

## **COUNCIL COMMITTEE**

A Special Session of Council Committee of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Courthouse, Truro, Nova Scotia, on Monday, April 15, and continued on Wednesday, April 17, 2019.

### **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
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 Bob Pash	District 9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11 (April 17 <sup>th</sup> only)

### **Regrets**

Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District 8
--------------------------	------------

### **Others Present**

Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)  
 Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development  
 Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works  
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services  
 Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager (April 15<sup>th</sup> only)  
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary  
 Jann McFarlane-Himmelman, MRF Manager  
 Jessica Rushton, Balefill Manager  
 Darlyne Proctor, Waste Reduction Manager  
 Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer (April 17<sup>th</sup> only)  
 Devin Trefry, Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer (April 17<sup>th</sup> only)

### **Process Overview**

Council Committee met on April 8, 2018 to review the 2019-20 Maintenance Budget and referred it to this meeting where any additions or deletions would be considered, including requests for community events grants and grants to non-profit organizations.

At the conclusion of this meeting, it is expected that the operating budget and general tax rates will be set. The decisions made at this Special Council Committee meeting will require Council approval at the end of the month. For the sake of simplicity, each separate motion directly related to the budget will not be considered by Council at that meeting, but rather the entire package and tax rate as a whole.

### **Non-Profit Grant Applications**

The New Annan Meeting House Association

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
 Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the Municipality provide a grant to New Annan Meeting House Association.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That the New Annan Meeting House Association receive a grant in the amount \$2,500.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Cumberland Snowmobile Club

Moved by Councillor Taggart  
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the request for grant funding from the Cumberland Snowmobile Club be denied.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Brule Community Centre  
Association

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Brule Community Centre Association.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That the Brule Community Centre Association receive a grant in the amount of \$1,000.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Grace Jollymore Joyce Arts  
Centre

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That the Municipality provide a grant to Grace Jollymore Joyce Arts Centre.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That the Grace Jollymore Joyce Arts Centre receive a grant in the amount of \$15,000 with \$10,000 being for operations and \$5,000 being for Youth Programming.

Motion DEFEATED. (*Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Boutilier, Masters, MacKenzie, and Pash opposed*)

Moved by Mayor Blair  
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Grace Jollymore Joyce Arts Centre receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000 for Youth Programming.”

Motion Carried. (*Councillor Taggart opposed*)

Northumberland Arts Council

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Northumberland Arts Council.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the Northumberland Arts Council receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

Moved by Councillor Cooper  
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cooper  
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society receive a grant in the amount of \$4,597.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sunrise Film Festival Society

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Sunrise Film Festival Society.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Taggart  
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the Sunrise Film Festival Society receive a grant in the amount of \$2,500.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Earlton Community Centre

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Earlton Community Centre.”

Motion DEFEATED. (*Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors MacKenzie, Gibbs, Cooper, Masters, and Pash opposed*)

MADD Cobequid

Moved by Councillor Taggart  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That the Municipality provide a grant to MADD Cobequid.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That MADD Cobequid receive a grant in the amount of \$2,000.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Canadian Mental Health  
Association – Colchester East  
Hants

*Councillor Taggart declared a conflict and removed himself from the table.*

Moved by Councillor Gibbs  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Canadian Mental Health Association – Colchester East Hants Branch.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs  
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That the Canadian Mental Health Association – Colchester East Hants Branch receive a grant in the amount of \$3,000.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

*At this point, Councillor Taggart returned to the table.*

VON Canada – Colchester  
East Hants

VON currently receives an annual grant included in the maintenance budget. The request is for an additional \$5,000 annually for the Adult Day Care Program.

*Councillor MacKenzie excused herself from the meeting briefly.*

Moved by Councillor Boutilier  
 Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That the Municipality provide a grant to VON Canada – Colchester East Hants.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Masters  
 Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the VON Canada – Colchester East Hants receive an increase in their annual grant from \$5,000 to \$10,000 annually.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

*At this point, Councillor MacKenzie returned to the meeting.*

CARMA – Colchester Chapter

Moved by Councillor Cooper  
 Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That the Municipality provide a grant to CARMA (Cat Rescue Maritimes) – Colchester Chapter.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cooper  
 Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That CARMA (Cat Rescue Maritimes) – Colchester Chapter receive a grant in the amount of \$4,000.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Colchester Historical Society

Moved by Councillor Gibbs  
 Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Colchester Historical Society.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

It was noted that in 2018, the Colchester Historical Society requested an increase from \$10,000 to \$25,000 to hire a person to assist with various projects including fundraising. Council agreed to the funding for one year and subsequent to that, funding would go back to \$10,000. Unfortunately, the person for the project was not hired until October or November of 2018. The organization is now requesting \$25,000 as a line item in the budget.

Discussion was held with concern expressed about the previous funding was intended to be for one year. Further discussion was held on support for the organization to assist with getting the position is up and running.

Moved by Mayor Blair  
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That the Colchester Historical Society receive an additional \$5,000 grant for one year.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Gibbs opposed)*

Truro Tennis club

Moved by Councillor Boutilier  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Truro Tennis Club.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Taggart opposed)*

Moved by Councillor Boutilier  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That the Truro Tennis Club receive a grant in the amount of \$4,350.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Haven House Society

Moved by Councillor Pash  
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That the Municipality provide a grant to Haven House Society.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Taggart  
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Haven House Society receive a grant in the amount of \$7,500.”

Motion Carried. *(Deputy Mayor Stewart opposed)*

Deputy Mayor Stewart reminded Council that the Grants to Non-Profit Policy stipulates a maximum grant of \$5,000.

Colchester Stroke Club

Moved by Councillor Gibbs  
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Colchester Stroke Club.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier  
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the Colchester Stroke Club receive a grant in the amount of \$6,000.”

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

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Colchester Stroke Club receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Truro Homeless Outreach  
Society

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie  
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Truro Homeless Outreach Society.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That the Truro Homeless Outreach Society receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.”

Motion DEFEATED. (*Councillors MacKenzie, Gibbs, Cooper, Taggart and Pash opposed*)

Moved by Councillor Taggart  
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the Truro Homeless Outreach Society receive a grant in the amount of \$15,000 and that this amount be annual subject to a one-year review.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Alton Recreation Centre

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Alton Recreation Centre.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Alton Recreation Centre receive a grant in the amount of \$1,500.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

### **Community Events Grant Applications**

Nova Scotia Blind Golf

Moved by Councillor Taggart  
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That the request for funding from Nova Scotia Blind Golf be denied."

Motion Carried. (*Mayor Blair opposed*)

Truro Theatre Society

Moved by Councillor Boutilier  
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

"That the Municipality provide a grant to the Truro Theatre Society."

Motion DEFEATED. (*Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Gibbs, Cooper, Taggart and Pash opposed*)

Not Since Moses Run  
Incorporated

Moved by Mayor Blair  
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

"That the Municipality provide a grant to Not Since Moses Run Incorporated."

Motion Carried. (*Deputy Mayor Stewart and Councillor Gregory opposed*)

Discussion was held on this being the fourth year this group has received funding with the Policy stipulating a maximum of three years. There was confusion as to whether this was the third or fourth year. Discussion was held regarding this being a one of a kind event that has put Colchester on the map. It was noted that the organization has increased their registration fees for the event.

Moved by Mayor Blair  
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

"That Not Since Moses Run Incorporated receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000."

Motion Carried. (*Deputy Mayor Stewart and Councillor Gregory opposed*)

Colchester Legion Pipes and  
Drums

Moved by Councillor Gibbs  
Seconded by Mayor Blair

"That the Municipality provide a grant to the Colchester Legion Pipes and Drums."

Motion Carried. (*Councillor Taggart opposed*)

Moved by Councillor Gibbs  
Seconded by Mayor Blair

"That the Colchester Legion Pipes and Drums receive a grant in the amount of \$15,000."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Colchester Highland Games  
Society

Moved by Councillor Gibbs  
Seconded by Mayor Blair



“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Colchester Highland Games Society.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Mayor Blair  
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Colchester Highland Games Society receive a grant in the amount of \$7,000.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Upon conclusion of the requests for Community Events Grants, Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager, advised Council that he is aware of two additional grant applications that will be coming forth in the near future.

