

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

The Regular Session of the Council Committee of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was conducted virtually, via Zoom Webinars and in-person on May 14, 2026, beginning at 6:00 pm.

In peace and friendship, and in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, it was acknowledged that the Municipality of Colchester is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.

Roll	Mayor Christine Blair	
	Cllr. Paul Weatherby	District 1
	Deputy Mayor Laurie Sandeson, Chair	District 2
	Cllr. Sheldon Richardson	District 3
	Cllr. Mike Cooper	District 4 (arrived at 6:03pm)
	Cllr. Tim Johnson	District 5
	Cllr. Nigel Leggett	District 6
	Cllr. Sherry Martell	District 7
	Cllr. Lisa Patton	District 8
	Cllr. Marie Benoit	District 9
	Cllr. Charlene Fletcher	District 10
	Cllr. Allan Kennedy	District 11

Staff Present

Dan Troke, Chief Administrative Officer
 Phil Redden, Director of Solid Waste
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works (virtually)
 Paul Smith, Director of Community Development
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Jenn Mantin, Economic Development Officer
 Mollie MacBurnie-Haas, IT Support
 Devin Trefry, Research Policy, and Community Engagement Officer

Approval of Agenda Moved by Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Richardson
 "That the agenda be approved as presented." Carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Leggett
 "That the minutes of the meetings held on April 13, 16, and 20, 2026, be approved as presented." Carried unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes None.

ACTION ITEMS

Hilden Fire Brigade Debt Financing *Councillor Richardson declared a conflict of interest and recused himself from discussion on this matter.*

Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, indicated that under the *Municipal Government Act*, municipalities are permitted to borrow on behalf of Fire Brigades that are established under the *Societies Act*. A request has been received from the Hilden Fire Brigade about debt financing arrangements through the Municipality for the construction of a new fire hall.

Included as part of the report was information on HFB's maximum borrowing for the project, current financials, annual revenues, repayment schedule details, the process of borrowing through the Provincial Treasury, proposed loan schedule, interest rates, and conceptual designs for the new hall.

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

"That Council Committee recommends to Council approval of debt financing the Hilden Fire Brigade's new fire hall through the Provincial Treasury Board with the Hilden Fire Brigade to repay principal and interest annually." Carried unanimously.

Award of Birch Street Sidewalk Replacement Tender

Councillor Martell declared a conflict of interest and recused herself from discussion on this matter.

Director of Public Works Michelle Boudreau, reported on the Award of Tender for the Birch Street Sidewalk Replacement. Included in the report was project details, tender information and timelines, submissions received, approved budget information and options for consideration. Staff recommendation is to award the tender to Humphrey's Landscape & Construction Ltd. for a total contract amount of \$270,720 excluding HST.

At the meeting on April 27, 2026, Council granted May Committee to award the Birch Street Sidewalk Replacement tender.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Mayor Blair

"That the tender for the replacement of 595m of sidewalk along Birch Street, between East Prince Street and Spruce Drive, in Salmon River, be awarded to Humphrey's Landscape & Construction Limited for a total contract amount of \$270,720 excluding HST, with an anticipated total project value of \$325,000."

MacElmon Roundabout and Servicing

The Director of Public Works provided an update on the proposed traffic roundabout on MacElmon Road in Debert. The update included a review of previous directives, alternative intersection options, budget considerations and approvals, archaeological constraints, potential economic development opportunities, and the benefits associated with a roundabout. As MacElmon Road falls under provincial jurisdiction, provincial requirements were also considered. Following staff review and consultation with the Province, it was determined that a roundabout is the only feasible option for establishing a new intersection at this location. Staff is seeking directive on the next steps for the project.

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Patton

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that the tendering for a new single land roundabout on MacElmon Road, including new highway frontage roads, proceed in early 2027."

Lengthy discussion was held regarding the proposed roundabout including concerns a single-lane roundabout not being sufficient for long combination vehicles (LCV), archaeology challenges and associated costs, alternative routing options, continued delays in advancing the project resulting in increased project costs and investing funds in the airport rather than the proposed roundabout. Also included as part of the debate was the potential

economic benefits of the roundabout, including growth opportunities for the Debert airport.

Given the discussion, the possibility of tabling the motion was suggested to allow staff to return with additional information based on the concerns and topics raised during the meeting.

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That discussion on the MacElmon Roundabout and Servicing be tabled.”
Motion carried (*Councillor Fletcher opposed*).

Onsite Water Supply and Septic Program

Following drought like conditions in 2025, Council directed staff to look into programs to assist residents with onsite water supply. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, provided a report on establishing a Municipal Financing Program for residents looking to replace onsite well supply or septic systems. Included in the report was information on what is permitted under the Municipal Government Act, developing a by-law outlining clear guidelines and processes for application, rates and charges, and recovery of outstanding payments. Staff is seeking direction on proceeding with a by-law to establish a Program for Well & Septic Financing.

Brief discussion was held on clarification around how being a first lien on the property would work and having guidelines clearly outlined in the By-law.

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That staff be directed to proceed with developing a by-law to establish a Program for Well & Septic Financing for Council consideration.” Carried unanimously.

East Mountain Sewer Boundary

The Director of Public Works reported on the proposed creation of a sewer service boundary along Pictou Road in East Mountain. Following the adoption of the new county-wide Land Use By-law and Municipal Planning Strategy, the lands within this area are now zoned, creating a need to establish a sewer service boundary to support the subdivision and development approval process.

Considerable debate took place regarding concerns that residents with existing sewer systems in good working condition being required to pay for the service regardless of whether they choose to connect to the municipal system. The possibility of grandfathering or exempting properties with established systems from paying the service charge was discussed. The Municipal Solicitor advised that he would investigate whether such an exemption is possible and report back to Council at the end-of-month meeting.

Additional discussion focused on the need to maintain consistency with past practice, noting that in other service areas, residents were not provided the option to opt out or be exempt from sewer service charges if they chose not to connect to the municipal system.

Moved by Councillor Leggett, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the proposed sewer service boundary for East Mountain, along Pictou Road/Highway 4, from

Jollytown Road to Mingo Road, be adopted as presented.” Motion carried *(Councillors Cooper, Martell and Benoit opposed)*.

**Council Proceedings and
Committees Policy
Amendments**

Devin Trefry, Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer, provided a report on the proposed amendments to the Council Proceedings and Committees Policy. Review of this Policy is required periodically to address procedural issues, committee changes, and minor housekeeping edits. Additionally, reflecting on Council’s commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility, inclusive language edits are also being proposed.

Brief discussion took place with positive comments on the section pertaining to recording and note taking for in-camera sessions, as well as reference to the new Council Correspondence Policy. A typo at section 68 was noted involving changing Tatamagouche Water Utility to Debert Water Utility.

Additional discussion was held regarding the possibility of further strengthening the Policy. While Part III of the Policy addresses Committees of Council, it may be beneficial to also include provisions related to appointments to external boards, including the terms of such appointments and guidelines governing the sharing of in-camera information obtained through participation on external boards. The CAO advised that these suggested amendments could be brought forward at a future meeting for consideration.

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that amendments to the Council Proceedings and Committees Policy be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

**Proclamation Requests, Truro
Junior and Senior ‘A’ Bearcats**

With recent victories of the Truro Junior and Senior ‘A’ Bearcats, Mayor Blair and Councillor Johnson received calls requesting proclamations in recognition of these victories.

By policy, Council Committee has authority to approve proclamations.

Moved by Mayor Blair, seconded by Councillor Richardson

“That Council Committee approves proclamations for the Truro Senior ‘A’ Mosaik Bearcats Hollingsworth Cup Championship and the Truro Junior ‘A’ Bearcats 2025/26 Maritime Hockey League Championship, as presented.” Carried unanimously.

**Rath Eastlink Community
Centre – Award of RFP
Engineering Services**

The CAO advised that support is being sought for the Rath Eastlink Community Centre Board motion to award the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Engineering Services for a Facility Condition Assessment. A brief overview was provided on the tender process and scoring and costs of the top three submissions. The assessment will be supported and reviewed by the Municipality’s Public Works Department.

Points of discussion included clarification that support for the recommendation meant agreement with the decision to award the contract and not approval of additional funding; concerns around RFP excluding reference to the Municipality of Colchester; having joint RFP documents going forward; and the Municipality’s Public Works Department providing technical support for the engineering services.

Moved by Mayor Blair, seconded by Councillor Richardson

“That Council Committee recommends that Council support the RECC Board’s decision to award the Facility Condition Assessment to Eastpoint Engineering for \$40,828.” Carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Director of Community Development

This item informs Council that following the recent retirement announcement from current Director of Community Development, Paul Smith, the recruitment process has been completed, and Reid Shepherd was selected as the top candidate. Mr. Shepherd has accepted the position and will commence with the Municipality on June 3, 2026.

Director’s Report

A report from the Director of Public Works was circulated in the meeting package.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Benoit , seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That the meeting go into closed session at 7:44pm.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 8:02pm.” Carried unanimously.

Negotiations – Central Nova Scotia Tourism Development Society Bid to Host World Women’s Championship

Moved by Councillor Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Kennedy

“That Council Committee recommend to Council that a letter of support be provided for the Central Nova Scotia Tourism Development Society bid to host the 2028 World Women’s Curling Championship in Nova Scotia.” Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councillor Richardson, the meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary