

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 27, 2020.

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 Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor Bob Pash	District 9
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Regrets

Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District 8
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10

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
 Paul Smith, Manager of Planning Services
 Devin Trefry, Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer
 Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Masters
 Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the agenda be approved with the following amendments:

- Add #14b, Library Funding;
- Add #14c, Dog Park, Debert

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
 Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the minutes of the meeting held on January 30, 2020, be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meeting held on January 30, 2020.

**Standing Committee Reports
and Recommendations**

Deputy Mayor Stewart, Chair of Council Committee, presented the report from the meeting held on February 13, 2020:

Tax Exemption Request – Springside Community Centre Association

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council approves the request for a tax exemption from the Springside Community Centre Association.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Saltscapes Expo 2020

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council approves that funds in the amount of \$5,000 be allocated in the 2020/21 budget for participation in Saltscapes Expo 2020.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Purchase of Replacement Fire Repeaters

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council approves that Nova Communications be awarded the purchase and installation of two new fire repeaters at a cost of \$20,196.03 including rebated tax.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Award of Tender – Truro Road Sidewalk

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council approves that the tender for the reconstruction of the Truro Road Sidewalk in Hilden be awarded to Basin Contracting for a total contact amount of \$351,580 excluding HST; and,

That an internal contingency of \$35,000 be approved, to be spent only on the authority of the Director of Public Works.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Brief discussion was held regarding a wider margin percentage in the Purchasing and Tendering Policy for awarding locally. The CAO advised that

a review was recently undertaken which reported similar policies province wide and Council decided on status quo relative to the Municipality's Policy.

Review of Sustainability Planner Position

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

"That Council approves that the position of Sustainability Planner become a permanent, fulltime position, commencing April 1, 2020; and,

That this position be placed at Range 7 of the Municipality's Salary Scale."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

**Bridge Design Award – Fundy
Discovery Site**

Paul Smith, Manager of Planning Services, provided an overview of this item which relates to the award of the tender for the design of the pedestrian bridge at the Fundy Discovery Site. Included in the overview was a recap of tender process and timelines, submissions received, budgetary implications and options for consideration.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Masters

"That Council approves entering into a contract for \$196,736 with COWI Engineering to design the bridge at the Fundy Discovery Site and allocate \$13,500, from the 2019 project surplus to supplement the capital budget overrun."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Tender Award – Tidal Bore Road
Paving**

Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works advised that the purpose of this item is to award the tender for the asphalt paving of Tidal Bore Road in Lower Truro. Ms. Newell noted that a portion of the Tidal Bore Road, about 100 m, is owned by the Province, and the remainder owned by the Municipality. Both the Provincial and Municipal sections of the road were included in the tender, with the Province confirming their contribution to the project. A brief summary of the tender process, submissions received, and budget implications was provided.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Pash

"That Council approves the award of the tender for the re-paving of Tidal Bore Road in Lower Truro to Basin Contracting, for a total contract amount of \$79,000 excluding HST; and,

That an internal contingency of \$5,000 be approved, to be spent only on authority of the Director of Public Works."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Discussion was held on the plans for addressing the existing speed bumps and the cuts in the road. Mr. Smith advised that speed is becoming less of an issue with measures that have been taken to date, such as switching the parking sides, having two medians and the increased security. The cuts in the road were made too deep and making them shallower or replacing them with speed bumps will be looked into. Further discussion was held regarding not having speed bumps as well.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the cuts in the Tidal Bore Road be eliminated through the paving phase.”

Motion Carried. (*Councillor Masters opposed*)

It was noted that the cuts in the pavement would be left to staff to deal with as deemed appropriate.

**Pumping Stations 6 and 15 –
Authority to Award**

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council authorizes Council Committee, at its meeting on March 12, 2020, to award the tender for the replacement of Pumping Stations 6 and 15.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Hydrogeological Services, Debert
Water Supply – Authority to
Award**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That Council authorizes Council Committee, at its meeting on March 12, 2020, to award the contract for Hydrogeological Services for a new supply well in Debert.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Inflow/Infiltration Investigations
(Brookfield and Tatamagouche)
– Authority to Award**

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council authorizes Council Committee, at its meeting on March 12, 2020, to award the contract for Inflow/Infiltration Investigations for the Tatamagouche and Brookfield Sewage Collection Systems.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Central Colchester Wastewater
Treatment Facility Energy
Efficiency Project – Authority to
Award**

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council authorizes Council Committee, at its meeting on March 12, 2020, to award the tender for the supply and installation of new variable

frequency drives and blowers as part of the Energy Efficiency Project at the Central Colchester Wastewater Treatment Facility.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

First Reading – Amendment to Chapter 35 Dog By-law

Devin Trefry, Research, Policy, and Community Engagement Officer, advised that at their meeting on January 30, 2020, Council directed staff to make further revisions to proposed amendments to Chapter 35 Dog By-law, specifically to sections dealing with euthanasia, and bring back to Council for consideration via First Reading.

Rob Simonds, CAO, advised that in Councillor Taggart’s absence at tonight’s meeting, he requested that Council give consideration to the inclusion of the word ‘immediate’ in Sections 25 and 26. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, advised that the changes as requested by Councillor Taggart, could provide challenges in the enforcement and complicates the administration of the By-law.

Brief discussion was held on receiving statistics relative to Animal Control. It was noted that this could be included as part of the Director’s Report on a quarterly basis.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council approves, by way of First Reading, amendments to Chapter 35 Dog By-law, as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Pilot Project, Biosolids Handling – Oberland

Ms. Newell advised that this item relates to a pilot project for handling biosolids. A brief overview of the potential pilot project was provided, as well as parties involved and the proposed financial commitment from the Municipality, should Council wish to proceed.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council approves a contribution of \$10,000 towards a biosolids pilot project, in partnership with Oberland Technologies, Nova Scotia Environment and Divert NS, and that the amount be included in the Public Works operating budget for fiscal 2020/21.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Curb, Fern Hill Drive

Councillor Parker advised that he received a complaint from a resident regarding damages to the curbs on Fern Hill Drive due to snow plowing. It was replaced once before but has been damaged again. He indicated that he is unsure what to do; the Director of Public Works has indicated that this is provincial infrastructure and the Municipality should not be replacing.

Ms. Newell advised that it is provincial policy not to repair asphalt curbs and the Municipality should not be doing repairs either. The previous instance

when repairs were done was due to the plow going off road and causing damage to the lawn and curb.

Discussion was held on the possibility of the Municipality having a policy in place similar to the province; not having a policy can leave things open for interpretation; and, this being another case of downloading by the province.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the issue of curb repairs and the provincial policy be brought forward at the next TIR Quarterly meeting.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Library Funding

The CAO provided Council with an update on correspondence recently received from the province concerning an increase in Library funding from the Municipality in the amount of \$40,126. This increase is over and above the Municipality’s regular contribution and can be held in abeyance until next year should Council wish to do so. A copy of the correspondence and related materials was circulated on table for tonight’s meeting.

Brief discussion was held on the funding formula and inequities in the formula, as well as the lack of consultation process with municipalities regarding the library funding increase. The CAO advised that he has been in contact with other municipalities in the region. East Hants has indicated they would agree to the increase funding this year with a unified response from the other municipalities and Stewiacke has indicated they will go with the majority.

Moved by Councillor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council approves proceeding with the additional funding this year in the amount of \$40,126, in support of the Library.

Motion Carried. *(Deputy Mayor Stewart and Councillor Pash opposed)*

Dog Park, Debert

Councillor Pash brought forward this item indicating that there is a parking issue at the dog park in Debert. Residents parking at the Debert Hospitality Centre when using the dog park have been advised not to do so. He has spoken with the Economic Development Officer and the Director of Public Works about the possibility of creating a parking lot.

Moved by Councillor Pash
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the issue concerning a parking lot with better access to the dog park in Debert be referred to staff.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Correspondence - ACTION

Lech Krzywonos

Email dated February 13, 2020, regarding a proclamation for Rotary Week.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council proclaims April 13-19, 2020, as Rotary Week.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Marianne Cullip, Fundy
Gemstone Townhouses**

Correspondence dated February 23, 2020, to Councillor Pash requesting a pedestrian crosswalk in Central Onslow.

Councillor Pash advised that a previous request for a pedestrian crosswalk in Central Onslow at Highway 2 and the Tidal Bore Road was denied. A second request has been received for consideration. This request includes a petition with a greater number of signatures as well as a supporting letter from the Principal of Central Colchester Junior High. Safety is being cited as the main concern and the request is for a full study to be carried out with an outcome of having a flashing light and proper crosswalk at this location.

Brief discussion was held regarding additional information to support this request including the Provincial Government’s support relative to the bridge at Fundy Discovery Site and the bicycle Blue Route, both of which will create increased pedestrian traffic.

Moved by Councillor Pash
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That a letter be written to Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting reconsideration be given for a pedestrian crosswalk in Central Onslow at Highway 2 and the Tidal Bore Road.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Scott Masters, President,
Provincial 4-H**

A request for a letter in support of their application for assistance through Events Nova Scotia for the 4-H Pro-Show.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council write a letter in support of the Provincial 4-H application through Events Nova Scotia for the 4-H Pro-Show.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Correspondence - INFORMATION

Development Officer

A copy of the Development Activity Report received from the Development Officer for the month of January 2020. 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 January 2020. Council agreed to receive the report for information purposes.
Chuck Porter, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing	Letter dated February 19, 2020, regarding Code of Conduct. Council agreed to receive the letter for information purposes.
Sherry Martell, Executive Director, Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce	Letter to the CAO dated January 30, 2020, regarding continued support, in principle, as a financial stakeholder of the Truro-Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity. Council agreed to receive the letter for information purposes.
Walter McElhinney, Treasurer, Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade	Correspondence dated February 24, 2020, advising the County of the intent to increase the fire area rate for the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade from nine to eleven cents. In response to a comment from a Council member regarding a rate payer's meeting, staff clarified that a rate payer's meeting is not a requirement under the Municipal Government Act. Brief discussion was held regarding inconsistencies in the budget provided with the correspondence. The CAO indicated the Director of Corporate Services would follow up with representatives of the Fire Department for clarification.

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 evening's meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Pash

"That the meeting go into closed session at 8:15 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:33 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Legal Matter

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That staff be directed to revisit the Procurement Policy with consideration for potential language revisions relative to Section 10."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That the meeting adjourn at 9:35 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary