

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 8, 2018.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Christine Blair	
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 Bob Pash	District 9 (<i>arrived at 7:35 pm</i>)
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Regrets:

Councillor Eric Boutilier	District 1
Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District 8

Others Present

Mr. Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer
 Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
 Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr. Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste
 Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Mr. Mark Austin, Acting Economic Development Officer
 Ms. Tracey Venno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary
 Mr. Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager
 Mr. David Westlake, GIS Tech./Protective Services Coordinator
 Ms. Kelly Gratto-McCarthy, HR Specialist (*for item #9*)

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
 Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the agenda be approved with the following amendments:

- Add Item 7b, Joint Council Meeting Date;
- Add Item 9b, UNSM Spring 2019 Conference;
- Add Item 9c, Sustainable Northern Nova Scotia (SuNNS) Request – Mining in the Tatamagouche Watershed;
- Add Item 12b, Hub Centre Drive Condition;
- Add Item 17, Legal Matter in Closed Session.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Stewart
 Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That the minutes of January 9 and 11, 2018 be approved, as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meetings held on January 9 and 11, 2018.

ACTION ITEMS

Funding Application – FCM Asset Management Program

Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, advised that this item relates to the FCM Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP) which provides funding to municipalities to help improve their skills in asset management. Staff would like to put forward an application for funding consideration through the MAMP totalling \$55,100 for the following: Canadian Network of Asset Managers Conference attendance; technical training in sewer pipe video inspection; two summer students for data collection; purchase of sewer video software; and the asset management component relating to staff salary. Should the Municipality be successful in their application, receiving 80% funding, the Municipality would be accountable for the remaining 20% which would be funded by the operating budgets for sewers, roads and sidewalks.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council approval of the following resolution:

Council Resolution - Application to FCM MAMP

Be it resolved that Council directs staff to apply for a grant opportunity from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Municipal Asset Management Program for Asset Management Training and Data Collection.

Be it therefore resolved that the Municipality commits to conducting the following activities in its proposed project submitted to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Municipal Asset Management Program to advance our asset management program:

- Training and Organizational Development
- Data Collection and Reporting

Be it further resolved that the Municipality commits \$11,020 from its budget toward the costs of this initiative.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Truro Horsemen’s Club – Request for Reduced Commercial Tax Rate

Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, indicated that this item is before Council following a presentation from the Truro Horsemen’s Club requesting a reduction from the current commercial rate to the same rate as applied by the Village of Bible Hill.

During the presentation from the Truro Horsemen’s Club, a question was raised as to whether the Club was not for profit. During staff’s review of the Club’s Article of Incorporation, it was reasonably concluded that the Club is non-profit.

Section 71(1) of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) addresses tax exemptions for non-profit organizations, and Section 71(2) of the MGA speaks to the ability to reduce commercial assessments to residential rates

for qualifying non-profit organizations. The MGA does not indicate that reduced rates to mirror other local government rates can be allowed.

Part of the criteria for granting an exemption and/or reduction is that the services provided by the organizations would otherwise be a responsibility of Council. In the past, Council has been of the opinion that the services provided by the Truro Horsemen's Club would not be services in which Council would provide. Based on the Club's current Article of Incorporation, staff concur with Council's past decision and recommend no change in the Truro Horsemen's Club tax status.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that the request from the Truro Horsemen's Club for a reduced commercial tax rate be denied."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Maritime Fire Fighter
Championships Curling
Tournament**

Mr. Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager, provided an overview of this item indicating that the Bible Hill Fire Brigade is requesting a grant in the amount of \$500 to assist with costs associated with hosting the Maritime Firefighter Association Curling Bonspiel from March 22-25, 2018. The request fits the criteria of the Community Events Grant Policy and there is sufficient funds remaining in the 2017/18 budget to cover the amount being requested.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that funding in the amount of \$500 to the Bible Hill Fire Brigade for the Maritime Firefighter Association Curling Bonspiel being held March 22-25, 2018, be approved; and,

That source of funds be Community Events Grants."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Joint Council Meeting Date

Mr. Rob Simonds, CAO, advised that staff are looking to set up a date for a Joint Council meeting. Under the recently approved Restated Operating Agreement, there is a provision that the RECC operating budget must be presented to the Town and Municipality by the end of February. Dates that are workable for the Town Council are February 21st and 28th.

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That the date for the Joint Council meeting be February 28, 2018."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Brief discussion on meeting time was held with 6:00 pm being suggested. Typically these meetings begin at 7:00 pm, however, the CAO advised that he would check with the Town CAO and advise Council accordingly.

- Grant Presentation Meetings** Mr. Burgess reported that the purpose of this item is to establish dates for the annual Grant Presentation meetings.
- Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Parker
- “That February 21 and March 1, 2018 be set as the dates for the Grant Presentation meetings.”
- Motion Carried.
(Councillor Cooper opposed)
- At this point in the meeting, 7:35 pm, Councillor Pash arrived.*
- Personnel Policy Amendments** Ms. Kelly Gratto-McCarthy, HR Specialist, provided a brief overview of this item indicating that the amendments have been made to existing Personnel Policies 6.05 (Vacation Policy) and 6.21 (Wearing of Work Clothing and Safety Equipment), to be consistent with recently approved Collective Agreement; and, Policy 6.06 (Maternity and Parental Leave) to comply with legislation.
- Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Stewart
- “That Council Committee recommends to Council that existing Policies 6.05, 6.06 and 6.21 be repealed; and
- That the amended Policies 6.05, 6.06 and 6.21 be approved, as presented.”
- Motion Carried Unanimously.
- UNSM Spring 2019 Conference** Councillor Stewart advised that Council had previously approved hosting the UNSM Spring 2019 Conference collaboratively with the Town of Truro if they so wish to do so. The only expenses associated with hosting the Conference is a social event and if necessary, shuttle service between meeting facility and hotels.
- Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Taggart
- “That the Municipality commit to hosting the UNSM Spring 2019 Conference and that funding be considered during the upcoming annual budget process.”
- Motion Carried Unanimously.
- Sustainable Northern Nova Scotia (SuNNS) Request – Mining in the Tatamagouche Watershed** Mr. Simonds advised that following the presentation received from Sustainable Northern Nova Scotia (SuNNS) on February 6th, a formal letter has been received from the group requesting that Council pass a motion in support of writing a letter to the Nova Scotia Minister of Natural Resources (DNR) for a significant delay in the issuing of a Cobequid Highlands Project Mining and Exploration RFP.

Discussion was held regarding this not being an issue which falls under municipal jurisdiction and that it is important to hear from both sides before making a decision either in favour or against a postponement. A presentation from DNR is scheduled for March 6th and decision should be delayed until after that presentation. Additionally, Mr. Mark Austin, Interim Economic Development Officer, stated that he would be interested in receiving information relative to the economic impacts of such a project.

Concern was expressed with timing of the project and the importance of protecting the water/watershed area.

Moved by Councillor Parker
 Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council to support the request from Sustainable Northern Nova Scotia (SuNNS) to write a letter to the Nova Scotia Minister of Natural Resources requesting a delay in the issuing of a Cobequid Highlands Project Mining and Exploration Request for Proposals.”

Motion **DEFEATED.**
(Deputy Mayor Masters, Councillors Stewart, Gibbs, Taggart and Pash opposed)

INFORMATION ITEMS

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Registry

At the previous request of Council, this Information Item provides an overview of the current Defibrillator (AED) Registry being utilized in Nova Scotia.

As of January 2018, there are 371 defibrillators listed in the Emergency Health Services (EHS) AED Registry. EHS Medical Communications Centre call takers have access to the registry and in emergency situations, advise 911 callers of the nearest available and accessible unit. The Municipality currently owns six, registered AEDs located in or on their properties. The Municipality is not permitted to register AEDs owned by other entities.

Low Income Municipal Tax Assistance Program

Annually, the threshold and exemption amounts for the Low Income Municipal Tax Assistance Program Policy are adjusted based on Consumer Price Index. For 2018, the approved household income levels and exemption amounts are as follows:

<i>Family Size</i>	<i>Household Income</i>	<i>Exemption Amount</i>
Single	Less than \$25,431	\$192.10
Family of 2	Less than \$33,589	\$256.13
Family of 3 or more	Less than \$40,306	\$320.17

Director’s Report

A report from the Director of Solid Waste was circulated in the package for this evening’s meeting.

Hub Centre Drive Condition

A brief update was provided on the current state of Hub Centre Drive due to fluctuations in temperatures over the winter. Staff are making efforts to

remedy the situation with grading and graveling. The anticipated cost of this work is approximately \$11,000. Additionally, staff will continue to monitor road conditions for the remainder of the winter.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the meeting go into closed session at 8:17 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 10:20 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Rath Eastlink Community Centre (RECC)

Moved Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the modifications to the Colchester East Hants Health Authority offices at the RECC, at no cost to the Municipality, be authorized.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Parker
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the cost of a new wet/dry sauna unit be investigated and it be recommended to the Board to proceed with a new unit and necessary ceiling repairs up to a maximum of \$15,000; and,

That this be funded by the Municipality.”

Motion Carried.
(Mayor Blair opposed)

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Pash
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That the meeting adjourn at 10:28 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary