

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, December 13, 2018.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Christine Blair	
Councillor Eric Boutilier	District 1
Councillor Bill Masters	District 2 (arrived late)
Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart, Chair	District 3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District 4
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

Regrets

Councillor Lloyd Gibbs	District 5
------------------------	------------

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. Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste
 Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Ms. Tracey Veno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary
 Mr. Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer
 Mr. Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager

Service Recognition

Mayor Blair and Rob Simonds, CAO, presented employees with awards in recognition of years of service with the Municipality. 2018 recognized 3 employees with 5 years of service; 7 employees with 10 years of service; 1 employee with 15 years of service; 1 employee with 20 years of service; and, 1 employee with 40 years of service.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
 Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Item #10b, Tatamagouche Library; and,
- Item #12b, Negotiations in Closed Session.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Gregory
 Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the minutes of meeting held on November 15, 2018 be approved, as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meeting held on November 15, 2018.

ACTION ITEMS

NSFM Spring Conference Planning

Deputy Mayor Stewart brought this item forward noting that Council had previously approved hosting the NSFM Spring Conference and suggested that staff proceed with contacting the Town to begin the planning process. The Conference is scheduled for May 8-10, 2019.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the NSFM Spring Conference planning be referred to staff.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

The CAO advised that this would be brought back to Council for members to sit on the Planning Committee.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Masters arrived.

Northern Region Waste

Councillor Taggart advised that as part of an anti-litter campaign, other regions provide funding to community groups for litter clean up. He indicated that he would like to have this referred to budget deliberations for discussion. An amount of \$100 per kilometer was suggested.

Brief discussion was held with the following points being noted: the need to be careful on how this would be handled as other groups already carry out this function; suggestions to provide groups and organizations with tools and bags necessary to do litter clean-up; safety concerns; and not wanting to discourage volunteer groups doing litter clean-up.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council give consideration during budget deliberations to funding a litter campaign.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Capped Assessment – Pilot Project

Deputy Mayor Stewart advised that there have been discussions between municipalities, namely CBRM and East Hants, and the Department of Municipal Affairs, on a pilot project for the removal of the Capped Assessment Program (CAP). NSFM is seeking input from other municipal units on whether they would be interested in participating in a pilot program to remove or phase out the CAP.

Discussion was held on the removal of the CAP providing relief for some and negatively impacting others and that Council should be prepared to proactively educate the public on this if it proceeds. It was noted that this has been

discussed over the last several years and interest was expressed in Colchester being a part of the pilot to voice its interests and concerns. Further discussion was held on the need for more information before committing to participating in the pilot project.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommend to Council that the Municipality of Colchester express interest in being part of the pilot project for removing/phasing out the Capped Assessment Program.”

Motion Carried. *(opposed by Mayor Blair, Councillors Boutilier, Taggart and Cooper)*

INFORMATION ITEMS

Insurance for Not-for-Profit Organizations – Grant Applications

Mr. Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager, provided an overview of this item indicating that this program recently changed from two intake dates to one intake date annually. The budget for 2018-19 for the Insurance for Not-for-Profit Organizations is \$25,000. A total of 55 applications were received by the deadline for an approved total of \$24,965.36. One additional application was received late and staff is recommending that this be included for approval. This would bring the total slightly over budget at \$25,126.36. It was noted that at the December 4th Council meeting, authority was granted to December Committee to approve any changes to staff’s recommendations.

Brief discussion was held on the varying insurance costs for each of the organizations. Clarification was sought on whether ample notice was provided to all organizations who may be applying for funding regarding the change to one intake date annually. Mr. Burgess indicated that notification was placed on the municipal website and all organizations were notified either directly by email and/or phone.

Recreation Services Truck

Mr. Burgess presented this item explaining the requirement for a truck to meet the growing needs of the Recreation Department. Currently, Recreation does not own its own vehicle and relies on utilizing a truck borrowed from Public Works. During busier times for Public Works, the borrowed truck is returned leaving Recreation to rely on rental vehicles. Over the past few years, Recreation has been transferring funds to a reserve for the purchase of their own vehicle and staff is recommending that the purchase of one-and-a-half-ton double cab/chassis, 4x4 dump body truck, now go to tender.

Discussion was held regarding whether this truck was in the five-year capital budget and the process for the allocation of the funds. The Director of Corporate Services advised that this truck was not anticipated so was not in the capital budget but the funds put aside by the Recreation Department were being put into the capital reserve for vehicles. The need for a financial analysis was also discussed to determine whether the purchase of the truck is necessary. Mr. Burgess advised that the Department currently spends approximately \$8,000 on rentals. Additionally, having their own vehicle would make things more efficient for the Department.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff proceed with a tender for a one-and-a-half-ton double cab/chassis, 4x4 dump body truck for the Recreation Department.”

Motion Carried. (*Councillor Taggart opposed*)

Tatamagouche Library

Councillor Gregory gave an update on the recent meeting with representatives from the Library and the Tatamagouche Legion concerning the issue of permitting poppy boxes at the Library. There were no complaints received about the poppy box being placed at the Library and the Legion President confirmed that liability is not an issue. They are looking at the possibility of allowing the poppy boxes at the Tatamagouche Library only. The Board is meeting in January and will report back after that.

Director’s Report

A report from the Director of Corporate Services was circulated in the package for this evening’s meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting go into closed session at 8:00 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 8:45 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Ban on Plastics

Brief discussion was held on Halifax Regional Municipality and the ban on plastics. It is anticipated that they will be approaching the 15 largest municipalities to support the ban. It was noted that this is a provincial issue and the ban should be province wide. Colchester should be prepared to have a rationale with a public message and Council and staff should continue to pursue alternative options relative to plastics and waste to energy.

Truro-Millbrook Wind Farm Project

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That a letter be written to the Minister of Environment expressing Council’s concerns regarding the Truro-Millbrook Wind Farm project and that a copy of this letter be copied to all members of Council.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting adjourn at 9:10 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary