

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 November 16, 2023, immediately following the Special Session of Council.

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(<i>regrets</i>)
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
Cllr. Marie Benoit	District 9
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
 Anna-Marie Manley, Municipal Solicitor
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Jenn Mantin, Economic Development Officer
 Devin Trefry, Research, Policy, and Community Engagement Officer
 Mollie MacBurnie-Haas, IT Support Technician
 Joanna Burris, Sustainability Planner

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Sandeson and seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the agenda be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Patton and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the minutes of the meetings held on September 5 and October 12, 2023, be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

None

ACTION ITEMS

Fundy Discovery Site Bridge Update

With the Fundy Discover Site bridge tender being well over budget, Paul Smith, Director of Community Development, provided a brief update on the project and options moving forward. Staff and COWI, bridge design and engineering firm, discussed at length, considerations to address the challenges around attracting more contractors to bid on the project and

believe the project should be re-tendered. Although COWI has provided support at no additional cost to date, staff feels that COWI should be compensated for the additional work required to re-tender the project.

Discussion occurred around project support, trail connection, funding from other levels of government and a suggestion regarding possible use of turbine blades for bridge materials. Concern was expressed regarding economic viability and information on usage.

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the expenditure of approximately \$17,500 for revisions and improvements to the Fundy Discovery Site pedestrian bridge tender package be authorized.” Carried unanimously.

Colchester Ground Search and Rescue Funding

Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, advised that this item is to provide information on funding options for Colchester Ground Search and Rescue (CGSAR). A brief overview was provided on area rates and how they are applied, such as to Fire Brigades and current funding for non-fire service providers; fixed annual amount currently received by CGSAR; and possible other funding options for consideration.

Discussion was held on area rates being established for specific areas within the County; the importance of the service provided by CGSAR; service being provided to all regions in Colchester; lack of funding from other partners; and existing funding being insufficient for their needs.

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Fire & Emergency Services Protection Policy be brought back with amended language to allow for annual CPI increases for non-fire emergency service grants.” Motion DEFEATED (*Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Sandeson, Cooper, Johnson, MacKenzie, Gregory, Benoit, Patton, and Lomond opposed*).

Moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That staff be directed to meet with Colchester Ground Search and Rescue to better determine needs for the next number of years and bring back information to Council.” Carried unanimously.

Award of Tender – Tandem Truck

Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works, provided a background of the award of contract for the purchase of a tandem dump truck for the department which included various tender attempts and submissions; budget implications; supply and budgetary challenges; and options for consideration.

Moved by Councillor Patton and seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff be authorized to award the tender for a new tandem dump truck for a maximum value of \$400,430 excluding taxes, with source of funds being the Public Works Vehicle Reserve.” Carried unanimously.

Project Management for Solar PV – Award of RFP

Joanna Burris, Sustainability Planner, briefed Council on the Request for Proposals (RFP) issued for the project management component for Solar PV including details of submissions received; bid pricing and budgetary information; review process; and staff recommendation.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That Council Committee recommend to Council that the RFP for Project Management of Solar PV Installation be awarded to Harbourside Engineering Consultants for a total contract amount of \$110,745 excluding HST.” Carried unanimously.

Granville Drive Stormwater Issue

The Director of Public Works advised that this item relates to a previous directive of Council concerning a stormwater issue on Granville Drive. Included in her report was information on the historic sewer line and new system completed in 2015; jurisdictional responsibilities of the historic line; drainage issues at civic #150; staff’s findings following review of the property; and options for consideration.

During discussion, concern was expressed with similar situations in the past where remediation work was not approved and whether this would qualify under the Flood Advisory Committee.

Moved by Councillor Patton and seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That Council Committee recommend to Council that an expenditure of up to \$2,500 for ditching at civic #150 on Granville Drive to divert water to Onslow Road be approved.” Motion DEFEATED (*Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Sandeson, Cooper, MacKenzie and Parker opposed*).

INFORMATION ITEMS**Alert Truro Colchester**

This Information Item provided an update on the status of emergency alerting for the Municipality, Alert Truro Colchester. With very little uptake on this system and following municipalities being given access to use of Alert Ready, Canada’s nationwide alerting system, the continuation of Alert Truro Colchester was considered redundant and an inefficient use of resources. The annual contract was therefore discontinued prior to renewal earlier this year. A notice regarding the discontinuance of Alert Truro Colchester system will be in the next issue of the Colchester newsletter, December 2023.

Director’s Report

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

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Benoit and seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting go into closed session at 9:43 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Patton and seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:58 pm.” Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the meeting adjourn at 9:58 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary