

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 14, 2024, beginning at 6:00 pm.

In peace and friendship, and in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, Deputy Mayor Sandeson acknowledged that the Municipality of Colchester is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.

Roll Call

Mayor Christine Blair	
Cllr. Paul Weatherby	District 1
Deputy Mayor Laurie Sandeson, Chair	District 2
Cllr. Sheldon Richardson	District 3
Cllr. Mike Cooper	District 4
Cllr. Tim Johnson	District 5
Cllr. Nigel Leggett	District 6
Cllr. Sherry Martell	District 7
Cllr. Lisa Patton	District 8
Cllr. Marie Benoit	District 9
Cllr. Charlene Fletcher	District 10
Cllr. Allan Kennedy	District 11 <i>(regrets)</i>

Staff Present

Dan Troke, Chief Administrative Officer
 Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works
 Paul Smith, Director of Community Development
 Phil Redden, Director of Solid Waste
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Jenn Mantin, Economic Development Officer
 Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager
 Mollie MacBurnie-Haas, IT Support Technician

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Weatherby, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the agenda be approved with the following amendments:

- Remove Item #9, Upper Stewiacke Fire Department Funding Request for a Memorial; and,
- Move Item #11 to be dealt with after Item #4.” Carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the minutes of the meeting held on September 12, 2024, be approved as circulated.” Carried unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

None.

Plan It Colchester – Upland Planning and Design

Ian Watson, Senior Planner and Planning Lead, was in attendance to provide Council with an update on Plan It Colchester. Highlights of the presentation included information on why and how we plan; the benefits of planning; impacts; overview of community feedback and what is being proposed as a

result; environmental and recreation/tourism considerations; project timeline; and, upcoming engagement period.

Brief discussion was held on how the plan will affect existing racetracks/mud bogs; planning on reserve lands; campgrounds; and, agriculture and livestock.

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Richardson

“That the presentation from Upland Planning and Design, with an update of Plan It Colchester be received.” Carried Unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

North Shore Recreation Centre – Floor Project

The Recreation Manager advised that this item deals with a request from the North Shore Recreation Centre (NSRC) to cover costs associated with the arena floor replacement. An overview of the project was provided along with total project cost; funds available to date; and various funding sources including the Municipality’s annual contribution of \$50K for the last 12 years; and, total funds required to complete the project.

The request from the NSRC is to help cover the current project shortfall of \$359,115.02 with the understanding that their HST return, matured GICs and any additional funding grants and donations would be returned to the Municipality’s arena floor reserve, bringing the cost to the Municipality to approximately \$70,300.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the request from the North Shore Recreation Centre for additional overages of \$359,115.02, with a cost to the Municipality of approximately \$70,300 once grants, tax rebates and GICs have been received, be approved.” Carried unanimously.

Funding Application, Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program

The Director of Public Works advised that this item is to seek Council support for an application to the provincial Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program (GRID). Eligible projects may be granted up to 50% funding and include construction, renewal or expansion of water wastewater and stormwater infrastructure; capital projects that have been identified under a climate adaptation plan; and projects required to comply with accessibility act or improve accessibility to municipal infrastructure. The application deadline is December 13th. All applications must include a resolution of Council and successfully funded projects must be completed by March 31, 2026. Staff is recommending that Council support an application to the GRID program with the Tatamagouche Trunk Sewer Replacement as the selected project.

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Martell

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that an application to the Growth and Renewal Infrastructure Development Program with the selected project being replacement of 833 metres of trunk sewer in Tatamagouche at an estimated project cost of \$1.3M be supported.” Carried unanimously.

Regional Transit Feasibility Study, Advisory Group

The Economic Development Officer noted that an Advisory Group is being formed to provide objective advice, insights and professional recommendations at various progress stages throughout the Regional Transit Feasibility Study. The Advisory Group will have representation from each of the local governments (Truro, Colchester, Stewiacke, and Millbrook) amongst various other organizations. The intent is to have the committee formed by the end of November and as such, staff is recommending that Council appoint a member to the Advisory Group.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the appointment of a Council representative on the Regional Transit Feasibility Study be referred to the Nominating Committee.” Carried unanimously.

Funding Application, Green Municipal Fund Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation

The Director of Public Works advised that staff is seeking support for an application to the Green Municipal Fund’s (GMF) Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation Program. The program is administered by FCM and funded by the Government of Canada. It is geared towards supporting community with climate adaptation initiatives, with three categories – Climate Ready Plans and Processes, Adaptation in Action, and financing of adaptation initiatives and projects. Staff is recommending that Council support an application to the GMF Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation Program under the Climate Ready Plans and Processes category for the development of a Climate Adaptation Strategy. Estimated project cost would be \$100,000 and with a successful application, the program would provide 70% funding, and the remaining 30% would need to be covered by the Municipality.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff be directed to apply for a funding opportunity from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation Initiative for the development of a Corporate Climate Adaptation Plan.” Carried unanimously.

Code of Conduct

The CAO provided a brief overview of this item noting that most municipalities have their own Code of Conduct, however, there are no consistencies in what has been adopted. It is being mandated by the Province to adopt a province wide Code of Conduct for municipalities. One of the requirements of this Code of Conduct is the appointment of an investigator to handle complaints. A copy of the Code of Conduct was included in the Council package for review. This new Code of Conduct must be adopted and an investigator appointed by late December.

Moved by Mayor Blair, seconded by Councillor Fletcher

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the current Code of Conduct for Members of Council Policy and the Code of Conduct Complaints Policy be repealed; and,

By way of resolution, that Council adopts the *Code of Conduct for Municipal Elected Officials Regulations as set forth by the Province of Nova Scotia.*” Carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS**Lockheed Crescent – Request for Transfer of Ownership**

This item is to inform Council of a request from Fallout Complex to transfer ownership of Lockheed Crescent in Debert. Staff is currently reviewing this request and will be bringing information to Council at a later date.

Updates from Carbon-Free Colchester Implementation Committee

This information item is to provide Council with an update on the Carbon-Free Colchester Implementation Committee's activities since its inception in the Fall of 2023 including incentives for energy efficient new builds, and concerns around climate staff capacity to move initiatives forward.

Director's Report

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

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Martell

"That the meeting go into closed session at 7:30 pm." Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 8:02 pm." Carried unanimously.

Property Matter – Lot 15 and 44 Ventura Drive

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Leggett

"That Council approves the sale of Lot 15 and 44 Ventura Drive as outlined in Closed Session; and,

That Council Committee authorize the Mayor and CAO to execute the purchase and sale agreement prepared by Legal Counsel for this transaction." Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Martell

"That the meeting adjourn at 8:03 pm." Carried unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary