

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 September 14, 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	<i>(regrets)</i>
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 <i>(virtual)</i>
Cllr. Wade Parker	District 11

*Due to technical difficulties with camera for virtual attendance and as per policy, Councillor Patton was unavailable.

Staff Present

Scott Fraser, Interim CAO
 Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works
 Phillip Redden, Director of Solid Waste
 Paul Smith, Director of Community Development
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Jenn Martin, Economic Development Officer
 Devin Trefry, Research, Policy, and Community Engagement Officer
 Tim Smith, IT Manager

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the agenda be approved with the following addition:

- Item 10b, Protect Wentworth Valley Presentation.” Carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the minutes of the meeting held on August 17, 2023, be approved as circulated.” Carried unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

None

ACTION ITEMS

Public Presentations Policy Amendments

Devin Trefry, Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer, advised that the proposed amendments to the Public Presentations to Council Policy are to include procedures/guidelines for public presentations at Second Readings of By-laws, as detailed under Section 3.2 of the Policy. Amendments under Scope also identify other policies that address processes for presentations for grants to non-profit organizations and planning related documents.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That Council Committee recommend to Council that amendments to the Public Presentations to Council Policy be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Tatamagouche Water Utility Budget Approval

Scott Fraser, Interim CAO, presented the Tatamagouche Water Utility (TWU) Three-Year Operating Budget, providing a brief review of expenditures; current year surplus and forecasted deficits; accumulated deficit; and, expectation and requirements around doing a rate study. Three-year budgets are presented to Council for approval with the understanding that these budgets come back to Council annually. The three-year operating budget was reviewed by the Tatamagouche Water Utility Advisory Committee and a recommendation was made by the Committee to approve.

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That Council committee recommends to Council that the three-year Tatamagouche Water Utility operating budget (2023/24, 2024/25, 2025/26) be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Debert Water Utility Budget Approval

Similar to the previous item, the Interim CAO presented the Debert Water Utility (DWU) Three-Year Operating Budget and provided a brief overview of the expenditures, and small budgeted deficits and accumulative surpluses. The DWU remains relatively consistent with previous years and rate study for the DWU is not being recommended at this time.

Moved by Councillor Benoit and seconded by Councillor Parker

“That Council committee recommends to Council that the three-year Debert Water Utility operating budget (2023/24, 2024/25, 2025/26) be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Policy Review for Tenders

Referring to recent concerns relative to awarding tenders to companies that are not the lowest bidders, Councillor Johnson indicated that he would like to see a policy review around tendering processes for different sized tenders being awarded as well as bonding/security/letter of credit requirements.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That staff be directed to review policy for issuing and awarding tenders.” Carried unanimously.

Traffic in Great Village

Councillor Lomond raised concerns about speed of traffic along Highway 2 in Great Village at the corner by Angel’s Diner and the antique shops. Business owners have increased parking in the area and there is increased pedestrian

traffic and it is a safety concern. This road falls under provincial jurisdiction, however, Councillor Lomond would like to have the matter referred to staff to come up with possible solutions to present to the Province.

The Interim CAO reminded Council that in terms of jurisdiction, staff would have limited capabilities, however, could advocate with the province. Discussion took place on the possibility of writing a letter to the Province; similar concerns in other districts; representing and supporting the needs of constituents; inefficient use of staff resources for roads under provincial jurisdiction; and, the need to involve the MLA.

Moved by Councillor Lomond and seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That staff look into traffic calming options at the corner by Angel’s Diner and the antique shops along Highway 2 in Great Village.” Motion **DEFEATED** (Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Sandeson, Johnson, MacKenzie, Gregory and Parker opposed).

Portapique Street Light

Councillor Lomond advised that a request was received for a streetlight at the intersection of Portapique Beach Road and Highway 2 where the community mailboxes are located.

Moved by Councillor Lomond and seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That staff investigate the possibility of the installation of a streetlight at the end of Portapique Beach Road at the Highway 2 intersection.” Carried unanimously.

Protect Wentworth Valley Presentation

Councillor Lomond indicated a meeting was held with representatives from Protect Wentworth Valley (PWV) with herself, Mayor Blair, Councillors Johnson and Benoit in attendance. The group have some valid concerns regarding a substantial wind turbine development in the area. PWV is requesting to present to Council preferably at the September 28th Council meeting or at the October 3rd Council Presentation meeting. They would like to present to Council prior to the joint meeting with Cumberland County.

Moved by Councillor Lomond and seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That Protect Wentworth Valley be scheduled to make a presentation to Council on the October 3rd presentation meeting night.”

Amending motion

“That Protect Wentworth Valley be allotted 30 minutes for their presentation.” Carried unanimously.

The amending motion having carried, the original motion was voted on and carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Director’s Report

A report from the Director of Community Development was circulated in the package for tonight’s meeting.

Discussion was held on staffing concerns and recruitment strategy; engagement efforts for County Wide Planning; bridge at the Fundy Discovery Site; an update on the status of the Fireworks By-law, which is expected to be before Council at October Committee; keeping a variety of options open for the RFP for the Salmon River Property; and, EV charging stations, NSP delays and generating reports for use of stations. Referring to Animal Control reports which used to be circulated in Councillor mailboxes, a request was made to receive these reports on a regular basis.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the meeting go into closed session at 7:13 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 7:47 pm.” Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Sandeson and seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting adjourn at 7:47 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary