

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

A Special Session of Council Committee of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was conducted via Zoom Webinars, on Thursday, April 19 & 26, 2021, beginning at 6:00 pm.

Attendance

The following Council members were in attendance:

Mayor Christine Blair	
Councillor Eric Boutilier	District 1
Councillor Laurie Sandeson	District 2
Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart, Chair	District 3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District 4
Councillor Tim Johnson	District 5
Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor Lisa Patton	District 8
Councillor Marie Benoit	District 9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Also Present

Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer
Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services/Acting Director of Solid Waste
Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development
Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works
Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
Devin Trefry, Research, Policy, and Community Engagement Officer
Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager
Tim Smith, Manager of Computer and Information Systems

Moment of Silence

Being the one year anniversary of the mass shooting last April, Council observed a moment of silence to remember and honour the victims of the tragedy.

Mayor Blair advised that as part of the memorial activities that took place over the weekend, in honour of the 22 lost lives and the lost life of the unborn child, flowers were laid at the First United Church on behalf of Colchester. Additionally, a call was received from the Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, offering condolences to Colchester County. He also acknowledged the support that Colchester County has provided to the families and indicated he feels that based on the measure of loss, a significant memorial is warranted.

Purpose

The purpose of the meeting(s) was for Council to give consideration to additions and/or deletions including grant requests from not-for-profit organizations, community event grants and other miscellaneous items.

At the conclusion of the meeting(s), it is anticipated that the operating budget and general tax rates will be set. The decisions made at these Special Council Committee meetings will require Council approval. For the sake of simplicity, each separate motion will not be considered by Council individually, rather the entire package and tax rate as a whole.

For the benefit of the new Council members, Deputy Mayor Stewart provided a brief recap of motion and voting procedures for the Additions/Deletions budget meetings.

Non-Profit Grant Applications

Canadian Mental Health Association – Colchester-East Hants Branch

Councillor Taggart declared a conflict of interest and recused himself from discussion and voting on the grant request from the Canadian Mental Health Association.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Canadian Mental Health Association – Colchester-East Hants Branch.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the Canadian Mental Health Association – Colchester-East Hants Branch receive a grant in the amount of \$3,000.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

CARMA – Colchester Chapter

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the Municipality provide a grant to CARMA – Colchester Chapter.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That CARMA – Colchester Chapter receive a grant in the amount of \$3,000.”

Motion **DEFEATED**. (*Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Johnson, MacKenzie, Gregory, and Benoit opposed*)

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That CARMA – Colchester Chapter receive a grant in the amount of \$1,500.”

Motion Carried. (*Councillor Parker opposed*)

Referring to the application from CARMA and potential support by way of available space in Debert, Councillor Benoit inquired about any County owned property that could be utilized by the organization. The CAO advised that a request was previously made to Council about this and after investigation, it was determined that the County did not have any suitable property.

Colchester East Hants Hospice Society

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Boutillier

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Colchester East Hants Hospice Society.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Parker opposed)*

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the Colchester East Hants Hospice Society receive a grant in the amount of \$4,600.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Parker opposed)*

Farm Equipment Museum

It was noted that this is the first request for funding from this organization and they have been greatly impacted by Covid-19, as have many other organizations.

Discussion was held regarding the funding the Municipality received from the Federal Government under the Safe Restart Program being to help out for losses due to Covid-19. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, indicated that this funding was intended to help municipalities offset losses and/or additional costs incurred, such as N-95 masks and other personal protective equipment, due to Covid-19. The CAO further advised that municipalities are awaiting clarification on accountability framework for allowable uses of the Safe Restart Funds.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Farm Equipment Museum.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the Farm Equipment Museum receive a grant in the amount of \$3,000.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor MacKenzie opposed)*

Middle Stewiacke Recreation Association

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Middle Stewiacke Recreation Association.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the Middle Stewiacke Recreation Association receive a grant in the amount of \$2,500.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Middleton Community Hall Association

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Middleton Community Hall.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Middleton Community Hall Association received a grant in the amount of \$1,500.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Remembering Canada’s Heroes

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the Municipality provide a grant to Remembering Canada’s Heroes.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Remembering Canada’s Heroes receive a grant in the amount of \$600.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

The Falls Community Hall Society

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Falls Community Hall Society.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the Falls Community Hall Society receive a grant in the amount of \$2,809.00.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Nova Scotia Adopt a Highway

Moved by Councillor Benoit
Seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the Municipality provide a grant to Nova Scotia Adopt a Highway.”

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

Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society

Council briefly discussed this organization and the tremendous work they do. Concern was expressed however, regarding the intended use for the requested funds as it is against policy to provide funding for wages/salaries. Additionally, the requested amount was over the maximum allowed by policy

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society.”

Motion **DEFEATED**. (*Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Boutilier, Sandeson, Cooper, Johnson, MacKenzie, Gregory, Patton, and Parker opposed*)

Northern Healthy Connections Society

Moved by Councillor Taggart

Seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Northern Healthy Connections Society.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Gregory opposed)*

Moved by Councillor Benoit
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the Northern Healthy Connections Society receive a grant in the amount of \$2,500.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Gregory opposed)*

Truro Curling Club

Brief discussion was held on the availability of accessibility grants for the type of work the funds are being requested for. Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager, confirmed that the Club has applied for funding from the province. It was suggested that Council decision on this matter be held in abeyance until such time it is known what funding, if any, is received from the province.

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Truro Curling Club.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Johnson opposed)*

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie
Seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the Truro Curling Club receive a grant in the amount of \$1,500.”

Motion Carried. *(Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Boutilier, Cooper and Johnson opposed)*

Alton Recreation Centre

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Alton Recreation Centre.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Johnson opposed)*

Moved by Councillor Patton
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the Alton Recreation Centre receive a grant in the amount of \$2,000.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Johnson opposed)*

Earlton Community Centre

Concern was expressed with this group not showing financial need according to the financial information provided, which is against policy.

Moved by Councillor Patton
Seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Earlton Community Centre.”

Motion Carried. *(Deputy Mayor Stewart and Councillor Johnson opposed)*

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Earlton Community Centre receive a grant in the amount of \$1,000.”

Motion Carried. *(Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Boutilier, Cooper and Johnson opposed)*

The Grace Jollymore Joyce Arts Centre

Councillor Gregory indicated that the Grace Jollymore Joyce Arts Centre is seeking funding in the amount of \$20,000 per year for five years. Clarification was provided on funds being requested to secure performances at the Centre rather than cover wages as initially indicated.

Discussion points on this request included funding support being provided annually to the Marigold; concern regarding wages being stipulated as use of funds; request exceeds maximum allowable by policy; and, the many different requests being received under the Creamery Square umbrella.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Grace Jollymore Joyce Arts Centre.”

Motion Carried. *(Deputy Mayor Stewart and Councillor Sandeson opposed)*

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the Grace Jollymore Joyce Arts Centre receive a grant in the amount of \$10,000 per year for two years.”

Motion **DEFEATED**. (*Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Boutilier, Sandeson, Johnson, MacKenzie, Benoit, Taggart and Parker opposed*)

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the Grace Jollymore Joyce Arts Centre receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

As a point of clarification, Councillor Gregory indicated that this motion was for funding for one year.

Brule Community Centre

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Brule Community Centre.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Brule Community Centre receive a grant in the amount of \$1,000.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tatamagouche Boatshop

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Tatamagouche Boatshop.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the Tatamagouche Boatshop received a grant in the amount of \$2,950.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Burnside Pembroke Community Park Association

Moved by Councillor Cooper

Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Burnside Pembroke Community Park Association.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the Burnside Pembroke Community Park Association receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Colchester Historical Society

Clarification was sought regarding the annual grant received by the Colchester Historical Society and the request going forward. It was confirmed that the Colchester Historical Society currently receives an annual grant in the amount of \$10,000 and they are requesting an additional \$15,000, for a total of \$25,000 annually.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That the request for a grant from the Colchester Historical Society be denied.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Cobequid Society for Athletic Excellence

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the request for a grant from the Cobequid Society for Athletic Excellence be denied.”

Motion Carried. (*Councillors Boutilier, Cooper and Johnson opposed*)

Northumberland Arts Council

Some Council members expressed that this organization has funds in the bank, therefore do not meet the need criteria as stipulated in policy.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Northumberland Arts Council.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillors Boutilier and Johnson opposed)*

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the Northumberland Arts Council receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.”

Motion Carried. *(Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Boutilier, Cooper, Johnson and MacKenzie opposed)*

Truro Homeless Outreach Society

Brief discussion was held on this request being for wages with concern being expressed as this goes against policy. Also, the requested amount exceeds the maximum amount allowable by policy.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That the request for a grant from the Truro Homeless Outreach Society be denied.”

Motion Carried *(Councillors Cooper, Benoit and Taggart opposed)*

Trauma Recovery for Exploited Youth (TREY)

Council discussed this falling under the Department of Community Services and should be a provincial responsibility.

Moved by Councillor Benoit
Seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That the Municipality provide a grant to Trauma Recovery for Exploited Youth (TREY).”

Motion Carried. *(Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Boutilier and Patton opposed)*

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That Trauma Recovery for Exploited Youth (TREY) receive a grant in the amount of \$2,500.”

Motion **DEFEATED**. *(Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Boutilier, Sandeson, Cooper, MacKenzie, Gregory, Patton, Benoit, and Taggart opposed)*

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Trauma Recovery for Exploited Youth (TREY) receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.”

Motion Carried. *(Deputy Mayor Stewart and Councillor Boutilier opposed)*

Truro Tennis Club

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That the Municipality provide a grant to the Truro Tennis Club.”

Motion **DEFEATED**. *(Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Sandeson, Cooper, Johnson, MacKenzie, Gregory, Patton, Benoit, and Taggart opposed)*

Stewiacke Visitor Information Centre

The CAO advised that the Stewiacke Visitor Information Centre funding request was included in the base budget in error. Annually a request is received via correspondence and is referred to budget deliberations. For the last number of years, Council has opted to support the request.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the Municipality support the Stewiacke Visitor Information Centre with annual funding in the amount of \$2,580.”

Motion Carried. *(Mayor Blair and Councillor Boutilier opposed)*

Community Event Grants

Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society Memorial Run

Due to this event occurring prior to completion of the budget process, Council had previously approved funding in the amount of \$5,000 for the Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society Memorial Run.

Tata Fest 2021

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That the Municipality provide a community event grant to Tata Fest 2021.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That Tata Fest 2021 receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Boutilier opposed)*

Truro Harness Horse Owners Association

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the Municipality provide a community event grant to the Truro Harness Horse Owners Association.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson
Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That the Truro Harness Horse Owners Association receive a grant in the amount of \$1,200.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Recess and Reconvene

With the requests of the Grants to Non-profit and Community Event Grants being completed, Council agreed to recess at 9:00 pm and reconvene Monday, April 26th to continue budget deliberations.

The meeting reconvened on April 26th at 6:00 pm with all Council members in attendance, with the exception of Councillor Cooper who arrived late. All staff in attendance for April 19th were also in attendance for this evening.

Council continued budget discussions beginning with a review of the annual grants, followed by other miscellaneous additions and deletions, as distributed.

Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society

Deputy Mayor Stewart advised that a memo from Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager, was distributed on table this evening noting a correction in the amount being requested from the Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society from \$10,000 to \$5,000. Council members indicated that this does not change the fact that the funds are being requested for wages to hire a consultant, which is against policy.

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the request for a grant from the Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society be denied.”

Motion Carried Unanimously. *(Councillor Cooper was not available at the time of this vote)*

The Director of Corporate Services provided a recap of funding approved thus far, \$50,459, for non-profit grants.

Annual Grants

Annual grants were listed in the materials distributed prior to the meeting. Typically, these grants carry forward from year to year, some over a specific number of years and some perpetually.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Cooper arrived.

Debert Military History Society

Councillor Benoit raised the issue of the Debert Military History Society (Museum) grant in the amount of \$100 noting that the organization was not aware of other grant funding available. They are in need of assistance as their building is in a state of disrepair and Councillor Benoit inquired if Council would give consideration to increasing the annual grant from \$100 to \$2,000.

Council expressed interest in receiving more information about the facility; having the group follow the usual processes for applying for funding; having a specified time frame for the funding; increasing amount for this year then review for future years; the organization making a presentation to Council; and, approval of funds pending receiving additional information.

Moved by Councillor Benoit
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the grant for the Debert Military History Society be increased to \$2,000 annually.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Parker opposed)*

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the increased funding be pending further information from the Debert Military History Society. ”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Parker opposed)*

It was noted that Craig Burgess would follow up with the Debert Military History Society.

North Colchester River Restoration

Councillor Gregory noted that the grant for North Colchester River Restoration is a five year grant and they will be making a similar request when the five years is up.

Referring to some annual grants being perpetual and some being for a specified time frame, Council requested that a summary of grant expiration dates be listed

directly on the page with the annual grants in the budget document rather than on a separate notes page.

With no further discussion on annual grants, amounts in the budget remain as listed with the exception of the Debert Military History Society as noted above.

Other

Manager – Corporate Planning & Priorities

The CAO advised that this position was initially discussed by Council and Executive and will add resources in the Administration Department, specifically providing assistance to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). This position was initially discussed by Council and Executive as a Deputy CAO position. After some consideration, it was felt that there was no need for a position at the Directors level, rather having a position at the Manager level would provide for more opportunities to take business operations to a higher level and better support Directors. The position can also focus on intergovernmental relations and assist with day-to-day operations. As there was no money in the budget for this position when discussions began and because we were in the middle of the pandemic, moving forward with the position was delayed. The suggested \$75,000 being requested for inclusion in the budget would cover salary and benefits for nine months of fiscal 2021-22.

Moved by Councillor Cooper

Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That Council supports the Manager Corporate Planning & Priorities position.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cooper

Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That \$75,000 be allocated in the budget for the Manager Corporate Planning & Priorities position.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Lower Truro Road Parking Pavement - \$20,000

Area Councillor Sandeson indicated that paving this lot would not improve the issue with traffic. The Municipality does not own the property and the lease agreement will expire in approximately 1.5 years.

During debate, a number of points were discussed including the need to improve traffic flow and parking; ownership of land; liability; number of users; importance of maintaining the water supply; and, holding paving in abeyance until parking and traffic flow is addressed.

Moved by Councillor Cooper

Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council supports the paving of the Lower Truro Road/Hwy 236 parking area.”

Motion **DEFEATED**. (*Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Boutilier, Sandeson, Cooper, Johnson, MacKenzie, Gregory, Patton, Benoit, Taggart, and Parker opposed*)

Airport Runway Maintenance - \$200,000

Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works, advised that the \$200,000 for runway maintenance includes runway painting and repairs to large cracks in the runway. The painting, which equates to about half of the requested \$200,000 is not carried out annually. The other half is for repairs to the cracks which has been done annually over the last few years. It is anticipated that until such time that we get funding to repave, there will be annual asphalt repair costs.

The following points were raised as part of the debate on this item: capital versus maintenance expenditures; the need for a business plan; the process for doing repairs; liability concerns; whether the maintenance is done in-house or contracted out; the existing management contract with the Truro Flying Club and the need to renegotiate the contract; and, revenue streams including hangar leasing and events. It was noted that if the Municipality is going to promote the airport, the repairs need to be carried out. Also, with the significant investments to date, continued maintenance is required to secure tenants and future business. On the issue of capital versus expenditures, Mr. Fraser advised that paving the runway would be considered a capital expenditure however, painting and crack filling would be maintenance.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That Council supports an amount in the budget for runway maintenance.”

Motion Carried. (*Councillors Taggart and Parker opposed*)

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That \$200,000 be included in the budget for airport runway maintenance.”

Motion Carried. (*Councillors Taggart and Parker opposed*)

Recreation Term Position - \$20,064

Mr. Burgess indicated that this request is for an additional term position in the Recreation Department. The request is for a six-month term position to assist during the busy time with parks and trails. Concern was expressed regarding a recent item that came before Council changing the status of two part-time positions to two full-time positions and now creating another position. Mr. Burgess advised that during the discussion on the positions, it was noted that additional

resources would be required to meet the demands of the growing needs. Staff are currently stretched to cover the workload throughout the County. Referring to an inquiry on the number of staff currently looking after parks and trails, Mr. Burgess advised there is one full-time position (Horticulturist), one full-time union position (Parks and Trails Maintenance Worker), and one summer student.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That Council supports the addition of a six-month term position in the Recreation Department.”

Motion Carried. (*Councillors Taggart and Parker opposed*)

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That \$20,064 be included in the budget for the six-month term position in the Recreation Department.”

Motion Carried. (*Councillors Taggart and Parker opposed*)

Arena Reserve

Mr. Burgess indicated that the Municipality pays 100% for capital upgrades for arenas. The Arena Reserve was started a few years ago as a result of a need to replace the arena floor at the North Shore Rec Centre. There is currently \$477,000 in the reserve for this expenditure which will cost approximately \$1.1 million. Other major capital projects coming up are replacement of the roof at the West Colchester United Arena, at an approximate cost of \$150,000 and a condenser at the Don Henderson Memorial Sportsplex at an estimated cost of \$110,000. Staff is seeking other possible funding sources such as through the province and ACOA, to assist with these capital projects. The additional \$50,000 being requested is to build the reserve to help with the upcoming capital upgrades to the West Colchester and Don Henderson Memorial arenas.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council supports additional funding for the Arena Reserve.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Council supports an additional \$50,000 be included in the budget for the Arena Reserve.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Major Flood Reserve

Ms. Boudreau provided a summary of use of funds from the Major Flood Reserve for past and future projects. Last fiscal, funds were used for one of the flow monitoring stations in the local rivers, and stream clean up. The \$100,000 in the Major Flood Reserve this fiscal year will allow for continued work in the North and Salmon Rivers, potentially creating a salt marsh project along the Salmon River and removing some of the dyke. Provincial funding was received to assist with these projects and must be used in the next 12 months. The Town of Truro cost shares the projects of the Joint Flood Committee and depending on the project, there may also be contributions from Millbrook First Nations.

Moved by Councillor Patton
Seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That Council supports funding for the Major Flood Reserve.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson
Seconded by Councillor Patton

“That \$100,000 be included in the budget for the Major Flood Reserve.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Library Funding

The CAO and Director of Corporate Services provided a brief update on library funding. Last year increased funding models were introduced which would be optional for 2020-21 but would be mandatory for 2021-22. At the time, Council opted to go with the increased funding model providing our neighbouring municipalities (Truro, Stewiacke and East Hants) did the same. However, following that decision, the provincial state of emergency due to Covid-19 happened and other municipal units opted not to proceed with the increased funding model for last year.

The increased funding model was built in to the budget for 2021-22, however, on April 15, 2021, correspondence was received from Tiffany Bartlett, CEO, Colchester-East Hants Library, indicating that the increased funding model is optional for 2021-22 and will be mandatory beginning 2022-23. Staff is seeking directive from Council on funding contribution for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

Some Council members felt that if there is an option to pay the lower rate for 2021-22, why would consideration be given to paying the increased funding. Brief discussion was held on what the other municipal units were doing. It was noted that two of the three have agreed to the increased funding and the remaining is being addressed with their Council at an upcoming meeting.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the Municipality of Colchester support the new funding model for 2021-22 based on the Towns of Truro and Stewiacke, and the Municipality of East Hants, all agreeing to the same.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillors Cooper, Gregory, Benoit, Taggart, and Parker opposed)*

Mr. Fraser advised that this concludes items that staff have under additions and deletions and with all changes that have been discussed, there is a balanced budget.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the budget be approved, as discussed and amended.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the meeting adjourn at 8:57 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary