

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

### Staff Present

Dan Troke, Chief Administrative Officer  
 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  
 Devin Trefry, Research, Policy, and Community Engagement Officer  
 Mollie MacBurnie-Haas, IT Support Technician

### Colchester Courage

On behalf of Council and the Municipality of Colchester, Mayor Blair presented the 2023 Colchester Courage awards to Bruce Lake, Danielle Legere and Benjamin Donkin.

**Bruce Lake**, risking his own life, courageously saved a complete stranger struggling in the water at a waterfall along the Moosehorn Trail at Fundy National Park.

**Danielle Legere and Benjamin Donkin** trudged through waist deep mud to pull young children to safety from mudflats in Little Dyke, while waiting for first responders who were on their way.

Colchester is proud to recognize all three recipients for their selfless acts of bravery.

### Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Sandeson and seconded by Councillor Benoit

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

### Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the minutes of meetings held on October 3, November 6, December 5 and November 16, 2023, be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

**Business Arising from Minutes** None

### ACTION ITEMS

**Policy on Communications** Devin Trefry, Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer, provided a high-level overview of the Communications Policy. Key elements include the policy statement; purpose; values and guiding principles; brand usage and standards; communications being subject to FOIPOP legislation; guidelines around respectful communications; support to the Mayor as spokesperson for the Municipality; guidelines for communications from members of Council; handling of media inquiries; corporate communications and inquiries; social media use by the Municipality; guidelines for emergency communications; copyright compliance; reporting of violations; frequency of Policy review; and general roles and responsibilities.

Discussion was held on handling media inquiries. The Municipal Solicitor advised that as elected officials, Council members can respond to media inquiries, however, before responding, it is good practice to speak with the Mayor and/or CAO for assistance and direction, and to ensure information is accurate and up to date. Further discussion was held on requirements for reporting violations; clarification on human-focused; and different avenues of communication.

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Communications Policy be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

### INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Brief discussion was held on the ongoing staffing challenges; report on bee keeping; the replacement ½ ton truck and services provided by Steps on Arthur clients.

Not specific to the Director of Solid Waste report but rather to administrative reports in general, Councillor Lomond asked for an update on the Joint Police Advisory Board meetings. The CAO advised that Mayor Blair did reach out about arranging a meeting but was not successful in securing a time mainly due to Administrative changes in Stewiacke at this time. However, a new Staff Sergeant should be announced soon, and the CAO advised that he would look into getting quarterly RCMP reports. Clarification was sought on the status of the Joint Police Advisory Board and it was confirmed that a decision has not yet been received from the Minister of Justice on re-establishing a stand-alone board.

### CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the meeting go into closed session at 6:39 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Patton and seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 7:07 pm.” Carried unanimously.

**Other**

An update was provided on a recent judicial review concerning a Dangerous and Unsightly (D&U) property. The decision of the D&U Committee on 136 Guest Drive was challenged by the property owner and following the judicial review, Justice Hunt upheld the decision of the Committee. The property is scheduled for demolition this coming Monday.

The Deputy Mayor noted that procedurally, Council members wishing to discuss items during meetings that are not on the agenda should have the item(s) added through the Approval of Agenda process.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councillor Patton and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the meeting adjourn at 7:12 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Tracey Veno  
Recording Secretary