

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

The Regular Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was conducted in-person and virtually combined, on Thursday, October 30, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

In peace and in friendship, and in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, it was acknowledged that the Municipality of Colchester is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.

Roll Call

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| Mayor Christine Blair, Chair | |
| Councillor Paul Weatherby | District 1 |
| Dep. Mayor Laurie Sandeson | District 2 |
| Councillor Sheldon Richardson | District 3 |
| Councillor Mike Cooper | District 4 |
| Councillor Tim Johnson | District 5 |
| Councillor Nigel Leggett | District 6 |
| Councillor Sherry Martell | District 7 |
| Councillor Lisa Patton | District 8 <i>(regrets)</i> |
| Councillor Marie Benoit | District 9 <i>(regrets)</i> |
| Councillor Charlene Fletcher | District 10 |
| Councillor Allan Kennedy | District 11 |

Staff Present

Dan Troke, Chief Administrative Officer
 Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works
 Phil Redden, Director of Solid Waste
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Paul Smith, Director of Community Development
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Jenn Martin, Economic Development Officer
 Jeanette Himmelman, Systems Analyst
 Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Weatherby, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Add minutes of October 23, 2025, at Item #2;
- Add item #10b, Well Water Assistance; and,
- Add item #16b, Negotiations in closed session.” Carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That the minutes from September 25, October 7, and October 23, 2025, be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

None.

Standing Committee Reports and Recommendations

Deputy Mayor Sandeson, Chair of Council Committee, presented the report from the meeting held on October 16, 2025.

Operating Costs, Flow Monitoring Stations, Joint Flood Advisory Committee

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Weatherby

“That Council approves the funding of a river flow station, at a cost of \$17,250 per year for three years.” Carried unanimously.

Debert Source Water Protection Committee Terms of Reference

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That Council approves that the Debert Source Water Protection Advisory Committee Terms of Reference approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Negotiation – Residential Curbside Collection Contract Extension

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council approves opting in for the one-year extension option of the Residential Solid Waste, Recycling and Organics curbside collection contract.” Carried unanimously.

Debert Source Water Protection Advisory Committee – minutes of meeting held on September 23, 2025

Moved by Councillor Weatherby, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That the minutes of the Debert Source Water Protection Advisory Committee meeting held on September 23, 2025, be received.” Carried unanimously.

Tatamagouche Source Water Protection Advisory Committee – minutes of meeting held on October 8, 2025

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That the minutes of the Tatamagouche Source Water Protection Advisory Committee meeting held on October 8, 2025, be received.” Carried unanimously.

Flood Advisory Committee – minutes of meeting held on October 14, 2025

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Weatherby

“That the minutes of the Flood Advisory Committee meeting held on October 14, 2025, be received.” Carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

2025 Art Selection Committee Representatives

This item, as introduced by the Recreation Manager, relates to the 37th Annual Art Acquisition Program. Staff is seeking two Council appointees to the Art Selection Committee for this event.

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That Council appoints Deputy Mayor Sandeson and Councillor Weatherby to serve on the 2025 Art Selection Committee.” Carried unanimously.

**Youth Attendees – U17
World Hockey
Championships**

At their October 16th Committee meeting, Council directed staff to explore options to assist youth attendance for the upcoming Under 17 World Hockey Challenge. The event starts October 31st through to final on November 8th. Staff review included ticket prices, considerations for adult accompaniment with youth to the event and various avenues for ticket distribution, noting the time constraints with the event beginning tomorrow, October 31st.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Richardson

“That Council approves an amount of up to \$20,000 in support of youth attending the upcoming U17 World Hockey Challenge and direct staff to coordinate distribution of tickets.” Carried unanimously.

**Sewer Service
Boundary Extension,
North River**

The Director of Public Works reported that this item is to deal with a request from Exit 14A Properties for an extension of the sewer service boundary in North River to create 14 new lots on about 12 acres of land. Included in the report was information on a similar request from last year, details of the current request, capacity information, current area zoning, the need for developer to follow procedural requirements, other departmental feedback, and staff recommendation.

Brief discussion was held on total potential number of units on the lots, as well as future sewer service boundary capacity.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Weatherby

“That Council approves the request from Exit 14A Properties for sewer boundary extension in North River for additional 14 lots off Longview Drive.” Carried unanimously.

**J Class Paving
Candidates, 2026/27
Submission**

At the October Committee meeting, staff were directed to prepare cost estimates for six J Class roads, namely Ice Pond Drive, Basswood Court/Spruce Court, Highland View Court/Basin View Court, and a portion of Clover Drive for consideration for submission under the 2026/27 Provincial J Class Paving Program. Included in the report for this evening’s meeting were the cost estimates with 50% of the cost being municipal responsibility, budgetary implications, current year contributions to the street paving reserve as well as roads completed, and staff’s recommendation. Deadline for submission for the 2026/27 construction season is October 31st.

Brief discussion was held on the unknowns of the provincial budget for J Class Road paving and the rationale for submitting all six roads rather than just one. Also, discussion was held on conditions of J Class road versus County owned roads, and 2026/27 being the last year under the current agreement with the province. The Director of Public Works indicated that unless the Province changes processes, it is expected that a new agreement will be presented to Council for consideration.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That Council directs staff to submit Ice Pond Drive, Basswood Court/Spruce Court, Highland View Court/Basin View Court, & Clover Drive for consideration under the J Class Road Paving Program for 2026/27; and

That the formal petition process as outlined in the Municipality’s Local Improvement By-law be waived.” Carried unanimously.

**Furnace Replacement,
251 Lancaster Cres.,
Debert**

The Director of Public Works presented details on the replacement of the furnace at 251 Lancaster Crescent Debert. The building houses the Water Utility offices, Recreation Repair Garage, as well as some leased out space for consultants. The existing furnace is reaching its end of life and staff propose a new heat pump system. Under the Procurement Policy, three quotes were received with the low bid being from Eco Logic for \$38,200, excluding HST. Although it would be expected to receive some grants from Efficiency NS, amounts are unknown until the system install is complete.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Fletcher

“That Council approve the award of the heating system replacement at 251 Lancaster Crescent to ECO Logic for a total contract value of \$38,200 plus taxes.” Carried unanimously.

Well Water Assistance

Councillor Cooper brought this item forward noting he has been getting several calls from constituents regarding wells being dry. Other municipalities are considering or have implemented things like loan programs as a means to support residents and there are inquiries if Colchester is considering anything similar.

Discussion took place on provincial programs and eligibility requirements as well as having staff investigate what other municipal units are offering and bringing information back to Council.

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sandeson

“That Well Water Assistance be referred to staff to investigate and bring back information to Council.” Carried unanimously.

**Correspondence –
ACTION**

**Erin Barclay, Project
Manager/Comms.
Specialist,
Futureworx**

Email dated September 18, 2025, concerning sponsorship for Second Annual Community Animation Event – Reconciliation is for Everyone.

Discussion was held on insufficient information, including budget for the event, being provided as per normal requirements and processes for funding requests.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That Council approve Silver level sponsorship for the Second Annual Community Animation Event – Reconciliation is for Everyone.” Motion DEFEATED (*Councillors Richardson, Cooper, Johnson, Leggett, Martell, and Fletcher opposed*).

**Keith Driver, Past
President/Acting
President, Brule
Community Centre
Association**

Correspondence dated October 7, 2025, regarding an application for funding for the demolition of the old community Centre.

Detailed debate was held on waiving tipping fees only rather than providing options of a monetary grant and/or waiving tipping fees.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Fletcher

“That Council approves a grant for the Brule Community Centre Assoc. in the amount of \$3,000 or that tipping fees in the equivalent amount be waived.” Motion carried (*Deputy Mayor Sandeson and Councillor Johnson opposed*).

**Emma Reid,
Antimicrobial
Stewardship
Pharmacist, Emerging
and Re-emerging
Infections Pharmacy
Department, NS Health**

Email dated October 9, 2025, requesting illumination of Municipal Building for “Go Blue” Campaign.

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That Council approve illumination of the Municipal Building on November 24, 2025, in support of the ‘Go Blue’ Campaign.” Carried unanimously.

**Olivia Langille, Program
Manager, Centre for
Local Prosperity**

Email dated October 20, 2025, requesting a letter of support for their funding application to ACOA for the Local Prosperity Festival 2026 – Tatamagouche.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sandeson

“That Council approves a letter of support for a funding application to ACOA for the Local Prosperity Festival 2026 in Tatamagouche.” Carried unanimously.

Correspondence - INFORMATION

Development Officer A copy of Development Activity Report for September 2025.

Building Inspector A copy of Building Permit Statistics for September 2025.

Moved by Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Martell

“That the reports from the Development Officer and Building Inspector be received.” Carried unanimously.

**Minister John Lohr,
Department of
Municipal Affairs**

Correspondence dated October 7, 2025, concerning changes to a number of Acts.

Concern was expressed regarding the amendment on Elector Privacy, specifically about removing names from the list of electors. The correspondence does not indicate that this amendment has received Royal Assent yet. Council agreed that staff follow up on the processes. It was also suggested that Council members could follow up with the local MLA.

INFORMATION ITEMS

**Amendments to Code
of Conduct for Elected
Officials**

This item provided details of recent provincial changes to legislation regarding Code of Conduct for Elected Officials. Changes include complaints can be made by a Council member related to the conduct of another elected office in the same municipality, submitting complaints on behalf of another person or entity, and multiple complaints may not be submitted on the same subject. Full details of the changes can be found on the Provincial website at novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/codeofconductmunicipal.htm.

Lower Truro Spring

This item provided an update on the status of the Lower Truro Spring including extension of current lease with owners for the existing spring, next steps in establishing a fill station at the Fundy Discover Site, as well as budgetary implications.

**Reports from Council
Members**

Copies of reports from the Mayor and Councillors were circulated in the package and ‘On Table’ for this evening’s meeting.

Councillor Martell advised Council that an RCMP town hall meeting is taking place in Tatamagouche at the Fire Hall on November 12th @ 7pm.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Weatherby, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sandeson

“That the meeting go into closed session at 7:03 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:25 pm.” Carried unanimously.

**Negotiations – Central
Nova Scotia Tourism
Development Society**

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That Council approves the Operating Agreement as presented in closed session and directs the Mayor and CAO to execute the agreement.” Carried unanimously.

**Personnel – CAO
Review**

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sandeson

“That the CAO annual review be approved with CPI adjustment retroactive to April 1, 2025, and salary adjustment retroactive to September 25, 2025, as discussed in-camera.” Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councillor Martell, the meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary