

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 Wednesday, April 12, 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 Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District 8
Councillor Doug MacInnes	District 9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Others 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
 Ms. Kim Pochini, Municipal Solicitor
 Mr. Mark Austin, Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer
 Ms. Tracey Veno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
 Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That the agenda be approved with the following amendments:

- Add Item #13b, Wildlife By-law;
- Add Item #14b, Service Capacity Review;
- Delete Item #15, Closed Session Negotiations.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Announcement

Mayor Blair advised Council that Councillor Gregory was recently selected as a representative on the NS Local Government RECM Contract Management Committee.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
 Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the minutes from the meeting held on March 9, 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 March 9, 2017.

ACTION ITEMS**Debert Archaeology Program for 2017**

Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, provided a detailed presentation on the Debert Business Park (DBP) Archaeology Progress Report which included the archaeology progress to date, the obstacles present, and suggested recommendations moving forward. During his presentation, Mr. Macpherson also provided a brief overview on the branding initiative currently underway for Debert; steps taken to upgrade the infrastructure at DBP; the funding application submitted to ACOA for the preparation of the Airport Development/Master Plan; and the Debert Gateway Concept and planned roundabout.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council Committee recommends to Council the continued archaeology program for 2017 with the testing of:

1. 20 acres north of Tim Hortons and on the east side of McElmon Road;
2. 10 acres west of McElmon Road, fronting on Highway 104; and,
3. Lots 226 and 227 on Lancaster Crescent; and,

That the cost of the work to be recorded as a deferred expense until the land is sold.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Earth Day Proclamation

Mr. Mark Austin advised that a request has been received for a joint proclamation with the Town of Truro and the Municipality of Colchester for Earth Day on April 22, 2017. The Earth Day Proclamation is to be signed by both Mayors on April 22nd.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council Committee proclaims April 22, 2017 as Earth Day.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Kempton/East Mountain Sewer Boundary

Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, advised that the Kempton/East Mountain Sewer line has been operational for a number of years. The line was mainly installed to carry treated leachate from the Balefill Facility to the main sewage collection system in Valley. However, it is also available for use by properties fronting on the line. To date, three out of a possible 51 have formally connected to the sewer line.

Under the Municipality’s Sewer By-law, the Engineer may require any properties fronting on the sewer system to connect into the system. To date, connection has not been made mandatory.

Discussion was held and the general consensus of Council was since the main purpose for installing the line was to deal with the Municipality's leachate and not at the request of the residents, it would not be fair to make it mandatory for all residents fronting on the line to be required to pay.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Sewer Area Rate for the Kemptown/East Mountain Sewer Boundary be applied to only those currently connected or to those who connect in future."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Bay of Fundy Gateway Project

At a Joint Council meeting on March 28, 2017, Council was presented the Fundy Gateway Masterplan which completes the first phase of the project. Since Council was not formally convened at the Joint Council meeting, the next step in the process is to formally accept the document, to make it a public record. The Town of Truro has approved a motion to accept the document at their regular monthly meeting on April 3, 2017.

Discussion was held regarding being in favour of the project, however, not being in favour of the Masterplan as presented. Concern was expressed with the \$22 million price tag on the project. Staff advised that acceptance of the document does not commit Council to anything at this point, including spending. It is before Council this evening to establish the document as a matter of public record. Councillor Stewart, as Chair of the Project Steering Committee for the Fundy Gateway Project, also indicated that all matters pertaining to the project would still require consideration and approval of Council.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that the report entitled the Fundy Gateway Masterplan be accepted as a concept document to inform the phased development of the former Palliser site."

Motion Carried.
(Councillor Cooper opposed)

Collective Bargaining

Mr. Rob Simonds, CAO, advised that correspondence from the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 3945 has been received advising of their interest to commence collective bargaining for renewal of the Collective Agreement. The current agreement expires on June 30, 2017.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That Council Committee the letter regarding the Notice to Bargain from the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 3945, be referred to staff."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**RECC Annual
Reconciliations of Capital
Expenditures**

The CAO advised that the purpose of this report is to seek Council authorization to reimburse the Rath Eastlink Community Centre (RECC) for capital work carried out during fiscal 2016-17, in accordance with the Operating Agreement.

Unbudgeted capital expenditures for 2016-17 totaled \$52,170. Of this amount, \$28,444 plus HST qualify for reimbursement, which would be cost shared 50/50 with the Town of Truro.

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that \$14,222 plus HST be reimbursed to the Rath Eastlink Community Centre in accordance with the Operating Agreement for fiscal 2016-17.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sponsorship Request

The CAO advised that staff have received a sponsorship request from the Association of Municipal Administrators Nova Scotia (AMANS) for hosting the Annual Provincial Conference, scheduled for September 26th to 29th, in Colchester. The conference will bring over 100 delegates, their companions, guest presenters and AMANS staff to the region. The sponsorship amount being requested is \$5,000. Similar requests have been made to other municipal units including the Town of Truro, the Municipality of East Hants and the Town of Westville.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Municipality endorses \$5,000 for the Association of Municipal Administrators Nova Scotia 2017 Annual Provincial Conference being held in Truro.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Council Cell Phone and
Internet Costs
Reimbursement Policy**

Council was previously canvassed on a preference for acquiring a County cell phone or reimbursement for use of their own personal and/or business cell phone. The general consensus was the latter. This Action Item addresses establishing a policy to enable reimbursement for members of Council for the use of personal or business devices for Council related work.

The recommended flat rate of reimbursement to Council members is \$50 per month, per Councillor which would cover a portion of personal or business cell/data expenses. Staff has allocated \$6,600 in the proposed 2017-18 budget to enable the implementation of a reimbursement policy.

If approved, the policy would acknowledge that any device or service account used for Council duties would be subject to FOIPOP inquiries, legal investigation, or matters deemed permissible by the CAO. It would also

release Council from liability relating to illegal use; acknowledge that non-County cell phone/internet service bills are not County responsibility; and, address PIIDPA requirements for out-of-country use.

Concern was expressed regarding privacy issues when dealing with potential FOIPOP requests with business cell phones. As a result, it was suggested that the need for County cell phones may need to be reconsidered. The discussion included the possibility of Council members acquiring a County cell phone as an option. Council directive was to leave the funds in the 2017-18 budget and that staff further investigate the matter.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee direct staff to proceed with creating a Council Cell Phone and Internet Costs Reimbursement Policy and that a flat rate of \$50 per month, per Councillor be recommended for inclusion in the 2017-18 budget; and,

That this amount be subject to review by Corporate Services with each annual budget, based on service rate trends.”

Spring UNSM Workshop 2019

Councillor Stewart sought Council’s input on the possibility of hosting the 2019 UNSM Spring Workshop, either on our own or in partnership with the Town of Truro. There would be very little cost involved; possibly the sponsorship of a hospitality event or dinner. Workshops are organized by the Rural and/or Town Caucus. The event would bring economic spin-off to the area and it would be an excellent opportunity to showcase the Municipality’s Balefill, MRF, and Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That the Municipality put its name forward for consideration to host the 2019 Spring UNSM Workshop.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Council agreed that hosting the event collaboratively with the Town of Truro would be recommended.

Wildlife By-law

Councillor MacKenzie advised that, similar to previous years, she is once again receiving complaints about people feeding wildlife in the urban area. It was suggested that if it is important enough for the Town to have a By-law and an Enforcement Officer to deal with these issues, then maybe the County should consider this as well. Councillor MacKenzie indicated that calls to the Department of Natural Resources have not resulted favourably.

Discussion was held on enforcement being an issue even if there was a municipal by-law in place. There was also discussion on whether there is provincial legislation in place on feeding deer. Mark Austin, Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer, indicated that there is no legislated prohibition on feeding deer.

The CAO suggested having educational information related to feeding wildlife be available on the County website and in the newsletter.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Director's Report

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

Service Capacity Review

At the March Council Committee meeting, staff presented Council with possible dates for a service capacity review and follow up session with Dr. Gordon MacIntosh. The original dates presented did not work for members of Council and staff were directed to bring back alternative dates.

In discussions with Dr. MacIntosh, June 5th to 7th were the suggested dates. However, with June 5th being a travel day for some Council members returning from the FCM Conference, these dates also do not work. The CAO will continue to seek alternative dates and will report back to Council by email, with three options.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That the meeting adjourn at 9:45 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary