

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

The Regular Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was conducted virtually via Zoom Webinars, on Thursday, November 25, 2021, at 6:00 pm.

In peace and friendship, and in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, Mayor Blair began by acknowledging that the Municipality of Colchester is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Council members in attendance:

Mayor Christine Blair, Chair	
Councillor Eric Boutilier	District 1
Councillor Laurie Sandeson	District 2
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-Elect Victoria Lomond	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11
<u>Regrets</u>	
Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart	District 3

Staff Present

Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
 Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works
 Paul Smith, Acting Director of Community Development
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Anna-Marie Manley, Municipal Solicitor
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Devin Trefry, Research, Policy, and Community Engagement Officer
 Jenn Mantin, Economic Development Officer
 Tim Smith, IT Manager
 Pam Macintosh, Planner (for Item No. 9)

Declaration of By-Election and Swearing in of New Council (District 10)

Mayor Blair presented the Declaration of Election as provided by the CAO and included in the Council package for this evening's meeting. Following the declaration, Mayor Blair administered the Oath of Allegiance and Office to Councillor-Elect Lomond.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That the agenda be approved as presented." Carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That the minutes of the meeting held on October 28, 2021, be approved as presented." Carried unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

None.

Standing Committee Reports and Recommendations

Councillor Cooper, Alternate Chair of Council Committee, presented the report from the meeting held on November 10, 2021:

Colchester Clean

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Council supports an annual ‘Colchester Clean’ campaign that will complement the Provincial Adopt-A-Highway and Great Nova Scotia Pick Me Up Programs; and,

That the Municipality hire a person to continue throughout the year to maintain the beautification of the Debert Business Park.” Carried unanimously.

Council Proceedings and Committees Policy

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That Council approves the amendments to the Council Proceedings and Committees Policy as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Lighting of Municipal Building Policy

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council adopts the Lighting of Municipal Buildings Policy as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Logo Policy

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Parker

“That Council approves that the Colchester logo and tagline, as well as the Fundy Discovery Site name be registered; and,

That the Logo, Slogan, and Coat of Arms Policy be adopted with the minor amendment to acknowledge registration status as official marks.” Carried unanimously.

Flood Advisory Committee - Minutes of Meeting Held on November 9, 2021

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the Flood Advisory Committee minutes of the meeting of November 9, 2021, be received.” Carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Police Services Review

Prior to receiving the presentation from Consultant Bill Moore on the Police Services Review, Rob Simonds, CAO, provided a detailed introduction including background information leading to Council's decision to undertake a Policing Review and timelines of the process which began in 2018; Council's commitment to public safety and policing; priorities, challenges, issues and concerns of Council relative to policing in the Municipality; and discussions and presentations received from various stakeholders.

Council recognized the benefits of having an experienced police leader to serve as a technical advisor to the Municipality which resulted in contracting Bill Moore to assist with the policing review and analysis of information received to date. With the authorization of the Municipality, Mr. Moore proceeded with meetings with the various stakeholders as well as gathering information by way of surveying Council members on policing needs in the Municipality. The presentation this evening is to provide Council with a summary of the gathered data and to determine if it accurately reflects the overall priorities of Council. Documents included in Council's package for this evening's meeting were the Police Service Review Survey Results, Executive Summary, as well as a copy of the detailed presentation.

In his presentation, Mr. Moore provided a background/timeline summary; a review of the approach undertaken; and, survey purpose, documents, results with rankings, as well as suggestions for each of the priorities as outlined by Council. Also included was next steps in the Police Service Review Process for Council consideration. A list of the outcomes and priorities (listed in random order of ranking) as a result of the survey included:

- Governance – desire to have some involvement in the strategic direction of police services;
- Patrol – 24-7 deployed model with visibility throughout the Municipality;
- School Resource Officer;
- Traffic Services – including both enforcement and proactive approach;
- Mental Health – training to respond to mental health calls and access to professionals/stronger partnership with health sector;
- Investigation – important to have access to specialized services as needed;
- Forensic Services – contracted service or possibly a service that could be shared with other agencies;
- Canine Services – either shared or contracted;
- Crime Analysis – although ranked as important, Council expressed that this was something that they required more information on;
- Emergency Response Resources;
- Victims of Crime – noted as an important service but possibly should be a provincial or health care responsibility;
- Community Programming – importance of community engagement and interaction, possibly part of patrol officer duties;
- Training and Administration;
- Mutual Aid;
- Rural/Trails/ATV/Snowmobile Patrols – noted in the survey results but not listed as a higher priority of Council;
- Follow-up response to calls, police/residents interaction, and consistent liaison officers for Council members;

- Organizational Structure – deployment of officers throughout the County on a 24/7 basis, familiarity with patrol zones;
- Employment Contracts – varying opinions regarding Council involvement with negotiations with most agreeing Council having approval from a cost perspective;
- Vacancy Management – need to have service levels maintained;
- Interaction with other policing agencies; and,
- Financial Model – desire to have financial model and costing of basic police services with associated service levels.

Following the presentation, discussion took place on Council expectations; training for Council members; moving from a district to some sort of deployed policing model; exploring other regions for models that would be similar to what Council is looking for; pairing officers with mental health professionals; whether legally the Municipality would be in a position to move to a Request for Proposals; current RCMP costs for basic and incremental services; discussions being held at the federal level of government concerning the significant upcoming increases as it relates to the RCMP union contract; and Council's next steps.

Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor, advised that Jennifer Cox from the Mass Casualty Commission has indicated that the work of the Commission may help inform the undertaking of Council and has offered to share the work of the Commission as it may help in the decision-making process.

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That staff be directed to ascertain the specified follow-up information cited in the Consultant presentation in relation to specific priority areas and provide a comparative response to each priority area for Council review and direction.” Carried unanimously.

Responding to a query on timelines for information coming back to Council, the CAO advised that it would likely be brought to Council in January.

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That staff be directed to review training opportunities for Council but that the training be held in abeyance, on the advice of staff or until further discussion.” Carried unanimously.

Committee Vacancies

The CAO advised that as per the previous directive of Council, the impetus of this item is to fill the vacancies on Committees following the conclusion of the By-Election for District 10. Staff is suggesting that authority be granted to January Council Committee to consider and approve recommendations regarding appointments to Committees. As there may be Council members interested in serving on these vacant Committees and/or stepping aside from other Committees, staff could canvas Council to garner input, collate the information for the Nominating Committee and bring back recommendations for Council consideration at the January Committee meeting.

Concern was expressed regarding shuffling Committee appointments mid-way through the two year appointments, the process being very cumbersome, and commitments to serving on Committees as previously appointed. The CAO iterated that Council members are not being encouraged to step away from existing Committees. Rather, it allows opportunity to realign with considerations being given to work load of Council members, the time of day and frequency of meetings, and the substantial work of various Committees.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That Council grant authority to Council Committee at their meeting on January 13, 2022, to approve Nominating Committee recommendations regarding appointments to Committees of Council.” Motion carried (*Councillor MacKenzie opposed*).

Possible Policy Amendments Concerning PAC Membership

Pam Macintosh, Municipal Planner, advised that the purpose of this report is to request Council to grant authority to Council Committee at their January 13, 2022 meeting, to consider and approve amendments to policies relative to Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) membership.

There has been interest from the Villages of Bible Hill and Tatamagouche to serve on PACs. Although current policy does not allow for the inclusion of Village Commission representatives on PACs, it could be accommodated with policy amendments. Sections 200 and 201 of the Municipal Government Act allow representatives from Village Commissions to serve on PACs. Staff is recommending that amendments be made to the Council Proceedings and Committees Policy and repealing and consolidating the Policy to Establish a Tatamagouche Planning Advisory Committee with the Council Proceedings and Committees Policy to ensure a consistent approach on how PACs are formed. Revisions would be brought forward in December for consideration with authority being granted to January Committee to approve.

Brief discussion was held on level of participation of Commission reps on PACS and having Village representatives only involved in Village issues. The Municipal Solicitor advised that this could be defined within policy.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson and seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council direct staff to bring policy revisions relating to membership of Planning Advisory Committees to December 9th Committee; and

That authority be granted to Council Committee on January 13, 2022, to make final decision on amendments to the *Council Proceedings and Committees Policy* and *Policy To Establish the Tatamagouche Planning Advisory Committee*.” Carried unanimously.

Covid Vaccine Policy – Authority to Award

The CAO advised that staff have been working toward developing a Covid Vaccine Policy. The Policy will be brought forward to Council for review at December Committee and it is being requested that consideration be given to Council Committee at their meeting on January 13, 2022, to approve the Policy.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Council grant authority to January 13 2022 Council Committee to approve the Covid Vaccine Policy.” Carried unanimously.

Correspondence - ACTION

Imelda Reynolds

Notice of Appeal for an application for Dog Day Care in East Stewiacke.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That staff proceed with the appeal hearing process.” Carried unanimously.

**Douglas and Elizabeth Langille,
213 Spruce Drive, Salmon River**

Letter to the Mayor and Council expressing interest in purchasing County owned land, PID # 20259727.

Councillor Johnson provided a brief description of the land and location and advised that it is beside the Langille property. They do not intend to do anything with the property other than clean it up and make it more visually appealing. The Municipality does have green space in the community with a recreational park down over the hill from this property.

Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor, advised Council that when dealing with sale of property, there are a few provisions that need to be considered – whether the property is of value to the municipality; if it is abutting land and not of sufficient size for productive use, it can be sold to the abutting land owner at less than market value; and if the property is original green space in the subdivision, a public hearing process would be required before sale.

Brief discussion was held on retaining the land for possible future uses; more information is required before giving consideration; and requirements around advising neighbouring properties of the potential sale. Mr. James indicated that Council can establish the process by which they want for the sale of the property.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the expression of interest from Douglas and Elizabeth Langille to purchase a municipal parcel of land, PID # 20259727, be referred to staff.” Motion carried (*Councillor Parker opposed*).

**Wendy and Sandy Miller, 119
Spruce Drive**

Letter to the Mayor and Council expressing interest in purchasing Council owned land PID # 20436044.

Similar to above, Councillor Johnson provided a brief summary of the subject property and surrounding properties as well as the request of the Millers.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the expression of interest from Wendy and Sandy Miller to purchase a municipal parcel of land, PID # 20436044, be referred to staff.” Motion carried (*Councillor Parker opposed*).

Correspondence - INFORMATION

- Development Officer** A copy of the Development Activity Report received from the Development Officer for the month of October 2021. 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 2021. Council agreed to receive the report for information purposes.
- Referring to building permits, the significant improvement in the stats from 2020 to 2021 was noted.
- Guy Wheeler, Returning Officer, 2021 By-Election Post Election Report** A copy of the Returning Officers Post By-Election Report.
- Referring to the issue of voter information cards (VICs) for the 2020 Municipal Election, an inquiry was made on whether the same issue occurred with the By-Election. The CAO advised with the 2020 Municipal Election, we had an anomaly situation with Canada Post and a number of the VICs going missing and had to be resent. There were no issues with this for the By-Election.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Insurance for Not-for-Profit Organizations – Grant Applications** This report, as distributed in the Council package for this evening’s meeting, provided information to Council on the Insurance for Not-for-Profit Organizations grant applications for 2021. 60 applications were received this year for a total of \$30,711.12, slightly over the \$30,000 budget. The next deadline for application under this program is October 28, 2022.
- Northern Pulp Renewal** Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works, advised that renewed approval will be issued to Northern Pulp for the 2022 calendar year to haul wastewater to our Central Colchester Wastewater Treatment Facility. This decision was based on the sample results from 2020 and that our treatment plant was able to handle the Northern Pulp wastewater. A clause is included in the approval that the County can refuse to accept the wastewater should any negative impacts be observed at the plant.
- Discussion was held on whether there was a review of the fee structure and if wear and tear at the plant had been factored. Ms. Boudreau advised that this was considered and that staff feel the fee structure is adequate. Further discussion was held on the timelines for Northern Pulp having their own treatment plant.
- MacElmon Road Building Update** The CAO advised that he received an update from the Province relative to plans for the MacElmon Road property. The building has been deemed to be in very poor condition and needs to be torn down. The Province’s original intent was to repopulate the building due to spacing shortages, however, this

cannot be done due to the building condition. There is extensive asbestos throughout the building and costs for asbestos abatement and demolition are estimated to be \$250,000 - \$300,000. There are no funds in the current budget so the demolition of the building is being held in abeyance at this time.

Covid-19 Update

As per the request of Council at the March 26, 2020, 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 evening's meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Patton and seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That the meeting go into closed session at 9:02 pm." Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Patton

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 10:19 pm." Carried unanimously.

Negotiations – Mud Hero 2022

Moved by Councillor Benoit and seconded by Councillor Patton

"That Council approves entering into an agreement to host Mud Hero 2022 at the Debert Airport; and,

That the Mayor and CAO be authorized to execute an Event Location Agreement prepared by Legal Counsel, based on the parameters discussed in closed session." Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That the meeting adjourn at 10:21 pm." Carried unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary