

**Special Council Meeting
January 13, 2026
Town Council Chambers**

Present

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

Also in Attendance

R. Delorey, CAO
M. Fougere, Municipal Clerk
M. Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services
K. Meisner, P.Eng., Director of Infrastructure and Engineering
L. Basinger, Projects Manager
S. Long, Acting Director of Community Development

Gallery (Online & In-Person)
Infrastructure Committee Members

1. Call to Order

Mayor Cameron called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM. The Mayor welcomed members of the Town Infrastructure committee, the public in attendance, and online viewers. He also 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

2.1 Additions/Amendments

The Mayor proposed to add Item 4 - In-Camera Item to discuss Contract Negotiations.

Motion: That the Agenda be approved as amended.

Moved by: Councillor McKenna

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Murray

Motion carried.

3. Capital Projects Planning 2026-2027

K. Meisner, P.Eng., Director of Infrastructure and Engineering, presented an overview of the Town's capital projects for 2026–2027, including project priorities, asset management considerations, and projected funding requirements. The presentation, which was circulated in advance of the meeting, included:

- A full review of priority infrastructure projects and associated urgency, including the Northern Collector, Source Water Wells, Bay Street Phases 1B and 2, West/James Street improvements, and Hawthorne Street upgrades.
- Planned replacement of Public Works equipment to reduce maintenance costs, including the 2009 sidewalk plow and 2010 backhoe.

- Challenges at the Public Works/Electric Utility Depot, including inadequate indoor storage, washroom facilities, and pressures from additional staffing.
- Options for prioritizing projects based on available funding, including prioritizing the Northern Collector versus completing Phase 2 of Bay Street within current resources.

K. Meisner also noted that the Province of Nova Scotia will be replacing the Highway 4 (old Highway) bridge over the West River. This project is expected to take up to two years.

K. Meisner will follow up with the Province once additional details are released.

Council had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the projects. Key topics included:

- Project Costs and Phasing: Council asked about costs, phasing, and prioritization for the Northern Collector, Bay Street (Phases 1B and 2), Hawthorne Street, and West/James Street. Options for bare-bones access roads and future infrastructure expansion were discussed. Councillor Sullivan noted the potential broader community impact of the Northern Collector due to the Hospital serving surrounding rural areas.
- Public Works Equipment: Council discussed equipment replacement and capitalization practices, including comparisons with other municipalities and in-house versus outsourced maintenance. Councillor Murray asked about in-house repairs versus sending equipment to dealers.
- Sidewalks and Trails: Council asked about the condition of existing sidewalks, the Greening Drive sidewalk project, and the Active Transportation (AT) Trail. The Mayor emphasized prioritizing critical infrastructure over less urgent projects like the AT Trail.
- Water Infrastructure and Critical Assets: The Mayor highlighted critical infrastructure, including the Hospital water main and the 136-year-old Hawthorne Street water line. Council discussed waterline conditions, and maintenance priorities.
- Funding and Prioritization: Council discussed how projects would be prioritized based on available funding and operational impacts. Councillor MacLellan suggested reviewing available funds before making decisions.
- Policy and Public Engagement: Councillor McKenna inquired whether Council could consider amending its policy to allow members of the public in the Gallery to ask questions of Council.

Council received clarification from staff on these matters and discussed project priorities.

The meeting recessed at 7:18 p.m. and reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

4. In Camera Session

4.1 Contract Negotiations; MGA Section 22(2) (e)

Motion: That Council move into an In Camera session at 7:40 pm.

Moved by: Councillor Roberts

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Murray

Motion carried.

Motion: Council moved out of the In-Camera Session at 9:02 p.m.

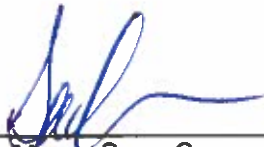
Moved by: Councillor McKenna

Seconded by: Councillor MacLellan

Motion carried.

5. Adjournment

With no further business, Councillor Roberts moved for adjournment at 9:02 p.m.



Mayor Sean Cameron



Randy Delorey, CAO