

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, December 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 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
 Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Devin Trefry, Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer
 Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer
 Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager (*for Item No. 8b*)

Service Recognition

Mayor Blair and Rob Simonds, CAO, presented employees with awards in recognition of years of service with the Municipality. 2019 recognized 7 employees with 5 years of service; 8 employees with 10 years of service; 6 employees with 15 years of service; 2 employees with 20 years of service; and 1 employee with 25 years of service.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Gregory
 Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Item # 8b, Annual Grant Presentations;
- Item # 12b, Legal Matter in Closed Session;
- Item # 12c, Personnel Matter in Closed Session.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Cooper
 Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the minutes of the meeting held on November 14, 2019, be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

Referring to the issue on Code of Conduct on page 1880 and 1881 of the November 14, 2019 minutes. Councillor Taggart expressed serious concern on this matter. A number of points were noted including an excerpt from a past letter to the editor in the Shoreline Journal that indicated Colchester was reluctant to implement a Code of Conduct; comments made by the Minister of Municipal Affairs (DMA) at the recent NSFM Conference; and the lack of action on a previous motion to send an email/letter to the NSFM addressing the Minister's comments.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

"That a letter be sent to the Minister of the Department of Municipal Affairs within 7 days, indicating that the implementation of the Code of Conduct is being held up by the Department of Municipal Affairs."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding implementing the NSFM Code of Conduct template which was forwarded to the Department of Municipal Affairs for review in April of 2019, with amendments, if necessary, once the review is completed. Council members stressed the urgency of getting the Code of Conduct implemented.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Code of Conduct, as put forth by NSFM, be adopted, and that it be amended, if necessary, once the Department of Municipal Affairs has completed their review."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS**Carrobie Road Streetlight**

Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, provided an overview of this item including a map of the proposed location of the requested streetlight. Both Station Road and Carrobie Road are provincially owned and maintained. Examples of other locations where the County has installed streetlights on provincial roads were also provided.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Pash

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff be directed to install a streetlight at the intersection of Carrobie Road and Station Road."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

French River Protected Water Supply Regulations

Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, advised that in August of 2018, staff were directed to proceed with creating regulations for land use activities within the French River Watershed. This primarily

originated from a request from a group of citizens to prohibit the exploration of gold mining in the watershed.

The draft French River Protected Water Supply Regulations, as presented, were developed by staff and the Watershed Committee through a lengthy and thorough process including public consultation via public meetings and a survey of landowners in the water supply area. Staff is recommending that Council adopt the regulations and forward them to the provincial Minister of Environment for review and approval.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee recommends to Council the adoption of the French River Water Supply Regulation as recommended by the Source Water Protection Committee, and once approved, the regulations be forwarded to the Minister of Environment for adoption as a provincial regulation, along with an application to Designate the French River, as defined, as a Protected Water Supply Area under the Environment Act.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

2016 Post Election Report and 2020 Election Pre-planning

Rob Simonds, CAO, provided a recap of the recommendations contained in the 2016 post-election report from the former Returning Officer as outlined in the Action Item and advised that the recommendations on the boundary issue and the school board elections have either been handled or are no longer relevant.

The issue relating to additional signage at polling locations will be dealt with for the 2020 election. The recommendation relative to e-voting requires Council consideration. Additionally, a decision is required regarding the appointment of the Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer. Under legislation, the Returning Officer must be appointed by March 15, 2020.

It should be noted that at their meeting on November 30, 2019, Council granted authority to December Committee to make a decision on matters relating to the 2020 Municipal Election.

Brief discussion was held with some concern being expressed with e-voting not being secure.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council agrees to maintain status quo relative to the current paper-based ballot process.”

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

Discussion was held on receiving more information on e-voting via a presentation from the provincial government/Elections Nova Scotia.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That staff bring forward additional information to Council on e-voting by way of a presentation.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillors Gibbs, Cooper and Cavanaugh opposed)*

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That Council delegates responsibility for the recruitment of the Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer(s) to the CAO to have candidates in place by March 15, 2020.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Northern Region Sub-Committee

The CAO advised that information relating to a Northern Region Sub-Committee was distributed to Council at a previous meeting. Staff did not receive any expressions of interest in serving on this Committee. Council agreed to allow two to three more weeks for any Council members interested in serving on this Committee to notify staff.

Annual Grant Presentations

Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager, advised that staff is seeking directive on the frequency of presentations from organizations receiving annual grant funding. Policy speaks to receiving presentations from organizations making requests on an annual basis but is silent on those automatically receiving grant funding annually. Clarification was sought on reporting requirements of the annual grant recipients. Mr. Burgess indicated that annual financials are received from all groups.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That organizations receiving annual grant funding be required to make a presentation once during each term of Council and that the Recreation Manager be responsible for scheduling the presentations.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the existing Grants to Non-Profit Organizations Policy be amended to reflect the presentation requirements for annual grant organizations.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Property Matter – AAN: 07375727

An Information Item relative to an inquiry on an assessment issue for property assessment number 07375727 was distributed in the package for this

evening's meeting. Councillor Masters thanked staff for their detailed report and advised that this has been explained to the property owner.

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 Cavanaugh

"That the meeting go into closed session at 8:57 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 10:14 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Energy Efficiencies - RECC

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Masters

"That the matter regarding the energy efficiencies at the RECC be referred back to staff for further investigation."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That the meeting adjourn at 10:15 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary