

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, April 12, 2018.

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 Bob Pash	District 9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Others Present

Mr. Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer
 Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
 Mr. Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development
 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 Veno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Moment of Silence

Referring to the recent tragedy involving the Humboldt Broncos, Mayor Blair advised that letters of condolences have been sent to the Mayor of Humboldt and the President of the Broncos. Council and staff were thanked for wearing jerseys for tonight's meeting and Mayor Blair advised Council of the 20 foot hockey stick donated to the RECC by Wayne Smith, in memory of those lost in the tragedy. Council, staff and everyone in attendance at the meeting stood and observed a moment of silence for the Humboldt Broncos.

Council also observed a moment of silence for Cyril McDonald, Councillor with the Municipality of East Hants, who recently passed away.

Introduction of New Colchester East Hants Regional Library CEO

Ms. Ruby McDorman, Chair of the Library Board, was in attendance to introduce Council members to the new CEO of the Colchester East Hants Regional Library, Ms. Tiffany Bartlett.

Ms. Bartlett advised that she was happy to be in her new position and looked forward to working in the area. She provided an information package to Council, a copy of which is on file in the Clerk's office.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
 Seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That the agenda be approved with the following amendments:

- Add item 10b, Donation to Humboldt Broncos;
- Add item 10c, Hilden Fire Brigade Request;
- Add item 11b, Rotary Week; and,
- Move item 11 from Information to Action.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the minutes of February 6, March 6 and 8, 2018 be approved, as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

Referring to Cannabis Conferences on page 1768, Councillor Parker requested an update on this item.

Mr. Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer, advised that at this point, very few companies are looking to set-up/establish new production facilities. He is looking into going to a couple of these conferences, possibly in Toronto and New Brunswick, not to set up booths but to take materials to help market the area. Attending conferences would be contingent upon establishing appointments beforehand.

ACTION ITEMS

Tender Award – Pleasant Valley Road Sidewalk

The tender for the re-construction of the Pleasant Valley Road sidewalk in Brookfield was advertised with a closing date of March 28, 2018. A total of eight tenders were received by the deadline. The lowest bidder, Basin Contracting, at a price of \$98,543, excluding HST, was deemed to be complete.

At its meeting on March 28, 2018, Council authorized April Committee to award the tender for the Pleasant Valley Road Sidewalk.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council approves the award of the tender for the reconstruction of the Pleasant Valley Road Sidewalk to Basin Contracting for a total contract amount of \$98,543, excluding HST; and,

Than an internal contingency of \$20,000 be approved, to be spent only on authority of the Director of Public Works.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Appointment – Chief Negotiator

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, be appointed as the Chief Negotiator for

collective bargaining with the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 4106, with the acknowledgement that he will be joined by other management staff as required.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Health Care/Doctor Recruitment

At the request of Deputy Mayor Masters, Council viewed a brief video about a small town in Ontario that took on the initiative of doctor recruitment. It was quite an extensive process with the involvement of a Recruiter, which included fundraising a large some of funds for necessary infrastructure, to entice new doctors to the Town of Goderich. The Deputy Mayor stated health care is one of our major issues and this is something that Colchester should be looking at.

Brief discussion was held with general support shown for such initiative and setting up a working committee which would include members of Council, staff, as well as counterparts from the Town of Truro and other stakeholders. It was agreed that a meeting be arranged involving the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and appropriate staff, with the Town of Truro, to discuss and gage their interest in pursuing this.

FCM Board Elections

Councillor Taggart advised that the FCM Board Elections will be taking place at the annual meeting being held in Halifax this year. He thanked Council for support over the past three years and indicated that he is seeking Council support once again to run in the Election for the FCM Board of Directors.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

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

FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES ELECTION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) represents the interests of municipalities on policy and program matters that fall within federal jurisdiction;

WHEREAS FCM’s Board of Directors is comprised of elected municipal officials from all regions and sizes of communities to form a broad base of support and provide FCM with the prestige required to carry the municipal message to the federal government; and

WHEREAS FCM’s Annual Conference and Trade Show will take place from May 31 to June 3, 2018, during which time the Annual General Meeting will be held and followed by the election of FCM’s Board of Directors;

BE IT RESOLVED that Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester endorse Councillor Tom Taggart to stand for election on FCM’s Board of Directors for the period starting in June 2018 and ending June 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council assumes all costs associated with Councillor Tom Taggart attending FCM's Board of Directors meetings."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tatamagouche Water Utility

Councillor Gregory advised that a customer of the Tatamagouche Water Utility, Mr. Peter Scott, Acadian Beverage Room, is requesting a reduction in billing due to a faulty install of a meter which he claims broke a pipe in the basement of the Acadian Beverage Room. The break caused a leak in the pipe which went undetected for a period of time causing a higher than normal water bill. Additionally, Mr. Scott incurred plumbing expenses for necessary repairs.

Feedback from the plumber indicated that the leak was at an elbow about a foot from the meter. It was not certain if the leak was caused by a faulty install or if it was just weak and would have broken anyway. The Director of Public Works advised that there were some irregularities with timelines indicating meter was replaced in July, the reading for billing was done in October, and the leak was not discovered and reported until December.

Discussion was held on past practice and necessary repairs on the side of the property owner are usually their responsibility. Also, concern was expressed with the timelines and the delay in reporting the problem from July to December.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that that charges issued by the Tatamagouche Water Utility in the amount of \$480 to the Acadian Beverage Room be written off."

Motion **DEFEATED**.

(opposed by Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors Boutilier, Stewart, Cooper, Gibbs, MacKenzie, Cavanaugh, Pash and Parker)

Donation to Humboldt Broncos

Referring to the recent tragedy involving the Humboldt Broncos, Councillor Boutilier indicated that he would like to see support provided, possibly through the Go Fund Me initiative.

During discussion, although it was felt that it is a worthy cause and a true tragedy, some concern was expressed with using tax payer's dollars to support this cause. Also, the Municipal Solicitor advised that the Municipal Government Act (MGA) stipulates that Council can approve such funding to a registered charitable organization, but Go Fund Me does not constitute 'charitable'. Also, under the MGA, Council could approve this type of funding if it was within Nova Scotia however, because it is out of province, it does not meet the parameters of the MGA.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that a donation in the amount of \$2,900 be made to the Humboldt Broncos or an appropriate organization which meets the parameters under the Municipal Government Act.”

Motion Carried.

(opposed by Councillors Stewart, MacKenzie, and Gregory)

Hilden Fire Brigade

At the request of Councillor Stewart, a copy of correspondence from the Hilden Fire Brigade was distributed on table for this evenings meeting. The letter indicates that the Hilden Fire Brigade has recently purchased property for their new fire station and are requesting consideration for continuing the sidewalk across the front of the property from the existing sidewalk at 1249 Highway 2, to 1215 Highway 2.

Brief discussion was held with concern expressed around safety issues.

Moved by Councillor Stewart

Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That staff investigate the request from the Hilden Fire Brigade regarding an extension of the existing sidewalk at 1249 Highway 2 to 1215 Highway 2 with the intent to refer to the capital budget for consideration.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

It was suggested that staff contact the Hilden Fire Brigade for clarification as to what is being requested.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Rural High Speed Internet

Mr. Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer, advised that the purpose of this item is to provide Council with an update on the status of the Colchester Internet Improvement Feasibility Study and Plan. In addition to the Information Item, a PowerPoint Presentation was prepared and distributed on table.

A detailed overview of the presentation was provided which included information on recent funding announcements; infrastructure; internet speed targets; middle and last mile strategy; top ten middle and last mile projects for Colchester; Colchester internet improvement local project overview; update on status of Annapolis County’s efforts toward improved rural internet; and possible next steps.

Mr. Austin noted that there is still significant work to do, much of which municipal staff do not have the means/capabilities of completing.

Discussion was held regarding municipal role with regards to rural broadband and the need to have a strategy and plan to proceed. Council indicated that if staff does not have the time and capabilities to move this project forward, it needs to be determined what exactly is required. It was suggested however, that contingency funding be in the budget.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier

Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That staff be directed to investigate and bring forward next steps concerning Rural High Speed Internet.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Rotary Week

Mayor Blair advised that last year Council approved that Rotary Week be proclaimed annually. The proclamation was read into the record and the Mayor advised that it would be signed tomorrow. Additionally, Council was reminded of the email that was sent previously, outlining events taking place during Rotary Week.

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 Cavanaugh

“That the meeting go into closed session at 9:25 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 10:37 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Non-Union Employee Salary Increase

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the non-union salary increase for 2018/19 be approved at 2.25%.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That the meeting adjourn at 10:39 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary