

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, May 17, 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 Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District 8
Councillor Bob Pash	District 9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Regrets

Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District 6
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Others Present

Mr. Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer
 Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
 Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr. Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Mr. Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer
 Ms. Tracey Veno, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
 Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the agenda be approved with the following amendments:

- Remove Item #12, Rural Broadband;
- Add Item #11b, Acknowledgement – Wayne Smith;
- Add Item #13b, Cliffs of Fundy Geoparks;
- Add Item #13c, New Development – Bible Hill;
- Move Item #13 from Information to Action #11c; and,
- Add Item #15, Legal Matter in Closed Session.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Stewart
 Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the minutes of February 21 & March 1, April 9, April 16 & 23, and April 12, 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 February 21 & March 1, April 9, April 16 & 23, and April 12, 2018.

ACTION ITEMS**Proclamation – Lyme Disease Awareness Month**

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee proclaims May as Lyme Disease Awareness Month.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Councillor Cooper stressed the importance of lyme disease awareness and suggested having an educational article in the next newsletter.

Solar Colchester Program

Mr. Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer, advised that this issue was previously discussed by Council on two occasions. Staff were requested to explore options with a focus on photovoltaic solar panels and report back to Council. Mr. Austin provided a brief overview of staff findings.

Discussion was held on programs from various municipal units including the Town of Truro, Antigonish, and Bridgewater; resource implications should the Municipality proceed with such initiative; solar panel programs versus other energy efficiency programs; and municipally assisted financing.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff proceed with the development of a program focussed on solar panel installation, issue an RFP, and arrange for respondents to make a presentation to Council.”

Motion Carried. *(opposed by Mayor Blair, Councillors Stewart, Cooper and Gibbs)*

Disposal of Surplus Land – Cloverdale Road, Middle Stewiacke

Staff received a request from a resident to purchase a municipally-owned property located on the Cloverdale Road in Middle Stewiacke. Mr. Dennis James indicated requests of this nature can be addressed under the Disposal of Surplus Property Policy as well as under Section 51A of the Municipal Government Act (MGA). The recommendation as presented by staff is in order.

Moved by Mayor Blair
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council the disposal of surplus land, namely PID 20048328, by private transaction to Mr. Kurt Queripel, at a purchase price of \$300.00 and that said lands be consolidated with Mr. Queripel’s existing land; and,

That any associated costs be the responsibility of the purchaser.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Capital Budget Approval

Council previously held a meeting to review the Capital Budget. Subsequent to that meeting, Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, provided an information item with details on the various Capital Budget projects.

Councillor Gibbs raised the concern of the need for a sidewalk on Harmony Road from Blainedale Drive to the existing sidewalk citing a severe safety issue and requested that this project be brought forward to be completed next year. Ms. Newell indicated that due to staff resources, another project would have to be bumped if Council decides to move this project forward.

Two projects discussed were the Harmony/Blainedale project scheduled for design work 2019-20 and construction in 2020-21; and, the Highway 311 project from the Dickson Drive subdivision to Molly's Dairy Bar, with design in the current fiscal year and construction in 2019-20.

Referring to the Active Transportation Strategy, staff noted that there are a number of criteria factored into prioritizing sidewalks. Ms. Newell suggested and Council agreed that staff look into this matter and report back to Council at the end of the month.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that the 2018-19 Capital Budget be approved, as presented."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Property Tax Exemption Request – St. David's United Church

Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, provided a brief overview of this item indicating that St. David's United Church has applied for a tax exemption. A recent Supreme Court decision was made regarding churches that house daycares not being eligible for property tax exemptions. The St. David's United Church leases space to facilitate a daycare.

Section 71A allows for Council to have a tax reduction By-law for Daycares. Colchester does have a By-law under this section of the Act which allows for granting a reduction from the commercial rate to the residential rate.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that the request for a full tax exemption from St. David's United Church be denied; and,

That the applicable reduction under the Municipality's Daycare Commercial Tax Reduction By-law be applied to this property."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Truro Model Railroaders Association Funding Request

Mr. Rob Simonds advised that the Truro Model Railroaders Association is requesting funding in the amount of \$500 for the Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders Convention being held in Truro from June 1-3, 2018.

The event meets the criteria as outlined in the Community Events Grants Policy.

Concern was expressed with the amount being requested from the County is the same amount that the group is paying the Town of Truro for rental of the Legion Stadium, as well the bottom line projection.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that funding in the amount of \$500 for the Truro Model Railroaders Association’s Convention being held in Truro on June 1-3, 2018 be approved; and,

That source of funds be Community Events Grants.”

Motion Carried. *(opposed by Councillor Stewart)*

**PCAP Funding Application,
Brookfield Sewage
Treatment Plant**

The Director of Public Works advised that the PCAP Program is administered by the Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Affairs and offers up to 50% funding for water, sewer and solid waste projects. Staff submitted an application under this program by the April 26, 2018, deadline, however, to be considered, the application required a support motion of Council.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That Council Committee recommends that Council support an application to the PCAP Funding Program for upgrades to the Brookfield Sewage Treatment Plant sludge wasting system, valued at \$25,000 plus taxes.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Wayne Smith
Acknowledgement**

Councillor Gibbs indicated that Council had previously discussed recognizing Wayne Smith for his donation to the RECC in memory of the Humboldt Broncos and it was suggested that Council come back with suggestions on ways to acknowledge Mr. Smith.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Mayor Blair

“That a framed certificate, signed by the Mayor, be presented to Mr. Smith at a future Council meeting.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Options to Address West
Earlton Noise Concerns**

Councillor Gregory indicated that this issue was brought forward by a group with concerns related to a Motocross (MX) Track in West Earlton. Residents have expressed concern regarding the noise generated from the MX Track which is affecting the quiet enjoyment of their properties; the excessive noise levels can have negative impact on farming and businesses in the area; causes adverse health effects; and is pitting residents against one another.

During Council discussion, a number of points were noted including:

- the potential for unintended consequences with the implementation of a noise by-law;
- effectiveness of a by-law;
- a by-law would affect the whole County, not just the MX Track;
- exemptions such as allowable noise levels during daytime hours;
- frequency of MX events; and,
- enforcement, with emphasis on the response letter from the RCMP.

Some members of Council felt that a noise by-law could be a deterrence preventing unwanted situations from happening.

Council also discussed existing legislation in which noise complaints could be handled including the Criminal Code and Protection of Property Act.

Referring to a letter from Mr. Wayne Edgar on May 15th, Councillor Gregory reiterated the concerns of adverse effects on health due to excessive noise levels.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff be advised to proceed with the development of a Noise By-law for Council consideration.”

Motion **DEFEATED**. (*opposed by Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Masters, Councillors Stewart, Gibbs, Cooper, Cavanaugh, Pash, Taggart, and Parker*)

INFORMATION ITEMS

Cliffs of Fundy Geoparks

Mayor Blair advised that the Cliffs of Fundy Geoparks recently cleared a major hurdle towards Unesco designation.

The CAO advised that there may be opportunity to have a County representative attend a conference in Italy with the Geopark group. The majority of the costs for this would be borne by the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark group. Discussion was held on who should represent the Municipality. The CAO advised that it is his understanding that it would be a staff representative. Council expressed interest in the possibility of paying the costs to have the Mayor attend as well.

New Development – Bible Hill

Councillor Parker indicated that he has received calls from residents expressing concern about the lack of notice and consultation with the new development in Bible Hill. The CAO advised that staff received an email from a resident and a letter of response is being sent to address the concerns.

Director’s Report

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

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Gregory

Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the meeting go into closed session at 8:45 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 8:47 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting adjourn at 8:50 pm.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary