

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

The Regular Session of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Courthouse, Truro, Nova Scotia, on Wednesday, May 30, 2018.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Christine Blair, Chair	
Councillor Eric Boutilier	District 1
Deputy Mayor Bill Masters	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

Regrets

Councillor Wade Parker	District 11
------------------------	-------------

Staff Present

Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer
 Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development
 Wayne Wamboldt, Director of Solid Waste
 Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Paul Smith, Senior Planner (for agenda item #2)
 Pam Macintosh, Planner (for agenda item #2)
 Darlyne Proctor, Waste Reduction Manager (for agenda item #13)

Public Hearing – Elizabeth Bishop House Heritage Designation

Mayor Blair called the Public Hearing to order respecting an application for a Municipal Heritage Property Designation involving an application made by the St. James Church of Great Village Preservation Society that would allow for the designation of the Elizabeth Bishop House, located at 8740 Highway 2 in Great Village, PID #'s 20127379, and 20434965, as a Municipal Heritage Property. The text for the application and a related staff report have been circulated to Council members and have been made available to the public.

Mr. Rob Simonds, CAO, advised that the guidelines of the Heritage Property Act regarding Heritage Designation and Hearing process have been followed.

Mayor Blair reminded Councillors that only those Councillors present throughout the Public Hearing process can vote on the Heritage Designation when eventually considered by Council. The Public Hearing is Council's opportunity to hear about the application and any concerns of Colchester County residents. Individual Councillors will have an opportunity to debate the merits of the Heritage Designation when the

motion is presented to Council. Staff are present to answer any technical questions that may arise as a result of the public's input.

Ms. Pam Macintosh provided an overview of the application and a slideshow presentation on the property. The Elizabeth Bishop House forms a significant part of the history of Great Village and staff supports the request to designate the Elizabeth Bishop House as a Municipal Heritage Property.

Ms. Laurie Gunn was in attendance on behalf of the St. James Church of Great Village Preservation Society and spoke briefly about Elizabeth Bishop which included the reading of a poem written by Ms. Bishop entitled 'Filling Station'.

Responding to a question about whether this application commits the Municipality to future funding contributions, Ms. Macintosh advised that it does not.

Councillor Taggart provided the report from the Heritage Advisory Committee meeting of March 15, 2018.

Mr. Simonds advised that no written submissions have been received regarding this application.

There were no members of the public wishing to speak on this matter.

With no further discussion on the matter, as Chair of the Heritage Advisory Committee, Councillor Taggart put the following motion on the floor:

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Pash

"That Council approves that the Elizabeth Bishop House located at 8740 Highway 2, PID numbers 20127379 and 20434965, in Great Village, be designated as a Municipal Heritage Property ."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Mayor Blair advised that the property is now approved as a Municipal Heritage Property, pursuant to the Colchester Heritage Property By-law, and with no further business on this matter, declared the Public Hearing closed.

Appointment of Municipal Solicitor

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That Council waives policy and appoints Patterson Law as the Municipality's Solicitor for fiscal year 2018-19."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

"That the agenda be approved with the following amendments:

- Add Item # 8b, 4-H Funding;
- Add Item # 15b, Reach for the Top;
- Add Item # 18b, Cannabis Opportunities; and,
- Add Item # 23, Negotiations in Closed Session.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That the minutes of the meeting held on April 26, 2018 be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meeting held on April 26, 2018.

Standing Committee Reports and Recommendations

Council Committee Report from Meeting Held on May 17, 2018

Deputy Mayor Masters, Chair, presented the report from the Council Committee meeting held on May 17, 2018:

Solar Colchester Program

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

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

Motion Carried. *(opposed by Councillors Cooper and Stewart)*

Disposal of Surplus Land – Cloverdale Road, Middle Stewiacke

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council approves 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

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That Council approves the 2018-19 Capital Budget as presented.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council denies the request from St. David’s United Church for a full tax exemption; and,

That the application 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

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council approves funding in the amount of \$500 for the Truro Model Railroaders Association for the Convention being held in Truro on June 1-3, 2018; and,

That source of funds be Community Events Grants.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

PCAP Funding Application, Brookfield Sewage Treatment Plant

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That Council supports 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.

Options to Address West Earltown Noise Concerns

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That staff not proceed with the development of a noise by-law.”

Motion Carried. (*opposed by Councillors MacKenzie, Boutilier and Gregory*)

Nominating Committee Report from Meeting Held on May 30, 2018

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

"That Council re-appoints Duane Rath to serve on the RECC Board for a term of three years."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Review of Priority – Hwy 311/ Harmony Road Sidewalks

Reporting on a previous request of Council regarding safety considerations and prioritization of sidewalks on Harmony Road from Deuville's Rink to Blainedale Drive and Highway 311 from Dickson Drive to Molly's Dairy Bar, Ms. Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works, provided details of staff's findings.

An inquiry on the possibility of doing both projects at the same time was made, however, due to staff resources, Ms. Newell advised that this is not an option. Discussion was held and concern raised regarding the statistics as provided for each sidewalk project, including the length of sidewalk, the number of homes serviced, and the busing of children. Some members of Council indicated that knowing the number of people that would utilize each sidewalk would be beneficial. Ms. Newell noted that staff did not have time to do those counts.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Pash

"That Council approves remaining status quo as it relates to sidewalk on Harmony Road and Highway 311, as presented in the Capital Budget document."

Motion Carried. *(opposed by Councillor Gibbs)*

Funding for 4-H

Councillor Cavanaugh advised that 4-H representatives have been working on the barn project and are looking for funding in the amount of \$50,000. The group is hoping to have the funds to carry on work before the Provincial Exhibition.

Discussion was held on the barn being a provincially owned property and the lease agreement currently in place. Debate regarding the recent decision during budget deliberations to deny funding to Scotia Pool based on the same principle was held. Further discussion was held on past and continued funding support to Scotia Pool, with concern expressed on the amount of funding that is expected to come from tax payers; and, funding provided for capital versus operating.

Some members of Council noted that the decision to not support the 4-H funding request previously was primarily due to the existing lease with the province and with no change in the lease, their position has not changed.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

"That Council supports Colchester 4-H in the amount of \$50,000 for fiscal 2018-19."

Motion **DEFEATED**. (*opposed by Mayor Blair, Councillors Boutilier, Stewart, Cooper, MacKenzie, Gregory, Pash, and Taggart*)

**Area Rates and Budgets
2018-19**

Mr. Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, indicated that the area rates are related to specific services provided to specific areas. The only changes to the area rates for 2018-19 are for street lights, with some areas having a decrease of one cent and other areas seeing a slight decrease in the flat rate. This is mainly due to the switch over to LED lights.

Referring to the surplus for the street light area rate for Brookfield, the question was raised as to why this area rate did not decrease. Mr. Fraser noted that a one cent decrease would result in a deficit next year.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That Council approves the 2018-19 Area Rates Budget, as presented."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Award of Tender, Village
Line Sidewalk – Authority to
Approve**

Ms. Newell advised that the tender closing for the construction of the Village Line Avenue sidewalk from Pictou Road to College Road was delayed with a new tender closing date anticipated for early June. Staff are seeking authority for June Council Committee to award the tender.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Masters

"That Council authorizes June Council Committee to award the tender for the construction of the sidewalk on Village Line Avenue."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Tender Award One and a
Half Ton Truck, Wastewater
Collection**

Ms. Newell introduced this item indicating that Council's approved Capital Budget for fiscal 2018-19 included \$60,000 for the purchase of a new one and a half ton truck with dump body. The tender for this truck was issued on May 11, 2018 with a closing date of May 29, 2018. Two bids were received by the closing and staff is recommending the tender be awarded to Hollis Ford.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That Council authorizes staff to award the tender for the purchase of a one and a half ton truck for Wastewater Collection operations to Hollis Ford in the amount of \$53,777.46, excluding HST, with source of funds being the Public Works Vehicle Reserve."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Appointment of Audit
Committee**

Mr. Rob Simonds, CAO, advised that as per Section 44 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA), Council is required to annually appoint an Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee is comprised of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chair of the Planning Advisory Committee, Alternate Council Committee Chair, and, due to recent changes to the MGA, at least one person who is not a member of Council or an employee of the Municipality. Staff recently advertised in the local paper for applicants to fill this vacancy but no submissions were received. The MGA also stipulates that the Audit Committee will continue to perform its duties and exercise its powers until the vacancy is filled. Staff will re-advertise for this position in the coming months.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council appoints the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Alternate Chair of Council Committee, and the Chairperson of the Planning Advisory Committee to the Audit Committee for the 2018-19 fiscal year.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**First Reading – Amendments
to Chapter 33, Solid Waste
By-law**

Ms. Darlyne Proctor, Waste Reduction Manager, provided a summary of the draft amended Solid Waste By-law. The suggested changes in the By-law are blue bags only for recyclables and leaf collection.

Under the current contract, recyclables can be placed in either blue or clear bags. This can cause confusion for the hauler as it is sometimes hard to identify garbage versus recycled material, thus, can result in wrong materials being brought to the facilities in Kempton. Also, the existing contract does not allow for collection of leaf and yard waste, however, haulers have been picking up this material, as space permits.

Discussion was held on the draft amendments with some concern being expressed with switching to blue bags only for recyclable materials. Also, referring to the collection of leaf and yard waste, a question was raised as to the costs, if included in the new collection contract. Mr. Wayne Wamboldt indicated that it would likely increase costs but at this point it is uncertain to what extent. Up to now, the haulers have been providing the service pro-bono.

Further discussion was held on the topic of salvaging. Although not strongly enforced, the existing contract does not allow for salvaging. Some members of Council expressed interest in amending the by-law which would allow the salvaging of specific items.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Taggart

“That Council approves, by way of First Reading, amendments to Chapter 33 – Solid Waste By-law, as presented.”

Motion **DEFEATED**. *(opposed by Deputy Mayor Masters, Councillors Stewart, Cooper, Gibbs, Gregory, and Cavanaugh)*

Council expressed interest in amending the By-law with the change regarding blue bags; to include options for leaf and yard waste collection;

modifications relating to the section dealing with salvaging; and, that these changes be brought back for consideration.

Due to this matter being somewhat time sensitive with the timelines for the tender for the new collection contract, as well as Council's July recess, it was **agreed** that a Special Session of Council be held immediately before the June Council Committee meeting to consider First Reading, with intent to advance to Second Reading at the Regular June Council Session.

**Colchester Historical Society
– Request for Funding**

The Colchester Historical Society (CHS) currently receives annual funding in the amount of \$10,000. This item relates to a request received during budget deliberations and a subsequent presentation, for increased funding to \$25,000 annually. The increased funding will be used to hire an employee to foster and manage the anticipated increase in financial activity resulting from CHS's implementation of a five-year Fund Development Strategy and to provide the administrative support needed to assist the two full time staff to focus on curatorial and archival duties.

Mayor Blair advised that the Town of Truro has already approved the increased funding, however, noted that the amount went from \$19,000 to \$25,000, a 32 percent increase.

Discussion was held on the intended use of the funds; whether the request for increased funding is perpetual; and, supporting the request for the current year but not necessarily on an on-going basis.

Moved by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That the annual level of funding to the Colchester Historical Society be maintained at \$10,000."

Motion DEFEATED. *(opposed by Deputy Mayor Masters, Councillors Boutilier, Gibbs, MacKenzie, Taggart and Cavanaugh)*

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Masters

"That Council approves funding in the amount of \$25,000 for fiscal 2018-19 and that the annual amount be returned to \$10,000 after fiscal 2018-19."

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

**Nature Conservancy –
Request for Letter of Support**

The Nature Conservancy of Canada made a presentation to Council on May 1, 2018 and at that meeting, a request was made for a letter of support to have the Cobequid Bay included as part of the Bay of Fundy Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network.

Brief discussion was held with concerns being cited in relation to conservations and infringement/enjoyment and livelihood along the shoreline.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

"That Council directs staff to write a letter to the Nature Conservancy of Canada in support of their application to have the Cobequid Bay added to the Bay of Fundy Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network.

Motion Carried. *(opposed by Deputy Mayor Masters, Councillors Cooper, Cavanaugh, and Taggart)*

Reach for the Top

Councillor Taggart advised that he received a letter from a parent regarding three students from West Colchester on the Cobequid Educational Centre Reach for the Top team. The group is fundraising to assist with attending the National Championships.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

"That Council approves \$500 for the Cobequid Educational Centre Reach for the Top team to assist in getting to the National Championships."

Motion **DEFEATED**. *(opposed by Mayor Blair, Deputy Mayor Masters, Councillors Boutilier, Stewart, Cooper, MacKenzie, and Cavanaugh)*

Correspondence - ACTION

**Justin Bergamini,
Administrative Assistant,
Office of the Senator, Nancy
Greene Raine**

An email to Mayor Blair dated April 30, 2018, concerning a proclamation for National Health and Fitness Day.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That Council proclaims the first Saturday in June as National Health and Fitness Day (NHFD)."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**FCM, Special Advocacy
Fund**

An invoice dated May 4, 2018 from FCM for the Special Advocacy Fund. It was noted that this 2-year Special Advocacy Fund was discussed at the March Council meeting. It is a voluntary contribution to be used to advocate municipal priorities for the next Federal Election.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Pash

"That Council supports the 2-year FCM Special Advocacy Fund and agrees to Option #1, full payment in the amount \$1,840."

Motion Carried. *(opposed by Councillor Boutilier)*

**Steven Emery and Michael
Laycock**

A letter to Mayor Blair and Council regarding solid waste/ recycling and year-round road maintenance for Stewiacke River Park Road.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That the letter from Steven Emery and Michael Laycock regarding solid waste/ recycling and year-round road maintenance for Stewiacke River Park Road be referred to staff."

Motion Carried. *(opposed by Deputy Mayor Masters and Councillor Cavanaugh)*

Jordan Burns

A letter dated May 14, 2018, requesting support for travels with missionaries to Africa.

Council agreed to receive the letter for information purposes.

**Correspondence -
INFORMATION**

Development Officer

A copy of the Development Activity report received from the Development Officer for the month of April 2018. Council agreed to receive the report for information purposes.

Building Inspector

A copy of the Building Permit Statistics received from the Building Inspector for the month of April 2018. Council agreed to receive the report for information purposes.

Strategic Priorities Report

A copy of the Strategic Priorities Report. Council agreed to receive the report for information purposes.

UNSM Board Report

A copy of the UNSM Board Report dated May 10, 2018. Council agreed to receive the report for information purposes.

INFORMATION ITEMS

**Asset Management –
Summary of Progress**

A detailed progress report on Asset Management Inventory was distributed as part of the Council package. Council agreed to receive the report for information purposes.

**Tax Change to Council
Remunerations**

This Information Item provided an update on the upcoming federal tax change for Council remuneration. Discussions on this issue are ongoing at the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). Staff reached out to see how this is being handled by other municipalities but did not receive a lot of feedback. Staff also noted a couple of options for consideration:

- Pay the same compensation and individuals would then pay tax on the full amount;
- Adjust the gross compensation to offset all or part of the taxation implication.

Some members of Councils expressed interest in the latter of the two options. The CAO advised that the analysis is ongoing and staff would report back as more information becomes available.

Cannabis Opportunities

Mr. Mark Austin, Economic Development Officer, provided Council with a brief update on upcoming plans regarding cannabis opportunities noting that he will be attending an Expo in Toronto, O'Cannabiz, on June 7th and

8th. This will be an opportunity to meet and speak with companies about the possibility of expanding into Atlantic Canada and make them aware of Colchester County. The main intent for attending will be marketing and fact finding.

**Reports from Councillors
Appointed to Outside Boards
and Agencies**

Copies of reports from the Mayor and Councillors were circulated in the package or placed on table for this evenings meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

"That the meeting go into closed session at 10:42 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Boutilier

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 11:23 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Extension of Residential
Curbside Waste Collection**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

"That Council authorizes an extension of the current waste collection contract with Miller Waste for the expiry date of the current contract from June 30, 2018 to August 31, 2018; and,

That the cost of the two month extension of the collection contract would be \$307,613 plus applicable HST."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That the meeting adjourn at 11:30 pm."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary