid back to the reserve.”

Motion Carried. *(opposed by Mayor Blair and Councillor Pash)*

Pricewaterhouse Coopers Feasibility Study

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council Committee recommends to Council the endorsement of the proposal from Pricewaterhouse Coopers to conduct a study of baseline services and develop key performance indicators used to measure effectiveness and efficiency of current operation.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the meeting adjourn at 10:24 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary