Rath Eastlink Community Centre

9:00 AM March 24, 2026
Colchester Council Chambers

Members Present:	Cathy Hinton, Mayor, Town of Truro Tim Johnson, Councillor, Municipality of Colchester Al Kennedy, Councillor, Municipality of Colchester Deb Pryor, Councillor, Town of Truro Paul Weatherby, Councillor, Municipality of Colchester
Staff Present:	Dan Troke, CAO, Municipality of Colchester Mike Dolter, CAO, Town of Truro Suzanne Graham, Recording Secretary, Municipality of Colchester
Regrets:	Bill Thomas, Deputy Mayor, Town of Truro
Call to Order:	The meeting was called to order by Tim Johnson, Chair.
Approval of Agenda:	The agenda was circulated for review and several items were added: 4(a) Update from Interim CEO, Joel Dawe 4(b) Tender for facilities review 4(c) Business arising from Minutes **Moved by Cathy Hinton** **Seconded by Paul Weatherby** **“That the agenda be approved as amended”.** **Motion Carried.**
Approval of Minutes:	It was noted that Al was not late for the last meeting, it was a mistake from a previous meeting. **Moved by Paul Weatherby** **Seconded by Al Kennedy** **“That the minutes be approved as amended”.** **Motion Carried.**
Draft 2026 Operating Budget:	Brad Lawrence was in attendance to present this item, starting with giving an explanation of how things work at the facility. The RECC has 4 core revenue streams:

(1) Membership Revenue - there are 4 levels of membership options: 1 month, 3 months, 6 months and 1 year.
(2) Rental Revenue – options include fitness, arena, pool, rock wall and whole facility.
(3) Advertising and Sponsorship Revenue – from board signage, ice logos, facility advertising and loft suites.
(4) Other Grant Revenue – Provice of NS, ACOA, Infrastructure grants, Summer student grants.

The addition revenue generator is major events. These come in 2 forms: Rentals or Self Produced. Rentals typically make less money but they are a guaranteed revenue with no risk. Seld produced events are where RECC staff handle the details including set up and marketing. These are more risky but have the chance of making more revenue.

Brad then moves on to the draft budget. Taking into account factors/variables such as membership plateau, no summer ice, a reduction in other grants and the plan to run 5 major events next fiscal year, revenue is predicted to be 3,468,950. The matching expenses it would take to make that revenue would be estimated at 6,233,696. This leaves a deficit of 2,764,746.

Brad presented a plan that would cover some of that deficit which included the municipalities annual grant, renting out the bleachers for revenue and a reduction in operating hours of the ice surface. After taking into account the revenue this plan could create, the deficit is estimated to be 881,746. Brad feels there are 2 options to cover this. Option 1 would see the facility implementing the above plan, as well as request an increase in the operating grant from the municipalities to 2,400,000. Option 2 would require a mass restructuring of the society and facility as a whole.

Discussion was held on the draft budget and ways to increase revenue including planning more events, looking at other user groups for the arena area when the ice is removed renting out storage containers that are on the property. It was also mentioned that the rental estimates for the bleachers may be undervalued and that there may be more revenue to make from that.

Update from Interim CEO:

Joel Dawe gave a brief overview of his first week and a half as interim CEO. He has met with the VPs and some other staff and is still getting to know everyone. Everyone has been very cooperative and he's had a lot of information to learn in a short time. He has asked that the VPs send him an overview of what they have been up to lately.

Tender for Facilities Review:

A tender was sent out, using a similar one from East Hants, for a facilities review of the RECC. The tender was open for 3-4 weeks and 12 submission were received, ranging from $27,000 to $153,000. An evaluation team is being put together to go through the tender submissions. With the large differences in prices, some tenders are offering different services. Staff estimates a decision will be made in 2-3 weeks.

Business Arising from Minutes:

Paul wanted to provide an update from the last meeting. He has met with Joel and Brad and they are starting new procedures and a cheque register. The first cheque run is happening today. Also, after meeting with staff, he believes that there is a need for some new policies including a procurement policy. Concern was raised over the amount of credit cards the society has for staff use, vehicle expenses the facility is paying for and a liquid cover for the pool that was installed by Honeywell but has been disabled since.

In Camera:

Moved by Paul Weatherby
Seconded by Al Kennedy

"That the meeting go into closed session at 11:08 am".
Motion Carried.

Moved by Cathy Hinton
Seconded by Paul Weather

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 12:20
Motion Carried.

Moved by Cathy Hinton
Seconded by Paul Weatherby

"That the Interim CEO's be paid as discussed in closed session".
Motion Carried

Adjournment

Moved by Deb Pryor

"That the meeting adjourn at 12:21 pm".

Motion Carried.

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Tim Johnson, Chair Date

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Recording Secretary Date