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**Committee of the Whole  
November 3, 2025  
Town Council Chambers**

**Present**

Mayor S. Cameron  
Deputy Mayor D. Roberts  
Councillor L. MacLellan  
Councillor, P. McKenna  
Councillor A. Murray  
Councillor J. Pelly  
Councillor J. Sullivan

**Also in Attendance**

R. Delorey, CAO  
M. Fougere, Municipal Clerk  
S. Long, Acting Director of Community Development  
M. Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services

Gallery (Online)

**1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgment**

Mayor S. Cameron called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people and recognized that we are all treaty people.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

**2.1 Additions/Amendments**

An addition was made to the Agenda: Item 6.4 – Delightful December.

Moved by: Councillor MacLellan

Seconded by: Councillor McKenna

**Motion Carried**

**3. Conflict of Interest**

No Conflicts declared.

**4. Acceptance of Minutes**

**4.1 Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 7, 2025**

A correction was noted on page 6 under Councillor Reports, where the name MacKenna should read McKenna. The Clerk made the correction.

Minutes were accepted as corrected.

## 5. Business from Minutes

### 5.1 ACALA 2025 Grant Application

Councillor Murray spoke to this item. ACALA was previously approved for 2025 grant funding for The International Food Fair 2025. The group has submitted a request to change the funded event to The Language Fair, scheduled for November 22, 2025. The proposed event will focus on promoting language diversity through interactive booths led by immigrants, newcomers, international students, and multilingual community members.

This information was included in the Council package for discussion. The request will be brought forward to the Special Council Meeting following this Committee of the Whole meeting for consideration.

### 5.2 Committee Structure Review

Council engaged in a general discussion regarding the current committee structure and membership. Mayor Cameron noted that, as this Council is still early in its term, this is an opportunity to review whether the existing committees remain appropriate and whether council members are satisfied with their current assignments.

Council discussed the purpose, effectiveness, and composition of various committees, including whether certain committees should continue in their current form and how information flows from committees—particularly those related to planning and development. The need for more consistent reporting on development activity and PAC (Planning Advisory Committee) matters was raised. Staff noted that the Planning Advisory Committee operates as an advisory body through EDPC (Eastern District Planning Commission).

The CAO advised that staff would conduct an internal review of the committee structure and explore obtaining additional reporting from EDPC. A summary and analysis will be brought back to Council, along with options should Council wish to form a subcommittee to undertake a more detailed review.

## 6. New Business

### 6.1 Budget/Fiscal Forecast Update – M. Barkhouse

M. Barkhouse provided an overview to Council on the Fiscal Forecast update, went through the Revenue, Expenses, New Income (Deficit), Variance for Public Works Equipment and Variance from Staffing vacancies and project delays.

Ms. Barkhouse indicated that nearly 70% of the Town's expected revenue has been received to date, while approximately 38% of expected expenses have been incurred.

Mayor Cameron noted that some taxpayers had raised questions regarding the Educational component, as it had been misinterpreted by some residents. This rate has always been included within the overall tax rate; it was simply broken out this year to provide greater clarity.

Councillor McKenna sought clarification regarding the Deed Transfer Tax, noting that a decrease in housing sales would result in reduced transfer tax revenue.

Discussion ensued.

**6.2 Water Barrels – Deputy Mayor Roberts**

Council discussed the possibility of supporting residents in using rain barrels as a proactive measure during future drought conditions. Ideas explored included determining the cost of supplying rain barrels for residents to purchase, improving public communication—such as including notices with water bills—and considering a small grant or incentive program to encourage uptake.

Council also noted the importance of resident education on water conservation and discussed whether any program should extend to residents in fringe areas.

A suggestion was made that Council consider writing to the Provincial Government regarding this matter.

The CAO will review available options for communications and incentive approaches and report back to Council.

**6.3 Town Flag – Deputy Mayor Roberts**

Deputy Mayor Roberts inquired about the availability of Town flags and whether additional flags should be ordered. Staff confirmed that a flag policy is in place and that some inventory is currently on hand.

Councillor Murray discussed the condition and size of the Canada flag at Town Hall and whether a larger, higher-quality replacement should be obtained.

A brief recess was called at 7:36 p.m., and the meeting reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

**6.4 Delightful December – Staff**

CAO spoke to this, noting that this is something that came to council last year. Revenue would go to two charities, last year it was the Antigonish Emergency Fuel Fund and the Antigonish Food Bank. Historically it has always been those two charities.

This item will go to the next Regular Council meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup> for consideration.

**6.5 4-Way Stop Sign Pleasant St and College St.**

This item was addressed at the Police and Licence Committee meeting held on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Deputy Mayor Roberts, chair of the committee inquired whether a traffic count could be conducted to collect data for review, noting a preference for the work to be completed in-house rather than through an external consultant. It was suggested that this review take place once construction activity in the area has settled.

Councillor McKenna noted challenges for motorists exiting Pleasant Street onto College Street, citing parked vehicles along the street as a visibility and safety concern. He suggested that consideration be given to designating Pleasant Street as a one-way street, allowing only entry from College Street. Discussions ensued.

Staff will refer this matter to the Traffic Authority for review.

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## 7. Correspondence

### 7.1 L'Arche Antigonish – Funding Request

Mayor Cameron noted that this correspondence was included in Council's agenda package and is presented for information and review at this time. The request will be brought forward to the Regular Council meeting on November 15th for consideration.

The CAO will confirm whether the County has also been contacted regarding potential funding.

### 7.2 PARL – Letter to Hon. T. Houston

Councillor McKenna, who sits on the PARL Board, provided an overview of the letter sent to Premier Tim Houston. He noted that PARL is nearing a point where it may need to reduce hours or cut services. The Province has also asked local libraries to support additional programs without providing any additional funding.

Councillor Sullivan reported that during Jaime Battiste's campaign, he referenced up to \$1 million in available funding for Indigenous books. Councillor McKenna will follow up with Eric Stackhouse at the library to determine whether they intend to pursue this opportunity.

### 7.3 Transition House Association of Nova Scotia (THANS) – Purple Ribbon Campaign

Mayor Cameron spoke to this. Information was circulated to Council in the agenda package. This item will be brought forward to the Regular Council Meeting for a motion.

### 7.4 Jazz Festival Fundraiser Honoring Inez Forbes – Funding Request

Information was circulated to Council in the agenda package. This item will be brought to the Regular Council meeting for a motion.

## 8. Councillor Reports

Councillor Reports were submitted and circulated to Council in advance of the meeting, outlining the meetings attended and events participated in.

### **Deputy Mayor Diane Roberts**

Meetings Attended (October 9 – November 3):

- Police Advisory Committee
- Recreation Committee
- Net Zero Engagement Session
- Regular Town Council Meeting
- Area Meeting (Ellershouse)

Events Attended:

- Affordable Housing Ribbon Cutting
- Poverty Coalition meeting
- Chamber of Commerce Business Awards Banquet
- Hospital Help Day (volunteered reading names on air and taking calls for two hours)
- Halloween Party at the Library (2-3:30pm)

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**Councillor Juanita Pelly**

Meetings and Events Attended:

- Chaired the Recreation Committee (October 14)
- AAHS Board Meeting (October 15)
- AAHS Grand Opening of Appleseed 2 (October 17)
- Chamber of Commerce Business Awards Banquet (October 22)
- Hospital Help Day
- RK Board Meeting

**Councillor Andrew Murray**

Meetings and Events Attended:

- Chaired the Beautification Committee meeting
- AACLA monthly meeting
- RK Board Meeting and Executive Committee Meeting
- Net Zero Meeting
- Chamber of Commerce Business Awards Banquet (October 22)
- Halloween Party at the Library
- Met with members of the public regarding Town-related concerns
- Ongoing updates from the Museum (noted increased visits over the past summer)
- Received 14 submissions for the Mural Program and reported strong community interest

**Councillor Patrick McKenna**

Meetings and Events Attended:

- RK Steering Committee - Discussions on change orders process and discrepancies for the new building.
- Net Zero Engagement strategy
- RK Finance Meeting - Investment strategies and policies
- Antigonish Chamber of Commerce Awards Oct 22
- Opening night of Theatre Antigonish production of Zomblet
- RK MacDonald Board Meeting
- Hospital Help Day – super fun day

Mayor Cameron shared condolences to Councillor McKenna for his families recent loss.

**Councillor Leon MacLellan**

Meetings and Events Attended:

- AREA meeting in Ellershouse,
- Beautification Committee Meeting
- Seminar by the Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty
- Annual Chamber of Commerce awards dinner at St. Andrew's
- Hospital Help Day

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**Mayor S. Cameron**

Mayor Cameron noted that he attended the same events as most Council members over the past month.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Joint Council Meeting – Scheduled for November 19th
- Naomi Society Flag Raising – Taking place on November 25th at 9:30 a.m.
- NSFM Fall Conference – November 4–7, with five Councillors attending.
- Rooted Gala – On Wednesday, November 5th, noting that five representatives from the Town will be attending.
- Remembrance Day – The Mayor acknowledged the importance of this upcoming commemorative day.
- SAGSR (Strait Area Ground Search and Rescue) Event – The Mayor will be attending on November 22nd.

**Committee Reports (Added)**

Written Committee Reports were submitted and circulated to Council ahead of the meeting. Key items from those reports are summarized below.

**Councillor Jack Sullivan – Infrastructure Updates**

Councillor Sullivan provided an overview of recent updates from the Infrastructure Committee. Key items included:

- Town disconnected from County Wells as of today.
- Bay Street Project: Phase 1 underway (Haley Road to railroad tracks), Phase 2 scheduled for next spring (railroad tracks to past the hospital)
- West Street Project: Sidewalk removal and preparation on the west side is underway, with paving preparation to begin from Highland Drive to James Street.

Councillor Sullivan acknowledged the inconvenience caused by the ongoing infrastructure projects and expressed appreciation for residents’ patience. He noted that while the work results in temporary disruption, it is necessary to support long-term improvements to streets, sidewalks, and overall infrastructure. He further advised that the Town is exploring ways to reduce traffic congestion where possible and thanked the public for their understanding and cooperation.

**Recommendations to go to the Police and License Committee**

Several items for referral to the Police and License Committee were discussed:

- Main Street / St. Ninian Street Intersection: Councillor MacLellan noted safety concerns related to the left turn onto St. Ninian Street and suggested consideration of a flashing beacon or potential relocation of the crosswalk toward the Martha Drive entrance.
- Traffic Calming Measures: Councillor MacLellan raised concerns regarding the lack of traffic calming in the Town, referencing issues on Xavier Drive. He highlighted that other municipalities are implementing measures such as speed bumps and curb bump-outs to reduce vehicle speeds.
- Crosswalk Safety: Ongoing issues were reported related to driver behaviour at crosswalks during peak traffic periods, particularly at the intersection of Braemore Avenue and Xavier Drive.

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- Parking Concerns – Braemore Avenue: It was reported that vehicles parked within the first 50 feet from Highland Drive on the east side of Braemore Avenue are restricting roadway width, creating difficulties for school buses and causing traffic disruptions.

Deputy Mayor Roberts added that traffic calming concerns had also been raised in previous years in the areas of Arbour Drive and MacLellan Street.

**Councillor MacLellan**

AREA Board Update:

AREA is a 100% municipally-owned company formed in 2014 by the towns of Antigonish, Berwick and Mahone Bay. The development of the 10-turbine, 23.5 MW Ellershouse Wind Farm in Windsor -West Hants provides over 40% renewable energy to our owner-towns and the Riverport Electric Light Commission, making them the only Utilities to meet the original design of Nova Scotia's 40% Renewable Electricity Standard in 2020.

Councillor MacLellan noted that AREA has historically provided good returns; however, recent regulatory changes regarding electrical rates have affected returns.

Waste Management Committee:

Councillor MacLellan reported that the Waste Committee sponsored a Town Cleanup Day, during which St. Andrew's Junior School bands and choir collected 25 bags of garbage and 2 bags of refundable bottles/cans. Starting December 1, 2025, responsibility for collecting recyclables will transfer to Circular Materials. The Town website provides information and a Waste Management Hotline at 902-863-4949.

**9. Adjournment**

With no further business, Councillor Murray moved for Adjournment at 8:58 pm



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Mayor Sean Cameron



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Randy Delorey, CAO