

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

The Regular Session of the Council Committee of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Courthouse, Truro, Nova Scotia, on Thursday, August 8, 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 Ron Cavanaugh	District 8
Councillor Bob Pash	District 9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Staff Present

Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
 Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Suzanne Graham, Recording Secretary (August 8th)
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary (August 13th)
 Blaise Watson, Manager of Operations, Transportation and Wastewater Collection

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
 Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the agenda be approved with the following amendments:

- Move item 17 to Closed Session
- Add one negotiation Item in Closed Session
- Add one property matter in Closed Session”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
 Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That page 1852 of the Council Committee minutes of June 13, 2019 be changed to reflect Councillor Boutilier voting not in favour of the item relative to Jennifer Drive.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meetings held on June 14 and 18, 2019.

August 8 & 13, 2019

**Presentation – Grant
Thornton – 2018/19 Audited
Financial Statements**

At their meeting on June 27, 2019, Council granted authority for August Council Committee to approve the audited financial statements.

Ms. Kim Livingston presented the 2018/19 Audited Financial Statements and a brief report on the audit of the Municipality. A detailed report of the financial statements was provided to the Audit Committee at a meeting held in July. In the opinion of the auditor the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Municipality of Colchester.

Copies of the statements were circulated to Council prior to this evenings meeting.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council accepts and adopts the consolidated financial statements as presented by Grant Thornton, and;

That the Mayor and CAO be authorized to execute the necessary documentation relative to the 2018/19 financial statements.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Nova Scotia Environment
Directive – Creamery Road
Overflow

Blaise Watson, Manager of Operations, Transportation and Wastewater Collection, was in attendance to speak to this item. Mr. Watson provided a brief overview of a recent summary offence ticket and directive to replace a section of sewer received from Nova Scotia Environment. After reviewing the summary offence ticket with the CAO and the Solicitor, staff have advised the court that the County will not pay the ticket. A court date will be set, and more information will follow.

The replacement of the section of sewer is to take place by the end of September 2019. As there are currently no funds in the approved capital budget to carry out this work, and given the short timeline, staff are asking for directive on how to proceed.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That staff be directed to correspond with more senior levels of Nova Scotia Environment to push for a 2020 construction schedule, in keeping with the current approved budget of Council.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Brookfield Sewer Boundary
Change, 21 Trenholm Lake
Road**

Blaise Watson advised Council that the property located at 21 Trenholm Lake Road in Brookfield is currently included within the sewer serviced boundary however, this property does not have frontage on a public sewer and should therefore not be paying the sewer service rate. Staff are recommending that the Brookfield sewer service boundary be modified to remove this property.

Discussion was held on the length of time these property owners have been paying for a service they were not receiving, whether or not they would be refunded for the current tax bill or for the entire amount they have paid over the years, and other properties that may have paid for services they didn't receive or incorrect assessments. Councillor Taggart specifically raised a similar issue with a property in Glenholme.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that 21 Trenholm Lake Road, PID 20161030, be removed from the sewer service boundary for Brookfield, and:

That the taxes be adjusted accordingly for the current fiscal year (April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020)."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That staff investigate the length of time and the amount of taxes 21 Trenholm Lake Road has paid for sewer service and bring this information back to a future meeting."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Masters

"That staff review past tax bills relative to possible errors for the property located in Glenholme as discussed."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Councillor Taggart indicated that he would contact staff with the specifics on the Glenholme property.

**Red Clay Studio Society –
Community Events Grant
Request**

Craig Burgess, Manager of Recreation Services, advised Council that Red Clay Studio Society is seeking a Community Events Grant for the White Rabbit Residency and Festival being held August 17 and 18, 2019.

Discussion was held on potentially having the group make a presentation to Council for future requests for this event.

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that funding to Red Clay Studio for the White Rabbit Residency and Festival be denied."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Atlantic Vitality Expo –
Community Events Grant
Request

Craig Burgess provided a summary of a Community Events Grant request from the RECC for the Atlantic Vitality Expo. This event will serve as a revamped Senior's Expo, bringing together wellness leaders and community members.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Masters

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that funding in the amount of \$2,000 for the Atlantic Vitality Expo be approved."

Motion Carried.

(Councillors Boutilier, Cooper, Gibbs and Parker opposed).

**Review of Building Permit
and Planning Fees**

Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, presented a review of the current building related fees for the Municipality.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That Council Committee recommends to Council the recommended changes to the planning and development fees as contained in the Action Item, and;

That a Municipal Fee Policy be created".

Motion Carried.

(Councillors Taggart, Gibbs and Masters opposed).

**Solar Electricity for
Community Building Pilot
Program**

Councillor Taggart brought forward an email received from NSFM regarding the Department of Energy and Mines' Solar Electricity for Community Buildings Pilot Program.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That staff be directed to submit an application to the Nova Scotia Department of Energy and Mines under the Solar Electricity for Community Buildings Pilot Program for the Tatamagouche and Debert arenas."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Former CPDS Lands
Development**

Councillor Masters requested an update on the former CPDS lands in Debert including what lands are ready for sale.

Discussion was held on the amount of money spent on archaeology, why certain lands were developed, and the possibility of not proceeding with further archaeology.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier

Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That staff prepare a report to Council on lands in Debert currently ready for sale and remaining work to prepare the rest of the land for sale.”

motion amended

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That no additional archaeology work be done with the exception of the land required for the Debert roundabout until staff provide Council with a presentation.”

Motion Defeated.

(Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Gibbs, MacKenzie, Cooper, Parker and Gregory opposed)

The amending motion having been defeated, the original motion was voted on and carried.

Fundy Discovery Site

Councillor Masters raised the issue of security at the Fundy Discovery Site. Discussion was held on lighting, washroom hours of operation and potential vandalism.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That staff investigate having Commissionaires provide security to the Fundy Discovery Site until a long-term solution to security is found.”
Motion Carried Unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Code of Conduct Update

A timeline of steps taken to develop and implement a Code of Conduct for Council was included in tonight’s package.

Driveway Culverts, County Roads

This Information Item relates to providing clarification on maintenance responsibilities for driveway culverts on County owned roads. The Municipality’s position has always been that private homeowners are responsible for maintaining, repairing and/or replacing their driveway culvert. However, based on recent phone calls, it appears there is some confusion regarding who is responsible for what. A statement will be added to the driveway permit to better clarify the responsibilities.

Live Streaming of Council Meetings

This item detailed the current technical and staffing abilities to livestream Council meetings including a review of existing hardware. A review of which neighbouring municipalities live stream meetings and how it is done was also completed. Two options were provided for Council consideration as well as staff, policy and budget impacts.

Directors Report

A report from the Director of Community Development was circulated in the package for tonight’s meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the meeting go into closed session at 9:54 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Cavanaugh left.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Pash

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

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Millbrook First Nation

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Mayor write a letter to Millbrook First Nation regarding the revised Truro Heights Windmill Project proposal.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Waste To Energy

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council to defer signing any agreement on waste to energy until such a time that staff can provide an updated presentation.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Request for Proposal – Solar Project

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the RFP for the solar PV projects for the Brookfield Sportsplex and the RECC be awarded to Geddes and Murphy Electric at a cost of \$326,000.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

RECESS

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting recess at 11:26 pm and reconvene on April 13th, immediately following the Special Closed Session Presentation meeting.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

August 8 & 13, 2019

RECONVENE

The meeting reconvened at 8:38 pm on August 13th for the completion of two items in Closed Session from the August 8th meeting. All Council members were in attendance with the exception of Councillor Boutillier.

Others in attendance were CAO Rob Simonds, Director of Corporate Services Scott Fraser, Municipal Solicitor Dennis James, and Recording Secretary Tracey Veno.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That the meeting go into closed session at 8:39 pm.”

Councillor MacKenzie declared a conflict of interest on the second item in Closed Session and excused herself from the meeting at 8:48 pm.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:15 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

OTHER

Referring to a grand opening at the Fundy Discovery Site, the CAO provided a brief overview of plans to date. The date being considered for the grand opening is September 21st, with a rain date of September 22nd.

Brief discussion was held on another event taking place in Upper Stewiacke on September 21st. Additionally, a suggestion of having food truck vendors on site for the grand opening was made. The CAO advised that this could be something for staff to look into.

Council agreed with the suggested dates for the grand opening.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting adjourn at 9:30 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Suzanne Graham
Recording Secretary (August 8th)

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary (August 13th)