

**Special Council Meeting
June 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, Deputy Clerk
M. Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services
S. Long, Director of Community Development
K. Meisner, Director of Public Works
M. Williams, Marketing and Communications Officer

1. Call to Order

Mayor S. Cameron called the meeting to order at 8:06 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was Moved by Councillor MacLellan and Seconded by Councillor Murray “to approve the Agenda as presented.”

Motion Carried

Mayor Cameron excused himself from the Chair in order to read aloud the 2025–2026 Capital Budget Resolution, the 2025–2026 Waste Management Collection Resolution, and the 2025–2026 Sewer Rate Resolution. Deputy Mayor Roberts assumed the Chair for this portion of the meeting.

3. Business from the Minutes

3.1 2025–2026 Capital & Operating Budget – Final Approval

Resolution 2025-06-03A Re: 2025-26 Budget

It was Moved by Councillor Murray, Seconded by Councillor MacLellan “WHEREAS the Town of Antigonish estimates the amount of \$ 18,184,588.42 as necessary expenditures for the lawful purposes of general Town operations, and revenue, other than taxation revenues in the amount of \$ 10,291,233.42 for the year 2025-26; AND WHEREAS the net amount required to be raised by taxation is in the amount of \$7,893,355.00; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the tax rate to be set for 2025-26 at the rate of \$ 1.30 for Residential and Resource and \$ 2.90 for Commercial properties per \$100.00 of taxable assessment; and a Fire Levy of \$ 0.046 per \$100.00 of assessment. AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the due date for 2025-26 taxes to be paid to the Town of Antigonish be July 4, 2025; AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the interest charged on taxes be set at 9% per annum on the taxes outstanding after the aforesaid due date of July 4, 2025.”

Motion Carried

Council Discussion – Capital Budget

Following the approval of the 2025–2026 Capital Budget, Council engaged in a brief discussion on several related items:

- The CAO clarified that the Town’s policy allows for grants in lieu to eligible organizations, up to a maximum of 3%.
- Councillor McKenna inquired about the inclusion of lease-to-own equipment costs in the Public Works budget. M. Barkhouse and R. Delorey confirmed that the full cost is reflected within the Capital Expenditures, as previously discussed at the Audit Committee. While McKenna accepted the explanation, he expressed some dissatisfaction.
- Mayor Cameron reminded Council of the Low-Income Property Tax Rebate Program, noting that the income threshold has been increased to allow more residents to qualify.
- Councillor McKenna concluded by thanking staff for their efforts and expressed appreciation for the work done to move the Town forward.

Resolution 2025-06-03B Re: 2025-26 Waste Management Collection

It was Moved by Councillor MacLellan, Seconded by Councillor Sullivan “THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Antigonish that the Waste Management Collection charge for 2025-26 be established as \$ 336.26 per equivalent unit; AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the due date for 2025-26 charges to be paid to the Town of Antigonish be July 4, 2025; AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the interest charged on charges be set at 9% per annum on the amounts outstanding after the aforesaid due date of July 4, 2025.”

Motion Carried

Resolution 2025-06-03C Re: 2025-26 Sewer Rate

It was Moved by Councillor MacKenna, Seconded by Councillor Sullivan “THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Antigonish that the Sewer Rate charge for 2025-26 be established as 0.872 of Water Base Rate and Total Water Consumption charge; AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the due date for 2025-26 charges to be paid to the Town of Antigonish 30 days from the invoice date; AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the interest charged on charges be set at 9% per annum on the amounts outstanding after the aforesaid due date of 30 days from the invoice date.”

Motion Carried

At 8:23 PM, Deputy Mayor Roberts returned to her seat, and Mayor Cameron resumed the Chair.

Mayor’s Remarks – Capital Budget 2025-2026

Mayor Cameron thanked Council and staff for their hard work on the 2025–26 Capital Budget. He acknowledged that the approved budget includes a significant tax increase, noting it is the largest during his 10 years as a member of Council. He emphasized that the increase was not made lightly and followed careful deliberation.

Mayor Cameron explained that, in order to meet critical infrastructure needs, the Town was required to secure matching funds for several projects. To do so, the Town had to generate its share of funding—achievable only through a tax increase. He recognized the impact this has on taxpayers and reiterated that the decision was made with the long-term needs of the community in mind.

3.2 Approval of the Strategic Plan 2025-2029

Motion

It was Moved by Deputy Mayor Roberts, Seconded by Councillor Murray “that the Town approve the Strategic Plan 2025 -2029.”

Motion Carried

Mayor’s Remarks – Strategic Plan 2025–2029

Following the approval of the 2025–2029 Strategic Plan, Mayor Cameron spoke to the importance of the document and commended both Council and staff for their contributions. He noted that the new planning process represents an improvement over the previous capital planning model and credited the CAO and staff for their hard work in developing the plan.

Mayor Cameron emphasized that the Strategic Plan reflects the priorities brought forward by Council through community engagement and their collective experience, including input received while canvassing and speaking with residents. He acknowledged that the collaboration between Council and senior staff resulted in a well-rounded, thoughtful, and forward-looking document.

He stated that the Strategic Plan will serve as the blueprint and guiding document for both Council and staff throughout the remainder of the Council term. Mayor Cameron expressed pride in the work and dedication shown by Council in projecting the direction for the Town over the next four years and thanked all involved for their efforts.

Low-Income Property Tax Rebate

Before the meeting adjourned, M. Barkhouse provided Council with a brief overview of the Low-Income Property Tax Rebate application process. She reviewed the form and outlined the requirements for applicants, noting that the affidavit portion must be signed by a member of Council or the Deputy Clerk. Council was reminded of the application deadline: June 30, 2025, at 4:30 PM.

4. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM, moved by Councillor Murray and seconded by Councillor McKenna.