

COUNCIL COMMITTEE – PRESENTATION MEETING

The Council Committee/Presentations Meeting of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was conducted virtually via Zoom Webinars and in person, on Tuesday, December 5, 2023.

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	
Councillor Eric Boutilier	District 1
Councillor Laurie Sandeson	District 2
Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart, Chair	District 3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District 4
Councillor Tim Johnson	District 5
Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor Lisa Patton	District 8
Councillor Marie Benoit	District 9
Councillor Victoria Lomond	District 10

Regrets

Councillor Wade Parker	District 11
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Others Present

Dan Troke, CAO
 Suzanne Graham, Recording Secretary
 Tim Smith, Manager of Computer and Information Systems (for Technical Support)

Presentations

Intelivote – Internet and Phone Voting for 2024 Municipal and CSAP Election Dean Smith

Mr. Smith appeared before Council to answer any question they have on Intelivote and how it works.

Included in the presentation was background information on Intelivote, a Nova Scotia company who have been operating since 2003 and are one of the leading providers of alternative voting in Canada and the only company that has Federal Government Security Clearance. The company provides a product that allows for the integration of traditional ballot voting with an electronic option. Intelivote has completed over 3,000 elections, including more municipal elections than all of their competitors combined.

Mr. Smith then explained the process Intelivote uses and briefly went over the cost of an electronic election.

Discussion was held on:

- The timeframe in which residents would have to vote
- How candidates would have access to an updated list of electors
- If the website has a timeout feature should an elector log in to vote but walk away from their device before completing the process
- What other municipalities do in terms of polling stations for a fully electronic election
- How long after the election the candidate module is available

Moved by Councillor Patton
Seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the presentation be received”.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the presentation be referred to staff for further discussion.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

African Nova Scotia Justice Strategy
Thomas Kayter

Mr. Kayter appeared before Council to answer any questions they have on the African Nova Scotia Justice Strategy

Since 2021, a working group has been engaging the African Nova Scotian community in Colchester to build a community centered black justice strategy. The goal is to incorporate prevention based resources with court-related resources along with an afterhours rapid response team for mental health and addictions crises in the Black community.

The African Nova Scotia Justice Strategy is a four part framework that will provide:

- A Justice Navigator
- A Rapid Response Team
- An Executive Council
- Bail Supervision

The Strategy has a Memorandum of Understanding with the African Nova Scotia Justice Institute to fund a 2 year pilot program.

Brief discussion was held on the program with Council asking if there are any other programs out there that are preventative like this. Although Mr. Kayter is not asking for funding at this time, there is an offer for the Municipality to contribute in some way to the program.

Moved by Councillor Patton
Seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the presentation be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Lomond
Seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the presentation be referred to staff for further discussion.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Municipal/Council Roles and Responsibilities
Jason Haughn, Municipal Advisor

Mr. Haughn appeared before Council to provide them with a refresher on Council roles and responsibilities.

Included in the presentation was:

- The role of the Municipality which is to provide good government, deliver municipal services and provide facilities as council deems necessary, and develop and maintain safe and viable communities.
- The role of Council, both as a whole and as individual Councillors. The role of councilors as individuals is to represent their communities. As a whole, council governs.
- The roles of the Mayor and CAO with the Mayor being the face of Council and the CAO the link between council and staff.
- The role of Municipal staff which is to implement the day-to day and ensure the proper progress is occurring.
- The hierarchy of the organization and what the difference is between elected officials and staff.

Discussion was held throughout the presentation, with Council expressing interest in future sessions, which could be through the Province, covering things such as principals of motions and how to create clear motions or through AMA, covering parliamentary procedure.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Patton
Seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the meeting adjourn at 8:27 pm”.

Suzanne Graham
Recording Secretary