

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

A Special Session of the Council Committee of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was conducted virtually, via Zoom Webinars and in person on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 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.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors 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 Michael Gregory | District 7 |
| Councillor Lisa Patton | District 8 |
| Councillor Marie Benoit | District 9 (virtual) |
| Councillor Victoria Lomond | District 10 |
| Councillor Wade Parker | District 11 |

Regrets

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Councillor Karen MacKenzie | District 6 |
|----------------------------|------------|

Staff Present

Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corp. Services
 Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
 Paul Smith, Director of Community Development
 Phil Redden, Director of Solid Waste
 Jennifer Mantin, Economic Development Officer
 Suzanne Graham, Recording Secretary
 Jeanette Himmelman, Systems Analyst

Presentation

RECC

Presenter: Matt Moore, General Manager

Matt appeared before Council to update them on the last year of operations at the RECC as well as to present their 2023/2024 operational budget.

Included in the presentation was:

- A 12 month recovery timeline from 2022/2023.
- The facility's recovery strategy which consisted of four goals: rebuild consumer confidence; revenue recovery; personnel recruitment and training; and to facilitate the 10 year anniversary celebrations.
- Challenges the facility is facing and their progress in managing those challenges.
- The 2023/2024 operational budget and capital lifecycle plan.
- The three items being requested of Council: to approve the annual grant increase; to approve the capital lifecycle plan for 2023/2024; and to allow the RECC to lead the procurement of the arena and fitness centre title sponsorships.

Discussion was held on:

- How the RECC is being affected by the temporary closure of the Stadium while it is undergoing repairs
- The expectations of the marketing levy
- The current balances of the RECC reserves
- The outcome should the municipalities not provide the additional grant money being requested.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the presentation be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the presentation be included in the budget deliberations.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to receive a presentation from staff regarding the draft “maintenance” budget. This is part of the budget process for 2023-2024.

Staff Presentation

Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, made a presentation regarding the budget process; the delivery of core municipal services; tax collection and transfer obligations to the province; debt pay-down and capital reserves; and Council’s priorities. The presentation also gave a preview of the next steps in the budget process, including additions and deletions.

**Questions and
Answers/Information Request**

Council questions and comments included:

- What is revenue from own sources
- RCMP retro pay and how the County would cover these costs
- Creating a reserve for natural disasters
- What effect a change in the deed transfer tax would have on revenue
- How long the County can expect to collect revenue from Northern Pulp
- At what capacity is the WWTP running currently and should the County prepare for upgrades in the near future

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the meeting adjourn at 8:07 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Suzanne Graham
Recording Secretary