

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, September 12, 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 Wade Parker	District 11

Regrets

Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
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Staff 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
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer
 Devin Trefry, Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Cooper
 Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Item #15a, Time of Meetings;
- Legal Matter in Closed Session;
- Negotiations in Closed Session; and,
- Personnel Matter in Closed Session.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
 Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the minutes of the meetings held on August 6, 8 & 13, 2019, be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Business Arising from
Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meetings held on August 6, 8 & 13, 2019.

ACTION ITEMS

**Hub Centre Drive Paving –
Petition Results**

Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, provided a summary of the petition results for the paving of Hub Centre Drive. Of the 16 petitions for properties fronting Hub Centre Drive, 15 completed petitions were received by the closing date. A total of 68.6% were in favour, resulting in a successful petition. Ms. Newell noted that at their meeting on August 29, 2019, Council authorized September Council Committee to approve proceeding with the paving project should the petition be favourable.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council approves the paving of Hub Centre Drive in the Fall of 2019, in accordance with the successful paving petition, with costs to be recovered from the adjacent properties as outlined in the Local Improvement By-law.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Tatamagouche Water Utility
– Three-Year Operating
Budget**

Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, advised that three-year operating budgets are required by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board. The three-year Tatamagouche Water Utility operating budget was distributed in the Council package for this evenings meeting. At a meeting of the Tatamagouche Water Utility Advisory Committee on August 22, 2019, a motion was passed by the Committee recommending that the three-year budget be approved as presented.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the three-year Tatamagouche Water Utility operating budget (2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22) be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Debert Water Utility – Three-
Year Operating Budget**

Mr. Fraser presented the Debert Water Utility three-year operating budget which was distributed in the Council package for this evenings meeting.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the three-year Debert Water Utility operating budget (2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22) be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Cliffs of Fundy Geopark
Boundary Change**

Devin Trefry, Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer, advised that a letter from the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark Society has been received requesting an extension of the Geopark's eastern boundary to include the Fundy Discover Site in Lower Truro.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that it support and approve the request to extend the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark Boundary to include the Fundy Discovery Site."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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

Mr. Fraser provided a brief overview of this item indicating that the property is within the Brookfield sewer service boundary but cannot connect to municipal sewer. The property owners have been paying the sewer rate for 24 years, totalling approximately \$3,800.

Referring to the possibility of issuing a refund, the Municipality has no formal policy around tax adjustments for municipally generated errors. However, it has not been common practice to go back that many years for refunds. There is other legislation such as the Limitations Act which has a general one-year limit.

Staff recommend that a policy be developed for Council consideration to ensure consistency in cases such as these.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Masters

"That Council Committee recommends to Council a full refund, retroactive 24 years, amounting to \$3,800, for errors in sewer charges for the property located at 21 Trenholm Lake Road be approved."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Masters

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that a policy be created to ensure consistent practices are in place for municipally generated errors on tax bills."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Policy for Municipal Fees

Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, introduced the Policy for Municipal Fees indicating that at the August Council Session, fees charged for permits and services under the Community Development Department were reviewed. At that time, it was recommended that one policy be created for all municipal fees. Some of the fees as listed in the draft Policy for Municipal Fees are listed in By-

laws. These By-laws will need to be amended, removing the fees and referencing the new Policy. It is staffs intention to bring the applicable By-laws forth for First Reading at the end of the month.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends that Council adopt the new Policy for Municipal Fees and proceed to First Reading for the amendment of affect By-laws at the next regular meeting of Council.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Teakwood Stormwater System

Ms. Newell provided a brief overview of the efforts to date to address Teakwood Court stormwater issues. Also provided were associated costs to date, options moving forward and resource implications.

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that proceeding with a phased approach to the drainage issue on Teakwood Court, acknowledging that the work would be carried out on private property and would require legal agreements and potential easements.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Branding

Mr. Trefry began his presentation on the branding initiative by introducing Amanda Bent, advising that Ms. Bent provided local branding and graphic design expertise to the final stages of the project. Permission was granted by Council for Ms. Bent to answer any questions related to the project should the need arise.

The presentation included information relating to the overall process undertaken for the project, current perceptions, use of coat of arms, the brand story highlights, reveal of the tagline and the logo, and various examples of how the new brand could be used on stationery product, vehicles and apparel.

Brief discussion was held on the proposed new brand with positive feedback conveyed on both the logo and tagline; consistency in use moving forward; and plans for implementation. Some concern was expressed with the logo design.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council accept the report and presentation on the new Colchester brand.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That Council Committee recommends to Council proceeding with the new Colchester brand, as presented.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Cooper opposed)*

Deputy Mayor Stewart thanked Ms. Bent for her expertise and contributions to the Branding Committee.

Capital Budget Approval

At this point in the meeting, Deputy Mayor Stewart removed himself as Chair so he could speak on this item. Alternate Chair Councillor Boutilier assumed the position of Chair.

Mr. Fraser provided a brief overview of the Capital Budget as presented, noting that Council had recently reviewed the document in detail at the September Presentation meeting. The document before Council this evening has the amendments as directed by Council at that meeting.

