

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 9, 2018, immediately following a Special Council Session at 7:00 pm (approx. 7:20 pm).

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 Ron Cavanaugh	District 8
Councillor Bob Pash	District 9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Regrets

Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7
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Others Present

Mr. Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
 Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development
 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
 Mr. Devin Trefry, Acting Research, Policy and Comm. Engagement Officer
 Mr. Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Stewart
 Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Item # 9b, Colchester Ground Search and Rescue;
- Item # 9c, Colchester 4-H Barn;
- Item # 9d, Jordan Municipal Support Project;
- Item # 9e, Force Tidal Energy Turbine;
- Item # 9f, Great Village Post Office;
- Items # 17 and 18, Negotiations in Closed Session; and,
- Items # 19 and 20, Personnel Matters in Closed Session.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
 Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That the minutes of June 5 and 14, 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 June 5 and 14, 2018.

Presentation

At their meeting on June 28, 2018, Council granted authority to Council Committee at their meeting on August 9, 2018, to approve the Audited Financial Statements.

Audited Financial Statements – Ms. Alisha Mombourquette, Grant Thornton

Ms. Mombourquette presented the 2017/18 Consolidated Financial Statements and a brief report on the audit of the Municipality. A detailed briefing was provided to the Audit Committee at a meeting held on July 12, 2018. In the opinion of the auditor, the consolidated financial statements, present fairly in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the Municipality of Colchester.

Copies of the statements were circulated to Council prior to this evenings meeting.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council accepts and adopts the consolidated financial statements as presented by Grant Thornton.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That the Mayor and CAO be authorized to execute the necessary documentation relative to the 2017/18 financial statements.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

**Purchase of
Replacement
Fire Repeaters**

Mr. Rob Simonds, CAO, provided a brief overview of this item indicating that in recent years, Council acknowledged that the Fire Repeaters are aging with seven of the Repeaters being over 20 years old. Staff previously proposed a multi-year replacement schedule with two Repeaters already replaced in 2017/18. The replacement of two more Repeaters were allocated in the 2018/19 budget. Staff is recommending that the purchase of the Fire Repeaters be sole sourced as there is only one provider of the Motorola Fire Repeaters, that being Nova Communications.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that Nova Communications be awarded the purchase and installation of two new Fire Repeaters at a cost of \$18,495.12, including rebated HST.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Half Ton Truck
Purchase –
Award of
Tender**

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

The CAO advised that this item was brought forward at the June Council meeting, however, Council expressed concern with potential travel costs should the vehicle have to be maintained in the Valley if the tender were awarded to Bruce Leasing. The award of tender was deferred to August Committee with authority being granted to award the tender. It was also noted that the next lowest bid was not within the 2% local preference margin.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council authorizes staff to award the tender for the purchase of a half-ton truck for Wastewater Treatment operations to Bruce Leasing in the amount of \$23,968.00 excluding HST, with source of funds being the Public Works Vehicle Reserve.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

At this point, Councillor Parker returned to the table.

Discussion was held regarding the 2% local preference margin. Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor, advised that there are no restrictions within the Municipal Government Act related to the 2% local preference, however, there may be restrictions due to other provincial and federal legislation.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That staff review options regarding the 2% local preference margin in the Purchasing and Tendering for Goods, Services and Construction Projects Policy.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Colchester
Corporate
Branding
Clarification**

Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, advised that \$25,000 was approved in the budget for Corporate Branding. Based on the recent branding exercise for the Debert Business Park, staff wanted to ensure the amount approved for the Corporate Branding was the right amount to satisfy Council’s expectations. Should a public presentation at the end of the exercise to launch the new brand be suffice, then the \$25,000 budget would be sufficient. However, if a more robust public consultation process is expected, then it would be recommended that the budget be increased by \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Staff believe that the corporate branding of the Municipality is largely an internal process involving a steering committee comprised of staff and Council members.

Brief discussion was held regarding the need for public consultation throughout versus one presentation to launch the brand once finalized. It was noted that once launched, if there was public outcry, it could be revisited.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the approved budget of \$25,000 be maintained for the Colchester corporate branding including one public presentation at the launching of the final product.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillors Cooper, MacKenzie and Gibbs opposed)*

**Municipal
Funding for
Insurance for
Not for Profit
Organizations
Policy
Amendments**

Mr. Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager, provided a summary of this item noting that Council considered amendments to this Policy in September 2017, however, formal approval was never given. The main changes, as previously discussed, included:

- Definition of Association;
- Removing requirement of financial need;
- Reducing contribution percentage across the board should requested amounts exceed available funding; and,
- One intake date per year.

Discussion was held on bringing to Council prior to approvals on the applications. Mr. Burgess indicated that prior to notification being sent to organizations about amounts approved or any cheques being sent, an information item is brought to Council to advise amounts approved. It is Council’s discretion at that time to increase the budget to allow for any overages.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the amendments to the Municipal Funding for Insurance for Not for Profit Organizations Policy, be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Colchester
Ground Search
and Rescue**

The CAO advised Council that following the presentation by Colchester Ground Search and Rescue (CGSR) on August 7th, Mr. Graham Long visited the office to provide clarification on a couple of points from the presentation meeting. It was the understanding that during budget deliberations, not enough information was received for Council to make an informed decision on CGSR’s request for increased annual funding. As per the directive of Council, an invitation was extended to the CGSR to make a presentation to Council to provide the additional information required to make a decision on the request, which if approved, would increase the annual funding from \$23,500 to \$35,000.

Brief discussion was held on whether the increased funding was until the building was paid for or ongoing. It was confirmed that the request for increased funding was intended to be on an ongoing basis to allow for less time spent fundraising and more time to be spent on training. Additional points of discussion included receiving another presentation from CGSR once the building is completed; continued updates from CGSR; and, Council having the discretion to reconsider the annual funding amount at any time.

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the annual funding for Colchester Ground Search and Rescue be increased from \$23,500 to \$35,000 be approved; and,

That the increased funding begin in the current fiscal year, with source of funds for 2018/19 being an unbudgeted expense.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Colchester 4-H
Barn**

Councillor Cavanaugh indicated that this item is being brought forward following the presentation received Tuesday evening from Colchester 4-H.

Mayor Blair advised that she had a conversation with the Minister of Agriculture and he has confirmed that the barn does belong to 4-H and the lease that they have is for the land. With the issue regarding the lease having been addressed, consideration can be given with regards to the funding request. The original request from Colchester 4-H was for \$100,000 over four years however, Colchester 4-H has brought forward an urgent request for \$30,000 for necessary repairs and upgrades to the barn.

Discussion was held on how to proceed with the funding going forward with agreement on the request currently before Council for the \$30,000. Further discussion was held on acquiring and reviewing the deed before considering additional funding.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that funding in the amount of \$30,000 to Colchester County 4-H for lighting, electrical and exterior renovation upgrades to the 4-H Barn.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**FCM Jordan
Municipal
Support Project**

The CAO advised that in late 2017, Council approved support for participation in the FCM Jordan Municipal Project. Initially, it was understood that the project was on the topic of solid waste. However, further clarification has been provided and the project is also looking at support for developing municipal leadership, community engagement, and gender equality. Participation in the project would be at no cost to the Municipality - all costs are covered.

There would be two delegations travelling to Jordan in September consisting of two members of Council and one staff member; and one in late October/early November consisting of one staff person from the Municipality.

The first delegation, taking place mid to late September, would focus on the component of strengthening leadership and the role of women and youth. Staff is suggesting that Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer, be the staff member to attend. The second delegation, taking place in October/November, would deal with the solid waste component and staff recommend that Darlyne Proctor, Waste Reduction Manager, participate and travel to Jordan for this component. Councillor Taggart brought this item forward to Council in late 2017 and at that time, expressed interest in being involved with the project. Councillor Boutilier also expressed interest in participating.

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The CAO also indicated that there would be other opportunities in the future, including a female Mayors Symposium.

Brief discussion was held on the costs associated with participating in project including travel to Jordan. The CAO confirmed that there would be no cost to the Municipality. Councillor Taggart advised that this is a five-year project being funded through Foreign Affairs, not FCM.

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That Council Committee recommends to Council to approve that the following staff and Council members travel to Jordan to participate in the Jordan Municipal Support Project:

Darlyne Proctor, Waste Reduction Manager
Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer
Tom Taggart, Councillor
Eric Boutilier, Councillor.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Force Tidal
Energy Turbine**

Councillor Taggart advised that he has received complaints regarding a tidal turbine in the Bay of Funding that is not being monitored and requested that a letter be sent to the regulating authority.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that a letter be sent to the regulating authority of the Force Tidal Turbine in the Bay of Funding requesting a full and factual report on the monitoring of the turbine.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Great Village
Post Office**

Although there is a moratorium that is in place on the closing of rural Post Offices, Councillor Taggart expressed concern regarding the Great Village Post Office.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that a letter be sent to Canada Post requesting information on the plans for the Great Village Post Office going forward.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**INFORMATION
ITEMS**

**Upper
Stewiacke
Streetlight
Petition Results**

Following a request from a resident from Upper Stewiacke, Council directed staff to proceed with a petition process for street lighting on a 4.5 km stretch along Highway #289. A total of 62 properties were identified as being eligible for participation in the petition. The cost to install and maintain 34 streetlights in the requested area was estimated at \$5,000, which would be shared amongst the property owners, if the petition

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was successful. The cost to the property owners would be \$0.08738 per \$100 of assessment.

In accordance with the County's Local Improvement By-law, an information session involving the affected residents was held on June 21st where individual petitions were given out to those in attendance and the remaining petitions mailed to those not in attendance. Property owners were given 30 days to respond to the petition.

A total of 28 petitions were returned by the deadline with only seven (or 11%) of these being in favour of streetlights. As per the By-law, the 34 petitions that were not returned were counted as opposed. Therefore, there was not enough support to proceed with the requested street lighting. Letters have been issued to the residents involved, informing them of the petition results.

Other

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Gibbs indicated that he had neglected to add an item relative to bees to the agenda. Complaints have been received from a number of residents regarding 35 bee hives in a neighbouring backyard on Glenabbey Drive. This is in a subdivision where children are present. Councillor Gibbs inquired about beekeeping regulations and who would be responsible for regulating.

Brief discussion was held with concern being noted about this being an issue of safety as well as enjoyment of land for neighbouring properties.

Council requested that staff investigate and bring back to Council information on what regulations are in place and what the Municipality could do with respect to proper setbacks and limiting the number of hives for the purpose of beekeeping, in a residential area. The Municipal Solicitor indicated that there is a Bee Industry Act and Regulations.

Director's Report

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

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

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

Motion Carried Unanimously.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Cavanaugh left the meeting due to illness.

Moved by Councillor Pash
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 11:27 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Truro Millbrook Wind Turbines

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that the letter for Mayor Blair's signature, to Truro-Millbrook Wind GP, Ltd., as presented, be approved."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the meeting adjourn at 11:30 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary