

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, September 14, 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 (arrived at 7:25 pm)
Councillor Lloyd Gibbs	District 5
Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District 8
Vacant	District 9
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Regrets

Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
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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
 Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Mr. Mark Austin, Acting Economic Development Officer
 Ms. Tracey Veno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary
 Ms. Johanna Burris, Summer Student (Item # 11)
 Mr. Devin Trefry, Acting Research, Policy and Comm. Engagement Officer

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
 Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the agenda be approved with the following amendments:

- Add Item 9b, REN Update;
- Add Item 11b, Surplus School Property;
- Add Item 12b, Negotiations in Closed Session;
- Add Item 12c, Legal Matter in Closed Session;
- Moved Item 11 to precede Item 5.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Gregory
 Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the minutes of the meeting held on August 17, 2017 be approved with the amendment as referenced on page 1723.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meeting held on August 17, 2017.

Partners for Climate Protection Progress Update

Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development, introduced Ms. Joanna Burris, Summer Student, to provide a presentation on Partners for Climate Protection Progress Update (PCP).

In her presentation, Ms. Burris provided detailed information including:

- PCP Milestones background;
- Corporate inventory summary;
- Community inventory summary;
- Status from 2009-2017; and,
- Next steps for the project.

A copy of the presentation was included in the package for this evening's meeting.

ACTION ITEMS**Gift Receiving Policy**

Council had previously expressed interest in establishing a Gift Receiving Policy to provide guidelines for staff when gifts are being offered to members of Council.

Mr. Devin Trefry, Acting Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer, provided a brief overview of the draft Policy indicating that the main purpose of the Policy is to establish appropriateness of gift receiving and to avoid conflict of interest.

Discussion was held with concern expressed regarding the reference to gifts given by relatives or friends. It was agreed that this reference be removed from the Policy.

Concern was also expressed regarding the perception of giving gifts to members of staff. The Municipal Solicitor advised that he would give this some thought and report back to Council on this matter.

Additionally, a suggestion was made about the possibility of passing along any gifts to community groups/non-profit organizations where there is no associated affiliation.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

"That the proposed Gift Receiving Policy be referred back to staff for modifications."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

November Presentation Meeting Date

Mr. Rob Simonds, CAO, advised that the November Presentation meeting date conflicts with the UNSM Fall Conference date and is gauging Council interest in changing the meeting date to accommodate those wanting to attend the Conference.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the November Presentation meeting date be changed to Monday, November 6th.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Adoption of Strategic Priorities

Mr. Simonds reported that during the Strategic Priorities Session held in January 2017, a number of Council priorities were identified. The 2016-2020 Strategic Priorities Report, as presented, is intended to be used as a tool to guide the efforts and focus of Council and staff during the 2016-2020 term of Council and beyond.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that it adopt the 2016-2020 Strategic Priorities Report and that it continually reference the Report at each Council meeting, quarterly updates and during annual strategic priority reviews; and,

That Council request the CAO to schedule an annual Priority Setting update session prior to the start of the annual budget process.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Council Proceedings Policy Revisions

Mr. Simonds advised that this item relates to amendments to the Council Proceedings and Committees Policy, specific to the Nominating Committee. Section 37 of the Policy deals with the timing of appointing the Nominating Committee and the process in which the Committee is appointed. Council directive was to have the policy amended to allow for appointing the Nominating Committee at the inaugural session of Council and to have Council elect members of the Committee.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the amendments to the Council Proceedings and Committees Policy, relating specifically to the Nominating Committee, be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Revisions to the Municipal Funding for Insurance for Not-for-Profit Organizations

Mr. Mark Austin, Interim Economic Development Officer, provided an overview of the amended Policy as presented, indicating that Council had previously directed staff to review the Municipal Funding for Insurance for Not-for-Profit Organizations Policy with the following items requiring attention:

- Ineligibility categories such as social services agencies and religious organizations;
- Application deadlines/winter intake date; and,

- Location and jurisdiction eligibility.

Mr. Austin noted that changes within the Policy as presented include minor housekeeping items; updated definitions; clarification on intake dates; and contribution amounts being modified to indicate up to 50%, with a mechanism to reduce contributions amongst all applicants in the event amounts exceed available funds.

Detailed discussion was held on the original purpose for establishing this Policy; concerns regarding eligible applicant requirement to justify need; the possibility of capping the maximum contribution at \$500; clarification on religious groups; and jurisdictional clarification.

After considerable debate, Council agreed that items requiring clarification/amending included the following:

- Definition of Association;
- Removing the requirement of applicants justifying financial need;
- Reduced contribution percentage across the board should requested amounts exceed available funds; and
- One intake date per year.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the Municipal Funding for Insurance for Not-for-Profit Organizations Policy be referred back to staff for further modifications.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

REN Update

Councillor Parker provided an update on the REN Liaison and Oversight Committee meeting including the completion of execution of agreements by all parties, provincial funding commitments, recruitment process for the Executive Director, and office location. Councillor Parker also indicated that there is a County vacancy on the Committee which needs to be filled as soon as possible.

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Mayor Blair fill the County vacancy on the REN Liaison and Oversight Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Target Dates for Responses to Policy Related Council Directives

This item provides an update for delivery of policy related action items to Council in the coming months:

- Gift Receiving Policy – September 2017;
- Council Proceedings and Committees Policy – September 2017;
- Not-for-Profit Insurance Granting – September 2017;
- Council Cell & Internet Use/Reimbursement – October 2017;
- Grant to Not-for-Profit Organizations – November 2017;

- Economic Development Grant – November 2017;
- Sponsorship & Naming – February 2018;
- Code of Conduct & CCMARD – March 2018.

Surplus School Property

Council previously received a presentation from a group expressing interest in acquiring the former Bible Hill East Court Road School. At the time of the presentation, notification had not been received from the Chignecto Central Regional School Board declaring the property as surplus.

Since that time, staff have received a copy of a letter from the School Board declaring the property as surplus, with a deadline of September 28th for the Municipality to respond as to whether it wishes to re-convey the property.

Staff will be reviewing policy/investigating options and will provide a full report at the September 25th Council meeting for consideration.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting go into closed session at 9:30 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 11:20 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Personnel Matter – Pension Policy/Plan

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council directs staff to write a letter to the Pension Administrator requesting that the Pension Plan be amended to remove the wording concerning mandatory age requirement for retiring employees and bring back to Council for approval.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting adjourn at 11:21 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary