Infrastructure Committee Meeting
Town Council Chambers
Date: December 9, 2025. Time: 6:00 p.m.

Present
Councilor J. Sullivan, Chair
Councillor D. Roberts

R. Boucher, Resident of Antigonish
M. Grant, Resident of Antigonish
K. Meisner, Director of Infrastructure & Engineering
D. Halfpenny, Infrastructure & Engineering Administrative Assistant

Absent: Councilor, L. MacLellan

Call to Order
The Chair, Councilor J. Sullivan, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda
R. Boucher added adopt a hydrant and senior snow shovel policy to the agenda.

Approval of Agenda
A motion was made by Councillor D. Roberts and seconded by M. Grant to approve the December 9, 2025, agenda with additions. Motion Carried.

Acceptance of Minutes
November 18, 2025, minutes were accepted as amended.

Business Arising from the Minutes

1. **Project Updates Presentation by K. Meisner**

K. Meisner provided a visual presentation of the progress to date on the projects that are underway in the Town of Antigonish. He explained that his department has been extremely busy with twenty-nine tenders placed since the budget was approved in June.

He reported that the **James Street/West Street** project is at approximately sixty percent completion. West Street is expected to receive asphalt paving in the next two days with the warmer temperatures forecasted. He provided a video clip of Dexter Construction's new sidewalk machine placing the new West Street Curb and sidewalk.

He advised that traffic challenges have been mitigated as much as possible and that there haven't been as many complaints received from this area. He noted that the projected date for the completion of the work is December 13 and despite weather disruptions it is expected to be close to completion then.

The James Street Sewer Lining project was aiming for completion by Christmas. He explained that the sewer lining will be taking place tomorrow. He explained that the liners were delayed coming from Europe as the contractor no longer received the liners from the USA due to tariff concerns. K. Meisner noted that purchasing Canadian materials is a preference. However, he stated some items required can only be sourced out of country.

K. Meisner reported that the **Bay Street project** has been impacted by weather. It has received a high volume of traffic complaints There has been progress made with the new sewer line in place, water lines in the process of being installed, road grading is taking place this week with the major goal of getting an asphalt surface in place before Christmas. He explained that the jack and bore work must be completed by December 28th to meet the conditions of the permit from the railway.

Discussion followed on the importance of a secondary road being developed to ensure safe travel to the regional hospital.

Bay Street Phase 2 of the project is scheduled for 2026.

Kyle Mesiner explained that a great deal of work remains to get Phase 2 underway which encompasses the area from the railway to the town boundary. He noted that the railway would need a two-day period to install the new safety crossing.

He noted that the process of securing a safe detour and secondary road is crucial to Phase 2 being implemented.

Kyle Meisner provided an update on the **Sewer Treatment Plant Project**. He reviewed a visual of the old aerators explaining how they work and how quickly they get plugged up with materials that should not be flushed down the toilet.

He provided an update on the equipment tender to advise that the equipment is coming from Germany.

The blowers, he advised were sourced from a Canadian Company out of Winnipeg which will increase the pressure for the front end of the Sewer Treatment Plant.

He stated that the design for new screening building is underway. The screening design he noted is intended to blend in with the streetscape with an exterior façade similar in style to the new Paradis Development.

The Chair commented that making the building fit the streetscape is an extra step to creating a good look for the East Main Street area.

K. Meisner advised that the building tender is scheduled to go out in January 2026, and with a goal of having the building in place and up and running for the summer season.

Discussion followed on increase efficiency of the current sewer plant and on long range planning to investigate the creation of a modern sewer plant. Exploration of what other communities have in place.

Public Works Equipment Update

The new Town Komatsu loader arrived in October and is working well. Staff have received their training for operation of the new loader. K. Meisner advised that Public Works is working towards having all the equipment operators experienced with using the equipment to ensure they are confident and can efficiently step in when needed to complete their tasks. He noted that there is a wing, plow attachment, and forks and that it is working well when plowing snow and has an increased visibility in comparison to the grader. He commented that it is a power loader that is compatible with the existing blower.

M. Grant commented that not only is the Komatsu loader a good choice for the town but that having a quality piece of equipment is good for the morale of the operators.

K. Meisner stated that unfortunately the lead time for the single axle truck remains in June of 2026 and therefore he expects it will be expensive to maintain the old truck through the winter season.

The Source Water Test Wells Project is exceeding expectations at this point. There were seven locations identified by the hydrologist. Brewster Well Drilling was awarded the tender. K. Meisner provided a visual of the work taking place at one of the test wells showing Brewster's dual rotary drilling system at work. He explained that two of the wells had been drilled and a substantial amount of water has been found at 340 ft at well number 1 and 380 ft at well number 2. Testing samples have been sent off to the lab to test the quality of the water to ensure that it is treatable. The first well showed results of over 150 gallons a minute and the second was an even higher yield.

K. Meisner advised that he is cautiously optimistic that the water is of good quality and expects the results to be received by January. He noted that the Department of Environment would need to advise of how much water could be taken from the wells. This water source he stated would lessen the amount of water that would be needed from the dam and provide water security for the town water utility customers.

Work has been completed for the winter season and pending favorable water quality results, staff will be able to investigate costing and options to pipe water to the water plant.

Greening Drive – K. Meisner reported that the Greening Drive sidewalk project is moving along and is on budget. Staff have been assigned to other tasks with snow clearing which has slowed down progress. He noted that if the weather cooperates the work will be completed by Christmas.

2. **Current Budget Update**

K. Meisner provided an overview of current budgeting for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. He identified that to date the projects are remaining on target with some showing a surplus in funds and others slightly over budget. He commented that any surplus he would recommend be

allocated to the Bay Street Phase 2 to ensure that this project is completed. However, he advised that Council make any decision on where to allocate funds.

He noted that he is awaiting a funding application announcement from CHIF expected in January and that it is moving in a positive direction. He commented that he has been exploring all options for funding and that should any of the remaining 2025 applications be successful that it would be provide the opportunity to work towards the second entrance to St. Martha's regional hospital and consideration for the **Northern Collector** project which provide an opportunity to create more housing for Antigonish. He noted that this project would require an approximately ten-million-dollar investment. Therefore, he stated that to complete this project assistance would be needed through provincial and federal funding. The Northern Collector would provide an opportunity to develop affordable housing for the community and would increase the tax base for the Town of Antigonish.

Discussion followed on getting the necessary infrastructure in place to develop housing for the community and securing a secondary access road for the regional hospital.

K. Meisner provided a brief update on plans for the next 5 years.

Adopt a Hydrant

R. Boucher commented that other communities have adopt a hydrant program where volunteers help keep a hydrant clear of snow. He explained that it is important to keep the hydrants accessible for the fire department. He commented that a contest could be created and those that adopt a hydrant and keep it clear could have their name place in a draw for prize.

M. Grant advised that he keeps the hydrant clear near his property and that people do not necessary think of the importance of the hydrants until unfortunately they are needed.

K. Meisner noted that some maintenance is performed on hydrants each year to keep them in working order but that it would be wonderful to have volunteers to keep hydrants near their homes cleared of snow for the fire department. He noted that there are approximately one hundred and sixty fire hydrants in the town. He stated that four hydrants were replaced this year. He commented that he would speak to Communications about how to set up a campaign for "Adopt a Hydrant."

Senior Plow Out

R. Boucher commented that it would be nice if the town could provide two free plow outs per season for seniors.

K. Meisner advised that there is currently no budget to facilitate such a project and that it would be a Council decision. He noted that there is a fine line as the Town strives to provide equal service to all citizens. He stated that it would need to be a private contract as there are not enough staff to provide residential driveway cleaning.

M. Grant commented that years ago there was a program where seniors received a certificate good for two plow outs a season.

Discussion followed on whether this would be something to bring to Council in the next budgeting season. Further details would need to be flushing out to determine the number of senior and what costs would be involved to facilitate such a program.

Meeting Date and Time

R. Boucher called for adjournment. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned 8:00 p.m.

Next meeting TBD