

**Committee of the Whole  
March 2, 2026  
Town Council Chambers**

**Present**

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

**Also in Attendance**

R. Delorey, CAO  
M. Fougere, Municipal Clerk  
K. Meisner, P.Eng., Director of Infrastructure and Engineering  
S. Long, Marketing and Communications Officer  
K. MacInnis, Director of Community Development  
M. Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services  
L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator

Gallery (In-Person & Online)

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

Mayor S. Cameron called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and provided a land acknowledgement recognizing that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people and that we are all treaty people.

**2. Additions to the Agenda**

Councillor McKenna added item 8.3 – Library (PARL – Pictou Antigonish Regional Library) Budget Letter under Correspondence.

Councillor Roberts added item 7.1 – Main Street Accessible Parking Evaluation and Design under New Business.

**Motion:** To approve the agenda as amended.

Moved by: Councillor MacLellan

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Murray

**Motion carried.**

**3. Conflict of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

#### **4. Acceptance of Minutes**

##### **4.1 Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 3, 2026**

The minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held February 3, 2026, were accepted as presented.

#### **5. Presentations/ Flag Requests**

##### **5.1 Forward Creative**

L. Roy, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator with the Town provided an update on the Net Zero Community Engagement Strategy and Implementation Plan, including Phase 1 research and community engagement conducted with Sean Kelly Consulting and review of existing data.

Communication assets were reviewed, noting support for the Town's Electric Utility 100th anniversary, visibility of the Ellershouse Windfarm, clean energy efforts, electric vehicle charging stations, and university programs on climate and environment.

Wade Tibbo and Cindy James from Forward Creative presented Phase 2, including prior workshops with Council, brand development, and creative templates. The Brand Core Message was noted as "Tradition-informed, forward-looking expression – Empower Antigonish," and a related branding video was shared.

Council discussion ensued, and the presenters were thanked for their presentation.

##### **5.2 STFX Climate and Environment Program (CLEN) Presentation**

Liam French, Victoria Greencorn, and Quincy Rotsaert-Smith, students from STFX with Seniors in Climate and Environment, accompanied by Edwin DeMont Chair of the Seniors for Climate Antigonish Society, presented on the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), an invasive species affecting hemlock trees in Nova Scotia. The presentation covered the species' biology, ecological impact, and treatment and control strategies, including short- and long-term biological measures. The presenters highlighted the financial, social, cultural, and ecological importance of treatment, as well as trimming and removal strategies. Project goals include proactively creating a public awareness campaign.

Upcoming public engagement events were noted:

- March 21 – Farmers Market
- March 22 – Seedy Sunday
- March 29 – Keppoch Workshop (1–3 pm)

Council discussion ensued, with questions regarding treatment effectiveness and comments commending the proactive approach. The presenters were thanked for their presentation.

**6. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**6.2 RK By-Law Amendments (Aug 8, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting)**

CAO R. Delorey referenced the RK By-Law Amendments previously presented at the August 8, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting. The proposed amendments were recirculated in the current Council agenda package.

This item was presented for discussion purposes only and will be brought forward to the March Regular Council meeting for consideration.

**7. New Business**

**7.1 Main Street Accessible Parking Evaluation and Design**

CAO, R. Delorey spoke to the results and recommendations related to the Main Street Accessible Parking Evaluation and Design Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP was posted on the Nova Scotia procurement website on January 30 for the evaluation and design of accessible parking on Main Street.

Responses to the RFP were received, and discussion ensued.

This item will be brought forward to the March Regular Council meeting for consideration.

**8. Correspondence**

All correspondence items were included in the Council agenda package circulated in advance of the meeting.

**8.1 2026 Atlantic Challenger Baseball All-Star Series**

Mayor Cameron introduced this correspondence item regarding the 2026 Atlantic Challenger Baseball All-Star Series. Councillor MacLellan inquired whether the request was associated with a previously submitted grant application. It was clarified that this is a separate sponsorship request and not part of the grant application process.

This item will be brought forward to the March Regular Council meeting for consideration.

**8.2 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships – STFX**

Council reviewed a request for a letter of support for St. Francis Xavier University (STFX) to host the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships. It was agreed to direct the CAO to prepare and submit a letter of support on behalf of Council.

**8.3 Library (PARL – Pictou Antigonish Regional Library) Budget Letter**

A letter from PARL Board Chair Clyde Fraser and Chief Librarian Eric Stackhouse was included in the Council agenda package. The letter addressed the Province of Nova Scotia's 2026/2027 budget, highlighting its impact on the non-profit community and concerns expressed by the PARL Board.

Councillor McKenna commented on the situation, noting it is unfortunate, but emphasized that PARL, as a registered charity, will be exploring public fundraising campaigns.

This was shared for information purposes.

## 9. Councillor Reports

Councillor reports were submitted and included in the Committee of the Whole Council agenda package. Reports reflect activities, meetings, and events attended by Council members since the last meeting. Only reports received and presented have been included.

### Councillor Juanita Pelly – Meetings and Events Attended

- African Heritage Flag Raising; Committee of the Whole; Recreation Committee (Chair); Audit Committee; Joint Town and County Council Meeting; Special Council Meeting; Fire Committee; AAHS; RK Board.

### Deputy Mayor Murray – Meetings and Events Attended

- Deputy Mayor Murray reported attending nine events and meetings, including the African Heritage Month Flag Raising. He noted that the Beautification Committee meeting was postponed and will be rescheduled.

### Councillor Patrick McKenna – Meetings and Events Attended

- Waste Management; PARL Revenue Committee; Grow – Social Participation Steering Committee; Accessibility Committee; Mary MacLellan Room Naming (Library); Joint Council Meeting; RK MacDonald Steering and Board.

### Councillor Leon MacLellan – Meetings and Events Attended

- Waste Committee (Chair); Joint Town/County Council Meetings; Audit Committee; AREA (Antigonish, Mahone Bay, Berwick Windmills); meetings with consultants, oversight committee, and Board re: EDPC organizational review; community events including Naomi Society Coldest Night Walk, Kilted Skate (Highland Society), and AUS Basketball Playoffs.

### **Councillor and Committee Reports – Discussion**

Councillor McKenna suggested that Councillor and Committee reports be combined into a single agenda item for future meetings. Mayor Cameron noted that he would like Councillor reports to focus on upcoming meetings and events rather than past activities. It was agreed that this will be a working process going forward.

## 10. Committee Reports

Committee reports were submitted and included in the Council agenda package. Reports summarize committee activities, meetings, and recommendations since the last meeting. Only reports received and presented have been included.

### ATCS (Active Transportation Committee Society) Committee - Councillor Roberts

Councillor Roberts reported that an emergency meeting of the ATCS Committee is scheduled for March 3, 2026, to discuss the implications of the recent provincial budget announcement on funding and committee operations.

### Fire Committee - Councillor Roberts

Councillor Roberts reported that the Fire Committee met on February 24, 2026. The Committee recommended two motions to be brought forward to Regular Council:

Motion 1:

That the Fire Committee recommend that operational savings within the Fire Department's 2025–2026 Operating Budget be reallocated to the Capital Budget to approve and fund the purchase of a hydrant assist shut-off, for approval at Regular Council.

Motion 2:

That the Fire Committee recommend that the Fire Department's Operating Budget be reviewed as presented as part of Municipal Budget planning, and that Council review the Fire Department's requested Capital Budget for consideration as part of the 2026–2027 budget process, for consideration at Regular Council.

Recreation Committee - Councillor Pelly

Councillor Pelly reported that the Committee held a meeting on February 11, 2026, providing updates on the Moving and Mingling program, noting its current operation at St. Ninian Place and six satellite locations in Arisaig, Lakevale, Pomquet, Parkland, and Guysborough, as well as potential expansion in the spring to Pictou County.

No discussion or questions were raised regarding the report.

Infrastructure Committee - Councillor Sullivan

Councillor Sullivan reported on ongoing projects, including the Jack and Bore under the railroads on the east end of Main Street, and noted that he is awaiting the results of the test wells for water quality. He also inquired about updates on the screening system, with a tender soon to be issued. Councillor Sullivan looks forward to discussing these items at the next committee meeting.

Councillor Sullivan also commended Public Works for their work on snow removal.

Accessibility Committee – Councillor McKenna

Councillor McKenna reported that the Committee held a meeting on February 20, 2026, noting that the committee reviewed the Town of Antigonish Accessibility Action Plan, discussed sidewalk improvements on Greening Drive and proposed new sidewalks in relation to the budget, and highlighted the Active Transportation Trail as an accessible winter path. The committee also reviewed a traffic study for Main Street accessibility parking and discussed crosswalk safety in the east end near new retail development, with a bump-out crosswalk suggested. The next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2026.

AREA (Alternative Resource Energy Authority) – Councillor MacLellan

Councillor MacLellan noted that continuing work on new approaches, spill, and top-up to benefit bottom line; awaiting NSPI recovery from cyberattack for proper billing.

Waste Committee – Councillor MacLellan

Councillor MacLellan noted that the Committee is seeking input on 12-month schedule starting September, including Bulk Waste Pickup in Spring (April/May 2027)

ERSWM (Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management) – Councillor MacLellan


Councillor MacLellan reported that no meetings have been held since the last report. He noted that the St. Andrew's School Band funds are still pending, and it is not yet clear if the funds have been received.

EDPC (Eastern District Planning Commission - Councillor MacLellan

Councillor MacLellan appointed Chair of the EDPC Board for 12 months; highlighted the value-for-money review and previous grant-supported work.

**11. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Councillor Roberts moved for adjournment at 6:52 p.m.



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Mayor Sean Cameron



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Randy Delorey, CAO