

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, October 12, 2017.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

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
Vacant	District 9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Regrets

Mayor Christine Blair	
Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District 8

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
 Mr. Devin Trefry, Acting Research, Policy and Comm. Engagement Officer

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
 Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the agenda be approved with the following amendments:

- Add Item 11a, Tax Change to Council Remuneration;
- Add Item 15b, Litigation in Closed Session;
- Add Item 15c, Negotiations in Closed Session;
- Moved Item 12 to Closed Session.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Stewart
 Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the minutes of the meeting held on September 14, 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 September 14, 2017.

ACTION ITEMS

Art Selection Committee

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Mayor Blair be appointed to serve on the Art Selection Committee for the Municipality of Colchester’s Art Selection Program for 2017.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That Councillor Boutilier be appointed to serve on the Art Selection Committee for the Municipality of Colchester’s Art Selection Program for 2017.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Livestock Control By-law Impoundment Fees Policy

Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor, advised that the Municipality has the authority to impose impoundment fees relative to the Livestock Control By-law. Staff are recommending a fee of \$250.00 plus an additional \$25.00 per day for each day the livestock remains impounded. This fee is comparable with other municipal units.

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the proposed Livestock Control By-law Impoundment Fees Policy, be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Cliffs of Fundy Geopark Funding Request

Mr. Devin Trefry, Acting Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer, provided a brief overview of this item indicating that Council received a presentation in May 2017 from a group seeking a UNESCO Geopark. At that time, Council agreed to appoint two representatives to a working committee, as well as provide a letter of support for the project.

As one of the representatives on the Committee, Mr. Trefry recently learned of the Committee’s two-year and nine month proposal for the project. Funding sources for the project include ACOA; NS Communities, Culture and Heritage; the Municipality of Cumberland; and, the Cumberland Geological Society. The Cliffs of Fundy Aspiring Geopark is requesting \$10,500 over three years from the Municipality and confirmation of municipal funding is critical in securing both federal and provincial funding for the project. The amount being requested from the Municipality of Colchester make up three percent of the total project.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
 Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that funding in the amount of \$10,500 (\$3,500/year for three years) be approved to the Cliffs of Fundy Aspiring Geopark, with source of funds being an unbudgeted expense in 2017/18 and Grants to Non-Profits in both 2018/19 and 2019/20.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Proposed Blue Route
 Designation for Cobequid
 Trail**

Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development advised that the Blue Route Designation ties in with trail development in Colchester County. Bicycle Nova Scotia is requesting that the Municipality enter into an agreement to facilitate the use of the Cobequid Trail as a segment of the Nova Scotia Blue Route System. A draft copy of the agreement was circulated to Council for this evenings meeting.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
 Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the designation and signing of the Cobequid Trail (rail trail section) within the Municipality of Colchester as part of the Nova Scotia Blue Route cycling network be approved; and,

That the CAO and Mayor be authorized to complete the terms of the attached agreement with Bicycle Nova Scotia.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Carter Road Sidewalk

Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, advised that the Carter Road Sidewalk was approved by Council at a total contract amount of \$319,854 excluding HST, with an internal project contingency of \$30,000.

Staff received notification from Nova Scotia Power that the cost of relocating power poles to accommodate the sidewalk would be \$26,623 with included rebated HST. There would also be costs to relocate the Aliant communication lines on the subject poles. Additionally, Basin Contracting who is doing the sidewalk work, has indicated that an additional \$5,316 would apply for winter work. These costs would exceed the approved contingency.

Ms. Newell provided two options for consideration with staff recommending option 2, approving the additional costs and delaying construction until the Spring of 2018. Should Council decide to approve this option, Basin Contracting would honour the existing contract price.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
 Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the construction of the Carter Road sidewalk be delayed until the Spring of 2018; and,

That additional costs in the amount of \$26,623 for the relocation of power poles for the project be approved.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Cell Phones and Data Use Policy

Mr. Devin Trefry indicated that this item relates to establishing a policy enabling reimbursement to Councillors for use of personal devices and accounts for Council related work. Another option would be for members of Council to acquire a County cell phone.

The Policy acknowledges that any device or service account used for Council duties would be subject to Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP) inquiries, legal matters, and other matters deemed permissible by the CAO. It also releases Council from liability relating to illegal use; acknowledge that non-County cell phone/internet service bills are not the Municipality’s responsibility; and, addresses (Personal Information International Disclosure Protection Act) PIIDPA requirements for out-of-country use. A form, as attached to the Policy, would be required to be signed prior to release of funds or acquiring a cell phone.

During discussion, concern was expressed regarding privacy issues, FOIPOP legislation, and what information is accessible. As a point of clarification, Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor indicated that regardless of whether there is a Municipal Policy, FOIPOP legislation is already in place.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Council Cell Phone & Internet Costs Reimbursement Policy be approved, as presented.”

Motion Carried.
(Councillor Gibbs opposed)

Gift Receiving Policy

A first draft of the Gift Receiving Policy was presented to Council at the September 14, 2017 Committee meeting. At that time, Council requested a few minor changes with regards to language within the Policy. These changes were implemented, vetted through legal and are before Council for consideration.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Gift Receiving Policy be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tax Change to Council Remuneration

Councillor Taggart raised the issue of the upcoming federal tax implications relating to taxing the one third portion of the Council remuneration previously not taxed and indicated that other municipal units are looking into ways to compensate for the upcoming changes. Mr. Scott Fraser advised that these changes are due to take effect in 2019.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That staff be directed to investigate possible options available to compensate for the upcoming federal tax implications with regards to Council remuneration and report back to Council by April 2018.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Director’s Report

Reports from the Director of Solid Waste and the Director of Public Works were circulated in the package for this evening’s meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the meeting go into closed session at 8:25 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 10:00 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the meeting adjourn at 10:01 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary