

Community Grants Altered by Council

By Maurice Rees

In its deliberations during deletions and addition discussions, Colchester Council altered the requested amount, while still approving funding.

Grace Jollimore Joyce Arts Centre, Tatamagouche requested \$20,000 for each of two years to secure performances to the centre. Not for salaries. Council noted they give \$25,000 annually for 3 years to Marigold Centre. Councillor Parker indicated a need to get one grant for variety of groups in an area. Boutillier would support \$5,000 for five years. Deputy Mayor Stewart said the place for ask is outside grants, similar to Marigold and Maggie's Place. Gregory's motion

\$10,000 for two years was defeated. He then reintroduced a new motion for \$5,000 for one year which was approved.

Northumberland Arts Council - Requested \$19,942.00. Johnson said balance sheet shows \$35,000 and they can pay themselves. Councillor Gregory noted building supplies and windows have been purchased in Pictou County. Deputy Mayor Stewart suggested purchases should remain in the county. Gregory's new motion for \$5,000 was approved, with Councillors, Boutillier, Cooper, Johnson, MacKenzie, and Deputy Mayor Stewart voting nay.

\$50,459 for Community Grants Approved

Continued from page 1

rate, or ask staff to find other reductions.

Councillor MacKenzie inquired if council has access to the \$1-Million received under the Safe Restart Program. Scott Fraser, CFO said the fund could not be used for grants as it was intended to assist where revenues have been lost due to CoVid-19. CAO Rob Simonds interjected, the municipality is waiting for answers regarding usage of the fund for recreation facilities who suffered significant revenue losses. He added during a recent virtual meeting of Mayors and CAO's Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) was requested to contact Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) for clarity and response to seek clarification for Federal Government.

Those applicants who received approval included: Canadian Mental Health Assn - (guaranteed \$10,000), requested additional \$3,000; CARMA Colchester Chapter - \$3,000 request was defeated. On new motion from Councillor Gregory new motion for \$1,500 was approved.

Colchester East Hants Hos-

pital Society, \$4,600 carried; Farm Equipment Museum submitting their first request for \$3,000 was approved. Middle Stewiacke Recreation Assn, request \$2,500. Losses due to CoVid, but had a major repair which needed to be done, or would have to close building, Cooper.

Middleton Community Hall Assn last applied in 2014 were approved for \$1,500; Remembering Canada's Heros, \$600; Falls Community Hall Society, \$2,809.10. Northern Healthy Connections Society - Requested \$2,500. In voting against, Councillor Gregory said can't understand why up to local groups to provide, with the amount of money we give to province to education.

Truro Curling Club for accessibility lift applied for \$3,000. The club also applied for provincial grant for up to \$50,000, Town of Truro and Colchester. \$3,000 request was defeated. A new motion for \$1,500 was carried with request funds be held until other requests are confirmed. Alton Recreation Centre, \$2,000. Earlton Community Centre - Gregory no fundraising for two years asked for \$1,000 and were approved. Stewart

noted \$20,800 in bank. Gregory replied major repairs to paint, roof, commercial sink and taps probably up around \$10,000.

Brule Community Centre, \$1,000; Tatamagouche Boat Shop - Bandsaw and dust collector, \$2,950; Burnside Pembroke Community Park Association requested \$10,000. Motion was changed to and approved at \$5,000;

TREY - Trauma Recovery for Exploited to Youth for \$2,500. MacKenzie is this not part of Community Services? Craig Burgess said they did apply, but grants went to other larger organizations. Taggart and Benoit suggested \$5,000. Original motion was defeated. Taggart's new motion for \$5,000 was approved.

Stewiacke Information Visitor Centre - \$2,580. Annual request. Referred to budget process. Then brought to council for deliberation and direction. Cooper make part of base budget.

Under the Community Events Grant requested, the following were considered: Nova Scotia Remember Legacy Society Memorial Run - \$5,000 previously passed. Tata Fest 2021 - Aug 26-29,

J-Class Roads Dominates Discussion

Continued from page 1

pal election. At one point Parker said, "We've been beating this since I have been on council. We keep avoiding the matter and taxpayers who elected us did so expecting us to make decisions on their behalf".

On the other side of the discussion, Councillor Cooper said, "Hard to ask general public for pay more for roads not in their area". Councillor Taggart who has insinuated he would never vote for taxpayers in other areas to pay for repaving elsewhere also said, "When they bought years ago, it was on dirt road. Value of property would increase and certainly offset any costs".

Councillor MacKenzie, District 6, stated in exasperation, from recently receiving two calls about condition of roads in her district said she told taxpayers, not to call her saying, "I give up. I am appalled. County will not pay. Call Mrs Casey". She added there are no sidewalks in her immediate area, but she is charged an area rate for sidewalks on College Road and Pictou Road.

The thought of an area rate might be gaining momentum, and reducing the opinions of some councillors, "people will not pay for improving roads in other areas". During one segment of the discussion, Councillor Parker stated that improved roads benefit the entire municipi-

\$7,000. Passed. Other events in community. Entertainment at Grace, Family event, no alcohol. Truro Harness Owners Association, \$1,200 approved.

Councillor Sanderson suggested if meeting on Grant presentations could happen earlier after the presentations as fresher in mind.

ality and over time many people will go to other areas for work, a wedding, visit family or other activities. He said that in his own case, the travels for work throughout the area, and although he doesn't live there, he often drives on roads in Brookfield, Valley or West Colchester.

Other councilor comments included the general budget has financial contributions to the regional library, the Colchester-East Hants Health Centre, RECC which are easily identifiable as municipal initiatives. To further the idea that areas rates for J-Class repaving should be acceptable was the amount of money spent and being spent at the Debert Business Park, suggesting not everyone has as direct benefit or is employed by a business in the park.

Near the end of the discussion a comment was made regarding the new Debert Aviation Centre. Comment from around the council table was it has been

suggested and there is strong opposition to take \$175,000 from the general tax coffers in the municipal budget to pay the county's 25% share of a municipal wide repaving program, yet within a month or so we will probably be asked to pay up to \$400,000 in additional costs to finish the new Debert Aviation Centre.

The matter will be brought back to council meetings in May, with an expanded list of "how to" and options. On the possibility certain districts might wish not to participate in the repaving program. Public Works Director stated each October the municipality must advise the province what J-Class roads it adds to the annual list. CFO, Scott Fraser and CAO, Rob Simonds suggested there are a few months to develop a plan and that participating districts could be identified each year, but when they were "in", they were "in" for the long haul.

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