

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, September 13, 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 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 (<i>arrived at 8:45 pm</i>)
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Regrets

Councillor Geoff Stewart	District 3
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Others Present

Mr. Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
 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
 Mr. Paul Smith, Senior Planner
 Mr. Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
 Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Item # 16b, Truck Tender Update; and,
- Two Legal Matters in Closed Session.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
 Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the minutes of meetings held on August 7 and 9, 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 August 7 and 9, 2018.

ACTION ITEMS**Surplus Property –
Former Tatamagouche
Elementary School**

Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, provided a brief overview of this item. During inspection, it was determined that the building would require extensive work and the presence of asbestos is highly probable.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the offer to have the surplus Tatamagouche Elementary School property reconveyed to the Municipality be declined and that the Chignecto Central Regional Centre for Education be advised accordingly.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Big Brothers Big
Sisters of Colchester
Tax Exemption Request**

Mr. Fraser introduced this item indicating that the request from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colchester meets the criteria for eligibility for a tax exemption under the Municipality’s Tax Exemption By-law.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colchester be added to the Tax Exemption By-law Property List, for the property located at 309 Highway #311, North River (property #04184106), for fiscal year 2019/20 and beyond.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Brookfield Ditches
(Mowing Frequency)**

Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, indicated that this item relates to the mowing of a section of ditches along Highway 289 in Brookfield. County staff informally committed to mowing the ditches twice per year. In 2018, this was carried out on June 16th and again on August 6th. Recently, concerns have been received with the growth of vegetation in the ditches.

Discussion was held on this being a responsibility of Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal as Highway 289 is a provincially owned road and the ditches are within the provincial right-of-way.

Concern was expressed that the area Councillor was not in attendance to speak on this matter.

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the discussion on the mowing of the ditches along Highway 289 in Brookfield be tabled.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Masters reminded members of Council that with the motion to table having been carried, there would be no further discussion on this matter unless brought back to the table at a future time.

Tatamagouche Water Utility – Three-Year Operating Budget

The three-year Tatamagouche Water Utility operating budget was distributed in the Council package for this evenings meeting. The three-year budget was presented to the Tatamagouche Water Utility Advisory Committee at a meeting on August 21, 2018. At that time, a motion was passed by the Committee recommending that the three-year budget be approved as presented.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the three-year Tatamagouche Water Utility operating budget (2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21) be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Debert Water Utility – Three-Year Operating Budget

The three-year Debert Water Utility operating budget was distributed in the Council package for Council review and approval.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the three-year Debert Water Utility operating budget (2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21) be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tender Award – Hidden Valley Drive Asphalt Paving

Ms. Newell advised that this item concerns the tender for the resurfacing of Hidden Valley Drive in Valley. Council’s approved capital budget for 2018/19 included funding for the paving of half of the street with the second half approved for 2019/20. The tender submissions for the project came in significantly lower than the budgeted \$175,000 for this fiscal year. Staff is recommending that the entire length of Hidden Valley Drive be resurfaced in the current fiscal year, which would still come in slightly under the budgeted amount of \$175,000.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the tender for the re-paving of the full length of Hidden Valley Drive, be awarded to Will-Kare Paving & Contracting, in the amount of \$135,000 excluding HST; and,

That an internal contingency of \$13,000 be approved, to be spent only on authority of the Director of Public Works.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Award of Residential
Curbside Waste
Collection Contract**

Mr. Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste, provided Council with a brief summary of this item which included a breakdown of the two tender submissions. It was noted that at their meeting on August 30, 2018, Council granted authority for September Committee to award the tender of the Residential Curbside Waste Collection Contract. However, a night for a Special Council meeting has been discussed should Council require more time to make their decision.

Clarification was sought regarding options as noted in the Action Item. Mr. Wamboldt explained that option 1 includes collection of leaf and yard waste, three bags per household county wide; and option 2 includes collection of leaf and yard waste, 6 bags per household, in designated urban areas only. Council could also opt for status quo and not include leaf and yard waste collection.

Brief discussion was held on the evaluating process as well as financials as it relates to budgets.

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council award the tender for “Curbside Collection of Residential Waste, Recycling & Organics”, with the inclusion of Option 1 for Leaf and Yard Waste as outlined in the tender document, to Royal Environmental Inc.;

That staff be authorized to enter into contract negotiations with Royal Environmental Inc. for the Municipality of the County of Colchester.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Cannabis Ad Hoc
Committee**

Councillor Boutilier brought this item forward as a result of the recently received presentation from Public Health Representatives cooperatively with County staff, on Municipal Implications of Cannabis Legalization.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That a Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee, comprised of two members of Council and one staff member, be established.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

**Regulation of the
Keeping of Bees**

Mr. Paul Smith, Senior Planner, advised that this item relates to a prior request of Council regarding bee keeping regulations. The Province has a Bee Industry Act and Regulations but the focus for this is to protect the bee population, rather than regulating of hives in relation to homes/locations. It was noted that there is also the NS Beekeepers Association ‘Code of Practice’ which was distributed in the package for this evenings meeting. The contact from the Province suggested that regulations specific to setbacks may require a municipal by-law.

Referring to having a by-law to regulate, a question was raised regarding whether a separate by-law would be required or if having something

incorporated into the Land Use By-law (LUB) would suffice. Mr. Smith suggested that there would be broader control mechanisms if there was a County-wide by-law; the option of amendments to the LUB would be limited.

Discussion was held on whether discussions with the property owner have taken place. Mr. Rob Simonds indicated that staff have only investigated current regulations relative to bee keeping. However, further investigation could be carried out with staff reaching out to the property owner and report back to Council accordingly.

Teakwood Stormwater System

Ms. Newell provided Council with an update on the status of the Teakwood Stormwater issue including discussions and meetings with Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR), and work carried out to date. At the request of TIR, County staff assisted with the flushing of the main outlet pipe between Pictou Road and Teakwood Court. However, staff were unable to clear the entire line due to a collapsed pipe which requires repairing by TIR. Additional cleaning and videoing also found some pipe protrusions. It was also noted that the piping system seems fairly flat, which may be contributing to the problems in the system.

Councillor Parker advised that he has followed up with TIR and was informed that the work the County has done is adequate and further work would require another study by an engineer. A call has also been made to the Minister's office but to date, there has been no response.

Brief discussion was held by Council and it was agreed that this be added as a priority item on the next Quarterly TIR Meeting agenda.

Fundy Discovery Site Project Update

Mr. Smith indicated that this Information Item is to provide Council with an update on activities, milestones and budgetary status of Phase 1A of the Fundy Discovery Site Project.

The public washroom and water service extension projects have now been completed and have both come in significantly under budget. The savings recognized for the water service extension is largely due to the contributions of labour and materials made by the Town of Truro. The signage project has also been completed, with overall costs for this component being slightly over budget.

Funding opportunities continue to be explored and thus far, \$237,000 of unexpected funding has been received for various components of the Fundy Discovery Site Project.

Discussion was held regarding security and how to prevent vandalism on the property. An inquiry was made on whether the property is well lit and that proper lighting could help to deter vandalism. Video surveillance was also suggested. Mr. Smith noted that there is video surveillance on the grounds, the washroom facility is well lit but the Visitor Information Centre is not. This is something that staff can investigate. The CAO indicated that a meeting with the RCMP to discuss this issue could also take place.

Truro Heights Playground – Update

At the request of Deputy Mayor Masters, Mr. Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager, provided a brief update on the status of the Truro Heights

playground. The equipment for the playground has been ordered with an expected shipping date of September 24. A crew has been arranged to assemble once the shipment is received and it is expected that a grand opening of the playground will take place by the end of October. As Council representative for the Truro Heights area, an invitation will be extended to Deputy Mayor Masters, as well as to all Council members.

Truck Tender

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

Ms. Newell advised that Council had previously approved a tender award to Bruce Leasing for the purchase of a truck for wastewater treatment operations. Notification has been received from Bruce Leasing that they can no longer supply the truck. Staff have approached the next lowest bidder, Hollis Ford, who have indicated that they can supply a truck for \$25,531, which is slightly over their original tender price, but still lower than the third lowest bid. Staff proceeded with the purchase of the truck from Hollis Ford.

Brief discussion was held on obligations of Bruce Leasing with regards to not being able to supply the truck as per the original tender bid. Ms. Newell advised that this would be followed up with the Municipal Solicitor.

At this point, Councillor Parker returned to the table.

Director's Report

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

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That the meeting go into closed session at 8:12 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Councillor Taggart arrived at 8:45 pm, during the Closed Session portion of the agenda.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:50 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Licence for Cobequid Trail Connector Trail to Cobequid Bay Lookoff, Lower Truro

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That Council Committee recommends to Council approval of the License of a portion of Donna Yuill's property adjacent to Highway 236 and the Cobequid Trail Lookoff trailhead for the purpose of constructing a connector trail on existing dyke; and,

That the Mayor and CAO be authorized to complete the terms of the License, as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting adjourn at 9:53 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary