

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

A Special Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Courthouse, Truro, Nova Scotia, on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Christine Blair, Chair	
Councillor Eric Boutilier	District 1 (<i>arrived late</i>)
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 Ron Cavanaugh	District 8 (<i>arrived late</i>)
Councillor Bob Pash	District 9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Others Present

Mr. Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer
 Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Ms. Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary

Purpose of Meeting

The purpose of this meeting was to hold a Public Hearing relative to the disposal of surplus property to a non-profit organization.

Agenda

Mayor Blair advised that two items, a letter from the Saint James Preservation Society and an email from Seaside Wireless Communications, have been received recently. Both items are time sensitive and it is being requested that consideration be given to add these item to tonight's agenda.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
 Seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That Council approves the addition of two items to the agenda:

- Request for Funding Assistance from the Saint James Church Preservation Society of Great Village; and,
- Request for a Letter of Support from Seaside Wireless Communications."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Public Hearing – Sale of Surplus School Property

Mayor Blair called the Public Hearing to order respecting the sale of surplus school property for less than market value to a non-profit organization.

Mr. Rob Simonds, CAO, advised that the guidelines of the Municipal Government Act regarding advertising of the Public Hearing process have been followed.

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Mayor Blair reminded Councillors that only those Councillors present throughout the Public Hearing process can vote on the sale of the property when it is eventually considered by Council. The Public Hearing is Council's opportunity to hear the perspective of the purchaser and any concerns of area residents. Individual Councillors will have an opportunity to debate the merits of the sale when the motion is presented to Council. Staff are present to answer any questions that may arise as a result of the public's input. A motion to sell property at less than market value shall be passed by at least a two thirds majority of the Council present and voting.

Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, provided a brief overview of the process to date, indicating that notice was received from the Chignecto Central Regional School Board regarding a surplus school property, namely the Bible Hill East Court Road School. The Municipality issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the sale of the property with one response being received from the Colchester Christian Academy (CCA). The Executive and Audit Committee, along with the area Councillor, met to review the RFP submission and unanimously recommended that Council proceed with the sale to the CCA, with a few conditions.

Ms. Johanna Matthews and Ms. Cheryl MacLeod were in attendance on behalf of the CCA. They had previously made a presentation to Council and indicated they had no further information to offer at this time other than they are still very interested in the property and to thank Council for their consideration.

Ms. Janice Milton and Ms. Mary Petrie, both of Armstrong Avenue, were in attendance on behalf of the neighbourhood, indicating that they fully support the CCA and the continued use of the property as a school. The playground at the East Court Road School was always well utilized by students and community members and area residents look forward to seeing activity there again in the future.

Responding to a query on whether the CCA would allow community access to the playground, Ms. Matthews confirmed the intention would be to allow continued access.

Mr. Rob Simonds, CAO, stated that no written submissions were received.

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Masters

"That Council approves the sale of the surplus school property, Bible Hill East Court Road School, to the Colchester Christian Academy, for the price of \$1.00, conditional upon the following:

- The property be purchased as is, where is;
- The Municipality has first right of redemption at a purchase price of \$1.00;
- The Colchester Christian Academy receive no future capital funding for this property; and,

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- The property be turned back over to the Municipality should it no longer be used as a school.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Mayor Blair noted that the agreement may have additional wording to include items such as neighbourhood access and would be available for Colchester Christian Academy’s review in due course.

With no further business on this matter, Mayor Blair declared the Public Hearing Closed.

**Request from Saint James
Church Preservation Society
of Great Village**

Mayor Blair advised that a request was received from the Saint James Church Preservation Society of Great Village requesting funding assistance for a replacement oil tank and fuel for the tank for the recently acquired Elizabeth Bishop House. A copy of the letter of request was distributed on table this evening.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That Council approves funding in the amount of \$2,000 to the Saint James Church Preservation Society of Great Village for a replacement oil tank and fuel for the tank; and,

That source of funds be 1) the Bass River School Fund or, 2) Grants to Non-profit Organizations.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Boutilier arrived.

**Request for a Letter of
Support from Seaside
Wireless Communications**

The CAO advised that an email was received this week from Mr. Parker Donham of Seaside Wireless Communications, requesting a letter of support regarding a consultation process by the Federal Government for radio spectrum that is essential to improving internet speeds in rural areas.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Cavanaugh arrived.

Discussion was held regarding this issue being multi-jurisdictional, with municipalities having a small role to play. Concern was expressed that municipalities should not be supporting individual private companies. Rather, if a letter is provided, it should be in support of all providers.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That a letter be sent to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), regarding their consultation on Access to the Radio Spectrum Band Width, expressing support for all decisions that give the ability to any and all internet providers in Colchester County to improve service to citizens in both speed and coverage.”

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Adjournment

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That the meeting adjourn at 6:55 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary