

**Special Council Meeting
March 9, 2026
Town Council Chambers**

Present

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

Also in Attendance

M. Fougere, Municipal Clerk
R. Delorey, CAO
M. Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services
B. Collier, Manager of Accounting
K. MacInnis, Director of Community Development
S. Long, Marketing and Communications Officer

Gallery (Online)

Absent with Regrets

Councillor J. Pelly

1. Call to Order

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

Motion: That the Agenda be approved as presented.

Moved by: Councillor MacLellan

Seconded by: Councillor Sullivan

3. New Business

3.1 2026-2027 Operational Budget

The CAO provided background on the upcoming Operational Budget presentation by M. Barkhouse, explaining the difference between capital projects (infrastructure) and operational costs (staffing, services, etc.). A printed copy of the presentation was circulated to Council.

The presentation included:

- 2025–2026 budget and forecasted year-end results (April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026).
- Status Quo Budget for 2026–2027, showing the projected costs if current service levels are maintained.

- Corporate Services cost breakdown, including the embedded cost of a new IT/financial software system.
- Residential and commercial tax rate comparisons with other towns.
- Province-related responsibilities, including Education Distribution Transfer and PARL.

Council discussion highlights:

- Councillors asked questions regarding the Project Manager line, Tax Increase Impact, provincial responsibilities, and anticipated library and commercial tax increases; clarifications were provided by Ms. Barkhouse.
- Discussion was held regarding reserve funding, with Councillor MacLellan requesting a rationale for healthy reserves and Councillor Sullivan suggesting a portion of tax revenue be allocated to reserves.
- Councillor MacLellan requested a summary layout of federal grant services.

4. Adjournment

With no further business, Councillor MacLellan moved for an Adjournment at 7:15 p.m.



Mayor Sean Cameron



Randy Delorey, CAO