

**Special Council Meeting
April 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
S. Long, Marketing and Communications Officer

Gallery (Online)

1. Call to Order

Mayor Cameron called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and 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: Deputy Mayor Murray

Motion carried.

3. Business from Committee of the Whole

3.1 2025-2026 Town of Antigonish Concrete Crew Cost Review – Memo

A memorandum regarding the 2025–2026 Concrete Crew cost review was circulated to Council. The CAO addressed Council and advised that the cost estimates are within budget. The CAO noted that staffing turnover and employee leaves impacted the completion of some project work; however, staff time was redirected to assist the Public Works crew as required.

The CAO further advised that the Town is currently recruiting for three positions for the upcoming season, noting that a strong number of applications have been received, and that the competition closes on April 17, 2026.

Councillor MacLellan raised a concern regarding deficiencies observed on the Greening Drive sidewalk.

Councillor Roberts noted a concern received regarding the Brookland Street sidewalk. The CAO advised that the Brookland Street sidewalk matter would be addressed during consideration of the Capital Budget later in the meeting.

3.2 Council Stipend – Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2026-27 – Policy

A draft policy regarding a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Council stipends was circulated to Council. The Mayor addressed Council and provided background on the purpose of the policy.

The CAO reviewed the key components of the policy, noting that Council stipend rates would be set as of March 31, 2026, with adjustments effective April 1, 2026, consistent with non-union staff increases. The CAO further advised that Council may opt out of an increase for a one-year period by resolution and that the policy provides for review by January 31 following a municipal election year.

It was noted that the policy would be brought forward to the April Regular Council meeting for consideration. Council members were invited to provide any feedback or recommendations to the CAO.

Councillor McKenna requested clarification to the policy language related to non-union. The CAO advised that the policy would be updated to provide greater clarity.

3.3 Conflict of Interest – Councillor MacLellan

Councillor MacLellan raised questions regarding the handling of potential conflicts of interest and whether certain matters should be considered in camera for clarity.

The CAO addressed Council and provided general guidance regarding the Conflict of Interest Act, noting that members should refer to the Act when uncertain. The CAO advised on procedures related to declaration of conflict, participation in public discussion, and in-camera sessions, including quorum considerations.

Council members asked general questions regarding financial interest, perceived conflicts, and family relationships. Clarification was provided, and no action was required.

3.4 Capital Budget 2026-2027

CAO, R. Delorey provided an overview of the proposed Capital Budget for 2026–2027, including a review of the three-year Capital Plan and its alignment with the 2025–2029 Strategic Plan previously presented to Council. The CAO reviewed project options and scenarios, including projected Town costs under various approaches.

Council discussion took place regarding capital reserves, project sequencing, design timelines, and prioritization of infrastructure and sidewalk projects. Discussion included consideration of the James Street project, sidewalk locations, and the potential deferral or reprioritization of certain works.

The CAO cautioned Council regarding coordination of capital projects with future underground infrastructure requirements to avoid rework in subsequent years.

Council members discussed whether further direction or motions were required at this meeting. It was noted that clarification could be provided by staff and that the Capital Budget may return to Council for further consideration.

Council recessed at 8:00 p.m. and reconvened at 8:16 p.m.

4. Councillor & Committee Reports

Councillor Reports

Councillor reports were circulated to Council in advance of the meeting as part of the Council package. No discussion took place.

Committee Reports

Infrastructure Committee - Councillor Sullivan

Councillor Sullivan brought forth a recommended motion from the infrastructure committee

Motion: That the infrastructure committee recommend that council allocate the necessary resources to the communication department to design and deliver a public awareness campaign promoting proper flushing practices emphasizing that only the three P's pee poop and toilet paper are to be flushed.

Moved by: Councillor Sullivan

Seconded by: Councillor Roberts

Motion carried.

Beautification Committee -Deputy Mayor Murray

Deputy Mayor Murray provided an update from the Beautification Committee, advising that the Committee recently had a meeting and reviewed the Strategic Plan. He noted that further work will take place at the next committee meeting and that the plan will be brought back to Council for final review.

Motion: That Council move In-Camera at 8:25 p.m. pursuant to Section 22(2)(a), and Section 22(2)(c) of the Municipal Government Act.

Moved by: Councillor Roberts

Seconded by: Councillor MacLellan

Motion carried.

5. In-Camera

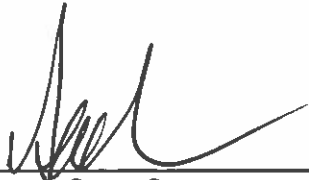
5.1 MGA Section 22(2)(a) – Acquisition, Sale, Lease and Security of Municipal Property

5.2 MGA Section 22(2)(c) – Personnel Matters

Council rose from the In-Camera session at 9:10 p.m. and returned to open session.

6. Adjournment

With no further business, Councillor Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m.



Mayor Sean Cameron



Randy Delorey, CAO