

## COUNCIL COMMITTEE

The Regular Session of Council Committee of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Courthouse, Truro, Nova Scotia, on Thursday, February 15, 2017.

### Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Christine Blair	
Councillor Eric Boutilier	District 1
Deputy Mayor Bill Masters, Chair	District 2
Councillor Geoff Stewart	District 3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District 4
Councillor Lloyd Gibbs	District 5
Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

### Regrets

Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District 8
Councillor Doug MacInnes	District 9

### Staff Present

Mr. Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer  
 Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development  
 Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works  
 Mr. Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste  
 Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services  
 Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor  
 Mr. Mark Austin, Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer  
 Ms. Tracey Venno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

### Moment of Silence

Council observed a moment of silence for Barb Mitchell, who passed away on February 5, 2017. Ms. Mitchell worked at the Municipality's Materials Recovery Facility for almost 20 years.

### Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
 Seconded by Councillor Stewart

"That the agenda be approved with the following amendments:

- Delete Item #14, Noise;
- Add Item #13b, Broadband Internet;
- Add Item #13c, Community Wellness Collaboration;
- Add a Property Matter in Closed Session; and
- Add a Negotiations in Closed Session."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

### Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Boutilier  
 Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the minutes from the meeting held on January 12, 2017, be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Business Arising from Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meeting held on January 12, 2017.

**STAFF PRESENTATION**

**Short and Long Term Sidewalk Priorities**

In her presentation, Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, provided a brief overview of the Active Transportation (AT) Strategy; categories of sidewalk networks; evaluation criteria; a breakdown of priority setting; phases including immediate, short, medium and long term; information on paved shoulders; and, 5-Yr capital Budget Priorities.

Discussion resulted with the following being noted:

- The sidewalk in Brookfield by the post office is in the maintenance budget this year;
- General repairs are covered under the maintenance budget;
- Process for additions to the list;
- Need for up front meetings prior to capital budget meeting with a mechanism to sort through projects prior to making the list; and,
- Possible need to review the AT Strategy.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Grant Presentation Meeting Dates**

Moved by Mayor Blair  
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council Committee approves Tuesday, February 28 and Wednesday, March 1, 2017 as the meeting dates for Grants to Non-Profit Organizations Presentations.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Council 2017/18 Budget Meeting Dates**

Moved by Councillor Stewart  
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee approves Monday, April 10, 2017 for the maintenance budget meeting and Tuesday, April 18, 2017 for the Additions/Deletions meeting.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Hike Nova Scotia Summit 2017 Request for Funding**

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that funding be approved in the amount of \$2,500 for Hike Nova Scotia Summit 2017, with source of funds being 2016/17 Economic Development Grants budget.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Sidewalk Reconstruction,  
Fir/Spruce/Evergreen –  
Award of Tender**

Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, advised that the reconstruction of existing sidewalks on Fir Avenue and Evergreen Drive in Salmon River, were approved in the capital budget for 2016/17. A tender was issued on January 10, 2017, with a closing on January 31, 2017, resulted in 10 tenders received by the deadline.

The lowest tender submitted was deemed to be complete and staff recommend that the tender be awarded to the lowest bidder, Sackville Trenching.

Discussion was held regarding background checks on companies and this being included in the tender process. The Director of Public Works indicated that some checking is done on companies but it difficult to frame tenders around past work. However, all appropriate documents, such as bonding and certification was provided.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs  
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the tender for the reconstruction of the sidewalks on Fir Avenue and Evergreen Drive be awarded to Sackville Trenching for a total contract value of \$198,630 excluding taxes, and that an internal contingency of \$20,000 be carried, to be spent only on the authority of the Director of Public Works.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Carter Road Sidewalk,  
Brookfield**

Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works advised that Council approved a sidewalk in Brookfield on Carter Road in their five year capital budget. The sidewalk would measure about 270 m along Carter Road to the Sportsplex. Based on the safety concerns of residents which prompted the project, the design has been initiated based on the sidewalk being on the west side of Carter Road. The project has been discussed with Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal who have indicated that that would not dictate where the sidewalk should go, however, should it be placed on the east side of the road, approval for a future crosswalk near the Sportsplex would be unlikely. Ms. Newell advised that an open house was planned for the purpose of providing residents with information regarding the location and plans for the sidewalk.

The Area Councillor advised that residents are not happy with the sidewalk being on the west side of the road and expressed concern on having Council make a decision on this prior to the public consultation process. He stated that Council members are elected officials representing the people and it is wrong to circumvent the process.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier  
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That discussion on the Carter Road Sidewalk in Brookfield be tabled until after the open house.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Neighbourhood Event Road Closure Policy**

The Director of Public Works provided a brief overview of the Neighbourhood Event Road Closure Policy, as presented in the Council package. The proposed Policy would see a process in place and guidelines for the closure of roads for community/neighbourhood events.

Moved by Councillor Stewart  
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the proposed Neighbourhood Event Road Closure Policy be approved, as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Solid Waste Closure Liability**

Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, provided Council with an overview on the Solid Waste Closure Liability and the option of investing the funds in Principal Protected Notes (PPNs) to increase the return on funds held in this liability closure bank. The PPN is an investment contract with a guaranteed rate of return of at least the amount invested and may offer other benefits including, but not limited to, high growth potential, weekly liquidity, and potential for leveraged returns.

Brief discussion was held with the question of who backs PPNs being raised. Mr. Fraser advised that PPNs' are backed by CIBC.

Moved by Mayor Blair  
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Balefill Closure Liability bank funds be invested in the Principal Protect Notes as recommended and presented by staff.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Debert Airfield – Jetpro GPS Approach**

Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, indicated that staff had previously been directed to look into improvements at the Debert Airport.

A copy of a letter indicating that certification of the GPS Approach System in Debert will expire in December of 2017 has been received. The letter indicates two options: allowing the certification to expire; and engaging a qualified independent organization to design and maintain the certification for the airport.

Jetpro is a company recommended as a qualified provider of airport approach certification. They travel to Nova Scotia two times per year with a trip scheduled for later in February. A proposal, as distributed in the Council package, outlines costs of a one-time upgrade and annual maintenance. Total budget implications would be \$23,000 which could be done over two years: \$9,000 in 2016/17; and, \$14, 000 in 2017/18.

Moved by Mayor Blair  
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff be authorized to proceed with acquiring the services of Jetpro to certify the runway approaches at Debert Airport, to a WAAS/LPV standard at a start-up cost of \$23,000 and ongoing maintenance will be provided as outlined in the proposal.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

### **Broadband Internet**

Referring to the broadband initiative to enhance service in rural communities, Councillor Taggart indicated that the deadline for applications under the Connect to Innovate Funding Program has been extended to April 20, 2017.

Moved by Councillor Taggart  
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That a letter be written to local broadband service providers encouraging them to take advantage of the Connect to Innovate Program to provide better service to residents of Colchester County.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Mr. Mark Austin, Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer advised that the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has indicated that there is another program coming down the pipeline where funding opportunities will be available.

Discussion was held regarding staff investigating a strategy regarding broadband initiatives and report back to Council accordingly. Additionally, it was suggested that an invitation be extended to local service providers to meet with the Mayor, CAO, and Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer to discuss broadband services and initiatives.

### **Community Wellness Collaboration**

Mr. Mark Austin, Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer, provided a brief report on a Community Wellness Collaboration indicating this item is a result of the recent presentation to Council from representatives from the Northern Zone, Nova Scotia Health Authority.

Discussion following the presentation recognized the merit of a shared goal of building healthy communities. Staff are recommending that a working group be formed to explore possible projects and tools to promote community wellness. The Colchester Working Group on Community Wellness (CWGCW) would consist of the CAO; Director of Community Development; Planner; Recreation Manager; Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer; and, representatives from the Northern Zone, Nova Scotia Health Authority. The CWGCW would also look at opportunities to invite neighbouring municipal units to participate and work with the group.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier  
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff form an ad hoc working group to investigate the development of a collaboration with Northern Zone, Nova Scotia Health Authority, on matters of community wellness of mutual concern; and,

That at the appropriate stage of the working group’s investigation, other jurisdictional leaders be invited to have their staff join the discussion; and,

That the Colchester Working Group on Community Wellness report back to Council with their findings, including recommendations and required resources, within three months.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **Truro Heights Water Servicing – Options for Cost Recovery**

Following directive from Council to research and report back on costing information for the possible extension of water to residents in Truro Heights, Mr. Paul Smith reported the findings, as provided in the Council package for this evenings meeting.

Mr. Smith indicated that the costs per resident would depend on the funding mechanism selected by Council as well as any available external funding sources. Options included: residents bearing the entire cost of the project; implementation of an area rate to recover the cost of the project over a 25 year period; the Municipality applying to infrastructure programs to reduce overall project costs; and, use of Gas Tax funds towards project costs.

Discussion was held on getting the costing information to the residents of Truro Heights. Mr. Smith suggested a follow up survey to those residents who participated in the original survey on Truro Heights Water.

Additionally, it was noted that information would be required on number of residents who would be interested in connecting. The Director of Public Works indicated that there is the option for Council to create a by-law which would require everyone to hook up to the system.

Council directed staff to proceed with getting the costing information to the residents in Truro Heights and report back to Council accordingly.

#### **Sewer Extension, Great Village**

This item relates to a request from the Great Village Community Association to have the existing sanitary sewer system extended along Station Road. Staff were directed to look at costs for such extension and report back to Council, as detailed in the Information Item as distributed.

Councillor Taggart thanked staff for the information and indicated that he would report back to the Great Village Community Association. He advised that given the costs are very prohibitive, until such time that there is a more critical need for this extension, he did not foresee this going forward at this time.

**Low Income Municipal Tax Assistance Program**

The Low Income Municipal Tax Assistance Program provides property tax exemptions on current years property taxes based on total household income and number of people residing in the household. In November 2013, Council approved revisions to the Policy which would have increases to the thresholds based on annual Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI for 2017 is 1.3% resulting in the following income levels and exemption amounts:

- Single family with a gross income of less than \$25,006 – exemption of \$188.89;
- Family of two with a gross income of less than \$33,028 – exemption of \$251.85;
- Family of three or more with a gross income of less than \$39,632 – exemption of \$314.82.

**Director's Report**

A report from the Director of Community Development was circulated in the package for this evening's meeting.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

"That the meeting go into closed session at 9:11 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 10:45 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Cobequid Trailhead**

Moved by Councillor Cooper  
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff be authorized to proceed with a purchase and sale agreement for a parcel of land located at No. 236 Highway, Lower Truro, PID # 20449708, at a purchase price of \$37,000, with source of funds being the Parkland Reserve; and,

That the Mayor and CAO be authorized to execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Recreational Land - Ventura Drive, Debert**

Moved by Councillor Taggart  
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff be authorized to proceed with a purchase and sale agreement for a parcel of land located at 44 Ventura Drive, Debert, PID # 20445938, at a purchase price of \$25,000, with source of funds being the Debert Sale of Houses; and,

That the Mayor and CAO be authorized to execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement.”

Motion Carried.

*(Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Masters, Councillors Stewart and Boutilier opposed)*

**Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Gregory  
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the meeting adjourn at 10:55 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno  
Recording Secretary