

## 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 May 16, 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 Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District 8
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

### Regrets

Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Councillor Bob Pash	District 9

### Others Present

Mr. Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)  
 Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development  
 Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works  
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services  
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor  
 Tracey Veno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary  
 Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer  
 Devin Trefry, Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer  
 Paul Smith, Senior Planner

### Approval of Agenda

Moved by Mayor Blair  
 Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the agenda be approved with the following amendments:

- Remove Item 14, County Cemeteries;
- Add Item 15b, Colchester Food Bank;
- Add Item 16b, RCMP Announcement; and,
- Add Item 23, Legal Matter in Closed Session.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

### Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Gibbs  
 Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the minutes of meetings held on February 20, April 11, 15 and 17, 2019, be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Business Arising from Minutes**

Referring to page 15 of budget meeting minutes held on April 15 and 17, 2019, Councillor Parker requested an update on the status of the letters relative to RCMP motions. The CAO advised that discussions have been held with the CAO and Chief of Police concerning a presentation from Truro Police Service and the letter is ready for the Mayor's signature. The Department of Justice is gathering information relative to the request for details on staffing.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Provincial Capital Assistance Program Application 2019**

Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, advised that the Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) provides 50% funding for capital construction projects or studies related to sanitary sewer systems, stormwater systems or water systems. Applications for 2019 were due May 6<sup>th</sup> and all applications must be followed up with a formal motion of Council showing support for the project.

Clarification was sought on where the remaining 50% funding would come from for successful applications. Ms. Newell confirmed that funding would be 50% from the Province and 50% from the Sewer Area Rate.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier  
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That Council Committee recommends that staff's 2019 application to the Provincial Capital Assistance Program for the Inflow and Infiltration Project for the Brookfield Sewer System, valued at \$78,215, be supported by Council."

Motion Carried Unanimously

**Provincial Flood Risk Infrastructure Investment Program Application 2019**

Ms. Newell advised that similar to the PCAP, the Provincial Flood Risk Infrastructure Investment Program (FRIIP), offers 50% funding for flood mitigation projects. Applications for 2019 were due May 6<sup>th</sup> and all applications must be followed up with a formal motion of Council showing support for the project.

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That Council Committee recommends that the County Flood Advisory Committee's 2019 application to the FRIIP program for the work along the Franklin Property on the North River, valued at \$78,215, be supported by Council."

AND

"That Council Committee recommends that the Joint Flood Advisory Committee's 2019 application to the FRIIP program for the Salt Marsh Pre-Design, Waterline Removal and Lepper Brook Cleanup, valued at \$114,715, be supported by Council."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**4-H Nova Scotia – Pro Show**

*Councillor Masters declared a conflict of interest and removed himself from the table.*

Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager, provided a brief overview of this item indicating that 4-H Nova Scotia is requesting \$10,000 for the 4-H Pro Show being held September 27-29, 2019. Requests of this nature can be considered under the criteria of the Community Event Grants Policy. Under this Policy, recipients are eligible for a maximum of three grants. This would be the first request from 4-H Nova Scotia for the Pro Show.

Brief discussion was held on source of funds, balance remaining in the budget for Community Events Grants, increased rental costs, and benefits of the longevity of this event being hosted in Bible Hill.

Moved by Mayor Blair  
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that funding in the amount of \$10,000 be approved for 4-H Nova Scotia for the 2019 Pro Show, with source of funds being Community Event Grants.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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

**Truro – North River 4-H Club (Youth Exchange)**

Mr. Burgess indicated that the Truro – North River 4-H Club is requesting funding in the amount of \$2,500, through the Community Events Grants Policy to assist with costs for the C2C 4-H Exchange being held July 4-12, 2019. Council has contributed to past 4-H Exchange events, one for the Clifton 4-H Club and one for the Truro – North River 4-H Club, both in the amount of \$2,000 each.

Discussion was held on the maximum of three grants and if the different groups applying would be considered separate. Mr. Burgess indicated that the Policy does not specifically address this. However, it was noted that the Exchange Program may qualify under the Grants to Non-Profit Policy.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh  
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that funding in the amount of \$2,500 be approved for Truro – North River 4-H Club for the C2C 4-H Exchange being held July 4-12, 2019, with source of funds being Community Event Grants.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**People First Nova Scotia – “Homes in Our Community”**

Mr. Burgess indicated that an application has been received from People First Nova Scotia, Truro Chapter, requesting funding in support of the “Homes in Our Community” 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Provincial Conference being held in Truro May 24-26, 2019. This is the first request from People First Nova Scotia, Truro Chapter, for this event. Requests of this nature can be considered under the

Community Event Grants Policy as it an event attracting people from outside the region, bringing economic spinoff to the local area.

Clarification was sought on what this group does. Councillor Gibbs indicated that is an organization that supports people with intellectual disabilities. Interest was expressed in receiving more information about this organization.

Moved by Councillor Taggart  
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that funding in the amount of \$1,000 be approved for People First Nova Scotia, Truro Chapter for the Homes in Our Community” 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Provincial Conference being held in Truro May 24-26, 2019, with source of funds being Community Event Grants.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

### **Phase 1B – Fundy Discovery Site**

Paul Smith, Senior Planner, provided an overview of this item including background information, work completed as part of Phase 1A, review of process undertaken, project budget and funding contributions. It was noted that costs of work completed to date versus budget has resulted in a surplus of slightly more than \$100,000.

Details of the proposed work associated with Phase 1B including construction and planning components, estimated costs and funding sources were presented. Construction components include completion of the natural playground, amphi-theatre, site security and safety, landscaping and amenities, trail connector, and entrance signage. Future phases of the Fundy Discovery Site require a significant amount of planning and design. Capital project and planning components include planning and design work for bridge and geotechnical; interpretive and business plan; and, site and landscapes. Staff continue to explore funding opportunities and partnerships for the project. A copy of a consultant report titled the Fundy Gateway Tidal Experience was distributed to Council members for the meeting.

Discussion was held on the need for a review of future phases and plans, potential opportunities for the site to generate revenues, the composition of the Project Steering Committee, and building to achieve the Rick Hansen Foundation’s Gold Level Standard. Considerable debate was also held on source of funds for the project. Concerns were expressed relative to the amount being spent on the natural playground and funding sources for this component of the project.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the proposed Fundy Discovery Site construction and capital planning programs for the 2019-20 fiscal year be approved and that \$487,000 (less the 2018-19 capital budget surplus) be forwarded to the Capital Budget.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier  
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That staff investigate the Rick Hansen Foundation Gold Level Standard for the Fundy Discovery Site.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Taggart  
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that a portion of funds in the operating budget for parks and trails be allocated for the Fundy Discovery Site Interpretive Centre.”

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

Moved by Councillor Cooper  
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that any surplus funds from the Parks and Trails Funding Programs be allocated to the Fundy Discovery Site Project.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Truro Flying Club –  
Debert Flight Centre**

Mr. Burgess provided a summary of this item indicating that the Truro Flying Club is requesting funding in the amount of \$15,000 through the Community Event Grant Policy to assist with costs for hosting the Snowbirds event on June 29, 2019.

Discussion was held on source of funds with Mr. Austin indicating that, if approved, monies would be replenished to the Community Event Grants budget from ticket sales for the event. Further discussion was held relative to shared profits.

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that funding in the amount of \$15,000 be approved for the Snowbirds event to be held on June 19, 2019, with source of funds being Community Events Grants; and,

That any profits made over \$5,000 be split 50-50 between the Municipality of Colchester and the Truro Flying Club.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Proclamation – Gaelic  
Nova Scotia Month**

Moved by Mayor Blair  
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That May be proclaimed Gaelic Nova Scotia Month.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

### **Council Remuneration**

This item was previously reviewed by the Executive Committee and although there were no recommendations coming forward, the Executive did agree to bring forward to Council for consideration.

Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, presented the results of the analysis using a median income as a consideration for external income's impact on the marginal tax rate. The marginal tax rate to be applied to the previously non-taxable portion of remuneration would be 43.5%. Using this methodology, the Councillor remuneration would increase from \$25,006 to \$31,423; remuneration for Deputy Mayor would increase from \$30,598 to \$38,451; and the Mayor's would increase from \$49,060 to \$61,651.

Council expressed that the main reasons for the review of remuneration was to address the 2019 federal tax changes which removed the tax exemption of one-third portion of remuneration for elected officials and to bring the net pay back to the equivalent level as it was prior to the removal of the exemption.

Discussion was held on the annual CPI increase with concern being expressed regarding increases on a percentage basis as this continues to put a greater gap between positions.

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Council Remuneration be adjusted based on the marginal tax rate of 43.5% as presented by the Director of Corporate Services on May 16, 2019, bringing the net compensation to the same level as prior to the 2019 Federal tax change; and,

That this adjustment be retroactive to January 1, 2019.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cooper  
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the base remuneration levels for Council be increased to:

\$36,316 for Councillor positions;  
\$43,394 for Deputy Mayor position;  
\$61,651 for the Mayor position; and,

That it be noted this puts Colchester County Council on par with Kings County Council with the notable exception that this does not include the extra benefits they receive.”

Motion Carried. *(Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Stewart and Councillor Taggart opposed.)*

Councillor Cooper noted that remuneration for the Mayor should stand as noted above as it reflects the adjustment that addresses the 2019 Federal tax changes.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier  
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the annual increase for members of Council be an equal dollar value increment for each position based on the average increase of the three Council positions using Consumer Price Index; and

That this increase be effective April 1, 2019 and on each anniversary thereafter.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cooper  
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the salary adjustment bringing Colchester County Council on par with Kings County Council be effective April 1, 2019.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Taggart opposed)*

Brief discussion was held on what are considered allowable/eligible expenses for members of Council with respect to the 2019 federal tax changes.

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That staff investigate applicability for reimbursement of expenses for in district activities.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

## **Council Chambers Security**

*In order to address the next two matters, Deputy Mayor Stewart removed himself from the Chair position and Alternate Chair Councillor Boutilier assumed the role of Chair.*

Deputy Mayor Stewart raised the issue of security noting that it is not the first time he has brought this issue forward. Since 2016, cameras have been installed in the building, commissionaires have been hired, entrance fobs have been installed on the back door and protective glass was installed in the tax office. The Deputy Mayor indicated that these were all good and necessary, however, more needs to be done. Council Chambers is too free and accessible during Council and related meetings and no other Council Chambers allow free access to Council and staff during meetings.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart  
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council a barrier be established to separate the public gallery from the Council and staff, and it become practice that during Committee and Council meetings that access beyond the established barrier be by invitation only.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Colchester Food Bank –  
An Evening of Hope Not  
Hunger**

Deputy Mayor Stewart advised that the Colchester Food Bank’s Evening of Hope Not Hunger Awards Gala is taking place June 6<sup>th</sup>. They will be recognizing a number of contributors at this event and the Deputy Mayor asked if Council would be interested in purchasing a table to have County representation there. Tickets are \$50 each or a table of eight for \$300.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart  
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that a table be purchased for the Colchester Food Bank’s Evening of Hope Not Hunger Awards Gala.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

*At this point, Deputy Mayor Stewart resumed the role of Chair.*

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Director’s Report**

A Report from the Interim Director of Solid Waste was circulated in the package for this evening’s meeting.

**RCMP Announcement**

Mayor Blair advised that MP Bill Casey announced today that the Minister of Public Safety has confirmed that the RCMP will be engaging an independent consultant to review the plans to relocate the RCMP Dispatch Centre in Truro.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting go into closed session at 10:22 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 12:09 am.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

During Closed Session discussion, Council agreed to hold a Special Council meeting on May 22, 2019, at 6:00 pm. The purpose the meeting would be to deal with a negotiations matter. Advertising of the Special Council Session would be handled accordingly.

Due to the lateness of the meeting, Council agreed to defer the three Personnel Matters to the Regular Council Session on May 28, 2019.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting adjourn at 12:10 am.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno  
Recording Secretary