Referencing sidewalks in Brookfield, Deputy Mayor Stewart requested an amendment and addition to the Five-Year Capital Budget for consideration.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council the following changes to the 2019-2020 Capital Budget:

- Changing the sidewalk in Hilden from Avalon to Edward Avenue in 2022-23 to Highway 2 to Upham’s Family Outlet in 2021-22; and,
- Adding a sidewalk from Upham’s Family Outlet to the Town line in 2022-23.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor MacKenzie opposed)*

Discussion was held on additional amendments to the Five-Year Capital Budget including the addition of a sidewalk from Ice Pond Drive to the west end of Fir Avenue; the need for discussions on the paving of J-Class Roads; past criteria developed for staff to evaluate sidewalks; and, the process required for getting sidewalks added to the Capital Budget. It was noted that the Five-Year Capital Budget is a living, planning document where projects can be moved, added and removed from the list based on the decisions of Council.

Responding to a request for clarification on the process of sidewalks being added to the Capital Budget, Ms. Newell indicated that typically projects would be referred to staff to bring back information to Council before being adding to the list.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That a sidewalk from Ice Pond Drive to the west end of Fir Avenue be referred to staff with information to be brought back to Council for consideration for addition to the Five-Year Capital Budget.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That a sidewalk on College Road from Old Courthouse Branch to the entrance of Saywood Drive be referred to staff and added to the Capital Budget in fiscal 2021-22.”

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

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That a sidewalk on College Road from Old Courthouse Branch to the entrance of Saywood Drive be referred to staff with information to be brought back to Council for consideration for addition to the Five-Year Capital Budget.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the 2019-20 Five-Year Capital Budget be adopted, as amended.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

At this point in the meeting, Deputy Mayor Stewart resumed his role as Chair.

**Forestry Industry – Request
for Letter of Support**

Rob Simonds, CAO, reminded Council that this item relates to the request from representatives from the Forestry Industry for a letter of support as per their presentation at the September Presentation meeting.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that a letter of support as requested by the Forestry Industry, be written to the Premier for an extension to the date identified in the Boat Harbour Act to permit Northern Pulp sufficient time to complete the effluent plant and pipeline installation

with the condition that Northern Pulp complete their required studies and obtain Environmental Assessment approvals be approved.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Colchester Community
Workshop Request for
Funding**

Councillor Gibbs declared a conflict of interest on this matter and removed himself from the table.

Referring to the recent request for funding from the Colchester Community Workshop, Mr. Fraser advised that a meeting with the Executive Director of the Workshop was held on September 11th and that staff intend to bring additional information forward at the end of the month. The CAO reminded Council that the ask is for \$20,000 per year for the next five years.

Support was expressed for the request from the Colchester Community Workshop and discussion was held on dealing with the request this evening rather than waiting until the Council meeting at the end of the month.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that funding be approved to the Colchester Community Workshop in the amount of \$20,000 per year for five years, subject to proper agreements being in place.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

At this point, Councillor Gibbs returned to the table.

Time of Meetings

Mayor Blair advised that this item is being brought forward to gauge Council’s interest in changing the start times for the regularly scheduled Council Committee and Council meetings from 7:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Brief discussion was held with all Council members being in favour of changing the meeting start times.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the start time for Council Committee and Council meetings be changed to begin at 6 pm, agenda review time changed to 9 pm, and completion of meetings be 10 pm; and,

That the Council Proceedings and Committees Policy be amended accordingly.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Council held further discussion on ways to control length of meetings including managing the preparation of agendas, limiting the number of times Council members speak on each agenda item as outlined in policy, and it not being necessary for roundtable comments on being for or against the topic at hand. The vote is recorded and reflects those members voting in the negative.

Regarding the change to the 6:00 pm meeting start time, it was noted that discretion be shown for members of Council who work full time and may sometimes be late for meetings due to the earlier start time.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Archaeology & Land for Sale Mr. Macpherson provided a detailed presentation on archaeology and land for sale in Debert. The presentation included background information; details on archaeological testing such as process, priorities, results, chronology of testing to date, and highway archaeology work; Debert redevelopment plans; an overview of the lands sold and for sale; and conclusions and observations. A copy of the presentation was distributed on table for this evening's meeting.

Directors Report A report from the Director of Corporate Services was circulated in the package for tonight's meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That the meeting go into closed session at 10:11 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Councillor MacKenzie declared a conflict on the Personnel Matter in Closed Session and left the meeting at 10:55 pm.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Pash

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 11:09 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Rural Broadband At their meeting on August 29, 2019, Council granted authority to September Council Committee to approve the signing of an agreement with Cumberland County relative to Rural Internet.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That the Mayor and CAO be authorized to execute the agreement as discussed in Closed Session, subject to all related agreements being completed and approved."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Waste To Energy

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the CAO be directed to not proceed with further negotiations relative to Waste to Energy and to notify the industry representatives accordingly.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting adjourn at 11:10 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary