
Joint Town and County Council Minutes

Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 6:00 PM
St. Joseph's Lakeside Community Centre
2752 Ohio East Rd
St. Joseph, NS B2G 2K8

Present:

County of Antigonish

Warden Nicholas MacInnis
Councillor Shawn Brophy
Councillor Mary MacLellan
Councillor Adam Baden-Clay
Councillor Richelle MacLaughlin
Councillor Wayne Melanson
Councillor Gary Mattie

Town of Antigonish

Mayor Sean Cameron
Councillor Leon MacLellan
Councillor Pat McKenna
Councillor Andrew Murray
Councillor Juantia Pelly
Councillor Jack Sullivan

Beth Schumacher, Clerk

Randy Delorey, CAO
Melanie Fougere, Deputy Clerk
Kyle Meisner, P.Eng., Director of Infrastructure and
Engineering

Also Present:

John Bain, Director of Eastern District Planning Commission
Bobby Pettigrew, CBCL

Members of the Gallery

Absent with Regret:

Deputy Mayor Diane Roberts
Deputy Warden John Dunbar
Councillor Sterling Garvie
Councillor Harris McNamara
Shirlyn Donovan, CAO

1. Call to Order

The Joint Town and County Council Committee was called to order by Chair, Warden Nicholas MacInnis at 6:02 PM. Warden MacInnis and Mayor Cameron welcomed everyone in attendance to the meeting. A roundtable of introductions was done.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Warden MacInnis called for any additions or deletions to the agenda.

The following additions were noted:

- Item 6(a) – EDPC South-West Primary Watershed Flood Mapping Study was moved to Business Arising from the Minutes – Item 4(a).
- Councillor Mary MacLellan added an item under New Business – 6(a): Lighthouse and Lighthouse Road, Cape George.
- Councillor Leon MacLellan added an item under Continuing Business – 5(b): Consideration of Cost Sharing.

Moved and Seconded

Motion: That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried.

3. Approval of June 18, 2025, Council Minutes

Warden MacInnis called for any errors or omissions in the Joint Council meeting minutes of June 18, 2025. Hearing none, the minutes were considered approved as presented.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

a. EDPC South-West Primary Watershed Flood Mapping Study

Bobby Pettigrew from CBCL presented the findings from the EDPC South-West Primary Watershed Flood Mapping Study, outlining study areas, historical flooding in the Town of Antigonish, and modeled 5% and 1% annual exceedance flood scenarios. Data collected in 2022 included riverine and coastal analysis, with consideration of sea level rise and climate impacts.

The study provides flood hazard maps to support municipal planning and potential updates to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-laws.

Council discussion included data sources, use of private weather stations, bridge and culvert assessments, and implications for future infrastructure and permitting. CBCL clarified that the study is high-level, with detailed infrastructure assessments to occur under separate processes.

Mayor Cameron noted that while the information was valuable, both Councils had not yet received the full report. Staff will circulate the report to both Councils.

Warden MacInnis thanked Mr. Pettigrew for his presentation.

5. Continuing Business

a. Water and Sewer Systems Update

Kyle Meisner, Town of Antigonish Director of Infrastructure and Engineering, provided an update on the Town's Water and Sewer Systems, following previous presentations to Joint Council in February and June.

Mr. Meisner reported that odor issues at the Sewage Treatment Plant in July 2025 were less severe than in 2024, primarily due to improved aeration and recirculation measures. The issue, linked to high lagoon temperatures during the summer heat wave, was mitigated by recirculating oxygen-rich water within the plant as recommended by CBCL. Additional measures included the installation of five aeration units, a tender for expanded aeration capacity closing September 19, and the use of cold-water and deodorizing systems to further manage odor.

Updates were also provided on the Screening Project and Sewage Flow Study. The Screening Project will upgrade the plant's front-end screening and aeration system. The equipment tender closed September 8 and is under review, with award anticipated September 19. The Sewage Flow Study, awarded to RVA with BioMaxx Environmental, will assess inflow and infiltration and support updates to the intermunicipal wastewater agreement.

Mr. Meisner outlined the 2025 Water Conservation Measures. Following low water levels at the James River Dam, voluntary conservation measures were implemented on July 17, with mandatory measures enacted August 6 and lifted August 29 after significant rainfall improved storage levels. During the mandatory conservation period, overall water consumption decreased by approximately 11%, County wells were activated, leaks were identified and fixed, and plant operations were adjusted to reduce water usage. Voluntary measures remain in effect, with water levels stabilizing following late-summer rainfall.

Looking ahead, the Town and County are collaborating under the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) to explore new source water opportunities through test wells planned for this fall. If successful, new wells would be developed to support future growth. The Town has also included this initiative in its federal CHIF funding application, with design work anticipated to begin in 2026–27 and construction in 2027–28 pending approval.

Council discussed future capacity, inflow and infiltration concerns, potential solar integration, alternative water sources, and protection of future well sites.

Warden MacInnis thanked Mr. Meisner for his presentation.

A brief recess was called at 8:02 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 8:09 p.m.

b. Consideration of Cost Sharing

Councillor Leon MacLellan added this item to the Agenda and moved a motion to defer discussion to the next meeting.

Moved and Seconded

That Item 5(b) Consideration of Cost Sharing be deferred to the next meeting.

Motion Carried.

6. New Business

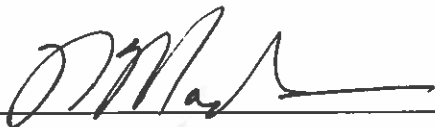
a. Cape George Lighthouse Facilities

Councillor Mary MacLellan brought this item forth for council discussion. Council discussed ongoing maintenance of the Lighthouse area, a key tourist attraction supported by local volunteers. Requests included cost-sharing for expenses, hiring a student for summer grass cutting, road grading, a sign installation, and a memorial bench. With the season ending, volunteers asked that plans be considered for next year.

Warden MacInnis noted residents may also seek funding support and mentioned that Councillor Garvie had previously used district funds for grading. The Mayor will share information with Town Council and expressed support for collaborating with the County. County Council was encouraged to connect with the Antigonish Tourism Association and its new director.

Adjournment

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.



Warden Nicholas MacInnis



Mayor Sean Cameron



Shirlyn Donovan, CAO, County of Antigonish



Randy Delorey, CAO, Town of Antigonish