

**Regular Town Council**  
**April 22, 2025**  
**Town Council Chambers**

**Present**

Mayor S. Cameron  
Deputy Mayor D. Roberts  
Councillor P. McKenna  
Councillor L. MacLellan  
Councillor A. Murray

**Also in Attendance**

R. Delorey, CAO  
M. Fougere, Deputy Clerk  
M. Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services  
S. Long, Acting Director of Community Development  
K. Meisner, P. Eng., Director of Public Works  
M. Williams, Marketing and Communications

**Regrets**

Councillor J. Pelly  
Councillor J. Sullivan

Members of the Gallery  
Media

**1. [Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement](#)**

Mayor S. Cameron called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.  
Mayor S. Cameron 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 Agenda](#)**

An addition was made to the agenda:  
Item added 7.6 No Parking Signs on St. Ninians Street.  
It was Moved and Seconded "to approve the agenda as amended."

**Motion Carried**

**3. [Approval of Minutes](#)**

It was Moved and Seconded "to approve the March 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Minutes and the Special Council Meeting Minutes of March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, as presented."

**Motion Carried**

#### **4. Presentations / Flag Requests / Banner Request / Proclamation**

##### **4.1 Housing Trust of Nova Scotia – Joel Westin**

Joel Westin, joined by Peter Bigelow and Jordan Rogers from the Housing Trust of Nova Scotia (HTNS), presented an overview of the Modular Housing Program—an initiative developed in partnership with the Province to provide affordable housing for healthcare workers. Launched in March 2023, the program received a \$45 million investment in 2024 to support the construction of 112 modular units across the province.

Mr. Westin highlighted that HTNS is a non-profit organization focused on delivering affordable, good-quality housing for working-class households, which make up approximately 60% of Nova Scotia's population. The current phase of the program includes plans for up to 16 additional units, with Antigonish identified as a potential location.

The program uses a mixed-income rental model, where market-rate units help offset subsidized rents, promoting both financial sustainability and inclusive access for healthcare workers across a range of roles.

HTNS is actively seeking municipal partnerships to support Phase 3.

A Q&A period followed the presentation, during which Council members discussed unit types, land availability, affordability strategies, and the long-term viability of the program.

Mayor and Council thanked Joel, Peter, and Jordan for their informative presentation and ongoing work.

##### **4.2 Antigonish Sno-Dogs Snowmobile Club – Jonathan MacKenzie**

Jonathan MacKenzie, Vice-President of the Antigonish Sno-Dogs Snowmobile Club, along with President Jeremy Landry and youth snowmobiler Evan MacKenzie, presented to Council to request \$20,000 in funding support toward the purchase of a new snow groomer, valued at approximately \$475,000. To date, \$94,000 has been raised locally, with additional funding applications submitted to provincial and federal programs.

The Club emphasized the importance of the groomer for public safety, risk management, and improved trail maintenance. Letters of support were received from Search & Rescue, Fire Departments, and MLA Michelle Thompson, along with a business endorsement from Steve Smith (Keltic Quay Resort). The new equipment is intended to benefit a wide range of users and aligns with regional tourism and recreation strategies.

The Sno-Dogs are collaborating with Keppoch, the Eigg Mountain Trails Association, and the Arisaig Community Trails Association to expand winter recreational offerings such as snowshoeing, fat biking, and cross-country skiing. The new groomer is seen as a shared investment in recreation, tourism, and community inclusion.

Council was asked to consider the funding request as part of the Town's 2025 grant program.

During discussions, Councillor P. McKenna commended the presentation and noted that a new groomer could enable quicker trail maintenance and potential expansion.

Mayor S. Cameron expressed thanks to Mr. MacKenzie, Mr. Landry and the Sno-Dogs representatives in the gallery for their continued efforts and presentation.

#### **4.3 Highland Society – Flag request - Gaelic Awareness Month May 1-31**

A flag request was received from the Highland Society to raise the Gaelic flag in recognition of Gaelic Awareness Month from May 1 to 31.

Conflict of Interest:

Councillor L. MacLellan declared a conflict of interest and recused himself from the discussion and decision.

##### **Motion**

It was Moved and Seconded “that the Gaelic flag be raised for the month of May.”

**Motion Carried**

#### **4.4 Antigonish VON – Flag request – May 18 -24**

A flag request was received from the Antigonish VON to raise their flag during the week of May 18–24 in recognition of VON Week.

##### **Motion**

It was Moved and Seconded “that the VON flag be raised for one week during the week of May 18–24.”

**Motion Carried**

#### **4.5 Memo to Council on Banner request from the Royal Canadian Legion Br 59**

A memorandum was presented to Council outlining a banner request from the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 59 to display 10 veterans’ banners on Main Street from Church Street to Columbus Field, in recognition of the upcoming Legion Provincial Convention being held from May 15 to 20, 2025.

The memo provided background on the Town's current banner rotation schedule, associated installation costs, and the logistics involved in managing banner installations on Main and James Streets.

Discussions ensued.

##### **Motion**

It was Moved and Seconded “that Council approve the installation of 10 veterans’ banners from the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 59 to be installed when the Spring banners are changed over, and to be removed when the Highland Games banners are installed.”

**Motion Carried**

#### **4.6 Gaelic Nova Scotia Month - May 2025 – Proclamation**

Mayor S. Cameron read the Gaelic Nova Scotia Month proclamation aloud to Council and formally signed the proclamation in recognition of the month of May 2025.

5. Business from Committee of the Whole

5.1 Temporary Borrowing Resolution for the GRID Modernization project

M. Barkhouse presented to Council at the Committee of the Whole meeting held on April 1<sup>st</sup> on the need for a Temporary Borrowing Resolution (TBR) related to the Grid Modernization Project. The total cost of the project is \$20.5 million, with \$10.8 million representing the Town utility's share. The remaining \$9.7 million will be covered through external funding sources.

**Recommendation**

We request that the attached Temporary Borrowing Resolution be approved by Council to begin the process of accessing temporary borrowing for the Grid Modernization project.

**Motion**

It was Moved and Seconded "that Council approve the Temporary Borrowing Resolution for the Grid Modernization Project."

**Motion Carried**

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE  
**Town of Antigonish**  
TEMPORARY BORROWING RESOLUTION

Amount: \$ 10,800,000

Purpose: Grid Modernization (M11082)

**WHEREAS** Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act provides that the Council of the

Town of Antigonish, subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, may borrow to expend funds for a capital purpose as authorized by statute;

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Town of Antigonish has adopted a capital budget for this fiscal year as required by Section 65 of the Municipal Government Act and are so authorized to expend funds for a capital purpose as identified in their capital budget; and

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Town of Antigonish has determined to borrow the aggregate principal amount of ten million eight hundred thousands dollars Dollars (\$10,800,000) for the purposes of Grid Modernization (M11082);

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**

**THAT** under the authority of Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the Town of Antigonish borrow a sum or sums not exceeding ten million eight hundred thousands dollars Dollars (\$ 10,800,000) for the purpose set out above, subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;

**THAT** the sum be borrowed by the issue and sale of debentures of the Council of the Town of Antigonish to such an amount as the Council deems necessary;

**THAT** the issue of debentures be postponed pursuant to Section 92 of the Municipal Government Act and that the Council borrow from time to time a sum or sums not exceeding ten million eight hundred thousand dollars Dollars (\$ 10,800,000) in total from any chartered bank or trust company doing business in Nova Scotia;

**THAT** pursuant to Subsection 92(2) the sum be borrowed for a period not exceeding Thirty Six (36) Months from the date of the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of this resolution;

**THAT** the interest payable on the borrowing be paid at a rate to be agreed upon; and

**THAT** the amount borrowed be repaid from the proceeds of the debentures when sold.

**THIS IS TO CERTIFY** that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution read and duly passed at a meeting of the Council of the Town of Antigonish held on the 22 day of April, 2025.

**GIVEN** under the hands of the Clerk and under the seal of the Town of Antigonish this 22 day of April, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

### 5.2 Body Armour Policy

This item was brought forward as a recommendation from the April Committee of the Whole meeting.

**Motion**

It was Moved and Seconded “that the Council for the Town of Antigonish hereby approves and endorses the Town of Antigonish Body Armour Policy, as presented on April 22, 2025.”

**Motion Carried**

### 5.3 Tourism Partnership Agreement

This item was brought forward as a recommendation from the April Committee of the Whole meeting.

**Motion**

It was Moved and Seconded “that Council approve the partnership agreement as presented and authorize the CAO to sign on behalf of the Town of Antigonish.”

**Motion Carried**

## 6. New Business

### 6.1 Inter Municipal Agreement (IMA) approved for Strait IT

CAO R. Delorey provided an overview of the updated Inter-Municipal Service Agreement with Strait IT, the Town’s IT service provider. Originally established 3–4 years ago, Strait IT is a consortium of several municipalities. The agreement underwent a comprehensive review by the Board, resulting in several updates related to operations and governance. Seven key areas were amended, including Board structure, procedural rules, financial provisions, and capital planning.

**Motion**

It was Moved and Seconded “that Council approve the revised Inter-Municipal Agreement for Strait IT as presented.”

**Motion Carried**

**Recess**

Council recessed at 7:15 PM

**Reconvene**

The meeting resumed at 7:25 PM

### 6.2 Town Advisory Committee Nominations

Mayor Sean Cameron, as Chair of the Nominations Committee, recused himself from chairing this portion of the meeting. Deputy Mayor Diane Roberts assumed the Chair. S. Cameron presented the Nominations Committee’s recommended appointments to various Town Advisory Committees. The following individuals were appointed:

**Audit Committee**

Mary Oxner – 4-year term

**Accessibility Advisory Committee:** Gary Mattie – 4-year term; Caleb Marshall – 2-year term.

**Beautification Committee** Allan Ferguson – 4-year term; Caleb Marshall – 2-year term.

Councillor McKenna nominated Emilie Chaisson for the 2-year term on the Beautification Committee, noting her interest in contributing to local community initiatives. Following a vote, Emilie Chaisson was appointed, effective April 22, 2025. Caleb Marshall was not appointed.

**Final Appointments – Beautification Committee:**

Allan Ferguson – 4-year term; Emilie Chaisson – 2-year term.

**Planning Advisory Committee;** Michael Grant – 4-year term; André Boudreau – 3-year term; Oyeniyi Adewoye – 2-year term.

**Recreation Committee;** Jochen Ruebener – 4-year term; Tina Augustia – 2-year term.

**Police and Licensing Committee;** Colin Duggan – 4-year term.

**Infrastructure Committee;** Rylan Boucher - 4-year term; Michael Grant– 2-year term.

**Waste Committee;** Neil Hamilton – 4-year term.

Following the completion of the appointments, Mayor Cameron resumed the Chair.

### **6.3 Antigonish Volunteer Fire Department – Appointment of two new members**

A memo regarding the appointment of two new members to the Antigonish Volunteer Fire Department was included in Council's package.

#### **Motion**

It was Moved and Seconded “that Christopher Mattock and Gregory Linton be recommended for membership with the Antigonish Fire Department pending receipt of their medical records indicating fitness for active fire fighting duties, with a one-year probationary period which if successful will result in full membership.”

#### **Motion Carried**

During discussion, Councillor MacLellan inquired about the selection process and questioned the necessity of Council's formal approval for such appointments. CAO R. Delorey noted he would review past practices and clarify whether future appointments require Council approval. He suggested it may be more appropriate to bring such items forward for information purposes only.

### **6.4 Low-Income Property Tax Exemption Policy (See Corporate Services Report)**

M. Barkhouse presented an update on the Town's Low-Income Property Tax Exemption Program. Traditionally, the application deadline falls in May; however, staff are recommending a one-time extension to June 30<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, staff are exploring potential changes to the program, including the introduction of a two-tier exemption model to better reflect varying income levels.

**Motion 1:**

It was Moved and Seconded “that Council approve a one-time extension of the application deadline for the Low-Income Property Tax Exemption to Monday, June 30th.”

**Motion Carried**

**Motion 2:**

It was Moved and Seconded “that Council direct staff to review the Town’s Low Income Property Tax Exemption policy and report to the Committee of the Whole with any recommended updates or changes.”

**Motion Carried**

**6.5 What We Heard Report on AT (Active Transportation) Trail**

M. Williams, currently serving in a one-year term position as Marketing and Communications Officer, presented the “What We Heard” report on the Active Transportation (AT) Trail. CAO R. Delorey provided a brief introduction ahead of the presentation.

During Council discussion, Councillor P. McKenna inquired about the validity of the survey responses, noting that 87% support was reported. He also questioned how the Town could move forward with the project in a way that reflects public input and secures the best value for taxpayers—particularly with capital budget planning underway.

Councillor L. MacLellan observed that many public comments implied that Council had already made a decision on the project, which is not the case. Council has yet to finalize its direction.

The report was described as an excellent public engagement exercise, providing valuable insight into community perspectives.

Mayor S. Cameron noted that the exercise was intended to inform the incoming Council and acknowledged that while the report included some public misinformation, the process itself was a step toward openness and transparency.

Mayor S. Cameron thanked M. Williams for the presentation and her work on the report.

**6.6 No Parking on St. Ninian St – Amended item McKenna**

Councillor McKenna brought forward a motion regarding parking near the crosswalk on St. Ninian Street, previously discussed at the Police and Licensing Committee.

**Motion:**

Whereas parking proximity to crosswalks obstructs sightlines and endangers pedestrians, as outlined in provincial traffic safety guidelines.

Whereas the Nova Scotia Rules of the Road prohibit parking within 5 meters of crosswalks, but increased clearance may further enhance safety.

Whereas relocating a No Parking sign 15 meters west of the St. Ninians Street crosswalk would align with recommendations to prioritize pedestrian visibility, while eliminating one parking spot.

It was Moved and Seconded “that Council direct staff to Relocate the no parking sign on St. Ninians Street to a position 15 metres west of the existing crosswalk, measured from the nearest crosswalk boundary; and to install the new no parking sign on a signpost in the grass meridian”

Council was reminded to ensure the motion complies with Traffic Authority regulations.

Deputy Mayor Roberts supported the change, noting it would enhance visibility and improve safety in the area. She commented that right turns at the location can be dangerous due to limited sightlines caused by nearby parked vehicles.

Staff member K. Meisner addressed liability considerations tied to the current parking arrangement.

Mayor S. Cameron spoke against the motion.

**Motion Carried**

## **7. Correspondence**

### **7.1 Antigonish Jr. B Bulldogs – 2025 Don Johnson Memorial Cup (Atlantics)**

Correspondence circulated to staff; funding request is \$4,000.00.  
Discussions ensued.

**Motion Carried**

It was Moved and Seconded “that Town Council support \$2,000.00 to the Antigonish Jr. B Bulldogs for the upcoming Don Johnson Cup at Atlantics.”

**Motion Carried**

### **7.2 National Medical Laboratory Week – April 13 -19 2025**

Correspondence was circulated, requesting to light up the Town in purple following the same idea as Dental Hygienists week. Council previously approved this request.  
No Motion required.

Mayor S. Cameron recognized Earth Day and noted that students from the St. Andrew Junior High School Welcome Committee visited Town Hall earlier today and participated in a community clean-up around Columbus Field.

### 7.3 Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School Model United Nations – Conference

Correspondence was circulated to Council on a funding request.

#### **Motion**

It was Moved and Seconded “that \$300.00 be approved to support the Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School's participation in the Model United Nations Conference.”

**Motion Carried**

### 7.4 Surrey Christian School – Grade 2 Class

Mayor S. Cameron advised Council that he received a letter from a Grade 2 class at Surrey Christian School in Surrey, BC, along with a Flat Stanley. Mayor Cameon plans to take some pictures of Flat Stanley around the Town of Antigonish and will mail the pictures and a letter back to the Grade 2 class.

## 8. Staff Reports

Deputy Mayor Roberts inquired about the status of the Move and Mingle program. S. Long advised that the current session is wrapping up, and details for fall programming are still to be determined.

There were no additional staff reports at this time, as the meeting was running behind schedule.

#### **Recess**

Council recessed at 8:51 PM and reconvened at 9:04 PM.

#### **Motion**

It was Moved and Seconded “that council move to an in-camera session at 9:04 PM.”

**Motion Carried**

## 9. In-Camera Discussion

### 9.1 To discuss contract negotiations, under the MGA Act Section 22 (2) (e)

#### **Motion**

It was Moved and seconded “that Council come out of in-camera session at 9:42 pm.”

**Motion Carried**

#### **Motion**

It was Moved and Seconded “that Council Approve the proposed amendments to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Antigonish and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1928 for the term April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2029.”

**Motion Carried**

## 10. Adjournment

With no further business the meeting was adjournment at 9:44 PM.