### **Other Non-Grant Funding**

#### **Maggie’s Place**

A letter was received from Maggie’s Place requesting their annual funding be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That the annual grant for Maggie’s Place be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

#### **NSCC – Truro Campus**

Council recently received a presentation from the Nova Scotia Community College followed by a formal request for funding in the amount of \$20,000 to \$30,000. The funds would be for emergency situations for students attending the community college.

Discussion was held on the purpose of the funds requested; existing high school scholarships provided by the County for Colchester residents; and, although Council expressed that this a worthy cause, the request is not an appropriate use of taxpayers’ dollars.

Moved by Councillor Taggart  
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the request from the Nova Scotia Community College Truro Campus be denied.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

#### **Scotia Pool Society**

Scotia Pool’s request for 2019/20 is \$75,000 and this amount is being requested annually, as a line item in the budget.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier  
Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That the Municipality provide a grant to Scotia Pool Society.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Considerable discussion was held on the excellent work the Society has done and the programs offered; amount of funding; support on an annual basis versus annual requests; the need for a proper balance sheet/trial balance to be included with the application; annual financial statements being provided; and cutting back funding in future years if statements show the approved amount is no longer needed.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier  
Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That Scotia Pool receive a grant in the amount of \$75,000 and that this amount be included as a line item in the budget.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Gregory opposed)*

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the meeting go into closed session at 9:25 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:45 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

## Flood Advisory Committee

Moved by Councillor Cooper  
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council support the Flood Advisory Committee in the amount of \$50,000.”

Motion DEFEATED. *(Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors MacKenzie, Gibbs, Masters, Boutilier and Gregory opposed)*

Discussion was held regarding the amount spent on flood projects last year and whether there were specific projects warranting the increase for 2019/20. Ms. Newell, Director of Public Works, advised that there is one major project for consideration at a cost of \$75,000 with possible funding of 50 cents on the dollar from the province. Should this project proceed, little funding would be left for other projects.

Further discussion was held on support if projects being done are for the greater good; concerns about the type of projects being approved; receiving reports on projects approved and amounts paid by property owners; and delays in carrying out work due to provincial regulations.

Ms. Newell advised that there is a Small Flood Policy which the Committee follows for flood mitigation work. Council has opportunity to review and make policy revisions should they wish to do so.

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council support for the Flood Advisory Committee in the amount of \$100,000.”

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

#### Emergency Funding for Rinks

There was lack of interest in setting aside funding for Rink Emergencies as Council indicated that if an issue were to arise, it can be dealt with on an as needed basis.

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Rink Emergency Fund be removed from the budget.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

#### Major Flood Reserve

Moved by Councillor Boutilier  
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council approve \$100,000 for the Major Flood Reserve.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

#### Litter Campaign

At the request of Councillor Taggart, this matter was previously deferred to budget deliberations for consideration of providing funds to community groups who carry out litter clean-up throughout the County.

Ms. Darlyne Proctor, Waste Reduction Manager, advised that currently Divert NS promotes clean-up initiatives across Nova Scotia. Also, proper permitting and safety concerns need to be considered.

Council indicated that there are a number of groups already carrying out clean-up projects throughout the County that do not get paid. Some members of Council indicated safety and liability were key concerns.

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That funding for a Litter Campaign be denied.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Gibbs opposed)*

Other

**Recreation Related**

Council expressed interest in having a structured program involving transporting groups from rural areas in the County to various activities and events throughout the County.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier  
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff be directed to investigate a program for transporting groups from rural areas to various recreational activities and functions throughout the County.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Stewiacke Visitor Information Centre**

The Stewiacke Visitor Information Centre annually receives \$600 for Tourism. In 2018-19, an additional amount of \$1,980 was requested and approved. The same is being requested for 2019-20.

Moved by Mayor Blair  
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the Stewiacke Visitor Information Centre request for additional funding be approved.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Mayor Blair  
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That funding in the amount of \$2,580 be included in the 2019-20 budget for the Stewiacke Visitor Information Centre.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Policing**

Brief discussion was held on policing concerns. The CAO advised that Council’s concerns related to policing are on record with the Department of Justice.

**Recess**

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the meeting recess at 11:05 pm and reconvene on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

<b>Reconvene</b>	The meeting reconvened at 6:00 pm on April 17th for the continuance of budget deliberations.
<b>Purpose</b>	The purpose of this evening's meeting was to review the Maintenance Budget.
<b>Grace Jollymore Joyce Arts Centre</b>	<p>Moved by Councillor Gregory Seconded by Councillor Gibbs</p> <p>"That the Grace Jollymore Joyce Arts Centre be put back on the table to present new information for Council consideration."</p> <p>Motion Carried Unanimously.</p> <p>Councillor Gregory provided clarification on the NOBL loan noting that this loan was for the Creamery Square Association and not the Grace Jollymore Joyce Arts Centre (GJJAC). A brief overview of funds owing by the GJJAC and current level of funds available was provided. Funding is being sought to assist with the hiring of a full-time Manager to market and promote events.</p> <p>Brief discussion was held on funding currently provided to the Marigold Cultural Centre and whether financial statements are received; support for the GJJAC application this year but not annually; and clarification on amounts owing and being requested. Concern was expressed about not having information in paper format. Councillor Gregory indicated that he would reconfirm the numbers and report back at the end of the month.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Boutilier Seconded by Councillor Masters</p> <p>"That the request from the Grace Jollymore Joyce Arts Centre be tabled until the Council meeting at the end of the month."</p> <p>Motion Carried Unanimously.</p>
<b>Maintenance Budget Review</b>	<p>A summary of each departmental section of the Maintenance Budget was provided by the Director of Corporate Services with opportunity for discussion and questions, if any.</p> <p>Discussion was held with motions following on various items in the budget including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expenses listed within the Government section of the budget;</li> <li>• Clarification on the allocation of Engineering Technicians salaries;</li> <li>• Existing Planning term position and whether this should be full time;</li> <li>• Review of permit costs;</li> <li>• Debt for the Wastewater Treatment Facility;</li> <li>• Clarification on maintenance versus capital for sewer;</li> <li>• Having videos on the municipal website to enhance public education;</li> <li>• Review of solid waste management including waste diversion, existing programs, recyclables, biosolids, marketing, and composting;</li> <li>• Emphasis on the need for more resources for economic development;</li> </ul>

- Annual funding in lieu of taxes from Aliant and whether funding is received from other providers such as TELUS, Eastlink, etc.;
- Trails and Parks capital work coming from the maintenance budget; and,
- Policing concerns.

Moved by Councillor Taggart  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That only expenses directly related to Council/Legislative be included in the Government section of the budget.”

Motion DEFEATED. *(Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors MacKenzie, Gibbs, Boutilier and Cooper opposed)*

Moved by Councillor Boutilier  
Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

“That Newsletter and Grant Requests be removed from the legislative section of the budget.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillors Masters and Parker opposed)*

### **Building Inspection**

Moved by Councillor Taggart  
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee recommend to Council that staff be directed to review fee schedules for Building and Fire Inspections.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

### **Economic Development**

Moved by Councillor Taggart  
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That \$100,000 be added to the Economic Development budget for hiring of additional staff.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

### **Parks Reserve**

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That a reserve be established for municipality owned parks.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Taggart

**CLOSED SESSION**

Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That the meeting go into closed session at 8:55 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

*At approximately 9:10 pm, Councillor Gibbs left the meeting.*

Moved by Councillor Boutilier  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:32 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Continuance of Maintenance  
Budget Review**

**Policing**

Moved by Councillor Parker  
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council Committee recommend to Council that an invitation be extended to the Truro Police Service to make a presentation to Council on providing policing services to Colchester County.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That the budget for policing be reduced by three officer positions with funds being held in reserve in another account.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Taggart  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council Committee recommend to Council that a letter be written to the Department of Justice within 14 days requesting further details as it relates to staffing of the district offices inclusive of names and/or regimental numbers of all authorized positions as well as the status of each position.’

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Mayor Blair  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that based on the policing review of Cumberland County, Council give consideration to carrying out its own review for Colchester County.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Tax Rate**

Moved by Councillor Boutilier  
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That one half cent be added to the residential tax rate and the commercial rate remain status quo.”

Motion Carried. (*Councillor Gregory opposed*)

**CLOSED SESSION**

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That the meeting go into closed session at 10:10 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Mayor Blair  
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 10:20 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That the meeting adjourn at 10:21 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno  
Recording Secretary