

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

A Special Closed Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was conducted virtually and in-person on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 12:00pm.

Roll Call

Mayor Christine Blair, Chair	
Councillor Paul Weatherby	District 1
Deputy Mayor Laurie Sandeson	District 2 (virtual)
Councillor Sheldon Richardson	District 3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District 4 arrived late @12:09pm (virtual)
Councillor Tim Johnson	District 5 (virtual)
Councillor Nigel Leggett	District 6
Councillor Sherry Martell	District 7 (virtual)
Councillor Lisa Patton	District 8 (virtual)
Councillor Marie Benoit	District 9 (virtual)
Councillor Charlene Fletcher	District 10
Councillor Allan Kennedy	District 11 (virtual)

Staff Present

Dan Troke, Chief Administrative Officer
 Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Phil Redden, Director of Solid Waste
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Jenn Martin, Economic Development Officer
 Amanda Charter, Information Systems Support Technician

The purpose of this Special meeting is for Council is to consider and approve an expenditure for a critical piece of equipment at the Debert Airport that was damaged by a recent power surge.

Purchase of New Automated Weather Observation System, Debert Airport

Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works, reported that the existing Automated Water Observation Systems (AWOS) at the Debert airport was recently damaged by an electrical surge, believed to have been caused by lightning strike. The equipment has been assessed as beyond repair and is staff recommending it be replaced to restore weather observation capabilities at the airport.

Included in her report was background on the existing AWOS equipment and supplier - Approach Navigation, as well as estimated replacement cost, expected lead time, the operational purpose of the AWOS, options for consideration, and budgetary information. Based on policy on expenditure value and proposed sole sourcing, Council approval is required to proceed with the purchase.

During discussion, clarification was sought on the rationale for the proposed sole-sourced purchase, the anticipated deliver time, and whether the replacement equipment would include protection against future power surges. The Director of Public Works advised that sole sourcing the purchase was based on the limited number of suppliers able to provide the equipment, minimizing lead time and business continuity. The Director also confirmed that the quoted replacement unit includes protection against power surges.

Further discussion took place on whether Nova Scotia Power (NSP) could be responsible for the damages. The Director advised that as the damage was believed to be caused by lightning strike, NSP would not be liable. Staff are exploring insurance claim options through the Municipality's insurance provider, however, it was noted that damage caused by lightning strikes is commonly excluded from insurance coverage.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Benoit

"That Council approves the purchase of a new Automated Weather Observation Station from Approach Navigation Systems for the Debert Airport at a cost of \$102K, excluding HST." Carried unanimously.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councillor Weatherby the meeting adjourned at 12:18 pm.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary