

Committee of the Whole
April 7, 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
B. Collier, Manager of Accounting
L. Basinger, Projects Manager

Gallery (Online)

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgment

Mayor S. Cameron called the meeting to order at 6:01 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

The following items were added under New Business:

- 7.6 Recreation Needs Assessment Survey – Councillor Roberts
- 7.7 Rules of Order – Councillor Roberts
- 7.8 Conflict of Interest – Councillor MacLellan

Motion: That the agenda be approved 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

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 2, 2026 were accepted as presented.

5. Presentations/ Flag Requests

5.1 Antigonish Tourism Association

Lynne Delorey, Director of Tourism, provided Council with an update on Tourism Antigonish, including stakeholder engagement, collaboration initiatives, and ongoing work with Coastal Nova Scotia. She highlighted upcoming events, including Jazz Fest scheduled for November 5–7, and noted that the Tourism position is funded through the Marketing Levy Investment.

Ms. Delorey also provided an overview of tracking methods, development of an events database, and plans to refresh the tourism website.

Council discussion included:

- Potential for a Summer Music Festival in August
- Event tracking, including tournaments and visitor data
- Access to the events calendar and distribution list
- Attendance tracking for the Highland Games

Ms. Delorey advised that expanded tracking methods are being explored and will follow up on outstanding information.

Mayor and Council thanked Ms. Delorey for her presentation.

5.2 Antigonish Visitor Information Center

Mike MacEachern, Antigonish Visitor Information Centre (VIC), provided Council with an overview of VIC operations, noting that the centre is located at the Antigonish Library and supported by a network of tourism kiosks throughout the region. He advised that five kiosks are currently in operation at key locations, and that usage statistics for 2025–2026 were reviewed.

Mr. MacEachern highlighted recent and upcoming tourism initiatives and community events supported through the VIC, including local festivals and seasonal programming, as well as plans for busking activities leading up to Jazz Fest.

Council discussion included:

- Integration of Tourism and VIC websites
- Accessibility and reach of the kiosk program
- Community Ambassador Program and its role in tourism promotion

Staff advised that work is underway with the service provider to explore website integration.

Mayor and Council thanked Mr. MacEachern for the presentation.

5.3 Tender Status Update

Lindsay Basinger, Projects Manager, provided Council with an update on current and upcoming project tenders, including revised standard contract terms such as completion timelines, penalties for delays, and incentives for early completion.

Council discussion included questions regarding:

- Application of penalties for delayed work
- Consideration of scheduling constraints, including night work
- Structure and enforceability of tender incentives and penalties

Ms. Basinger provided an overview of the AT Project B tender, including roadway and infrastructure upgrades, parking modifications, and construction timelines. Construction is scheduled for July 2 to August 31, with traffic to be maintained in both directions where possible.

Council raised concerns regarding construction staging, contractor access, and tender timing. Staff advised that standard tender review periods are in place prior to awarding contracts.

Ms. Basinger also provided an overview of the West and James Street tender, noting limited impacts and the use of detours to maintain traffic flow.

The James Street project was reviewed. Staff advised that the project is high priority due to sewer and watermain deficiencies. An information session for affected businesses is planned.

Council discussion included:

- Traffic management options during construction
- Consideration of overnight work
- Access and detour arrangements
- Duration and service impacts during utility connections

Ms. Basinger concluded by reviewing recommendations for Council's consideration.

5.4 Capital Budget

Kyle Meisner, P.Eng., Department of Engineering and Infrastructure, provided Council with an update on the Capital Budget previously presented to the Audit Committee and Council in March.

Mr. Meisner reviewed Council's primary concerns, identified as public impacts and project costs, and advised that the Department's top operational priority is the replacement of the failed sewer on James Street due to the risk of system failure.

Mr. Meisner outlined anticipated impacts to residents and businesses, including detours, scheduling considerations, and construction timing, including asphalt plant operations and potential night work premiums (typically less than 10 percent above standard rates).

Council discussion included:

- Reserve fund impacts and overall project costs
- Project prioritization and potential deferrals
- Staff capacity and workload considerations
- The need for longer-term (multi-year) infrastructure planning
- Specific project sequencing, including James Street, West Street, and other capital works

Staff provided clarification on project readiness and funding considerations, including the use of six-month term employees to support the concrete crew and infrastructure delivery.

Council recessed at 8:04 p.m. and reconvened at 8:16 p.m.

Following the recess, Mr. Meisner concluded the presentation and reviewed staff recommendations for approval of the Capital Budget as presented.

Council further discussed infrastructure priorities and potential project deferrals. It was noted that additional consideration would be brought forward to a Special Council Meeting on April 8.

5.5 VON Flag Request

Council recommended that the VON Flag request be carried forward to the April 21 Regular Council Meeting.

Motion: To bring the VON Flag Request to the April 21 Regular Council Meeting.

Moved by: Councillor McKenna

Seconded by: Councillor MacLellan

Motion carried.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

6.1 Intersection of Victoria and Pleasant Street – Memo

This item was received for information. Clarification was provided regarding the location of stop signs, and no further discussion took place..

7. New Business

7.1 2025/2026 Town of Antigonish Concrete Crew Cost Review – Memo

This item was deferred.

7.2 Council Stipend – Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2026-27 – Memo

This item was deferred.

7.3 Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC) Revised Appointments – Memo

Motion: To approve the recommended revised appointments to the Eastern District Planning Commission and bring them forward to the next Regular Council Meeting.

Moved by: Councillor MacLellan

Seconded by: Councillor McKenna

Motion carried.

7.4 Communication Strategy – Councillor McKenna

This item was deferred.

7.5 County Connect Media Guide – Councillor McKenna

This item was deferred.

8. Correspondence

8.1 Sisters of St. Martha

This item was deferred.

8.2 Recognition - Pucks for Purpose

Motion: To approve the recommended recognition for Pucks for Purpose.

Moved by: Councillor Sullivan

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Murray

Motion carried.

8.3 National Dental Hygienists Week (April 4-10,2026) Illumination Request (For Information)

This item was received for information.

9. Councillor & Committee Reports

This item was deferred.

10. In-Camera

10.1 MGA Section 22(2)(a) – Acquisition, Sale, Lease and Security of Municipal Property

This item was deferred.

10.2 MGA Section 22(2)(c) - Personnel Matters

This item was deferred.

11. Adjournment

With no further business, Deputy Mayor Murray moved for adjournment at 9:18 p.m.



Mayor Sean Cameron



Randy DeForey, CAO