

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

The Regular Session of the Council Committee of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was conducted virtually, via Zoom Webinars and in-person on December 15, 2022, beginning at 7:00 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.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Christine Blair	
Cllr. Eric Boutilier	District 1
Cllr. Laurie Sandeson	District 2
Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart, Chair	District 3
Cllr. Mike Cooper	District 4
Cllr. Tim Johnson	District 5
Cllr. Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Cllr. Lisa Patton	District 8
Cllr. Wade Parker	District 11

Regrets

Cllr. Michael Gregory	District 7
Cllr. Marie Benoit	District 9
Cllr. Victoria Lomond	District 10

Staff Present

Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
 Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Paul Smith, Director of Community Development
 Phillip Redden, Director of Solid Waste
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Devin Trefry, Research Policy & Community Engagement Officer
 Jenn Martin, Economic Development Officer
 Mollie MacBurnie-Haas, IT Support Technician

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed for the recent passing of former Councillor Doug Cooke, who served on Council from 1988 to 2008.

Employee Service Recognition

Employees were presented with awards in recognition of years of service with the Municipality. 2022 recognized 7 employees with 5 years; 4 employees with 10 years; 6 employees with 15 years; 3 employees with 20 years; and 2 employees with 25 years of service.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions in closed session:

- Item #12b, Negotiations; and,
- Item #12c, Personnel Matter.” Carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the minutes of the meeting held on November 9, 2022, be approved with the noted amendment concerning approval of minutes on page 2087.”
Carried unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes None

ACTION ITEMS

Civic Numbering Policy

Devin Trefry, Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer, advised that Council previously approved the Civic Addressing By-law. At the time of approval, Council expressed concern regarding Section 10 of the By-law, which deals with costs associated with numbering reassignment. The By-law was amended to include wording “except as permitted by policy” to Section 10. This Policy specifies the parameters by which reimbursement of expenses associated with the reassignment of civic numbering.

Brief discussion was held on reasons for which civic numbering would be changed. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor, indicated changes might be required to avoid potentially confusing numbering irregularities or to ensure an adequate supply of civic numbers for existing or future developments, as explained in Section 9 of the Civic Addressing By-law. Discussion was also held on the possible inclusion of a clause in the Policy for an appeal process.

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Civic Addressing Reimbursement Policy be approved as presented.” Motion carried (*Councillor Cooper opposed*).

Posted Speed Limits in School Zones

Mayor Blair raised the issue of inconsistencies with speed limits in school zones. A complaint was received from a constituent regarding the speed limit on Mountain Lee Road around the North River Elementary School. Additionally, concern was expressed with information relative to school speed zones as presented on the Nova Scotia Public Works website being inconsistent.

Discussion was held on having consistencies with reduced speed limits in school zones to 30 km, especially in areas having elementary schools where younger aged children are present. Further discussion took place on how reduced speeds to 30 km in rural areas where posted speed limits are higher than 50 km could be more of a traffic hazard.

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That a letter be written to the Minister of Nova Scotia Public Works requesting that the inconsistencies of speed limits in school zones be explored for the safety of our children.” Motion carried (*Councillor Cooper opposed*).

Gas-Powered Blowers

Councillor MacKenzie advised that she received a copy of a newspaper article from the December 3rd issue of the Chronicle Herald from a constituent concerning two-stroke gas powered leaf blowers and other types of machines, with a request that this be brought forward to Council to look into the feasibility of switching from gas powered to electric machines. These types of

machines are mainly used by landscaping companies and some Canadian municipalities have started banning use of gas- powered equipment. HRM is currently exploring the restriction of these machines as well. According to the referenced article, they are noisy, inefficient and are bad for the environment due to emission of fumes. The costs for gas powered versus electric are not significant, however, the batteries for the electric machines can be expensive.

Responding to a request for clarification on whether the ban of use of gas-powered machines was for the Municipality as an organization or everyone in the County, Councillor MacKenzie indicated that at this point, it is intended for the Municipality, not necessarily a by-law that would restrict the use by everyone. Further discussion was held on equipment currently used by the Municipality and concerns with restricting this type of equipment and potential impacts as it could relate to other types of two-stroke gas-powered equipment.

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie and seconded by Mayor Blair

“That staff look into the feasibility of use of electric versus gas-powered two-stroke machines by the Municipality of Colchester.” Motion DEFEATED (*Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Boutilier, Sandeson, Cooper, Johnson, Patton, and Parker* opposed).

INFORMATION ITEMS

Director’s Report

A report from the Director of Community Development was circulated in the package for tonight’s meeting. Upon request for clarification concerning the reported information on the Salmon River School Property, Paul Smith, Director of Community Development, indicated that the word affordable should be stricken from the Salmon River School Property section of the report.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Patton and seconded by Councillor Parker

“That the meeting go into closed session at 7:46 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 8:54 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Personnel Matter

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That Council approves the Collective Agreement for Local #3945, commencing July 1, 2022, as discussed in Closed Session; and,

That the Mayor and CAO be authorized to sign the Agreement.”

AND

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Non-Union staff salary increases be awarded for the same annual rates as the CUPE Local

#3945 Collective Agreement for the April 1st to March 31st fiscal years.”
Carried unanimously.

It should be noted that at their meeting on November 24, 2022, Council granted authority to December Committee to make decision on the CUPE Local #3945 Collective Agreement.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Patton and seconded by Councillor Parker

“That the meeting adjourn at 8:55 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary