

## MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

A Special Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was conducted virtually via Zoom Meetings, on Thursday, April 23, 2020, at 6:00 pm

### 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 Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District 8
Councillor Bob Pash	District 9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

### Staff Present

Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer  
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corp. Services/Acting Director of Solid Waste  
 Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development  
 Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works  
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor  
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary  
 Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer  
 Devin Trefry, Research, Policy, and Community Engagement Officer  
 Dave Westlake, Emergency Management/Protective Services  
 Coordinator  
 Tim Smith, Manager of Information Services

### Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh  
 Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the agenda be approved with one addition, Item #4b Community Relief Efforts.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

### Hospital Update

Responding to a query made by Councillor Boutilier, Dave Westlake provided a detailed update relative to the hospital and the COVID-19 Pandemic including general information on NS case statistics for the Northern Region and provincial testing data; long term care facility information and preventative measures being taken to keep the virus from entering the facilities; primary health care initiatives and efforts of doctors for continued services during the pandemic; emergency department statistics and processes; changes to improve inpatient care such as a COVID-19 inpatient unit and ICU beds, increased number of ventilators and ongoing staff training; moral and wellbeing of hospital staff; and, status of personal protective equipment (PPE) and local business support with PPE.

Brief discussion was held on availability of statistical information for the Northern zone, specifically a breakdown for Colchester, East Hants and Cumberland, as well as on COVID-19 testing with Nova Scotia having the highest per capita testing in the Country. A question was raised on use of the old hospital in the event of a major outbreak. Mr. Westlake indicated that this would not be an option as the building is not operational, has no water or heat, and is in a state of disrepair. On the matter of PPE supplies, another inquiry was made regarding VON and whether it falls under the Nova Scotia Health Authority. It was confirmed that VON is an independent entity.

### West Colchester Privacy Request

Councillor Taggart indicated that he was contacted by the Chair of the Community Association for Orchard Beach Subdivision requesting assistance with security for the private road when the RCMP vacate the area. The matter was discussed with Executive on April 21<sup>st</sup> and staff were directed to look into Commissionaires providing security with no road access unless invited by residents. Councillor Taggart advised that he is requesting Council consider supporting the costs for security for a two week period for approximately 14 hours per day.

A media release was done on behalf of the Community Association requesting that the privacy of the residents be respected. Another media release will be done when the residents are permitted back into their homes and Public Works staff will be erecting private property signage for the residents. The Director of Corporate Services is looking into security through Commissionaires, and the Manager of Waste Reduction is arranging special collection of materials as no access was allowed during their regular collection week, and is also arranging a dumpster, donated by ReGroup, to be brought in to the area for residents use. Councillor Taggart also noted that Bairds Septic is providing a portable restroom, free of charge, at the entrance for use by the Commissionaires.

Discussion was held on establishing a system to allow permitted persons access; having coded gates at the entrance instead of security; and that this is an ongoing issue and whether the suggested 14 day security would be sufficient. The Municipal Solicitor advised Council that this is a private road, and if Council agrees, it should be understood that this is being done on behalf of the property owners and any prosecution of charges under the Protection of Property Act, the Municipality would have no authority on. This would be the responsibility of the property owners. The Municipality's role would be limited as it is not a municipal road. The Commissionaires would also have to be clear on their role.

Moved by Councillor Taggart  
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the Municipality of Colchester provide the funds required to have Commissionaires on duty for security, at the entrance of the Orchard Beach Subdivision Private Road, for 14 hours a day for 14 days.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Community Relief Efforts**

It was noted that Councillor Taggart was looking for legal advice on the issue of Community Relief Efforts so the matter was referred to closed session.

**Closed Session**

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh  
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That the meeting go into closed session at 6:45 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Pash  
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 8:43 pm”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Property Matter**

Moved by Councillor Masters  
Seconded by Councillor Pash

“That Council approves staff follow the directions of Council, as stated in Closed Session, on the property matter under discussion.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillors Boutilier and Gibbs opposed)*

It was noted that the motion provides directive to staff to proceed as discussed in closed session and does not provide final approval on the matter. Any agreements would be required to come back to Council for approval.

**Community Relief Efforts**

Interest was expressed on changing the April 20, 2020 motion of Council relative to the approval to fund funeral expenses for the victims of the weekend tragedy, specifically to strike out the words “up to” in the original motion and to include wording for funeral “and related” expenses. The Municipal Solicitor advised that in order to make changes to a past resolution, Council would first be required to make a motion to reconsider, and if passed can then bring forward the proposed amendment.

Discussion was held on the motion as originally approved and it was clarified that Council would have the flexibility to take any unused portion of the total funds to disburse to the families in other ways.

The CAO and Solicitor advised for Council consideration, about the possible complexities and delays in issuing funds for associated expenses including payment to survivors of the victims if there are issues of executors; determining who within the family can be issued a payment; and, problems with issuing payment if something is probated.

**Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Cooper  
Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

“That the meeting adjourn at 9:14 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno  
Recording Secretary