

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, October 10, 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 Ron Cavanaugh	District 8
Councillor Bob Pash	District 9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10

Regrets

Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Staff Present

Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
 Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Tracey Venno, Recording Secretary
 Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer
 Paul Smith, Senior Planner

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
 Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Move Item #15, Glenholme Property Tax Billing Inquiry, to Action;
- Add Item #15b, FCM Jordan; and,
- Add two Negotiation Matters in Closed Session.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Cooper
 Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That the minutes of the meeting held on September 12, 2019, be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meeting held on September 12, 2019.

ACTION ITEMS**Airshows in Debert**

With Council's approval, Mr. Colin Stevenson of Air Show Atlantic, presented with Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer, on the 2019 Snowbirds Over Debert event held in June, as well as on the proposal for hosting the Atlantic Canada International Air Show (ACIAS) in 2020.

A brief report was provided on the 2019 Snowbirds Over Debert event which included number of attendees; information on jet fuel sales; economic impact of these type of events; location and facility features; logistical issues; and, overall experience. Mr. Austin indicated jet fuel sales were \$9,723.24, which fell short of the \$15,000 grant amount. It was noted that there is a need for a more systematic approach for jet fuel pricing.

In his presentation on the ACIAS, Mr. Stevenson included a brief overview of the organization; information on various locations of past shows; reasons for moving the event from place to place; past attendance records; budget and sponsorship information; and, benefits to the community.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

"That Council Committee directs the Events Truro-Colchester Committee to assess the proposal on the Atlantic Canada International Air Show and make a recommendation to Councils; and,

That staff also be directed to do a cost and benefit analysis of the proposal, with recommendations coming forward to Council for consideration."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Council Proceedings and Committees Policy Amendments

Rob Simonds, CAO, advised that the amendments to the Council Proceedings and Committees Policy are related to Council's recent directive concerning the start time of Council and Committee meetings.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that amendments to the Council Proceedings and Committees Policy be approved, as presented."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tender Award – Hub Centre Drive Paving

Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, provided a brief overview of this item including a recommendation to change from the standard 6-metre road width to 7-metres. Additional costs associated with the increase would be \$15,000, bringing the total tender price to \$145,000 excluding taxes. Brief discussion was held on the additional costs and options for Council consideration.

Ms. Newell noted that at their meeting on September 26, 2019, Council granted authority to October Committee to make a decision on this matter.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the property owners be responsible for the costs amounting to \$150,000 and the remaining \$6,736 be covered by the Municipality through the County Paving Reserve.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee approves the award of the tender for the paving of Hub Centre Drive to Will-Kare Paving for a total contract amount of \$145,500 excluding HST; and,

That an internal contingency of \$15,000 be approved, to be spent only on authority of the Director of Public Works.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Brookfield Sportsplex Audit

Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, indicated that this item is a result of a request from the Brookfield Sportsplex Board for assistance with audit costs. Staff determined that an full audit is not required by the County and is not a requirement under the Societies Act. When representatives were notified of this, their request was that the Municipality fund an annual review for the organization at a cost of \$3,500.

Discussion was held regarding what the Brookfield Sportsplex has done in the past for audits, what other arenas do, and not supporting operating expenses for arenas and various other facilities.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That Council Committee recommends to Council to not contribute funding assistance for the Brookfield Sportsplex annual financial review.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Proposed Amendments to Policies Related to Municipal Fees

Paul Smith, Senior Planner, advised that Council previously approved the Municipal Fees Policy, however, the Policy was only partially completed and did not contain fees for all departments. The amendments as presented this evening include all fees consolidated into one document.

Mr. Smith noted that many of the fees listed in the Policy are also referenced in associated By-laws which will require concurrent amendments to remove the fees and make reference to the new Policy. If Council passes the Municipal Fees Policy, it is staff’s intent to bring the applicable By-laws forward for First Reading at the end of the month. Additionally, amendments are required to the Livestock Control By-law Impoundment Fees Policy and Sewer Use Policy to remove fees from the individual Policies as these have also been incorporated into the Municipal Fees Policy.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council Committee recommends that Council adopt amendments to the Policy for Municipal Fees, the Livestock Control By-law Impoundment Fees Policy and Sewer Use Policy as presented and proceed to First Reading for amendments to affected By-laws at the next regular meeting of Council.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Debert Airport Snow Plowing 2019/20

Ms. Newell provided a summary of this item indicating that Ian Sinclair Contracting has been doing snow plowing at the Debert Airport for the last number of years. The quoted rate for the service for 2019/20 shows an increase of 1.7% over last year, which staff feels is reasonable.

Brief discussion was held on liabilities, current uses of the airport, the Municipalities obligations for snow plowing, and the existing contract with the Truro Flying Club.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the snow plowing contract for the Debert Airport for the 2019/20 winter season be awarded to Ian Sinclair Contracting.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That staff be directed to undertake a review of the existing contract with the Truro Flying Club as well as an analysis on the utilization of the Debert Airport with information being brought forward to Council.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

RECC Board Appointment

Mayor Blair advised that the Nominating Committee met earlier this evening to deal with the RECC Board citizen representative appointment.

It should be noted that at their meeting on September 26, 2019, Council granted authority for October Council Committee to make a final decision on this matter.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council approves that Dwayne Boudreau be re-appointed to the RECC Board, for a four-year term.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Five Islands Cemetery

This item relates to a request from the Five Islands Cemetery to waive tipping fees for the clean-up of the cemetery property which was created and used as a dumpsite by the previous owners.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that tipping fees in the amount of \$2,535 for the Five Islands Cemetery be waived; and,

That, if necessary, tipping fees for any additional materials related to the clean up also be waived.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Live Video Meetings

Councillor Boutilier raised the issue of Live Video Meetings indicating that this would contribute to initiatives relative to community engagement. The CAO advised that as per previous directive of Council an Information Item was brought forward to Council in August but at that time, no directive was given.

Council discussed the possibility of receiving a presentation from staff on this topic as well as doing a test run early in the new year.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That staff be directed to make a presentation to Council at an upcoming meeting to provide information on Live Video Meetings.”

Motion **DEFEATED.** (*Mayor Blair, Councillors Cooper, Gibbs, Pash and Cavanaugh opposed*)

Atlantic Mayors' Congress

Mayor Blair advised that she recently attended the Atlantic Mayors' Congress (AMC). One of the items discussed at that meeting was hosting the next AMC and Mayor Blair indicated that she offered for Colchester to host with Mayor Mills offering to assist Colchester with hosting. The AMC usually attracts 30-40 Mayors from the Atlantic region and is scheduled for April 16, 17, and 18, 2020.

Discussion was held on conference attendees and concerns were raised about receiving information on costs for hosting prior to the commitment being made.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends that Council support hosting the 2020 Atlantic Mayors' Congress scheduled for April 16, 17 and 18.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Glenholme Property Tax Billing Inquiry

Councillor Taggart provided a brief summary of this item indicating that the property owners were charged for a period of two years for a building that had been demolished on their property. There was conflicting information

between the Municipality and PVSC but neither could provide documentation to confirm the error. Mr. Fraser advised that the documentation for demolition had been sent via facsimile to PVSC however, the document could not be located.

Debate was held on responsibility being that of the property owner, PVSC and/or the Municipality and if it could not be determined where the mistake was made and taxes were paid, the property owners should be refunded.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff determine the taxation amount for the billing error for the Glenholme property (PID #20134490) for the two-year period; and,

That a refund be issued for this amount.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

FCM Jordan

The CAO advised he has been approached to support the FCM Jordan Mission in November for strategic planning. The proposed dates are November 14th to 22nd. There would be no cost to the Municipality.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council Committee recommends that Council supports the Chief Administrative Officer’s participation in the Jordan Mission from November 14-22, 2019.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

NSFM Update on Capped Assessment

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.

Deputy Mayor Stewart advised that for the past 8 plus years, a priority of NSFM was to have something done with the capped assessment. The NSFM is looking for all party support and is encouraging members to reach out to local MLA’s in support of the NSFM resolution on removing the cap on property assessments.

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

Directors Report

A report from the Acting Director of Solid Waste was circulated in the package for tonight’s meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the meeting go into closed session at 9:32 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 10:40 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Service Contract Matter

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that contract services as discussed in Closed Session be terminated effective immediately.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Fundy Discovery Site Security

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that Council:

1. Enter into a contract with Wilson’s Security for the purposes of supplying and installing security cameras at the Fundy Discovery Site;
2. Reallocate any surplus capital funds from the site security initiative which will be used to improve site lighting;
3. Investigate the costs of ongoing site surveillance services for the Fundy Discovery Site and request staff to advise Council on a recommended approach and vendor in the near future; and,
4. Maintain washroom services at the Fundy Discovery Site until November 17, 2019.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the meeting adjourn at 10:45 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary