

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 August 17, 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	
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. Michael Gregory	District 7
Cllr. Lisa Patton	District 8 (<i>regrets</i>)
Cllr. Marie Benoit	District 9
Cllr. Victoria Lomond	District 10
Cllr. Wade Parker	District 11 (<i>virtual</i>)

Staff Present

Scott Fraser, Interim CAO
 Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works
 Phillip Redden, Director of Solid Waste
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Jenn Mantin, Economic Development Officer
 Jeanette Himmelman, Systems Analyst
 Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager
 Joanna Burris, Sustainability Planner

Moment of Silence

Council observed a moment of silence for the passing of Clayton Eagles. Mr. Eagles served as a Municipal Councillor from 1985 to 1994.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the agenda be approved with the following amendments:

- Move Item #7, Cornerstone Paving – Award of Tender to closed session, new #14b for Legal Advice;
- Add Item #12b, Rail Safety Week Proclamation;
- Add Item #14c, Negotiations in closed session.” Carried unanimously.

It was noted that the Personnel Item would be the last item dealt with in closed session.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Sandeson and seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the minutes of the meetings held on May 16, June 6 and 8 be approved as circulated.” Carried unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes None

ACTION ITEMS

**Community Event Grant Request
- Kiltober** *Councillor Benoit recused herself from discussion on this matter.*

Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager, advised that this item follows the presentation received at the August Presentation meeting from the Debert and Area Community Association. The group is requesting funding in the amount of \$6,000 to assist with hosting the 2023 Kiltober event being held in Debert on September 30th. Requests of this nature can be considered under the Community Event Grants Policy. This is the Association's first application under this Policy, which allows up to three grants over the life of the event.

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Boutilier

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that funding be approved for the Debert and Area Community Association in the amount of \$6,000, for Kiltober 2023, with source of funds being Community Event Grants." Carried unanimously.

**Solar PV for Municipal Buildings
- Award of RFP**

Joanna Burris, Sustainability Planner, advised that this item deals with the Municipality's successful application to the Investing in Canada Program (ICIP) for solar PV on buildings, as well as awarding the contract for the solar project. Buildings covered under this project are the Tatamagouche Library, the Central Colchester Wastewater Treatment Facility (CCWWTF), the West Colchester United Arena in Debert; and the North Shore Recreation Centre in Tatamagouche. Included in the presentation was background information on Council's prior funding contribution approval; RFP details and submissions received; information on successful funding application and other funding opportunities; financials and budget implications; and, return on investment for each of the buildings.

Brief discussion was held on the number of panels for the CCWWTF. Responding to a query around the third party project management, Ms. Burris advised that with a budget of \$100,000 for this, a tender or RFP will need to be issued.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson and seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that the RFP for the Solar PV Design & Build be awarded to Solar Ascent for a total contract amount of \$1,803,066 excluding HST, with source of funds being the special capital reserve." Carried unanimously.

**Cornerstone Paving – Award of
Tender**

This item was moved In-camera for Legal Advice.

**Gravel Road Program – Award
of Tender**

Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works, provided an overview of this item indicating that it is to award the tender for improvements to County owned gravel roads including sections of Fairway Avenue, Pellerin Drive, Pine Tree Drive, Sunburst Place, Moonlight Court, Eleanor Dyment Place, Tyler

Avenue and Chagford Place. Council's approved capital budget included \$200,000 for this work in 2023/24. Tender documents were posted on Provincial and Municipal websites with four bids being received by the deadline. Ian Sinclair Contracting was the lowest bid at \$200,067 and was deemed complete. At their Council meeting on June 27th, authority was granted to August Council Committee to award this tender.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That Council authorizes staff to award the tender for the 2023 gravel road program to Ian Sinclair Contracting for a total contract amount of \$200,067 excluding HST." Carried unanimously.

Three Year Cost Sharing Agreement – J-Class Roads

The Director of Public Works advised that this item relates to the Three-Year Cost Sharing Agreement for paving of J-Class Roads and provided background information as well as Colchester's history/experiences with the program. The agreement provides for 50% funding from the Province and the other 50% borne by the Municipality, whether through the residents or tax rate. Entering into the agreement does not bind the Municipality to any financial or paving commitment, rather it enables the submission of roads to the Province for possible cost-shared paving. There are a few changes in the agreement over previous years including added clauses around timeframes for confirmation participation and payment for overruns where tender prices exceed budget, which staff feel is concerning. Ms. Boudreau noted the sessions currently underway on the review of the Provincial/Municipal Service Exchange and the possibility of changes to the J-Class Program depending on the outcome of this review.

Discussion was held on the sessions on Service Exchange; signing of this agreement would enable the Municipality access to the 50% shared funds for road paving; the fact that some roads were paved by the Province without going through the Cost Sharing Agreement; expectations of constituents for paving if agreement is signed; and challenges relative to the Municipal 50% funding portion.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That Council Committee recommends to Council to enter into the Three-Year (2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27) Cost Sharing Agreement No. 2023-007 for J-Class Roads with the Province; and,

That the Mayor and CAO be authorized to sign Cost Share Agreement No. 2023-007." Motion carried (*Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Boutilier, Cooper, MacKenzie and Gregory opposed*).

Joint Council Meetings

Scott Fraser, Interim CAO, advised that as per discussions at June Council, the Joint Council meeting with the Town of Stewiacke has been confirmed for August 22, 2023 beginning at 7 pm. This meeting will be a combined virtual and in-person meeting.

At an Executive Committee meeting held on July 27, 2023, there was discussion and motion on bringing the possibility of a Joint Council meeting with the Municipality of Cumberland for Council consideration. This meeting would be to discuss Rural Broadband Internet and Cliffs of Fundy Geopark.

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That an invitation for a Joint Council meeting be extended to the Municipality of Cumberland, with the Londonderry Community Centre being suggested as the venue for this meeting.” Carried unanimously.

It was suggested that Tuesday, October 17th, Council’s alternate Tuesday date, be suggested for the Joint Council meeting.

Dates for Conflict of Interest Refresher Session

The Interim CAO advised that at a recent meeting of the Executive Committee, there was discussion on the benefits of having a refresher session on Conflict of Interest. The Municipal Solicitor would present and estimates one hour should be sufficient. It was suggested that staff look into reserving a time slot at an upcoming Presentation meeting. Council was in agreement of receiving a refresher session on Conflict of Interest.

Appointments to Various Committees

Mayor Blair advised that the Nominating Committee met on August 14th to review expressions of interest for both Council and citizen vacancies on various Committees. At their meeting on June 27th, Council granted authority to August Council Committee to approve appointments to Committees.

Citizen Monitoring Committee (CMC) for Wind Turbines (Debert and Wentworth Valley areas)

Due to potential conflict of interest issues, the Nominating Committee discussed the possibility of amending wording in the Terms of Reference regarding Council representation for the CMC for Wind Turbines to give leeway for members of Council other than from just adjoining council districts.

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that language in the Citizen Monitoring Committee Terms of Reference, specific to Wind Turbines, be amended to give leeway for other Council representation, rather than from an adjoining council District.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Councillor Patton be appointed to the Citizen Monitoring Committee for the Debert Area (RES) Wind Project; and,

That Nancy Frame be appointed as a citizen rep appointed to the Citizen Monitoring Committee for the Wentworth Valley (Higgins Mountain) Wind Project; and

That Councillor Johnson be appointed to the Citizen Monitoring Committee for the Wentworth Valley (Higgins Mountain) Wind Project, conditional upon wording in the Terms of Reference being changed to give leeway for other than an adjoining Council District; and,

That staff continue advertising for the remaining citizen position(s) on these Committees.” Carried unanimously.

Debert Business Park Advisory Committee

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That Brent Roeding, Director at Sobey's Debert, be appointed as a business representative on the Debert Business Park Advisory Committee; and,

That staff continue advertising for the remaining citizen position on this Committee.” Carried unanimously.

Carbon Free Colchester Implementation Committee

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Allan Thomson, Mike MacKay, Brian Gaulke, Rick Williamson and Sarah Flemming be appointed as citizen representatives to the Carbon Free Colchester Implementation Committee.” Carried unanimously.

Responding to a request for volunteers for the remaining Council vacancy, Councillor Parker advised beginning in November, his time will be freed up and indicated that he would be interested in serving on this Committee.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Councillor Parker be appointed to the Carbon Free Colchester Implementation Committee.” Carried unanimously.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee

Mayor Blair indicated that one Council vacancy remains for the EDI Committee.

Discussion was held on time of day this meeting is held and if it was possible to change the meeting time to late afternoon or evening to be more accommodating for those Council members working full time. The Mayor and Interim CAO indicated that many staff members serve on this Committee and spoke of the challenges with changing the meeting time. Zoom meetings could be utilized to provide more flexibility.

The Deputy Mayor suggested that Council members give this consideration and put names forward to staff if interested.

Rail Safety Week Proclamation Request

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council proclaims September 18 to 24, 2023 as Rail Safety Week.” Carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS**Director's Report**

A report from the Director of Solid Waste was circulated in the package for tonight's meeting.

Responding to a query on the North Wind Turbine failure, Phil Redden, Director of Solid Waste, indicated this is currently with the insurance adjusters. The blade has been taken for investigation and staff is optimistic that information will be received soon.

Brief discussion was held on the issue of sharps and ongoing education to address this.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the meeting go into closed session at 7:01 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Lomond and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 8:23 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Cornerstone Paving Award of Tender

Moved by Councillor Sandeson and seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

“That Council authorizes staff to award the tender for the repaving of Cornerstone Drive and Forest Hill Drive to Basin Contracting for a total contract amount of \$297,887 excluding HST.” Motion carried (*Councillors Boutilier and Johnson opposed*).

It was noted that at their Council meeting on June 27th, authority was granted to August Council Committee to award this tender.

Personnel Matter

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council approves the employment agreement as discussed in-camera.” Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the meeting adjourn at 8:25 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary