

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, January 10, 2019.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Christine Blair	
Councillor Bill Masters	District 2
Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart, Chair	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 (arrived late)
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Regrets

Councillor Eric Boutilier District 1

Others Present

Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
 Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development
 Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Tracey Veno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary
 Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer
 Devin Trefry, Research, Policy & Community Engagement Officer
 Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager
 Mannie Withrow, Manager of Inspection Services
 Joanna Burris, Planning Intern

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Gregory
 Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the agenda be approved with the following amendments:
 - Add Item #12b, Downeast Bluegrass and Oldtime Music Festival;
 - Add Item #12c, Ecole acadienne du Truro, Jeux de l’Acadie;
 - Add Item #14b, Everbridge Public Notifications Program; and,
 - Remove one Property Matter in Closed Session.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
 Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the minutes of meeting held on December 13, 2018 be approved, with the following amendment:
 - Councillor Taggart being opposed to the motion on the Capped Assessment Pilot Project.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meeting held on December 13, 2018.

ACTION ITEMS

**Solar Colchester
Property Assessed
Clean Energy (PACE)
By-law**

Ms. Joanna Burris, Planning Intern, introduced this item indicating a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) By-law is required to establish the mechanism and conditions by which the Municipality can loan and recoup funds under the Solar Colchester Program. A brief overview of the draft By-law was provided for review and direction/input from Council.

At this point of the meeting, Councillor Pash arrived.

Discussion was held on a number of items for amendment to the draft By-law prior to it coming before Council for First Reading. Main concerns addressed were related to the financial and legal risks to the Municipality. Other points of discussion included fees and deposits; liens and equipment; financing periods; and removal of requirements of participants to complete a home energy assessment.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the By-law be brought forward for First Reading with amendments addressing the concerns as discussed.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Small Flood Damage
Reduction Projects
Policy Amendments**

Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, indicated that the County's Flood Advisory Committee is recommending changes to the Small Flood Damage Reduction Projects Policy. In 2016/17, there was an increase in residents failing to pay back their portion of the project costs within the required timelines. The proposed changes relate to requiring a 50 percent deposit for all approved flood projects.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the amendments to the Small Flood Damage Reduction Projects Policy be approved, as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Funding Application,
ICIP**

Ms. Newell provided an overview of this item, noting a new program was announced in early December, namely the Green – Environmental Quality Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). Staff have reviewed Council's five-year capital budget and noted potential projects that could be considered for funding under this program.

Moved by Mayor Blair

Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the following projects be considered, in order of priority, for submission to the Invest in Canada Infrastructure Program:

1. Colchester Wastewater Collection Improvements, \$1.68 M; and
2. Great Village Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrades, \$2.2 M.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Report and
Recommendations from
Council’s Ad Hoc
Cannabis Committee**

Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, advised that Council’s Ad Hoc Cannabis Committee met and determined a list of concerns as a result of the legalization of Cannabis in 2018. The Committee came up with a number of recommendations to address these concerns.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That Council Committee recommends to Council the adoption of the following recommendations:

1. Amend the Municipality’s Smoke Free Outdoor Recreational Spaces Policy by including cannabis consumed by smoking, vaping (e-cigarettes), and waterpipes;
2. Police Advisory Board track trends since the legalization and advise Council of any policy/ bylaw support that may be required and ask RCMP to track expenditures that could be allocated to the Municipality;
3. That the Municipal Alcohol Policy Committee expand their mandate to include cannabis and report back to Council as warranted;
4. That Council request staff track any Municipal costs resulting from the legalization of recreational cannabis;
5. The Municipality track provincial regulation of private, boutique sales and the sale of edibles to determine if there is a municipal role in regulation;
6. That the Cannabis Committee be disbanded; and,

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the amendments to the Municipal Smoke Free Outdoor Recreational Spaces Policy be approved, as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**2019 FCM Conference –
Quebec City**

Mr. Rob Simonds, CAO, advised that annually, Council approves who will be attending the FCM Conference. Past practice has seen three Councillors attending the Conference along with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CAO. Also, since 2015, Councillor Taggart was elected as a representative to the FCM Board and as such, attends all FCM Conferences and Board meetings for the duration of his term as an FCM Board Member. This year, the Conference is being held in Quebec City.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council approves that Councillors Masters, Gregory, and Gibbs attend the 2019 FCM Conference, in addition to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Taggart (as FCM Board Member) and the CAO; and,

That Councillor Cavanaugh serve as an alternate in the event that any of those selected are unable to attend.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

2019-20 Schedule of Meetings

The CAO indicated that annually, Council approves the Schedule of Meetings for the upcoming fiscal year. Staff have prepared a schedule for consideration, however, it was noted that Council may wish to consider changing the date of the May Council meeting to accommodate those attending the FCM Conference to allow for additional travel time. The schedule presented includes all budget meeting dates with the exception of the capital budget meeting.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council approves the Schedule of Presentation, Council Committee and Council meeting for fiscal 2019-20, as amended; and,

That Council also approves the following dates for 2019-20 budget related meetings:

- February 20th and 26th for Grant Presentations;
- April 8th for Maintenance Budget; and,
- April 15th and 17th (if necessary) for Additions and Deletions.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Saltscapes Expo

Mr. Devin Trefry, Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer, indicated that staff were previously tasked with exploring the option of participating in the 2019 Saltscapes Expo. Preliminary cost estimates were provided for various levels of participation for Council consideration.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council agrees to participate in the 2019 Saltscapes Expo and that a budget and plan be brought back at the end of the month for approval.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Animal Control – Service Review

Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, advised that staff were previously directed to review a couple of options related to Animal Control Service, specifically, the full service and the modified service models. A summary of each model was provided along with projected costing information.

Discussion was held regarding service over the last several months including the number of dogs taken to the SPCA and the number of after hours calls;

staffing requirements for the different models; budget implications; kenneling; and current salary range for the position of Animal Control Officer.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Municipality implement the Animal Control Program as outlined in this Action Item and in Option 2 of the attached Financial Options Sheet.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Parker opposed)*

**Downeast Bluegrass and
Oldtime Music Festival**

Mr. Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager, advised that this item relates to the grant application received from the Downeast Bluegrass & Oldtime Music Festival and subsequent presentation to Council on January 8, 2019.

At the presentation, staff were asked to confirm if the group received funding from the Municipality for this event in the past and whether there were sufficient funds remaining in the current year Community Grants Budget. Mr. Burgess advised that in 2009, \$2,500 was granted for this event; and, there is sufficient funds in the 2018/19 Community Grants Budget to cover this request.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that funding in the amount of \$7,500 be granted on a one time basis for the Downeast Bluegrass & Oldtime Music Festival.”

Motion **DEFEATED**. *(Mayor Blair, Councillors Masters, Gregory, Taggart, Gibbs and Pash opposed)*

Brief discussion was held regarding other possible requests expected for this fiscal year; if the three year maximum was still applicable for Community Event grants; the possibility of keeping the event in Colchester; and concerns with the lack of interest in Debert as a possibility for this event.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that funding in the amount of \$10,000 for the Downeast Bluegrass & Oldtime Music Festival, with source of funds being 2018/19 Community Grants; and,

That staff meet with organizers to explore opportunities to keep the event in Colchester.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillors Cooper, Taggart and Parker opposed)*

**Ecole acadienne de
Truro/Jeux de l'Acadie**

Mr. Burgess advised that this request was referred to tonight's meeting from the January 8, 2019 presentation meeting. Ecole acadienne de Truro is requesting \$10,000 under Community Grants for an event, Jeux de l'Acadie, taking place May 16-19, 2019. Mr. Burgess confirmed that there are sufficient

funds in the budget should Council wish to approve funding under the current fiscal year.

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That Council approves funding in the amount of \$10,000 for the Ecole acadienne de Truro/Jeux de l’Acadie, with source of funds being 2018/19 Community Grants.”

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

INFORMATION ITEMS

Village of Bible Hill Gas Tax Request

The CAO indicated that staff were previously directed to investigate a request from the Village of Bible Hill for use of Gas Tax Funds for a cost shared sidewalk/storm sewer project along Pictou Road.

Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the requested project would be eligible for cost sharing and use of Gas Tax funds, provided it does not violate the federal stacking rules. Village staff have applied for funding under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) for the stormwater and water components and therefore would not be eligible for Gas Tax due to stacking rules. However, the Village is not applying for federal funding for the sidewalk component of the project and would be eligible for Gas Tax funding subject to Council approval.

Council discussed a past cost shared sidewalk project on Village Line but it was determined that this project consisted of sidewalk in both the County and the Village. Some members of Council expressed that the Village should be responsible for this sidewalk project from the Villages tax collection rate. Further discussion was held on the possibility of supporting the project for the storm sewer portion of the project. Mr. Fraser reiterated that if the Village is applying for federal funding under the ICIP, they would not be eligible to use Gas Tax Funding due to stacking rules.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council give consideration during budget deliberations to the request from the Village of Bible Hill to use Federal Gas Tax funding for a cost shared sidewalk project.”

Motion **DEFEATED**. *(Councillors MacKenzie, Cooper, Masters, Taggart, Parker, Pash and Cavanaugh opposed)*

Canada Post

The CAO provided an update on previous directive of Council concerning the status of the Great Village Post Office. After two letters and a discussion with a representative of Canada Post at the NSFMC Conference, a response has been received from Canada Post advising that operations at the Great Village Post Office will continue as in the past.

**Everbridge Public
Notifications Program**

Councillor Gibbs requested information on the Everbridge Public Notifications Program as he heard an announcement on the radio and does not recall what this was.

The CAO and Mr. Devin Trefry, Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer provided a brief recap of the Everbridge Public Notifications Program advising that it is software that allows staff to send emergency and non-emergency notifications to individuals and/or groups. Approximately one year ago, Council agreed to participate with the Town of Truro in the Program. County staff have been working with Town staff in preparation of rolling out the Program, including promotional, educational, and community engagement components. There will be a staff presentation to Council on the Program as more information is available.

Director's Report

A report from the Director of Community Development 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 10:34 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 11:10 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Purchase and Sale
Agreement – Kohltech
International Limited**

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Mayor and CAO be authorized to sign the Purchase and Sale Agreement with Kohltech International Limited, as per the terms and conditions discussed in Closed Session."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That the meeting adjourn at 11:12 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary