

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

A Special Session of Council Committee of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was conducted via Zoom Webinars, on Tuesday April 16, and Monday, April 22, 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.

Attendance

The roll was called with the following Council members in attendance:

- Mayor Christine Blair
- Councillor Eric Boutilier District 1
- Councillor Laurie Sandeson District 2 *(regrets April 16th)*
- Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart, Chair District 3
- Councillor Mike Cooper District 4
- Councillor Tim Johnson District 5
- Councillor Karen MacKenzie District 6 *(arrived at 6:21 pm)*
- Councillor Michael Gregory District 7
- Councillor Lisa Patton District 8
- Councillor Marie Benoit District 9
- Councillor Victoria Lomond District 10
- Councillor Wade Parker District 11

Also Present

- Scott Fraser, Acting CAO/Director of Corporate Services
- Paul Smith, Director of Community Development
- Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works
- Phillip Redden, Director of Solid Waste
- Tracey Venno, Recording Secretary
- Devin Trefry, Research, Policy, and Community Engagement Officer
- Jenn Mantin, Economic Development Officer
- Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager
- Mollie MacBurnie-Haas, IT Support Technician (April 16th)
- Tim Smith, IT Manager (April 22nd)

Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was for Council to give consideration to additions and/or deletions including grant requests from not-for-profit organizations, community event grants and other miscellaneous items as part of the budget process.

At the conclusion of the meeting(s), it is anticipated that the operating budget and general tax rates will be set. The decisions made at this Special Council Committee meeting will require Council approval at their next regularly scheduled meeting. For the sake of simplicity, each separate motion will not be considered by Council individually, rather the entire package and tax rates as a whole.

Council agreed to continue the budget meeting until 9:00 pm and recess until April 22nd to complete anything remaining on the agenda, if necessary.

Non-Profit Grant Applications

Colchester Senior Safety Program

Moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the Municipality support the grant request from the Colchester Senior Safety Program.” Motion DEFEATED (*Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Cooper, Johnson, MacKenzie, Gregory, Patton and Lomond opposed*).

Discussion was held on the importance of the program and it being in jeopardy of not surviving. Concern was raised however on the funds being requested for wages, which is not permitted under current policy.

Cobequid Veterans Memorial Park

The request from the Cobequid Veterans Memorial Park is for annual funding.

Moved by Mayor Blair, seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the Municipality support the grant request from the Cobequid Veterans Memorial Park.” Motion carried (*Councillor Cooper and Johnson opposed*).

Moved by Mayor Blair, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the Cobequid Veterans Memorial Park receive a grant in the amount of \$4,500 for fiscal 2024/25). Motion carried (*Councillor Cooper and Johnson opposed*).

Discussion included clarification on NS Public Works Department providing support for the bridge repair, previous requests of the County to take over maintenance of the property and supporting for the current year and reassessing needs for future requests.

Economy Recreation Centre

Due to technical issues, Councillor Lomond was unavailable for the discussion on the motion to support, however, rejoined the meeting for the discussion and motion concerning the amount being granted.

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the Municipality support the grant request from the Economy Recreation Centre.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier, seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the Economy Recreation Centre receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.” Motion carried (*Mayor Blair, Councillors Benoit and Lomond opposed*).

Discussion included concern with the amount requested being well over the policy allowance, granting the requested amount and the group not being eligible for five years, and the size and number of events offered at this facility.

Crossroad Cemetery Company

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the Municipality not support the request for a grant from the Crossroad Cemetery Company.” Carried unanimously.

Discussion included the organization having sufficient funds in the bank to cover what is being requested.

The Grace Arts Centre

Moved by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the Municipality support the grant request from the Grace Arts Centre.” Motion DEFEATED (*Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Stewart, and Councillors Boutilier, Cooper, Johnson, MacKenzie, Lomond and Parker opposed*).

Points of concern noted with the amount being requested, lack of other fundraising for the project, and providing funding to a facility that has accessibility issues.

Cobequid Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre

Moved by Mayor Blair, seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the Municipality support the grant request from the Cobequid Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre.” Motion DEFEATED (*all opposed with the exception of Councillors Sandeson and Lomond*).

Discussion points included how much of the funds would be going to direct wages, original intent of policy was to assist with maintaining existing facilities not building new, and the organization having good net income from previous year.

United Way of Colchester County

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the Municipality support the grant request from the United Way of Colchester County.” Motion carried (*Councillors Johnson and Parker opposed*).

Moved by Mayor Blair, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the United Way of Colchester County receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.” Motion carried (*Councillors Boutilier, Johnson, Gregory, Patton and Parker opposed*).

Souls Harbour Rescue Mission

Brief discussion took place on whether this organization was eligible due to concerns around being privately owned. It was confirmed that they are registered as a society and are therefore eligible.

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the Municipality support the grant request from Souls Harbour Rescue Mission.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That Souls Harbour Rescue Mission receive a grant in the amount of \$4,850.” Carried unanimously.

Truro Pride Society

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the Municipality support the grant request from Truro Pride Society.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the Truro Pride Society receive a grant in the amount of \$1,000.” Carried unanimously.

Similar to last year, there was a suggestion for the organization to change the name from Truro Pride Society to Truro-Colchester Pride Society.

Colchester Sexual Assault Centre

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the Municipality support the grant request from Colchester Sexual Assault Centre.” Motion carried (*Councillors Cooper and Johnson opposed*).

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Mayor Blair

“That the Colchester Sexual Assault Centre receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.” Motion carried (*Councillors Cooper and Johnson opposed*).

Areas of concern included the bottom line in the financials showing favourable, too much monies going to wages, and whether there was any relation between

this organization and the provincially funded program offered at the Colchester Hospital.

Autism Nova Scotia Truro Chapter

Moved by Councillor Lomond, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the Municipality support the grant request from Autism Nova Scotia Truro Chapter.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Autism Nova Scotia Truro Chapter receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.” Carried unanimously.

Truro Colchester Welcome Network Association

Moved by Councillor Lomond, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the Municipality support the grant request from the Truro Colchester Welcome Network Association.” Motion carried (*Councillor Parker opposed*).

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Truro Colchester Welcome Network Association receive a grant in the amount of \$1,000.” Carried unanimously.

During debate concerns were raised about this being a possible duplication of services as this is something that TCPEP is supposed to provide and the Truro-Colchester Chamber of Commerce not contributing. It was also noted that the amount of support should be equivalent to Truro’s contribution.

Cobequid Society for Athletic Excellence

Moved by Councillor Lomond, seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Municipality support the grant request from the Cobequid Society for Athletic Excellence.” Carried unanimously. (*Councillor Patton stepped away from the meeting and was not available during voting on this motion*).

Moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Cobequid Society for Athletic Excellence receive a grant in the amount of \$4,000.” Carried unanimously.

Trustees of the Riverside Community Hall Association

Moved by Councillor Lomond, seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Municipality support the grant request from the Trustees of the Riverside Community Hall Association.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie, seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the Trustees of the Riverside Community Hall Association receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.” Carried unanimously.

West St. Andrews Community Club

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Municipality support the grant request from the West St. Andrews Community Club.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the West St. Andrews Community Club receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.” Carried unanimously.

Brule Community Centre Association

Moved by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the Municipality support the grant request from the Brule Community Centre Association.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the Brule Community Centre Association receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.” Carried unanimously.

Farm Equipment Museum

Councillor Patton declared a conflict of interest and recused herself from discussion on this matter.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the Municipality not support the grant request from the Farm Equipment Museum.” Motion DEFEATED (*Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Stewart, and Councillors Boutilier, MacKenzie, Gregory, Benoit, Lomond and Parker opposed*).

Discussion on the motion not to support included concerns with the organization having funds in the bank; purpose of funds being to purchase tables and chairs rather than asking for funding when future upgrades are needed; amount being requested being relatively high for tables and chairs; and supporting local for the purchase.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier, seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the Municipality support the grant request from the Farm Equipment Museum.” Motion carried. (*Councillors Cooper and Johnson opposed*).

Moved by Councillor Boutilier, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the Farm Equipment Museum receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.” Carried unanimously.

Barrachois Community Hall Association

Moved by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the Municipality support the grant request from Barrachois Community Hall Association.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the Barrachois Community Hall Association receive a grant in the amount of \$1,000.” Carried unanimously.

Alton Recreation Centre

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the Municipality support the grant request from the Alton Recreation Centre.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Alton Recreation Centre receive a grant in the amount of \$2,500.” Carried unanimously.

The Falls Community Hall Association – application withdrawn.

Earlton Community Centre

Moved by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the Municipality support the grant request from the Earlton Community Centre.” Motion carried (*Councillor Johnson opposed*).

Moved by Councillor Gregory seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the Earlton Community Centre receive a grant in the amount of \$2,000.” Carried unanimously.

Kemptown and Area Recreation Association

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the Municipality support the grant request from the Kemptown and Area Recreation Association.”

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Kemptown and Area Recreation Association receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.” Carried unanimously.

CARMA Colchester Chapter

Moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the Municipality support the grant request from CARMA Colchester Chapter.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That CARMA Colchester Chapter receive a grant in the amount of \$3,000.” Carried unanimously.

Support for a lesser amount was discussed mainly due to numbers being down from previous years.

Truro Curling Club

Moved by Councillor Lomond, seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Municipality support the grant request from the Truro Curling Club.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Truro Curling Club receive a grant in the amount of \$3,000.” Motion carried (*Councillor Parker opposed*).

Canadian Mental Health Association

Moved by Councillor Lomond, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the Municipality support the grant request from the Canadian Mental Health Association.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the Canadian Mental Health Association receive a grant in the amount of \$3,000.” Carried unanimously.

Burnside Pembroke Community and Park Association

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the Municipality support the grant request from the Burnside Pembroke Community and Park Association.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Mayor Blair

“That the Burnside Pembroke Community and Park Association receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.” Motion DEFEATED (*Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Boutilier, Johnson, MacKenzie, Gregory, Patton and Parker opposed*).

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the Burnside Pembroke Community and Park Association receive a grant in the amount of \$3,400.” Carried unanimously.

Points of discussion included funding in a lesser amount due to the request including costs for equipment and mowing of the cemetery and it not being practice of Council to provide funding for cemeteries.

Book Club for Inmates – Nova Institution for Women

Moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the Municipality not support the grant request from the Book Club for Inmates – Nova Institution for Women.” Carried unanimously.

Northumberland Arts Council

Moved by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the Municipality support the grant request from the Northumberland Arts Council.” Motion carried (*Councillor Parker opposed*).

Moved by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That the Northumberland Arts Council receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.” Motion carried (*Councillors Cooper, Benoit and Parker opposed*).

Points of discussion included the amount of money the Municipality has put into this facility over the years, and fundraising efforts of the organization.

At this point, Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, advised that this concludes the requests under Grants to Non-Profit Organizations. Of the total \$165,000 requested, Council Committee's recommending motions total \$83,250, leaving a balance of \$16,750 in the budget.

Responding to a query about reconsidering the request from the Cobequid Veterans Memorial Park, the Director of Corporate Services advised that unless new information is available, a motion to reconsider is not in order. Additionally, it is not the practice of Council to reconsider motions as a result of funding remaining in the budget at the conclusion of all requests.

Community Event Grants Cycling NS – Ride and Shine

Moved by Councillor Lomond, seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That the Municipality support the grant request from Cycling NS – Ride and Shine.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That Cycling NS – Ride and Shine receive a grant in the amount of \$1,500.” Carried unanimously.

Brookfield Athletic Association – Brookfield Whing Ding

Move by Councillor Lomond, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the Municipality support the grant request from the Brookfield Athletic Association for the Brookfield Whing Ding.” Motion carried (*Councillor Parker opposed*).

Moved by Councillor Boutilier, seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That the Brookfield Athletic Association receive a grant for the Brookfield Whing Ding in the amount of \$5,000.” Motion DEFEATED (*Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Stewart, and Councillors Cooper, Benoit, Lomond and Parker opposed*).

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Mayor Blair

“That Brookfield Athletic Association receive a grant for the Brookfield Whing Ding in the amount of \$10,000.” Motion carried (*Councillors Johnson and Parker opposed*).

Discussion included areas supported by the Brookfield Athletic Association; funds raised by the organization supporting children in sports; fundraising efforts of other events; requirements for balance sheet/financials not being a requirement of the Community Event Grants Policy; and consideration being given at another time for changes to Policy relative to a maximum request of \$5,000.

Truro Pride Society – Pride Week

Moved by Councillor Lomond, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the Municipality support the grant request from the Truro Pride Society for Pride Week.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Lomond, seconded by Mayor Blair

“That Truro Price Society receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000 for Pride Week.” Motion DEFEATED (*Deputy Mayor Stewart, and Councillors Boutilier, Cooper, Johnson, MacKenzie, Gregory, Patton, Benoit, and Parker opposed*).

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Truro Price Society receive a grant in the amount of \$2,500 for Pride Week.” Carried unanimously.

Comments included overall support for the event, however, it should be split between Truro and Colchester.

Hook in with Fibre Friends V.3.0

Councillor Patton declared a conflict of interest and recused herself from discussion on this matter.

Moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the Municipality support the grant request from Hook in Fibre Friends V.3.0.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Hook in Fibre Friends V.3.0. receive a grant in the amount of \$1,200.” Carried unanimously.

Waugh River Stables Club – Club Shows

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the Municipality not support the grant request from the Waugh River Stables Club for the Club Shows.” Motion carried (*Councillor Gregory opposed*).

Key points for not supporting this event was that all monies requested being are given out as prizes.

Truro Harness Owners Association of Colchester County

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the Municipality not support the grant request from the Truro Harness Owners Association of Colchester County.” Carried unanimously.

Discussion was held about funding not being necessary as this is a profitable event.

APEX Invitational Golf Association

Councillor Boutilier declared a conflict of interest and recused himself from discussion on this matter.

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Parker

“That the Municipality support the grant request from APEX Invitational Golf Association.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Parker

“That the APEX Invitational Golf Association receive a grant in the amount of \$2,500.” Carried unanimously.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that asks under Community Events Grants total \$33,700 with recommending motions approving \$17,700. This leaves a balance of \$42,300 for requests throughout the remainder of the year.

Annual Grants

A list of the annual grant recipients was included in the budget documentation.

Discussion was held regarding increasing the annual grant for the Debert Military Museum.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the annual grant from the Debert Military Museum be increased from \$100 to \$1,000.” Carried unanimously.

Other

Referring to the request under Other Additions & Deletions from the RECC, Mr. Fraser requested that this be moved to the end of the agenda as a portion of the request should be discussed in closed session. Council agreed.

Clarification was sought on the process for motions for “other” addition & deletion requests. Staff confirmed the process to be the same format with first motions to support or not support, then followed by a motion for an amount.

Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S) Coordinator Position \$59,000

New position housed at range 7.1 on the salary scales. Brief discussion was held on enough workload warranting the position; budgeted amount includes benefits and is prorated for fiscal 2024/25.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier, seconded by Mayor Blair

“That Council supports funding for the Occupational Health & Safety Coordinator Position.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That \$59,000 be included in the budget for the new Occupational Health & Safety Coordinator position.” Carried unanimously.

Senior Accountant \$101,009

New position housed at range 8.1 on the salary scale. Brief discussion was held on the amount being prorated for fiscal 2024/25, and includes benefits, professional development and office supplies/set up.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That Council supports funding for the Senior Accountant position.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That \$101,009 be included in the budget for the new Senior Accountant position.” Carried unanimously.

Public Works Admin Support Position \$62,068

This position is at range 2 on the existing salary scales with the amount being prorated for fiscal 2024/25.

Moved by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That Council supports funding for the Public Works Admin Support position.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That \$62,068 be included in the budget for the Public Works Admin Support position.” Carried unanimously.

Assistant Development Officer Position \$41,480

New position at range 7 on the salary scales, prorated for fiscal 2024/25.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Council supports funding for the Assistant Development Officer position.”
Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That \$41,480 be included in the budget for the Assistant Development Officer position.” Carried unanimously.

Admin Support EMO \$45,043

New position at range 2 of the salary scale, prorated in the budget for fiscal 2024/25.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council supports funding for the Admin Support position for EMO.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That \$45,043 be included in the budget for the Admin Support position for EMO.” Carried unanimously.

Clarification was sought on whether the “other” additions & deletions have been factored in the budget. The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that all amounts have been included in the maintenance budget and the result is a balanced budget.

Colchester Ground Search and Rescue \$20,000

Colchester Ground Search and Rescue (CGSAR) is due to present to Council at their June 4th Presentation meeting. A \$20,000 placeholder is recommended be built into the budget for any potential changes to CGSAR funding.

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That Council supports funding the Colchester Ground Search and Rescue.”
Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That a \$20,000 placeholder be included in the budget for possible changes to Colchester Ground Search and Rescue funding.” Carried unanimously.

Debert Park \$80,000

Funding under Debert Park includes \$50,000 for a signage program in Debert and \$30,000 for archeological work on three lots on MacElmon Road.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Council supports funding for the Debert Park.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That \$80,000 be included in the budget for the Debert Business Park.” Carried unanimously.

Term Positions Parks \$122,259

Two permanent term positions for Recreation (Parks) for 10 months of the year. These would be unionized positions.

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That Council supports funding for two permanent term positions for Recreation.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That \$122,259 be included in the budget for two permanent term positions for Recreation.” Carried unanimously.

Park Structures \$164,000

Funding for park structures including new trail bridge, and maintenance and repair of aging facilities.

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Council supports funding for Park Structures.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That \$164,000 be included in the budget for Park Structures.” Carried unanimously.

Scotia Pool - \$100,000

Currently Scotia Pool receives an annual grant of \$75,000. During grant presentations Scotia Pool put forth a request for an additional \$100,000. Last year Council approved an additional \$100,000 for the 2023/24 fiscal year.

Detailed debate was held on the Scotia Pool request. Points of discussion included:

- Great deal of demand, facility being well utilized;
- Detrimental to Colchester, valuable community asset;

- Scotia Pool being no different than arenas;
- Significant funding contribution amounts to arenas;
- Request being a one time ask;
- Scotia Pool is supported by the RECC;
- Village of Bible Hill in-kind contribution;
- Villages not being permitted to provide financial grants;
- Significant efforts of the Board of Directors at the Pool;
- Many seniors depend on the facility, provides health benefits;
- Used by many throughout the County;
- Still recovering from Covid;
- Working collaboratively with the RECC, possibility of shared resources and programs;
- Biggest population not utilizing, mainly used by three districts and the Town of Truro residents;
- RECC unable to handle the overflow due to capacity issues;
- Concerns around continued requests;
- Sustainability and long-term viability;
- Contributions to Scotia Pool to date;
- Cost to open another pool in future if needed;
- Not basing decisions by districts, rather the County as a whole;
- Other significant projects funded such as Debert and rural broadband;
- Inclusion of funds resulting in a balanced budget;
- Ownership of the building, contributing significant amounts of money into a provincially owned facility.

Moved by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council not support the request for additional funding for Scotia Pool.”
Motion carried (*Mayor Blair, Councillors Boutilier, MacKenzie, Lomond and Parker opposed*).

Recess and Reconvene

Council agreed to recess at 9:27 pm.

The meeting reconvened on April 22nd at 6:00 pm with the following members in attendance:

Mayor Christine Blair	(arrived at 6:04 pm)
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
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

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.

Prior to proceeding with the meeting, Councillor Cooper assumed the role of Chair to allow Deputy Mayor Stewart to address Council on a point of clarification from information provided at the meeting on April 16th.

Deputy Mayor Stewart advised that on the discussion on funding for Scotia Pool, Council was informed that under Part 18 of the MGA, Villages are not permitted to provide grants. Clarification was provided noting that there is nothing in the MGA which prohibits Villages from providing grants and this has been confirmed with the Municipal Solicitor. A number of examples of monies granted by various Villages were noted.

Councillor MacKenzie also made a point of clarification on the request of Scotia Pool being a one time ask. The request made last year was a three-year ask of \$100,000 in each year beginning in 2023/24. The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the request last year was for three years, however, Council's decision was to approve the additional \$100,000 for 2023/24 but not for the three years as requested.

At this point, Deputy Mayor Stewart resumed the role of Chair.

Village of Tatamagouche Crosswalk \$20,000

Moved by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Patton

"That the Municipality supports funding for the Village of Tatamagouche Crosswalk." Motion carried (*Councillor MacKenzie opposed*).

Moved by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Patton

"That \$20,000 be included in the budget for the Village of Tatamagouche Crosswalk." Motion carried (*Councillor MacKenzie opposed*).

Points of discussion included source of funds being from the Canada Community Build Fund (CCBF); Villages being required to request CCBF funding through the Municipality; having an agreement similar to the Village of Bible Hill would result in a much smaller amount due to funding formula; aging crosswalk infrastructure; and, number of constituents from other districts using the crosswalk.

African Nova Scotian Justice Strategy (amount not specified)

Moved by Councillor Lomond, seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That the Municipality supports funding for the African Nova Scotian Justice Strategy." Motion DEFEATED (*Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Stewart, and Councillors Boutilier, Sandeson, Johnson, and Gregory opposed*).

Discussion points included the request not being specific, and whether support was being provided by the Town of Truro.

The Grace Arts Centre \$15,000 (annual)

Moved by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the Municipality supports funding for the Grace Arts Centre.” Motion carried (*Councillors MacKenzie and Parker opposed*).

Moved by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the Grace Arts Centre receive \$15,000 in annual funding.” Motion DEFEATED (*Mayor Blair, Councillors Boutilier, Sandeson, Cooper, Johnson, MacKenzie and Parker opposed*).

Moved by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the Grace Arts Centre receive \$10,000 for 2024/25.” Motion carried (*Mayor Blair, Councillors Boutilier, MacKenzie and Parker opposed*).

Discussion included Marigold annual contributions; previous requests and contributions for the Grace Arts Centre; regular submission of reports; funding being requested for programming and projects; number of constituents from other districts using the Centre; annual funding; and support for a lesser amount.

Colchester Community Support Society \$20,000

Moved by Councillor Lomond, seconded by Councillor Sandeson

That the Municipality supports funding for the Colchester Community Support Society.” Motion carried (*Councillor Parker opposed*).

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the Colchester Community Support Society receive a grant in the amount of \$20,000.” Motion carried (*Councillor Parker opposed*).

Points of discussion included having funds going directly towards food on the table vs. towards food literacy; food waste in Canada; concerns relative to having funds in the bank; and what support the Town is providing.

In-camera/Closed Session Moved by Mayor Blair, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the meeting go into closed session at 6:38 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson, seconded by Mayor Blair

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 7:10 pm.” Carried unanimously.

RECC - \$150,000 Additional Funding

Discussion on the annual operating grant included funding of same amount is required by the Town of Truro as per the Operating Agreement

Moved by Councillor Lomond, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That Council supports the request for an increase in annual funding for the RECC.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mayor Blair, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the annual funding for RECC be increased by \$150,000 from the Municipality.” Carried unanimously.

RECC – Event Funding

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Parker

“That the Municipality supports the request for event funding for the RECC.”
Motion DEFEATED (*Mayor Blair, Councillor Boutilier, Sandeson, Cooper, Johnson, MacKenzie, Gregory, Patton and Lomond opposed*).

During debate on event funding for the RECC, it was noted that \$125,000 has been allocated under the Economic Development budget for events, including requests for events from the RECC. Key points of discussion also included past process for event requests coming forth for consideration on a case-by-case basis; benefits of knowing about events coming forward; the understanding that municipal units would not be asked to contribute to NSPE events via the RECC; and funding for the NS Stampede event. Council indicated that they would like to proceed as per past practice and have events brought forward on a case-by-case basis for consideration.

With no further budget items for discussion, Mr. Fraser advised that this concludes the budget process. There is \$100,000 remaining in the budget which could be placed as a contingency fund.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier, seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the \$100,000 balance be placed in a contingency fund in the 2024/25 budget.” Carried unanimously.

This results in a balanced budget with no changes to the tax rates, and if Council is in agreement this will be brought forward at the end of the month for final approval.

Other

At this point, Councillor Cooper assumed the role of Chair to allow the Deputy Mayor to address Council on another budget-related matter.

Referring to Geopark funding on page 54 in the budget document, Deputy Mayor Stewart indicated that a joint meeting has yet to take place with Cumberland and indicated that he would like to see a placeholder for these funds be held until such time a joint meeting occurs.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart, seconded by Mayor Blair

“That a placeholder for Geopark funding be held in the budget until a joint meeting with Cumberland Council takes place.” Carried unanimously.

At this point, the Deputy Mayor resumed the role of Chair.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the 2024/25 budget with the recommended approvals during additions and deletions be advanced for final approval.” Carried unanimously..

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting adjourn at 7:31 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary