

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, October 11, 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 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)
 Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
 Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development
 Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Ms. Tracey Veno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary
 Mr. Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer
 Mr. Devin Trefry, Research, Policy & Community Engagement Officer

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
 Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Item #9b, Duration of Council Representation on Committees of Council;
and,
- Item #12b, Adhoc Committees.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
 Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the minutes of meetings held on September 4 and 13, 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 September 4 and 13, 2018.

ACTION ITEMS**2018 Art Selection
Committee
Representatives**

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Councillor Pash be nominated to serve as a representative on the Art Selection Committee for 2018.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Mayor Blair be nominated to serve as a representative on the Art Selection Committee for 2018.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Mayor Blair and Councillor Pash accepted the nominations and as such, will serve as the representatives on the 2018 Art Selection Committee.

**Biosolids Expressions
of Interest**

Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, advised that as per previous directive of Council, staff issued a request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the disposal of biosolids. A brief overview was provided of the three submissions received in response to the request for EOI. Staff are recommending further investigation be done relative to the composting in Kemptown as per Miller Waste’s submission. Staff also recommend maintaining the current disposal contract with Envirem in Miramichi until staff complete the review.

The option of a clay pad for in-house composting of bio-solids was discussed with Ms. Newell noting that this is intended to be part of the review. Further discussion was held on the amount of work staff have put into options for the disposal of biosolids and that it may be time for the Mayor, CAO and Chair of the Northern Region Solid Waste Committee look into this from a political perspective.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That the Mayor, CAO, and Chair of the Northern Region Solid Waste Committee investigate the option of in-house composting of biosolids and report back to Council accordingly.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff continue to review options for composting of biosolids in Kemptown either via private contract or by establishing an in-house process; and,

That staff continue shipping biosolids to the Envirem Facility in Miramichi until such time as the above noted review is complete.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Award of RFQ for Consulting Services for Council Remuneration

Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, indicated that at the September 27th Council meeting, staff were directed to issue a Request for Quotes (RFQ) for Consulting Services for Council remuneration. At the same time, Council granted authority to October Council Committee to award the contract for consulting services.

Mr. Fraser provided a summary of the RFQ responses noting that Gerald Walsh and Associates was the lowest and as such, staff are recommending that the contract be awarded to Gerald Walsh and Associates.

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee award the contract for the Council Remuneration review to Gerald Walsh and Associates, at a cost of \$10,500, excluding HST; and,

That the review also factor in the implications of changes to Council taxation taking effect in 2019 regarding the one third exemption.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Request for Grant Funding – Cobequid District Fire Department

Deputy Mayor Masters indicated that this item is a follow up to the presentation received on October 2nd from the Cobequid District Fire Department regarding their request for funding for the Firefit Championships.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That Council Committee recommend to Council that the request for a grant for the 2019 Firefit Regional Championships from the Cobequid District Fire Department be approved in the amount of \$5,000; and,

That this funding be approved from the 2019/20 Community Event Grants budget.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Review of Service – Animal Control

Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the review of Animal Control Service which included core and other services; information on requirements for kennel and possible options moving forward; budgetary implications over the last five years; and Animal Control Service provided by other municipal units. The presentation also included points requiring decision of Council such as after-hours service and service options. Staff is seeking directive of Council on expectations of the Municipality’s Animal Control program. Once the framework is outlined, staff will do an analysis, including costing information, to bring back to Council for consideration.

Discussion was held on the options as outlined in the Action Item including the various levels of service, staffing requirements, and future expectations for a municipal kennel vs. outsourcing. Concern was expressed about costing information for levels of service being required in order for Council to determine what direction the Municipality should consider for Animal Control.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

“That staff be directed to cost out options C and D concerning Animal Control Services, as presented in the Action Item.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Cooper opposed)*

Duration of Council Representation on Committees of Council

Councillor Boutilier raised the issue of the duration of Council representation on the various Committees of Council, suggesting it be changed from four year terms to a two year terms. This would provide the opportunity to have Council members gain different experience on the various Committees. It was noted that term duration was discussed by the Nominating Committee at the beginning of this term of Council. In addition to Council members gaining experiences on different committees, it would also provide for better succession planning.

Council agreed that staff revisit the Council Proceedings and Committees Policies to investigate options for changing the term for Council representation on various Committees of Council.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Snow Plowing Levels of Service

Ms. Newell provided a summary of this item indicating that during the 2017/18 season, changes were made regarding resource allocations for snow removal on roads and sidewalks. Staff received no negative feedback on these operational changes and as such, will continue this practice for the upcoming season.

Sidewalk – Hilden Fire Brigade Request

Ms. Newell advised that this item relates to a written request previously received from the Hilden Fire Brigade regarding a sidewalk extension fronting along their future fire hall site on Highway 2. Staff followed up with the Hilden Fire Chief who indicated that once construction of the fire station begins, they will require a 10 metre wide entrance for the site and felt that it would be more efficient to have the sidewalk constructed prior to the site development.

Given that the sidewalk is not scheduled to proceed within the next five years, staff inquired about other assistance that may be required concerning the future development. The Fire Chief advised no further assistance was required. Staff advised that should a sidewalk proceed once the new fire hall was on site, the entrance would be accommodated by the construction project.

Update on the Keeping of Bees

This item provided an update on concerns of keeping of bees and beehives and staff's site visit to the property located in Murray Siding. During the site visit, staff observed 22 beehives on the property and was advised that the hives are kept as a hobby.

Concern was once again expressed regarding the number of hives on the property, noting that 22 hives on a one acre property is not practical. Councillor Gibbs advised that he has received correspondence from neighbouring properties who have serious concerns about the number of hives, noting there are 35 plus hives in the yard and in the back field. Neighbours are frustrated with having to constantly clean pools, not being able to use their pools, inability to use clothes lines, and the overall lack of enjoyment of property. To properly assess the situation, a staff visit needs to be carried out on a warm and sunny day. Council also expressed concern regarding the potential dangers associated with people having allergies to bee stings.

Discussion was held regarding the keeping of beehives in the urban core and possible options for controlling the number of beehives permitted. As a point of clarification, Mr. Macpherson advised that the property in question is located in the rural fringe. The Municipal Solicitor, Mr. Dennis James, indicated that under the definition in the Municipal Government Act, this could not be handled under Dangerous and Unsightly properties. It would have to be controlled through the Land Use By-law or a stand alone by-law.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That the matter of control for the keeping of bees and beehives be referred to the Planning Advisory Committee for consideration.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Adhoc Committees

The CAO advised that this item relates to Adhoc and Working Committees and the recent appointments to the Physician Recruitment, Rural Broadband and the Cannabis Adhoc Committees. During review of the Council Proceedings and Committees Policy, staff noted there is nothing specific on working committees in the Policy, however, for Adhoc Committees, the Policy stipulates three members of Council must be appointed to these committees. Referring to the Physician Recruitment and Rural Broadband Committees, the Municipal Solicitor advised that these are joint committees and would not fall under the same category as an internal Adhoc Committee.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Councillor Parker be added as the third representative to the Cannabis Adhoc Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the meeting go into closed session at 9:08 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

At this point, Councillor Pash left the meeting.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:40 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the meeting adjourn at 9:41 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary