

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, August 29, 2019.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Christine Blair, Chair	
Councillor Eric Boutilier	District 1
Councillor Bill Masters	District 2
Deputy Mayor 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
Councillor Bob Pash	District 9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Staff Present

Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
 Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer
 Devin Trefry, Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
 Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the agenda be approved with the following amendments:

- Add Item # 8b, Gas Tax;
- Add Item # 10b, Cliffs of Fundy Boundary Extension;
- Add two Negotiations in Closed Session;
- Move Action Correspondence # 5 – Letter from Colchester Containers to Closed Session for Legal Advice.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
 Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the minutes of the meetings held on June 27 and July 4, 2019, be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meetings held on June 27 and July 4, 2019.

**Standing Committee Reports
and Recommendations**

Deputy Mayor Stewart, Chair, presented the report from the meetings held on August 8 & 13, 2019:

Council Committee Report from Meeting Held on August 8, 2019

Brookfield Sewer Boundary Change, 21 Trenholm Lake Road

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council approves that 21 Trenholm Lake Road, PID # 20161030, be removed from the sewer Boundary for Brookfield; and,

That taxes be adjusted accordingly for the current fiscal year.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Red Clay Studio Society – Community Events Grant Request

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council approves that the request for funding from the Red Clay Studio Society be denied.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Atlantic Vitality Expo – Community Events Grant Request

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council approves funding in the amount of \$2,000 for the Atlantic Vitality Expo.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Review of Building Permit and Planning Fees

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council approves the recommended changes to the planning and development fees as contained in the August 8, 2019 Action Item; and,

That a Municipal Fee Policy be created.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Taggart opposed)*

Millbrook First Nation

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council approves that the Mayor write a letter to Millbrook First Nation regarding the revised Truro Heights Windmill Project Proposal.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Waste-to-Energy

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council defer signing any agreement on Waste-to-Energy until such time that staff provides an updated presentation.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Request for Proposals – Solar Project

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council approves that the Request for Proposals for the Solar PV Projects for the Brookfield Sportsplex and the RECC be awarded to Geddes and Murphy Electric at a cost of \$326,000.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Council Committee Report from Meeting Held on August 13, 2019

Department of Justice Presentation

Referring to the review of policing services, Councillor Masters inquired about the process for compiling a list of expectations for submission to the Department of Justice. The CAO advised that the summary of expectations would be reviewed by the Working Committee and codified by Council.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council approves proceeding with a Police Service Review with the Department of Justice with Council providing input on their expectations relative to policing in the Municipality.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillor Masters opposed)*

Planning Advisory Committee Report from Meeting Held on July 16, 2019

As Chair of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), Councillor Taggart provided a brief report from the PAC meeting held on July 16, 2019.

An inquiry was made on the expected timeline for the issue relating to beehives. Councillor Taggart advised that there is no firm timeline, however, it is anticipated that by the time a thorough review is carried out, it would likely be next Spring before the issue comes forward.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That the report from the Planning Advisory Committee meeting held on July 16, 2019, be accepted.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tatamagouche Water Utility Advisory Committee Report from Meeting Held on August 22, 2019

Ms. Newell, Director of Public Works, advised that in the winter of 2019, Water Utility staff noticed large amounts of water being lost. After investigation, it was determined that there was a leak at 215 Main Street. The property was vacant at the time and the resident shut off the connection in the house, however, the main connection was not shut off. The property owner is requesting forgiveness of the bill. Councillor Gregory advised that the resident recently purchased the property, was in the process of renovating and would be opening a business.

Discussion was held on similar instances where Council denied the request for bill forgiveness; the mistake being the responsibility of the homeowner; consideration of forgiveness of half the bill; financial state of the Water Utility; and establishing guidelines for dealing with instances such as this. Council also stressed the importance of educating the water utility users of their responsibilities and sending notifications out with water bills.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Stewart

“That Council approves that the water bill for 215 Main Street, covering the period of January 12, 2019 to March 28, 2019, be reduced by the usage amount of \$1,284.12 to reflect water lost during an undetected plumbing leak.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillors Boutilier, Cooper and Parker opposed)*

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That notification relating to information on user responsibilities be included with water bills to residents hooked to the Tatamagouche Water Utility.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Audit Committee Minutes from Meeting Held on July 23, 2019

It was noted that the Audit Committee meeting minutes should be recorded as being called to order at 9:30 am rather than 5:30 pm.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on July 23, 2019, be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Flood Advisory Committee Minutes from Meeting Held on June 27, 2019

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the minutes of the Flood Advisory Committee meeting held on June 27, 2019, be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Nominating Committee Report from Meeting Held on August 29, 2019

RECC Board Vacancy

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council approves that Raj Makkar be appointed to the RECC Board, for a four-year term.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

**County Owned Property on
Hub Centre Drive**

Ms. Newell advised that this item relates to the petition for the potential paving of Hub Centre Drive. The Municipality owns a property on Hub Centre Drive and staff is seeking directive on the signing of the petition for the County owned parcel.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council directs staff to sign the petition in favour of the paving of Hub Centre Drive, and that if the petition is successful, the related expenses of \$3,821 be funded by the Paving Reserve.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Hub Centre Drive Paving
Petition – Authority for
September Committee to
Approve**

Referring to the possible paving of Hub Centre Drive as noted above, Ms. Newell indicated that the deadline for the petitions is September 3rd. Should the petition be favourable, staff is seeking authority for September Council Committee to make a decision on proceeding with the paving project in order to take advantage of this construction season.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council authorizes September Council Committee to approve the paving of Hub Centre Drive, should the result of the paving petition be favourable.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Recognition of Joyce Eagles,
Not Since Moses Run**

Mayor Blair advised that Joyce Eagles is retiring as the person in charge of a very special event in the County, the Not Since Moses Run, and would like to recognize Ms. Eagles for her contributions.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Ms. Eagles be formally recognized for her contributions to the Not Since Moses Run.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Gas Tax

Councillor Taggart raised the issue of use of gas tax funds, however, suggested that this item be moved to Closed Session under negotiations. Council agreed to move to Closed Session.

Correspondence - ACTION

**Lisa Hartery, Director,
Chignecto Central Regional
Centre for Education
International Student
Program**

A letter from Lisa Hartery, Director, Chignecto Central Regional Centre for Education International Student Program requesting consideration be given on collaborations regarding the International Student Program.

Interest was expressed in learning more about the program and potential collaborations opportunities. Council agreed that Ms. Hartery be invited to make a presentation to Council.

**Lois MacCormick, Chair,
Village of Bible Hill
Commission**

A letter to Colchester County Council dated July 16, 2019 regarding the Federal Gas Tax funding allocation.

Discussion was held with the following points being noted:

- Concern regarding the tone of the letter;
- No recollection of past projects fitting the criteria for gas tax funding not being approved;
- Concern that no formal response was sent to the initial letter dated October 9, 2018;
- There being a disconnect between the Village and the Municipality relative to their roles and responsibilities;

- Concern regarding the letter of March 26, 2019 referred to in the correspondence not coming before Council;
- Inviting the Village of Bible in to make a presentation or having a joint meeting;
- Better communications - the Village should be approaching the area Councillors with their concerns and requests;
- Positive relations between the Village of Tatamagouche with the area Councillor;
- Willingness to meet but not to discuss gas tax funding;
- The Village bringing forward any capital projects for consideration; and,
- The need for collaborative and cooperative relations between the Village and the Municipality.

Clarification was sought about whether the letter dated March 26, 2019 was received by the County. The CAO advised that he would investigate and follow-up on this.

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That a meeting be held with the Village of Bible Hill.”

Motion DEFEATED. (*Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Masters, Cooper, Gibbs, Gregory, Cavanaugh and Taggart opposed*).

**Lois MacCormick, Chair,
Village of Bible Hill
Commission**

A letter to Mayor dated July 16, 2019 concerning J-Class road repaving in Bible Hill.

During discussion, concern was raised regarding whose decision it was to have representation from the Village of Bible Hill attend the quarterly Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal meetings and that Council should have been consulted on who attends these meetings. It was noted that these meetings are not Standing Committee meetings and there was a request from the Village to attend and it was agreed by the Committee.

Further discussion was held regarding J-Class Roads, issues relative to past paving requests such as MacCallum, Hillvale and Hillridge Drives, and the Municipality not entering into the three-year agreement with the Province for the paving of J-Class Roads.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Stewart

“That a letter be written to the Village of Bible Hill advising that as of this time, there is no agreement between the Municipality and the Province for the paving of J-Class Roads.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Cathrine Yuill, Director of
Development, Dalhousie
University**

A letter to Mayor Blair and Council requesting a donation to the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus Student Learning Commons.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That the letter from Cathrine Yuill, Director of Development, Dalhousie University, requesting a donation to the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus Student Learning Commons be received for information purposes only.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Derek Ross, Colchester Containers

As agreed through the approval of agenda process, this item moved to Closed Session for legal advice.

Robert Putnam, Board Member, Brookfield Sportsplex

An email to Mayor and Council from Robert Putnam, Board Member, Brookfield Sportsplex, requesting financial assistance with the cost of their audit fees.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the request from Robert Putnam, Board Member, Brookfield Sportsplex, for financial assistance with the cost of their audit fees be referred to staff for investigation.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Correspondence - INFORMATION

Development Officer

A copy of the Development Activity reports received from the Development Officer for the months of June and July, 2019. Council agreed to receive the reports for information purposes.

Building Inspector

A copy of the Building Permit Statistics received from the Building Inspector for the months of June and July, 2019. Council agreed to receive the reports for information purposes.

NSFM

A copy of the June 2019 Board Initiatives report. Council agreed to receive the report for information purposes.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Fundy Discovery Site Open House

This item was to provide Council with an update on the plans to date for the Fundy Discovery Site Open House event scheduled for September 21st. Plans include ribbon cutting and speeches, having two local groups to play music throughout the afternoon, a barbeque and cake. Invitations are being prepared and will be sent out within the next couple of weeks.

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.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting go into closed session at 9:10 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 11:00 pm.”

**Millbrook Land Reserve
Request**

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

“That the draft letter concerning the Millbrook First Nation Reserve Land request be approved with minor amendments as discussed in closed session.”

Motion Carried. (*Councillor Cooper opposed*)

**Tatamagouche Sewer
Replacement – Spring 2020**

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council approves the replacement of 200 metres of sewer line in Tatamagouche between Creamery Road and Station Road in Fiscal 2020/21, at an estimated cost of \$150,000 and that source of funds be 50% Gas Tax and 50% Sewer Capital fund.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Rural Internet/Broadband

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council authorizes Council Committee, at its meeting on September 12, 2019, to approve the signing of an agreement with Cumberland County relative to Rural Internet.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Correspondence – Derek
Ross, Colchester Containers**

Brief discussion was held regarding the request from Colchester Containers for a permit under the Hazardous Substance Disposal By-law.

Concern was expressed with the transporting of hazardous materials through rural areas in the County. Council was in agreement that only one site is required for the disposal of hazardous material in the County and is satisfied with the existing Kempton site.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the Municipality of Colchester maintain one hazardous substance disposal site in the County, that being the existing site in Kempton, as identified in the Disposal of Hazardous Substances Policy.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting adjourn at 11:10 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary