

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

The Regular Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Courthouse, Truro, Nova Scotia, on Thursday, February 23, 2017.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Christine Blair, Chair	
Deputy Mayor Bill Masters	District 2
Councillor Geoff Stewart	District 3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District 4
Councillor Lloyd Gibbs	District 5
Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor Doug MacInnes	District 9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Regrets

Councillor Eric Boutilier	District 1
Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District 8

Staff Present

Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer
 Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
 Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development
 Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Mark Austin, Research, Policy & Community Engagement Officer
 Tracey Veno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
 Seconded by Deputy Mayor Masters

“That the agenda be approved with the following addition:

- Add 12b, Negotiations in Closed Session.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Stewart
 Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the minutes of the meeting held on January 26, 2017 be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

Referring to the Agromart Contest noted on page 80, Deputy Mayor Masters indicated that the voting is very close and urged everyone to

continue voting and get the word out to encourage as many votes as possible.

**Standing Committee
Reports and
Recommendations**

Council Committee Report from meeting held on January 12, 2017

Deputy Mayor Masters presented the report from the Council Committee meeting held on January 12, 2017:

Hike Nova Scotia Summit 2017 – Request for Funding

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council approves funding in the amount of \$2,500 for Hike Nova Scotia Summit 2017, with source of funds being 2016/17 Economic Development Grants.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sidewalk Reconstruction, Fir/Evergreen – Award of Tender

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council approves that the tender for the re-construction of the sidewalks on Fir Avenue, and Evergreen Drive be awarded to Sackville Trenching for a total contract value of \$198,630 excluding taxes, and that an internal contingency of \$20,000 be carried, to be spent only on the authority of the Director of Public Works.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Neighbourhood Event Road Closure Policy

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council approves the Neighbourhood Event Road Closure Policy as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Solid Waste Closure Liability

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council approves that the Balefill Closure Liability bank funds be invested in the Principal Protected Notes as recommended and presented by staff.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Debert Airfield – Jetpro GPS Approach

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council authorizes staff to proceed with acquiring the services of Jetpro to certify the runway approaches at Debert Airport, to a WAAS/LPV standard, at a start-up cost of \$23,000 and ongoing maintenance to be provided as outlined in the proposal.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Community Wellness Collaboration

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council approves that staff form an ad hoc working group to investigate the development of a collaboration with Northern Zone, Nova Scotia Health Authority, on matters of community wellness of mutual concern; and,

That at the appropriate stage of the working group’s investigations, other jurisdictional leaders be invited to have their staff join the discussion; and,

That the Colchester Working Group on Community Wellness report back to Council with their findings, including recommendations and required resources, within three months.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Cobequid Trailhead

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That Council authorizes staff to proceed with a Purchase and Sale agreement for a parcel of land located at No. 236 Highway, Lower Truro, PID # 20449708, at a purchase price of \$37,000, with source of funds being the Parkland Reserve; and,

That the Mayor and CAO be authorized to execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Recreation Land – Ventura Drive, Debert

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council authorizes staff to proceed with a Purchase and Sale Agreement for a parcel of land located at 44 Ventura Drive, Debert, PID # 20445938 at a purchase price of \$25,000, with source of funds being the Debert Sale of Houses Fund; and,

That the Mayor and CAO be authorized to execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement.”

Motion **DEFEATED**.

(Mayor Blair, Councillors Stewart, Cooper, MacKenzie, Gregory, MacInnes, Taggart, and Parker opposed)

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council authorizes staff to proceed with a Purchase and Sale Agreement for a parcel of land located at 44 Ventura Drive, Debert, PID # 20445938 at a purchase price of \$25,000, with source of funds being the Parkland Reserve; and,

That the Mayor and CAO be authorized to execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement.”

Motion Carried.
(Councillor Gibbs opposed)

ACTION ITEMS**Operating Costs – Flow
Monitoring Stations – JFAC**

Ms. Michelle Newell advised that Council had previously approved capital funding for the installation of three Flow Monitoring Stations located in the North and Salmon Rivers and McClures Brook. The funding for the operating costs for these Flow Monitoring Stations was not addressed at the time of the capital approvals. Colchester’s contribution to the operating costs would be \$12,500 per year for the next three years.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That Council approves the expenditure of \$12,500 per year for three years to cover the operating costs of three flow monitoring stations located in the North River, Salmon River and McClures Brook; and,

That source of funds be the Major Flood Reserve.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Carter Road Sidewalk

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Masters

“That the motion from the February 15, 2017 meeting to table discussion on the Carter Road Sidewalk be lifted.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Following discussions at the February 15th meeting regarding the location of the construction of a sidewalk from Highway 289 to the Sportsplex on Carter Road, an open house was held on February 22, 2017.

Staff's professional opinion regarding the location of the sidewalk is that it be constructed on the west side of Carter Road to offer the best solution for addressing safety concerns. Additionally, positioning the sidewalk on the east side of Carter Road might encourage pedestrians to cross mid-block and with no marked crosswalk, could potentially introduce liability for the County.

Councillor Stewart thanked staff and members of Council who attended the open house, however, he indicated that the residents made it very clear what they want in terms of location of the sidewalk.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the Municipality proceed with the construction of the sidewalk on the east side of Carter Road, along Highway 289 to the Sportsplex, as requested by the residents.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Noise

Councillor MacInnes raised the issue of noise complaints and RCMP responses in dealing with these complaints. When RCMP are called regarding noise complaints, the response is that they cannot enforce without a municipal by-law. The issue has been before Council on a number of occasions and needs to be addressed.

Mayor Blair indicated that the Municipality formerly had a Noise By-law but it was rescinded in 1999 at the request of the RCMP. However, conflicting information has been received over the years from Commanding Officers at the RCMP regarding the need for a noise by-law.

Brief discussion was held on other municipalities that have noise by-laws and how they work. Mayor Blair advised that research was being done, through the Police Advisory Board (PAB), on the viability of a noise by-law. However, with the departure of the former Administrative Assistant/Researcher, the research was not completed and Mayor

Blair suggested that this matter be put before the PAB again to have the research completed.

Further discussion was held on the RCMP's ability to deal with noise complaints under public mischief and nuisance; the ability to police enforce the by-law; and, the difficulties in measuring the level of noise.

The CAO advised that a meeting is scheduled to take place early next week with S/Sgt. Carroll and that he would discuss this matter with him at that time.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That the Police Advisory Board re-initiate the research into the viability of a noise by-law."

Motion Carried.
(Councillor Cooper opposed)

Council agreed that the CAO discuss the issue of how the RCMP handles noise complaints at the upcoming meeting. Additionally, it was suggested that the RCMP should come before Council on a quarterly basis.

Sidewalk Plowing

Councillor MacKenzie advised that she has received a number of calls from a constituent who cannot get her disabled child to school due to sidewalks not being plowed. The calls were received after storms on December 16, 2016 and, January 9 and February 15, 2017. Each time, different reasons were given as to why the sidewalks were not plowed: equipment not ready; equipment breakdown; and not enough resources. Councillor MacKenzie indicated that the County has to provide basic services and sidewalk plowing is a basic service.

Suggestions were made on possible solutions to assist with sidewalk plowing including outsourcing and acquiring a spare list of operators to call upon on an as needed basis. Council also noted options that may be available to assist the constituent in getting her child to school following snow events.

Discussion was held on service standards and concerns were raised about the expectations of sidewalk snowplowing. Sidewalks could be plowed in a timely fashion, however, there are no guarantees that they remain clear as other plowing done by Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and/or private plowing companies may negatively impact our efforts.

The CAO indicated the need for a clear understanding of the expectations around sidewalk plowing. The Service Capacity Review, as discussed during the Strategic Priorities Session in January, was targeted for September, however, given the current discussions, this

could be moved forward to Spring. In the meantime, the Director of Public Works would review operations around sidewalk snow plowing. Council agreed to accelerate the Service Capacity Review to the Spring.

Mayor Blair advised that she would contact the constituent with sidewalk plowing concerns.

Correspondence - ACTION

Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager

An email from Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager regarding a proclamation for Volunteer Week April 23-29, 2017.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That Council proclaims April 23-29, 2017 as Volunteer Week.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Donna Lugar, NS Representative, Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation

An email from Donna Lugar, NS Representative, Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation, regarding a proclamation for Lyme Disease Awareness Month.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council proclaims the month of May as Lyme Disease Awareness Month.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Correspondence - INFORMATION

Building Inspector

A copy of the Building Permit Statistics received from the Building Inspector for the month January 2017. Council agreed to receive the report for information purposes.

Development Officer

A copy of the Development Activity Report received from the Development Officer for the month January 2017. Council agreed to receive the report for information purposes.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Reports from Councillors Appointed to Outside Boards and Agencies

Copies of reports from the Mayor and Councillors were circulated in the package or placed on table for this evenings meeting.

Referring to previous discussions on Envirosystems Inc. and the need for a Community Liaison Committee in Debert, Councillor MacInnes

advised that EnviroSystems Inc. has indicated that they will be contacting a 3rd party to assist with establishing the Committee.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That the meeting go into Closed Session at 8:50 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:56 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting adjourn at 9:57 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary