

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

The Regular Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was conducted virtually via Zoom Webinars, with Council Members In-person, on Monday, November 30, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Mayor Christine Blair, Chair	
Councillor Eric Boutilier	District 1
Councillor Laurie Sandeson	District 2
Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart	District 3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District 4
Councillor Tim Johnson	District 5
Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor Lisa Patton	District 8
Councillor Marie Benoit	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
 Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services/Acting Director of Solid Waste
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Devin Trefry, Research, Policy, and Community Engagement Officer
 Tim Smith, Manager of Information Systems
 Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer (*for Item # 6*)
 Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager (*for Item # 17*)

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Sandeson
 Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That the agenda be amended with the following addition:
 - Item 20b, Negotiations in Closed Session.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Cooper
 Seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the minutes of the meetings held on October 6 and 29, 2020, be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meetings held on October 6 and 29, 2020.

**Standing Committee Reports
and Recommendations**

***Deputy Mayor Stewart, Chair of Council Committee, presented the report
from the meeting held on November 12, 2020:***

Municipal Signage for Private Roads Policy Amendments

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council approves the Policy on Municipal Signage for Private Roads remain in place without changes.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Runway Sweeper – Award of Tender

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council approves the tender for the purchase of a runway sweeper be awarded to MacFarland Industrial for a total contract price of \$33,800, excluding HST.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

SAFE Restart Agreement & NSF/AMANS Funding

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council approves a one-time payment in the amount of \$3,699.54, from the Safe Restart Agreement, for the Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Reconsideration of Motion – Birch Street and Cedar Drive Crosswalks

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That the September 24, 2020 motion approving the immediate funding for the acquisition and implementation of two crossing guards, one at Birch Street and one at Cedar Drive, be overturned.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Nominating Committee Report of Meetings Held on November 17 and 24, 2020:

Deputy Mayor Stewart assumed the role of Chair to allow Mayor Blair to present the report from the Nominating Committee.

Mayor Blair presented the report from the Nominating Committee meetings reviewing in detail the recommendations of Council appointments to each of the Boards and Committees, noting that there are two vacant Council positions remaining: one on the Citizens Monitoring Committee for the Greenfield Wind Turbines and one on the Sewer Use Appeals Committee. A copy of the report was included in the Council package with a revised version being placed on table for this evening's meeting.

Moved by Councillor Patton
Seconded by Councillor Benoit

"That Council approves the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for the Council appointments to various Boards and Committees, as presented."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

The Mayor provided an overview of the report and recommendations of the Nominating Committee for the Citizen appointments to the Boards and Committees and noted that there are still a number of vacancies to be filled. Additional advertisements have been placed for these positions. Following the Mayor's report on this item, Councillor Gregory provided a handout with additional names being put forth for vacancies on the Tatamagouche Water Utility Committee and the Tatamagouche Planning Advisory Committee.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

"That Council accepts the additional names for the Tatamagouche Water Utilities and Tatamagouche Planning Advisory Committees."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

"That Council approves the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for the Citizen representatives to the various Boards and Committees, as amended."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Mayor Blair advised that by Policy, Council is required to appoint Chairs of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), Dangerous and Unightly Premises Committee, the County's Flood Advisory Committee and the Livestock Control

Appeals Committee. The member appointed as Chair of the PAC, will serve as a standing appointment on the Executive Committee as well as the Audit Committee.

Councillors eligible for Chair of the PAC are Councillors Sandeson and Johnson. Deputy Mayor Stewart called for nominations for the position of Chair of the PAC. Councillor Taggart moved and Councillor Cooper seconded the nomination of Councillor Sandeson, who accepted the nomination. The Deputy Mayor called three times for further nominations and, on hearing none, the nominations ceased. Councillor Sandeson was declared Chair of the Planning Advisory Committee.

Eligible Council members for the position of Chair of the Dangerous and Unightly Premises Committee are Mayor Blair, Councillors Cooper, Gregory, Patton and Benoit. The Deputy Mayor called for nominations with Councillor Gregory moving and Councillor Patton seconding the nomination of Councillor Cooper. Councillor Cooper accepted the nomination. The Deputy Mayor called three times for further nominations and, on hearing none, the nominations ceased. Councillor Cooper was declared Chair of the Dangerous and Unightly Premises Committee.

Councillors Boutilier, Cooper and Johnson are eligible for the position of Chair of the Flood Advisory Committee (FAC). Responding to the call for nominations for this position, Councillor Sandeson moved and Councillor Benoit seconded the nomination of Councillor Boutilier. Councillor Cooper moved and Councillor Patton seconded the nomination of Councillor Johnson. Both Councillors accepted the nomination. Deputy Mayor called three times for further nominations and, on hearing none, the nominations ceased. With two nominations, a vote by ballot would be carried out.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor, be appointed scrutineer for the counting of ballots.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

While waiting for the results of the vote on the Chair for FAC, Deputy Mayor Stewart proceeded with nominations for the Chair of the Livestock Control Advisory. Eligible members for this position are Councillor Cooper, Patton, Boutilier and Sandeson. Councillor Cooper moved and Councillor Sandeson seconded the nomination of Councillor Patton, who accepted the nomination. The Deputy Mayor called three times for further nominations and, on hearing none, the nominations ceased. Councillor Patton was appointed Chair of the Livestock Control Appeals Committee.

At this point, the Mayor resumed the role of Chair.

The CAO reported that there was a tie vote for ballots cast for the Chair of Flood Advisory Committee. The Municipal Solicitor reviewed the procedures

under the Council Proceedings Policy and in the absence of provisions within that Policy, has looked at the procedures for the election of Deputy Mayor under the Deputy Mayor Policy. At this juncture, it is being suggested that the Chair be determined by draw. Councillor Boutilier advised that he would withdraw his name for the position of Chair of the FAC.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That Councillor Johnson be appointed Chair of the Flood Advisory Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Councillor Taggart advised that in the past when there has been a tie vote, Council was given opportunity to vote by ballot again.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council directs that the ballots used for determining the Chair of the Flood Advisory Committee be destroyed.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Truro Colchester Delivers Funding Request

Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer, provided a detailed presentation on Truro Colchester Delivers project including background information leading up to the project and an overview of the project moving forward; information on the study ‘*Delivery Service Market Assessment*’; the various organizations involved; current enrollment in Truro and Colchester; budget information; and the request for a funding contribution from Colchester in the amount of \$6,500.

Lengthy discussion was held on the Truro Colchester Delivers project including who is doing the deliveries and impacts on local tax paying courier services; the Town of Truro’s funding commitments for this phase of the project; other funding partners; Colchester’s businesses involved in the project and opportunities to grow/expand; potential for pilot project for a small transit system; areas of service delivery; categories of eligibility; and the importance of having the same rates available for all of Colchester, including rural areas.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Colchester provide funding support for the Truro Colchester Delivers project in the amount of \$6,500.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Nominating Committee –
Authority to Approve**

Following the appointments to the various Boards and Committees earlier this evening, there are still a number of vacancies to be filled. Staff have readvertised for the positions and to avoid extensive delays in getting representatives appointed, staff is requesting that authority be granted to December and/or January Committee to approve the recommendations of the Nominating Committee.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Council grant authority to December and/or January Council Committee to approve recommendations of the Nominating Committee for Citizen and Council Representatives to the various Boards and Committees.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Light in East Stewiacke

Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, advised that on the request of Council, staff investigated the possible installation of a streetlight at the corner of Alton Road and Cloverdale Road in East Stewiacke. Under the current Streetlight Policy, a light could be funded by the general rate for critical intersections which staff determined this to be. Pending a scoping by NS Power, staff believe a light can be installed there. Approximate costs would be in the range of \$30-\$40 per month.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council directs staff to have a streetlight installed at the intersection of Alton Road and Cloverdale Road.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Debert Airport Plowing Contract
2020-21**

Ms. Newell advised that this item deals with the annual contract for snowplowing at the Debert Airport. Information on historic expenses for the service was provided. Ian Sinclair Contracting will have equipment stationed at the airport for the winter and this year the service will include the Debert Aviation Centre. There is a slight increase in costs over last year and this is mainly due to the increased scope of work and overall general increase in the cost of materials.

Brief discussion was held on liability insurance coverage and types of materials used on the runway.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council approves that the snow plowing contract for the Debert Airport for the 2020/21 winter season be awarded to Ian Sinclair Contracting.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Debert Aviation Centre – Award of Electrical Tender

Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, provided an overview of this item indicating that the electrical system upgrades is the third and final tender for this construction season for the Debert Aviation Centre project. The report included the scope of work outlined in the tender; a review of the three bids received; and budgetary information.

A request was made to have an update on the overall Debert Aviation Centre project including work completed to date, what is left to be completed and budgetary implications.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Council award the tender for the Electrical upgrades for the Debert Aviation Centre to Jeff Deuville Electric for \$142,600, plus HST; and,

That an internal contingency of 10% of the projects value be approved, to be spent only on authority of the Director of Community Development.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Accessibility Committee

The CAO reported that the Province has mandated municipalities establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee with Provincial standards to support physical, mental, intellectual learning or sensory impairments. The overall goal is to remove barriers that might hinder an individual’s participation in society. Colchester has been planning for the establishment of the Advisory Committee with staff undergoing training to enhance their knowledge of key considerations to best support those with disabilities.

The Advisory Committee requires that at least half of the members on the Committee must have a disability or be a representative of an organization representing individuals with disabilities. A challenge we are being faced with is that we are competing with neighbouring municipal units to find individuals to serve on the Committee. Staff is seeking input from Council on the possibility of undertaking a regional approach on this with the Towns of Truro and Stewiacke as well as the Village of Bible Hill. If Council is in agreement with a regional approach, consultations with our neighbouring municipal units will take place with a report coming back to Council. This report would include requests for representation on the Committee.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the Municipality of Colchester support undertaking a regional approach for the Accessibility Advisory Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Debert Water Tower – Authority to Award

Ms. Newell advised that staff is requesting that authority be granted to January Council Committee to award the contract for the demolition of the old MacElmon Road Water Tower in Debert.

Moved by Councillor Benoit
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Stewart

“That Council authorizes January Council Committee to award the contract for the demolition of the old Debert Water Tower on MacElmon Road.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Colchester Ground Search and Rescue Open House Invite

The CAO advised that approximately a year or so ago, Council received a presentation from Colchester Ground Search and Rescue. A new application has been received to make another presentation in the near future, however, prior to doing so, an invitation has been extended to Council to attend an open house/orientation session. Two dates, December 5th or December 12th, are being suggested, for this open house for Council consideration. Council agreed that an email be forwarded to Council members to check their availability for these two dates.

Correspondence - ACTION

Yearbook Committee, Rotary Club of Truro

An email dated November 10, 2020, concerning support for the 2021 Rotary Yearbook.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council approves supporting the 2021 Rotary Yearbook with a one third page ad.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

It was noted that Mayor Blair and Councillor Sandeson declared a conflict and recused themselves from voting.

Elizabeth Thompson

A letter and petition dated November 15, 2020, requesting lights at various locations on Gorman Road.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the request for lights at various locations on Gorman Road be referred to staff.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

The Municipal Solicitor advised that as a point of clarification on this motion, specifically concerning the area Councillor living on Gorman Road, there is a provision under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act that if the matter

pertains to a general service available to any member of the community, the Councillor can vote on the motion.

**Beth Peterkin, Executive Director,
Cliffs of Fundy Geopark**

An email dated November 24, 2020, requesting a letter of support for their bid proposal to host the 2023 International Global Geopark Conference.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That Council approves a letter be written in support of the Cliffs of Fundy bid proposal for hosting the 2023 International Global Geopark Conference.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Correspondence - INFORMATION

Development Officer

A copy of the Development Activity Report received from the Development Officer for the month of October 2020. Council agreed to receive the report for information purposes.

Building Inspector

A copy of Building Permit Statistics received from the Building Inspector for the month of October 2020. Council agreed to receive the report for information purposes.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Glenholme Church Property

Mr. James reported that this item is to follow up on a motion of Council at the October 29th meeting concerning a Quit Claim Deed for a parcel of land in Glenholme being conveyed to the Church. The motion was subject to the Solicitor being satisfied that the conveyance was in compliance with the Municipal Government Act (MGA), specifically regarding the value of the land and if a Public Hearing was required. Legal review determined the value of the land to be within the \$10,000 limit and the conveyance is in order.

**Insurance for Not-for Profit
Organizations – Grant**

Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager, provided a report on the Insurance for Not-for-Profit Organizations grant applications for 2020 which was distributed in the Council package. 63 applications were received this year for a total of \$30,796.50. Last year the Municipality received 58 application. The increased requests will put the approved amount over budget by \$2,796.50. The next deadline for application under this program is October 29, 2021.

Covid-19 Update

As per the request of Council at the March 26th meeting, this item serves to provide Council with ongoing operational and administrative updates and implications relative to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**Reports from Councillors
Appointed to Outside Boards and
Agencies**

Copies of reports from the Mayor and Councillors were circulated in the package and/or as a separate attachment prior to this evenings meeting.

Mayor Blair noted one amendment in her report. The tree lighting event scheduled for November 28th with the Village of Bible Hill was cancelled.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the meeting go into closed session at 8:21 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:21 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Negotiations

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council directs the CAO to retain an experienced advisor as discussed in Closed Session.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Negotiations

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council grants authority to January Council Committee to make a decision on the leasing issue as discussed in Closed Session.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Patton
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting adjourn at 9:23 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary