

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 October 12, 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 (<i>regrets</i>)
Cllr. Michael Gregory	District 7 (<i>regrets</i>)
Cllr. Lisa Patton	District 8
Cllr. Marie Benoit	District 9 (<i>virtual</i>)
Cllr. Victoria Lomond	District 10
Cllr. Wade Parker	District 11

Staff Present

Dan Troke, Chief Administrative Officer
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 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 Sandeson and seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Item 10b, United Way;
- Item 16, Legal Briefing in Closed Session.” Carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Patton and seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the minutes of the meetings held on August 1 and September 17, 2023, with the date change as noted on the copy distributed on table.” Carried unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

None

ACTION ITEMS**Electronic Voting**

Devin Trefry, Research, Policy, and Community Engagement Officer, advised that following the last Municipal Election, staff were directed to explore e-

voting options for consideration prior to the next election. A brief overview was provided on a presentation on E-voting recently received by staff from Intelivote, a world leader in alternative voting solutions. Staff recommend having a similar presentation to Council to aid in Council's decision on proceeding with E-voting.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Patton

"That staff proceed with scheduling a presentation from Intelivote." Carried unanimously.

Fireworks By-law

Mr. Trefry reported that this item results from a request from the Village of Bible Hill for a ban on the use of fireworks. Consideration was given to integrating into the Municipality's Outdoor Fire By-law, however it was decided that a standalone by-law would be a better option. Following a review of how other municipalities manage fireworks conducted through the Solicitor's office, the Town of Trenton's Fireworks By-law was used as a model by-law for Colchester. The draft by-law as presented would apply to the Village of Bible Hill, however, other communities could be included if desired. It was vetted through the Village of Bible Hill with a favourable response.

Brief discussion was held on concerns with implementing by-laws that become too restrictive; the need for a by-law in the urban core for safety and noise related concerns; flexibility within the by-law to allow for exemptions; and advancing the draft to First Reading with opportunity for public input if advanced to Second Reading.

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Johnson

"That the Fireworks By-law as presented be advanced to First Reading at October Council." Carried unanimously.

Colchester Food Bank Support

Councillor Patton raised the issue of the recent email received by Council members regarding the Colchester Food Bank's dire need for support and would like to have staff look into options on how the Municipality can provide assistance. It was also encouraged everyone to do their part in assisting the Food Bank in whatever way possible.

Discussion took place on the importance of this issue and the possibility of looking into other ways to provide support such as the ability for the Food Bank to accept donations from hunters. As with other organizations requesting support, it was suggested that the Colchester Food Bank make a presentation to Council.

Moved by Councillor Patton and seconded by Mayor Blair

"That staff be directed to investigate any available funds through Grants to Non-profit or other possible budgets to support the Colchester Food Bank." Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Patton

"That staff be directed to request the Colchester Food Bank make a presentation to Council in the near future." Carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

MacElmon Road Roundabout This Information Item provided Council with an update on the status of the proposed new traffic roundabout on MacElmon Road in Debert. Included in the report was history and timelines of the proposed project; budget information; archaeological costs and challenges to date; provincial decisions around intersections and roundabout location; and having a traffic study completed on a single lane roundabout.

EV Charging Stations Update Following a recent request of Council, this item provided an update on the EV charger installations, charger usage at the various locations and revenue generated to date.

Extended Producer Responsibility This item provided an update to Council on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Programs for residential recycle material. The update included information on the program itself, regulatory requirements and timelines, potential funding available for municipalities annually, program participants, and considerations for opting in or out of the program. A detailed presentation from NSFM on EPR was included in the package for this evening's meeting.

United Way Councillor Boutilier advised that he received an email from Councillor Flemming in Truro about an upcoming United Way event, Trivia Night Challenge, at the Truro Brewing Company on October 17th. The Towns of Truro and Stewiacke have entered teams and Councillor Flemming invited Colchester to enter a team as well. Teams consist of six participants and is free to participate with a goodwill donation to the United Way.

Director's Report A report from the Director of Public Works was circulated in the package for tonight's meeting.

A question was raised on the upcoming public consultation taking place relative to the sidewalk at Valley Crossroads to Crowland Drive. Michelle Boudreau advised that the consultation is required due to the large amount of trees that will need to be cut as well as the significant cost increases since the project was initially discussed.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Patton

"That the meeting go into closed session at 7:00 pm." Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Patton and seconded by Councillor Lomond

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:45 pm." Carried unanimously.

**Property Matter – Sale of Land,
572 MacElmon Road**

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Patton

"That Council Committee approves the sale of 18-acres of land located at 572 MacElmon Road, as directed in Closed Session; and,

That the Mayor and CAO be authorized to execute the purchase and sale agreement prepared by Legal Counsel for this transaction.” Carried unanimously.

**Negotiations – Residential
Curbside Collection Contract**

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That Council Committee approve option 4 for the Residential Curbside Collection Contract, as outlined in Closed Session and as presented to Royal Environmental Inc.” Carried unanimously.

It was noted that at their meeting on September 28, 2023, Council granted authority to October Committee to approve the contract for the Residential Solid Waste, Recycling & Organics Curbside Collection.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Patton and seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the meeting adjourn at 9:47 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary