

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 13, 2025, beginning at 6:00 pm.

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

Roll	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

Staff Present

Dan Troke, Chief Administrative Officer
 Phil Redden, Director of Solid Waste
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Grace MacCormick, Municipal Solicitor
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Mollie MacBurnie-Haas, IT Support
 Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager

Approval of Agenda Moved by Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:
 - #11b Art Acquisition; and
 - #14 Legal Briefing in Closed Session.” Carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the minutes of the meeting held on October 16, 2025, be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes None.

ACTION ITEMS**Community Event Grant Request – Ukrainian Society**

The Recreation Manager reported on the Community Event Grant request from the Ukrainian Society for \$950 for their upcoming event on December 6th, St. Nicholas Day. The report included details of the event, budget availability, and options for consideration. Staff are recommending approval of the request in the amount of \$950. With the event taking place in Truro, a question was raised about whether the group requested funds from other sources. The Recreation Manager indicated an inquiry was made with the Town of Truro, unfortunately the deadline was missed.

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That Council Committee recommend to Council that funding in the amount of \$950 for the Ukrainian Society’s St. Nicholas Day event be approved.” Carried unanimously.

Crosswalk, Plains Road

The Director of Public Works presented on the crosswalk request for Plains Road in Debert providing details and timelines of the request. As the location for the request is on a provincially owned road, the request was forwarded to the Province for review. The Province’s response is favourable if the County provides adequate pedestrian facilities on both sides of Plains Road at the crosswalk location. The report also included information on the Active Transportation Strategy (ATS) study currently underway and recommend awaiting the results of the ATS study before considering installing a crosswalk at this location.

Discussion took place on potential issues and safety concerns with pedestrian islands on both sides of Plains Road and having proper sidewalks at the crosswalk location. Further discussion was held with concern expressed on the length of time in receiving answers from the Province, the consultants undertaking as part of the ATS study regarding sidewalks, pros and cons of crosswalks, associated costs, and processes/responsibilities – County versus Village of Bible Hill.

Council was reminded about attending the upcoming open houses for the ATS study being held next week if opportunity allows.

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that a decision on the request for a signalized crosswalk on Plains Road be deferred until the Active Transportation Study is complete.” Carried unanimously.

20-Tonne Excavator Purchase

Councillor Martell declared a conflict of interest and recused herself from the table for this item.

The Director of Solid Waste provided a detailed report on the 20-Tonne Excavator Purchase. Included in the report was information on the tender, submissions received, needs and requirements, evaluation process, budget implications and approvals, options for consideration, as well as staff’s recommendation to proceed with the purchase of the 20-Tonne Caterpillar excavator.

Points of discussion included the types of machinery, the recommended equipment not being sufficient to meet the needs, tender submissions not being consistent, process ambiguity, cost effectiveness, purchasing the right equipment to meet the needs of intended use, future considerations, the difference between and tender and request for proposals (RFP), current rental equipment being used and option to purchase, support for local purchasing, and taking the time to further investigate. Further discussion was held in support of staff’s recommendation.

Moved by Councillor Leggett, seconded by Councillor Richardson

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the excavator tender be cancelled, and it go to market with an RFP outlining specific requirements for

the equipment.” Motion **DEFEATED** (*Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Sandeson, Councillor Weatherby, Benoit, Fletcher, and Kennedy opposed*).

Moved by Councillor Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Weatherby

“That Council Committee recommend to Council that staff proceed with the purchase of the 20-tonne Caterpillar excavator, at a price of \$314,612, excl. HST.” Motion carried (*Councillors Richardson, Cooper, Johnson and Leggett opposed*).

**Flood Advisory Committee
Terms of Reference**

The Director of Public Works presented proposed changes to the Flood Advisory Committee Terms of Reference. Key changes include the addition of the Director of Community Development as an ex-officio member, updates to the formal names of the non-voting provincial representatives, and inclusion of specific guiding policy reference. The proposed changes were reviewed and recommended by the Flood Advisory Committee.

A correction was noted regarding a provincial department name, namely the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change.

Moved by Mayor Blair, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the proposed changes to the County Flood Advisory Committee Terms of Reference be approved as amended.” Carried unanimously.

**Small Flood Damage Reduction
Projects Policy Revisions**

The Director of Public Works provided an overview of proposed changes to the Small Flood Damage Reduction Projects Policy. The changes were recently reviewed by the Flood Advisory Committee with a recommendation to Council that the proposed amendments be adopted.

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the proposed changes to the Small Flood Damage Reduction Projects Policy be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Debert Airport Snow Removal

Councillors Legget and Martell declared a conflict of interest and recused themselves from the table for this item.

The Director of Public Works indicated that this item is to award the snow plowing contract for the Debert Airport for the 2025/26 winter season. Included in her report was information about past services, details of the Request for Quotations and submissions received, budgetary information, and options for consideration. Staff recommend awarding the snow plowing contract to Ian Sinclair Contracting.

Clarification was sought on who determines plowing hours. The Director of Public Works confirmed that as outlined in the tender, if there is more than five centimeters of snow, the Airport Manager will notify the contractor that plowing is required.

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Weatherby

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the snow removal contract for the Debert Airport for the 2025/26 winter season be awarded to Ian Sinclair Contracting.” Carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

80-20 Trucking Rule, Provincial Changes

The Director of Public Works advised Council that with the recent provincial changes to the 80-20 Trucking Rule, changes will be required to the County's Procurement Policy. Feedback is being sought from Council on any concerns, comments or questions related to these changes prior to bringing policy changes back to Council for consideration. January will have staff beginning to issue tenders for the upcoming construction season so any potential changes to policy should happen early in the new year. Staff recommendations will likely be consistent with provincial changes unless Council wishes otherwise.

Brief discussion was held on the 80-20 rule working well for the industry with concern expressed regarding changes to policy without having possible alternative options in place. Further discussion took place on the initial reaction from the industry was concern relative to the recent provincial changes, however, since then there seems to be a level of comfort within the industry about the provincial changes.

Art Acquisition

Mayor Blair, along with Deputy Mayor Sandeson and Councillor Weatherby acknowledged, thanked and congratulated Craig Burgess and his team for a very successful and well-organized Art Acquisition event. The winning piece selected this year belonged to Donna Vigliucci, a pyrography work entitled The Watcher.

Director's Report

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

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Weatherby

“That the meeting go into closed session at 7:04pm.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Richardson

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 8:20pm.” Carried unanimously.

Property Matter – Sale of 398 Dakota Road, Debert Business Park

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Richardson

“That Council Committee approve the sale of 398 Dakota Road (PID 20153755) as described in closed session, with authority for the Mayor and CAO to execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement prepared by Legal Counsel.” Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councillor Martell, the meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary