

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 & 25, 2022, beginning at 6:00 pm.

In peace and friendship, and in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, Deputy Mayor Stewart acknowledged that the Municipality of Colchester is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.

Attendance

The following Council members were in attendance for April 19th:

Mayor Christine Blair	
Councillor Eric Boutilier	District 1
Councillor Laurie Sandeson	District 2 (virtual)
Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart, Chair	District 3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District 4 (virtual) (arrived at 6:15)
Councillor Tim Johnson	District 5
Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7 (virtual)
Councillor Lisa Patton	District 8 (virtual)
Councillor Marie Benoit	District 9 (virtual)
Councillor Victoria Lomond	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
- Paul Smith, Director of Community Development
- Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works
- Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
- Peter McCracken, Manager, Corporate Planning and Strategic Initiatives
- Jenn Mantin, Economic Development Officer
- Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager
- Jeanette Himmelman, Systems Analyst

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 as part of the budget process.

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 at their next regularly scheduled meeting. For the sake of simplicity, each separate motion will not be considered by Council individually, rather the entire package and tax rates 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. Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager, provided an overview of materials included in the package for this evening's meeting.

Council agreed that budget deliberations this evening go until 9:00 pm. Anything remaining on the agenda will be dealt with at the next scheduled budget meeting on April 25th.

Non-Profit Grant Applications

Alton Recreation Centre

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That the Municipality support the request for a grant from the Alton Recreation Centre.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Alton Recreation Centre receive a grant in the amount of \$4,500.” Carried unanimously.

Brule Community Centre Association

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That the Municipality support the request for a grant from the Brule Community Centre Association.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson and seconded by Councillor Gregory

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

Burnside Pembroke Community Park Association

Moved by Councillor Lomond and seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That the Municipality support the request for a grant from the Burnside Pembroke Community Park Association.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson and seconded by Councillor Lomond

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

Canadian Mental Health Association – Colchester-East Hants Branch

Moved by Councillor Benoit and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the Municipality support the request for a grant from the Canadian Mental Health Association – Colchester-East Hants Branch.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Lomond

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

CARMA – Colchester Chapter

Discussion was held on the CARMA – Colchester Chapter’s budget and financials as well as guidelines in Policy around demonstrating financial need.

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Mayor Blair

“That the Municipality support the request for a grant from CARMA – Colchester Chapter.” Motion carried (*Councillor Johnson opposed*).

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Parker

“That CARMA – Colchester Chapter receive a grant in the amount of \$2,000.” Motion carried (*Councillor Johnson opposed*).

Cobequid Veterans Memorial Park Society

Moved by Councillor Lomond and seconded by Mayor Blair

“That the Municipality support the request for a grant from the Cobequid Veterans Memorial Park Society.” Carried unanimously.

Clarification was sought on applying annually and annual grants without requesting through the application process. The CAO indicated that this is an applicant driven process rather than Council driven. The organization can make the request under separate cover and if approved, it would be built into the maintenance budget. The current status of the Veterans Memorial Park Society financials was discussed, as well as the issue with the ownership of the property not being that of the Cobequid Veterans Memorial Park Society.

Moved by Councillor Lomond and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the Cobequid Veterans Memorial Park Society receive a grant in the amount of \$4,500.” Carried unanimously.

Colchester Community Support Society

Moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the Municipality support the request for a grant from the Colchester Community Support Society.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson and seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Colchester Community Support Society receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.” Carried unanimously.

Creamery Square Association (The Grace Jollymore Joyce Arts Centre)

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the Municipality support the request for a grant from the Grace Jollymore Joyce Arts Centre.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Lomond

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

Creamery Square Association

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the Municipality support the request for a grant from the Creamery Square Association.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the Creamery Square Association receive a grant in the amount of \$1,500.” Carried Unanimously.

Farm Equipment Museum

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the Municipality support the request for a grant from the Farm Equipment Museum.” Motion carried (*Councillor Johnson opposed*).

Brief discussion was held on status of financials with concern being expressed regarding demonstrating need.

Moved by Councillor Patton and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the Farm Equipment Museum receive a grant in the amount of \$3,000.” Motion carried (*Councillor Johnson opposed*).

Pine Grove Cemetery Company

Discussion took place on whether cemeteries qualified under the Grants to Non-Profit (GNP) Policy as well as if this application could be dealt with the Flood Advisory Committee (FAC). Referring to the inquiry on cemeteries qualifying for a grant under the GNP, Mr. Burgess indicated that if the cemetery is directly associated with a church, it would not qualify, however, the Pine Grove Cemetery Company is not affiliated with a church. Responding to qualifying for assistance through the FAC, Councillor Johnson advised that this does not meet criteria under the FAC.

Further discussion was held with concern being expressed with supporting cemeteries. Due to the large number of cemeteries throughout the County, this could open the door to becoming inundated with future requests; and this should not be the responsibility of taxpayers. A suggestion was made about the possible need for a policy regarding cemeteries.

Moved by Councillor Benoit and seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the Municipality support the request for a grant from the Farm Equipment Museum.” Motion DEFEATED (*Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Boutilier, Sandeson, Johnson, MacKenzie, Gregory, Patton and Lomond opposed*).

Earlton Community Centre Society

Concern was expressed regarding the organizations financial statements and not showing need according to the financial information provided. Discussion was held on the group’s inability to do normal fundraising over the past couple of years due to the pandemic, as well as the original intent of the Grants to Non-Profit Policy being to support community halls.

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the Municipality support the request for a grant from the Earlton Community Centre Society.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Lomond

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

North Shore Snowmobile Club

Moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Mayor Blair

“That the Municipality support the request for a grant from the North Shore Snowmobile Club.” Motion carried (*Councillor Cooper opposed*).

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the North Shore Snowmobile Club receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.” Motion carried (*Councillor Boutilier, Sandeson, and Cooper opposed*).

Based on financials provided, concern was expressed about financial need.

Northumberland Arts Council

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the Municipality support the request for a grant from the Northumberland Arts Council.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson and seconded by Councillor Gregory

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

The Falls Community Hall Society

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That the Municipality support the request for a grant from the Falls Community Hall Society.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the Falls Community Hall Society receive a grant in the amount of \$12, 415 with the stipulation that they not be eligible for funds until 2024-25 at which time eligibility would be to only to top up to the maximum allowable.” Carried unanimously.

Trauma Recovery for Exploited Youth (TREY)

Moved by Councillor Lomond and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the Municipality support the request for a grant from Trauma Recovery for Exploited Youth (TREY).” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Lomond and 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, Councillors Boutilier and Stewart Johnson opposed*).

During discussion, concerns were raised regarding the organization not getting support from other municipalities as well as other levels of government.

West Colchester Medical Society

Concerns were raised with supporting this grant request as health care falls under provincial jurisdiction and setting a precedent if providing a grant. However, support was shown given the health care crisis and the importance of taking pressure off the hospitals.

Moved by Councillor Lomond and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the Municipality support the request for a grant from West Colchester Medical Society.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Lomond and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That West Colchester Medical Society receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.” Carried unanimously.

West Colchester Community Development Association

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the Municipality support the request for a grant from the West Colchester Community Development Association.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Lomond and seconded by Mayor Blair

“That the West Colchester Community Development Association receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.” Carried unanimously.

Fundy Trail Snowmobile Club

Discussion was held on the ask from the Fundy Trail Snowmobile Club being in the range of \$5,000 to \$75,000; the maximum amount allowable under the Grants to Non-Profit Policy; trails being not only in Colchester County; support in the same amount of the previously discussed snowmobile club; and the existing Policy being silent on support for equipment.

Moved by Councillor Lomond and seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That the Municipality support the request for a grant from Fundy Trail Snowmobile Club.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the Fundy Trail Snowmobile Club receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.” Carried unanimously.

This concludes the requests under the Grants to Non-Profits Policy. The Director of Corporate Services advised that amounts approved are within the budgeted allotment with a balance of \$9,085 remaining for potential requests throughout the year.

Community Event Grants

The Salvation Army Truro Corps

Mr. Burgess advised that the original request from the Salvation Army Truro Corps was \$1,500. Following Council’s suggestion to resubmit, the request has increased to \$2,250, with documentation included in the package for this meeting.

Moved by Councillor Lomond and seconded by Councillor Parker

“That the Municipality support the request from the Salvation Army Truro Corps for a community event grant.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the Salvation Army Truro Corps receive a grant in the amount of \$2,250.” Carried unanimously.

Truro Harness Horse Owners Association

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Municipality support the request from Truro Harness Horse Owners Association for a community event grant.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the Truro Harness Horse Owners Association receive a grant in the amount of \$2,000.” Carried unanimously.

Creamery Square Association - Tatafest 2022

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That the Municipality support the request for a community event grant for Tatafest 2022.” Carried unanimously.

Brief discussion was held regarding support for the request in the full amount and the need to increase other sources of revenues if this event is going to succeed.

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That Tatafest 2022 receive a grant in the amount of \$10,000.” Motion carried (*Councillors Boutilier and Sandeson opposed*).

Responding to a query regarding number of grants allowable under the Community Events, Mr. Burgess confirmed the maximum is three. If approved, this would be the third and final grant for Tatafest.

Colchester Pickleball Association

Moved by Councillor Benoit and seconded by Mayor Blair

“That the Municipality support the request for a community event grant from the Colchester Pickleball Association.” Carried unanimously.

Concern was expressed regarding this event being held in Truro but the Town not providing support for this event.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the Colchester Pickleball Association receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.” Carried unanimously.

The Director of Corporate Services provided a recap of funding approved for Community Event Grants noting that \$19,250 has been approved out of the \$60,000 allotment, leaving a balance of \$40,750.

Annual Grants

A list of the annual grant recipients was included in the budget documentation. There were no additional requests for annual grants.

Other

Community Development Restructure

This item was dealt with and approved at the April 13th Council Committee meeting.

Recreation Position

This item was dealt with and approved at the April 13th Council Committee meeting.

J Class Roads

Detailed discussion was held on including funding in the budget for the paving of J Class Roads with some members expressing concern as J Class Roads are provincially owned and should not fall to the Municipality; it would set a precedent and potentially lead to further downloading; having citizens pay for roads outside their districts; the existing provincial cost share agreement being signed with 50% contribution coming from the Province and the other 50% coming from citizens with frontage on the roads through a successful petition process; having a number upcoming large ticket items with budget implications; and, waiting for the completion of the provincial service review before making decisions relative to J Class Roads.

Further discussion was held in support of allocating funds in the budget; condition of roads being a significant issue throughout the County; roads being an issue that is not going away; stepping up to ensure citizens have decent roads; paving on a 20 years cycle having minimal impacts on the budget; including funds in the current budget resulting in a balanced budget; indications from recent meetings that roads won't get done by the province; roads being one of the top concerns during campaigning; and, making decisions that are beneficial to the County as a whole.

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Johnson

"That Council supports adding funds in the budget for J Class Roads. Motion DEFEATED (*Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Boutilier, Sandeson, Cooper, Gregory, Patton, Benoit, and Lomond opposed*).

Recess and Reconvene

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That the meeting recess at 9:11 pm." Carried unanimously.

The meeting reconvened on April 25th at 6:00 pm with the following members 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 (virtual) (arrived at 6:04)
Councillor Tim Johnson	District 5
Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7 (virtual)
Councillor Lisa Patton	District 8

Councillor Marie Benoit	District 9
Councillor Victoria Lomond	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
Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works
Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
Peter McCracken, Manager, Corporate Planning and Strategic Initiatives
Jenn Mantin, Economic Development Officer
Pam Macintosh, Acting Manager of Planning Services
Mollie MacBurnie, Desktop Support Technician

Other (continued)

Archaeology

Moved by Councillor Sandeson and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Council supports an amount in the budget for archaeology in Debert.”
Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That \$100,000 be included in the budget for Debert archaeology.” Carried unanimously.

Debert Park Salary

Mr. Fraser indicated that staff were previously directed to undertake a review of Debert operations and report back to Council. This item provides a placeholder in the budget depending on the outcome of the review.

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That Council supports an amount in the budget for a possible Debert Park Salary.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Benoit and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That \$87,500 be included in the budget as a placeholder for a salary for a position in the Debert Park, pending staff analysis.” Carried unanimously.

Major Flood Reserve

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That Council supports an amount in the budget for the Major Flood Reserve (Joint Flood Advisory Committee projects).” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and Seconded by Councillor Patton

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

Events Truro Colchester (Events TC)

Mr. Fraser indicated that this was referred to budget deliberations after receiving a presentation from Matt Moore, Chair of the Events TC. The amount being requested from each Truro and Colchester is \$95,000. There are four events, Rogers Hometown Hockey, the Air Show, Rock the Rails, and Professional Women’s Hockey Showcase.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That Council support the request for funding for Events Truro-Colchester.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Benoit and seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That Events Truro-Colchester receive funding in the amount of \$95,000.” Carried unanimously.

J Class Roads

Referring to the issue of J Class Roads, which was discussed at the April 19th meeting, Councillor Johnson advised that he would like to have this item put back on the agenda. A point of order was called on whether this was properly before Council. Debate was held on the process by which this could be considered; whether there was new information to be introduced; and motions to reconsider.

A motion was made by Councillor Sandeson to reconsider the April 19th motion to support adding funds in the budget for J Class Roads, however, there was no seconder for the motion.

With some confusion on advancing motions to reconsider, the CAO provided clarification from Roberts Rules of Order on who can move and second a motion to reconsider.

Special Operating Reserve

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That \$300,000 be transferred to the Special Operating Reserve.” Motion carried (*Mayor Blair, Councillors Johnson, MacKenzie and Parker opposed*).

Other

The issue of deed transfer tax was raised and whether there was interest in discussing the possibility of an increase as a means to start building reserves. It was noted that this could be brought forward to a future Council or Committee meeting for referral to staff.

Brief discussion was held on a potential upcoming request for increased funding for the TAAC Revitalization Project and where funds would come from should

Council wish to support. Mr. Fraser indicated that the Special Operating Reserve could be used and could be done over a couple of years.

With no further budget items for discussion, Mr. Fraser advised that this concludes budget deliberations and with all changes that have been discussed, there is a balanced budget.

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Operating Budget be approved with the Additions/Deletions as set out at the April 19 and 25 meetings, and the residential and commercial tax rates remain unchanged at \$0.885 and \$2.28 respectively; and

That an item be prepared for April Council for final approval.” Carried unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary