

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 February 15, 2024, 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:

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| Mayor Christine Blair | <i>(regrets)</i> |
| 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 <i>(regrets)</i> |

Staff Present

Dan Troke, Chief Administrative Officer
 Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Paul Smith, Director of Community Development
 Phillip Redden, Director of Solid Waste
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Devin Trefry, Research, Policy, and Community Engagement Officer
 Jenn Mantin, Economic Development Officer
 Mollie MacBurnie-Haas, IT Support Technician
 Tim Smith, Manager of Information Services

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Item 11b, April 8th Maintenance Budget Meeting Date; and
- Item 20, Negotiations in Closed Session.” Carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the minutes of the meeting held on January 11, 2024, be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

None

ACTION ITEMS**Council Voting Solution**

Tim Smith, Manager of information Services, indicated that this item presents Council with information on electronic voting at Council meetings. Following staff’s review, EZ-Vote, a product of the Meridia Interactive Solutions Company, was the solution that best met criteria which would have the ability

to add motions and present them to Council for voting; record votes in a private fashion and present the completed results; is easy to use for both Council and staff; is a good return on investment; and is compliant with cybersecurity and protection of data legislation.

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff move forward with the purchase and implementation of EZ-Vote Solution.” Carried unanimously.

Basic Income Guarantee

Devin Trefry, Research Policy and Community Engagement Officer, indicated that this item is a follow up to the presentation received by Council in January, made by BIG-NS on Basic Income Guarantee (BIG). Following the presentation, representatives of BIG-NS followed up with an email outlining their request, as detailed in the Action Item.

Detailed debate took place with points of discussion including municipalities being least able to do anything; BIG being federally driven; not enough information to realize how the program would work; unsuccessful previous attempts with such program; significant costs for the country; concerns around getting people to work now and this contributing to the problem; and whether this program is intended to replace other social services programs. Further discussion was held with concern of the amount of work this would create for staff.

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That Council Committee recommends to Council:

1. That Council move forward with a resolution relative to a Basic Income Guarantee in Nova Scotia; and,
2. That the Mayor write letters to the Prime Minister and Premier and their respective Ministers asking for federal and provincial/territorial governments work together to create a national liveable basic income guarantee; and,
3. That the Mayor write a letter to the Premier and all MLAs, with copies to the Prime Minister and Nova Scotia MPs requesting the province establish an all-party committee of the legislature to research and design a livable basic income guarantee for Nova Scotians; and,
4. That the Municipality of Colchester encourage other municipalities to pass resolutions in support of a liveable basic income guarantee at both the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.” Motion carried (*Councillors Johnson and Gregory opposed*).

Portapique Memorial Fund

Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, advised that this item provides information to Council regarding the Portapique Memorial Funds as outlined in the Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society agreement. Some of the family members of the tragedy have successfully formed a Society and have acquired the piece of property at the end of Portapique Beach Road for the memorial. Staff are satisfied that conditions as per the agreement have been met and recommend the release of funds. These funds include the \$10k

from the Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society, as well as the \$2k from donations from the Bordering on Disasters Conference in Alberta.

At their meeting on January 25, 2024, Council granted authority to February Council Committee to make a decision on the Portapique Memorial Fund.

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That Council Committee authorizes that funds in the amount of \$10,000 from the Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society and \$2,000 in donations from the Bordering on Disaster Management Conference in Lloydminster be released to the Portapique Mass Casualty Memorial Society for the memorial in Portapique.” Carried unanimously.

Low Income Municipal Tax Assistance Program – Policy Amendment

The Director of Corporate Services presented proposed amendments to the Low Income Municipal Tax Assistance Program Policy advising that the rebate amounts are reviewed and adjusted to reflect annual CPI. The adjustments this year resulted in a 3.2% increase to thresholds and rebate amounts.

Moved by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the amended Low Income Municipal Tax Assistance Program Policy be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Dog By-law Amendment – Lifetime Dog Tags

Paul Smith, Director of Community Development, provided Council with a review of dog tag registrations with a view to considering changes to the Municipality Dog By-law which would implement lifetime dog registrations rather than annual registrations.

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That Council Committee directs staff to bring forward amendments to the Dog By-law that will allow for lifetime dog tags for First Reading at the February Council meeting.” Carried unanimously.

Purchase of Used Vacuum Truck

Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works, indicated that this item is to seek authority to purchase a used vacuum truck. Given recent trends in heavy equipment pricing and availability, staff would like to explore options to purchase a used vacuum truck with ability to make a quick decision on the purchase, provided that the cost remains within the approved capital budget.

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff be authorized to proceed with the purchase of a used vacuum truck, should a unit become available, and provided that the purchase price does not exceed Council’s approved budget.” Carried unanimously.

Neighbourhood Nuisance By-law Amendment

Councillor MacKenzie brought forward an issue concerning a development on lands in East Mountain across from 1006 Pictou Road by developer Justin Gloade of Gloade Construction. Several calls of complaints have been received from residents in close proximity to the development with serious concerns including the intended use of land being for a gravel pit, extended

hours at the construction site, extended length of time for the construction, safety concerns with the loading and offloading of equipment on Pictou Road, the number of calls to the RCMP and the inability to enforce under existing Neighbourhood Nuisance By-law, and the lack of enjoyment of personal properties of neighbouring residents. A detailed chronology of the complaints from residents have been distributed on table for this evening's meeting.

Discussion was held on the types of equipment being used at the development site, zoning change requirements if the intended use for the site is a gravel pit, and lack of specifics relative to reasonable hours for construction activity in the existing Neighbourhood Nuisance By-law.

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie, seconded by Councillor Johnson

"That staff be directed to confirm that land at the development site located at 1006 Pictou Road to Crowland Drive is not intended to be used for gravel pit activity; and,

That staff bring forth proposed amendments to the Neighbourhood Nuisance By-law to add hours reasonable for construction activity, where use of heavy equipment is required, when development falls within certain distance from existing homes." Carried unanimously.

**April 8th Maintenance Meeting
Date**

Councillor Cooper advised that he has a conflict with the April 8th Maintenance Budget meeting date and requested Council's indulgence to consider changing the date.

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Sandeson

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Maintenance Budget meeting date be changed from Monday, April 8th to Tuesday, April 9th." Carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Portapique Street Light

The Director of Public Works provided an update on Council's previous directive regarding the installation of a streetlight at Portapique Beach Road and Highway 2. As these roads are provincially owned, staff made the request for streetlights at this location and the request was denied. Ms. Boudreau provided possible scenarios where streetlights can be installed under the County's Street Light Policy.

Brief discussion was held on how staff decides where if/when streetlights are approved, citing a recent decision for the installation of one on Burris Drive. Ms. Boudreau indicated that difference between these is road ownership, municipal vs. provincial. Councillor Lomond indicated that the location was soon to be the site of the Portapique memorial and a request has been made through Canada Post for streetlights at this location.

**Landfill Capping Environmental
Consultant**

Phil Redden, Director of Solid Waste, provided an overview of the results of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for an environmental consulting firm to provide services related to the capping of three landfill sites at the Municipal Solid Waste Facility in Kempton. Three submissions were received in

response to the RFP and was awarded to Dillon Consulting. Discussion was held on the scoring methodology and ranking of the three submissions.

Director's Report

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

Brief discussion was held on options for the disposal of biosolids; grading of County owned roads and necessary improvements required; and, approximate completion date of water studies for sewage plants being end of March. The Deputy Mayor thanked the Director and Public Works Crews for the great work on clearing roads and sidewalks during the recent significant snow events.

RCMP Report

Dan Troke, CAO, advised that the report, as included in the Council package, is produced regularly by the RCMP and it is staff's intent to get these to Council on a quarterly basis. These reports can be tailored to specific requests of Council. It is also the intent to have RCMP to do presentations to Council periodically.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Patton

"That the meeting go into closed session at 7:25 pm." Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Lomond, seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:14 pm." Carried unanimously.

Negotiations – Lower Truro Spring, Expiry of Land Lease

Moved by Councillor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Johnson

"That Council Committee recommend to Council that a one-year extension to the leases with the current landowners, giving time for all parties to further assess liabilities and options." Carried unanimously.

Negotiations – MOU, Miller Waste Systems

Moved by Councillor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That Council Committee recommends to Council to enter into the MOU with Miller Waste, as discussed in Closed Session." Carried unanimously.

Negotiations – Sale of Lots 219, 20 and 21 Lancaster Crescent, Letter of Intent

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Johnson

"That Council Committee approves the Letter of Intent for the purchase of lots 219, 20 and 21, Lancaster Crescent, as outlined in Closed Session." Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Lomond

"That the meeting adjourn at 9:16 pm." Carried unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary