

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, November 28, 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 Wade Parker	District 11

Regrets

Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
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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
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Devin Trefry, Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer
 Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Gregory
 Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the agenda be approved with the following amendments:

- Remove # 6, Base Level Insurance for Volunteer Firefighters;
- Add # 10b, Assessment/Property Matter;
- Add # 10c, Sewer – Meeting House Road, Onslow; and
- Add # 10d, Internet Project – Authority for Committee to Approve.”

Motion Carried Unanimously

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
 Seconded by Deputy Mayor Stewart

“That the minutes of the meeting held on October 30, 2019, be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meeting held on October 30, 2019.

**Standing Committee Reports
and Recommendations**

Deputy Mayor Stewart, Chair of Council Committee, presented the report from the meeting held on November 14, 2019:

Personnel Policy Reimbursement for Business and Training Expenses

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Masters

“That Council approves the amendments to Reimbursement for Business and Training Expenses Policy (5.05) with an additional amendment to Section 1(e) which would increase the meal allowance from \$12 to \$15.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Small Flood Damage Reduction Projects Policy, Flood Advisory Committee Terms of Reference and Council Proceedings and Committees Policy

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council approves the proposed changes to the Flood Advisory Committee’s Terms of Reference, the Small Flood Damage Reduction Projects Policy and the Council Proceedings and Committees Policy, as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Personnel Policy Amendments (4.05, 6.12, 6.13)

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council approves the amendments to Personnel Policies 4.05 Orientation Program, 6.12 Special Family Leave, and 6.13 Medical and Dental Appointments, as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Remediation of RECC Stairs

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council retain CBCL Engineering Ltd. as project consultant for the repair of the stairs at the RECC, working within a budget of \$100,000 to be shared with the Town of Truro.

Further, that Council authorizes the Director of Public Works, Paul Smith as Project Manager, and the Solicitor to negotiate with CBCL to further refine the project proposal.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Following discussion on the Personnel Policy Reimbursement for Business and Training Expenses as previously referenced, it was noted that the Policy for Expenses for CAO and Members of Council was discussed at the November Committee meeting and was referred back to staff for further amendments. Brief discussion was held relating to meal coverage and the possibility of an additional amendment being made to the Policy for consideration when the Policy comes back to Council.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That staff be directed to review Section 2 of the Expense Policy for CAO and Members of Council for the inclusion of a clause giving the CAO discretion to approve expenses relating to spouse meals during conferences.”

Motion **DEFEATED**. (*Mayor Blair, Councillors Boutilier, Masters, Cooper, MacKenzie, Gibbs, Gregory, Cavanaugh, Pash and Parker opposed*)

Flood Advisory Committee – Minutes from meeting of October 16 & November 20, 2019

Minutes of the October 16th and November 20th Flood Advisory Committee meetings were distributed in the package for Council review and information.

ACTION ITEMS

**Recommendations from
Returning Officer – Authority for
December Committee to
Approve**

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council grant authority to Council Committee at their meeting on December 12, 2019, to approve recommendations of the Returning Officer from the 2016 Election.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**First Reading – Sewer By-law
Amendments**

Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, introduced the proposed changes to the Sewer Use By-law for Council consideration by way of First Reading, which if approved, would require back-flow valves on all sewer connections going forward.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Stewart

“That Council approves, by way of First Reading, amendments to the Sewer Use By-law, as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Northern Region

In Councillor Taggart's absence, Scott Fraser, Acting Director of Solid Waste, advised that Councillor Taggart is requesting that a sub-committee of the Northern Region Committee be formed to discuss and complete an assessment of the region and bring back a report to the Northern Region Committee. Details of the sub-committee are outlined in the report that was included in the Council package for this evening's meeting.

Brief discussion was held on this matter being referred to the Nominating Committee. Anyone interested in serving on this Committee should email the Deputy Clerk.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That authority be granted to December Committee to approve recommendations of the Nominating Committee."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Climate Action Plan

Referring to the issue of climate change, Councillor Boutilier advised that it is time for the County to become more proactive and a comprehensive plan should be developed. During his introduction of this item, Councillor Boutilier provided some highlights of the presentation from the recent NSFM Conference.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Stewart

"That Colchester County develop a climate action plan, and that this plan will be presented to Council in April 2020. The plan will permeate all departments of Colchester County to view projects/operations through a climate consideration lens."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

At this point in the meeting, 7:05 pm, Mayor Blair indicated that Colchester Mental Health Association (CMHA) is having a recognition of donors at their facility at 7:15 pm and that Colchester should have representation there. Options were to recess the meeting for one half hour and any Council members wishing to attend could do so, or Council could send one or two members and proceed with the meeting.

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be excused from the meeting temporarily to attend the recognition ceremony at the new CMHA facility, and the meeting proceed during their brief absence."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Mayor Blair and Deputy Mayor Stewart left the meeting briefly and as Alternate Chair, Councillor Cooper assumed the role as Chair.

Assessment/Property Matter *At this point in the meeting, Councillor Gibbs removed himself from the meeting briefly.*

Councillor Masters advised that he has a constituent disputing a decision of Property Valuation Services relating to a property that is zoned commercial but has not been operating as a business for a number of years.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the issue regarding AAN 07375727 be referred to staff and findings be brought back to Council.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Councillor Gibbs returned to the meeting.

Sewer - Meeting House, Onslow Councillor Cavanaugh indicated that he received request from residents on Meeting House Road and Matlyn Drive about the possibility of a sewer extension.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That staff be directed to bring back cost estimates and other relevant information on the possibility of a sewer extension for Meeting House Road in Onslow.

Internet Project – Authority for December Committee to Approve Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That authority be granted to Council Committee at their meetings on December 12, 2019, January 7 and 16, 2020 to make a decision relative to the internet project.”

Motion Carried Unanimously

Correspondence - ACTION There was no Action Correspondence for this evening’s meeting.

Correspondence - INFORMATION

Development Officer A copy of the Development Activity report received from the Development Officer for the month of October 2019. Council agreed to receive the report for information purposes.

Building Inspector A copy of the Building Permit Statistics received from the Building Inspector for the month of October 2019. Council agreed to receive the report for information purposes.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Insurance for Not-for-Profit Organizations – Grant Applications

Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager, provided a report on the Insurance for Not-for-Profit Organizations grant applications for 2019 which was distributed in the Council package. 58 applications were received this year for a total of \$25,783.27. The next deadline for application under this program is October 23, 2020.

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.

At this point in the meeting, Mayor Blair and Deputy Mayor Stewart returned to the meeting and the Mayor resumed the role as Chair.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting go into closed session at 7:33 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 8:30 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Negotiations – RECC Energy Savings Project

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council authorizes December Council Committee to enter into an agreement for the Energy Savings Project at the RECC.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Re-organization of Staff for Property Information Division of Community Development

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council approves the re-organization of the Property Information Department which would consist of two full-time positions, as follows:

- GIS Analyst, at Range 6 of the salary scale; and,
- Property Information Clerk, at Range 2 of the salary scale; and,

That the above noted changes be reflected in an updated organizational structure.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Emergency Management Coordinator/Protective Services Coordinator Position

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council approves merging the Emergency Management Coordinator and Protective Services Coordinator position, resulting in one full-time, 35-hour work week position; and,

That the position of Protective Services Coordinator be moved to Range 6.1 on the salary scale, pro-rated, based on an 11-hour work week; and,
That these changes be effective January 1, 2020.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting adjourn at 8:36 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary