

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

A Special Session of the Council Committee of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was conducted virtually, via Zoom Webinars and in person on Monday, April 13, 2026, 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 Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Christine Blair	
Councillor Paul Weatherby	District 1
Deputy Mayor Laurie Sandeson, Chair	District 2
Councillor Sheldon Richardson	District 3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District 4
Councillor Tim Johnson	District 5 (virtual)
Councillor Nigel Leggett	District 6
Councillor Sherry Martell	District 7
Councillor Lisa Patton	District 8
Councillor Marie Benoit	District 9 (late – arrived at 6:22pm)
Councillor Charlene Fletcher	District 10
Councillor Alan Kennedy	District 11

Staff Present

Dan Troke, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works
 Paul Smith, Director of Community Development
 Phil Redden, Director of Solid Waste
 Jennifer Mantin, Economic Development Officer
 Suzanne Graham, Recording Secretary
 Mollie MacBurnie-Haas, Desktop Support Technician

Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to receive a presentation from staff regarding the draft “maintenance” budget. This is part of the budget process for 2026-2027.

Staff Presentation

Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, presented the 2026/27 Operating Budget to Council explaining that a budget serves as the Municipality’s statement of priorities, establishing spending limits on programs and services. It is a legislative requirement that provides accountability to residents, creditors, businesses, and other partners.

The Maintenance Budget functions like an income statement, balancing revenues and expenses required to maintain and operate the Municipality. It allocates resources for services and determines tax rates. In developing the budget, managers are provided with a template to prepare draft submissions. These drafts are reviewed by the Finance department, which also incorporates the Municipality’s strategic priorities into the final budget.

The Director of Corporate Services also outlined key revenues and expenditures. The majority of revenue is generated through property taxes, followed by deed transfer tax. Under the Municipal Government Act (MGA), municipalities may set their own deed transfer tax rate up to a maximum of 1.5%, which is the current rate in Colchester County. Additional revenue comes from grants in lieu of taxes—payments made by provincial and

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federal governments on properties that are exempt from municipal property taxation.

Discussion was held on PVSC and their role in municipal taxes. Not only do they provide us with the assessment values for all properties, they also determine the cap value, which is 2.6% for this year. A comparison of the tax rate for neighbouring and similar sized municipalities was provided.

Not surprisingly, the County's largest expenditure is Provincial transfers, which accounts for about 45% of the budget. The largest transfer from Colchester goes to the School Board, followed by the RCMP. Last year Council increased the number of RCMP members by three. Funds for three additional members are being proposed in this year's budget.

To conclude the presentation, details were provided on items for the next budget meeting including: grants, administrative positions, leasing office space and Colchester Ground Search and Rescue funding.

Brief discussion was held on the total number of RCMP officers we currently pay for; if zoning changes caused any increase to assessments; and more information on space requirements.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Richardson

"That the presentation be accepted." Carried unanimously.

On a motion by Councillor Patton, the meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

Suzanne Graham
Recording Secretary