## Infrastructure Committee Meeting

Town Council Chambers
Date: January 29, 2026. Time: 6:00 p.m.

### Present

Councilor J. Sullivan, Chair
Councillor D. Roberts
Councillor L. MacLellan
Mayor S. Cameron

R. Boucher, Resident of Antigonish
M. Grant, Resident of Antigonish
K. Meisner, Director of Infrastructure & Engineering
L. Basinger, Projects Manager
J. Jackman, Manager of Treatment Facilities
M. Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services
D. Halfpenny, Infrastructure & Engineering Administrative Assistant

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

**Additions to the Agenda**
None noted.

**Approval of Agenda**
A motion was made by Councillor L. MacLellan and seconded by M. Grant to approve January 29,2026. Motion Carried.

**Acceptance of Minutes**
December 9, 2025, minutes were accepted.

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

1. Consideration of the Minutes

   Councillor D. Roberts asked for Chair J. Sullivan in his next Committee report, bring forward the ideas from the December 9th meeting by R. Boucher concerning creating Adopt a Hydrant Project and discussion of the legalities of creating a low-income senior's program for two free driveways cleared a winter.

2. Director of Infrastructure & Engineering, K, Meisner provided a breakdown of the infrastructure projects that will require decisions from Council to determine the direction to take for 2026.

   a) **Bay Street Phase II/Hospital Avenue**

K. Meisner stated the seriousness of the water pipes feeding the hospital Bay Street and Adam Street. The hospital has been discussing changes to the entrance to create a safer turning lane which would allow for the new water piping design. Traffic concerns related to the Bay Street work remain a challenge. The province has completed the roundabout at the end of Church Street, which should significantly improve the traffic issues we experienced last fall. It was noted that Phase Two of the Bay Street project will require one lane to be shut down to complete the remaining work. This reinforces the urgency of advancing construction on a secondary access route to the regional hospital, at minimum to the point of having a gravel road in place.
K Meisner stated that he expected to have a design for the new street by April and the pending budget would take four months to complete. However, the CHIF funding has been denied, and the federal government is repurposing the funding and rolling out a new program. As the new funding program applications have not been released, K Meisner does not expect that the funding would be in place for this year's construction season. Meaning that for this project to take place it would need to be funded by the town. To move forward there are property owners that need to be consulted. The hospital and the Sisters of Saint Martha have been a part of preliminary discussions.

Mayor Sean Cameron commented that MP Jaime Battiste, and MLA Michelle Thompson, are supportive of this project and that efforts are being made to gain support from other municipalities for another street to St Martha Regional Hospital. This important regional project serves over 75,000 residents of northern Nova Scotia.
K Meisner was expecting to have an initial cost breakdown in hand by February 10, 2026 for council's consideration.

**b) Sources Water Wells**

K. Meisner explained that the water exploration activities from last year have determined that there are two potential wells on one property that have been determined to have a large volume of water. The water quality test results have not been received yet, but the report is expected to be received soon.

When the results are received and if all is positive, the landowner and town will negotiate to have the wells constructed and a design plan implemented to determine the most cost-efficient method to have the water piped into the Brierly Brook Water Treatment Plant system.

**c) Hawthorne Street**

K. Meisner stated that to do the Hawthorne Street work from Pleasant to Brookland area it would be expensive. Council would have to borrow or raise taxes to complete the work. He recommended that design work be done this year for a plan to do a major Hawthorne Street

upgrade. He noted the project would include new six-foot sidewalks, water main, curb and gutter which once the design work is received the town could look at implementation the work in phases.

**d) Active Transportation Projects**

K. Meisner explained that to fulfill the commitment of the Town of Antigonish's agreement with the province the trail design is to set flush with existing ground levels when crossing Columbus Field and the Brierly Brook areas to minimize the risk of flooding and ice buildup. He advised that the bridge abutments need to be built up and stated that a switch back will minimize the impacts of potential flooding. He noted that a viewing area will be created with a bench located near the bridge.

He provided a visual of the proposed bridge based on an example from an Algonquin Ontario Manufacturer. The Budgetary cost would be $400,000 and the delivery timeline would be sixteen weeks from the date of the order.

The structure approaches will be built up to allow for minimal changes to the normal riverbank, which based on the work completed by WSP are not expected to increase the risk of ice jamming. The bridge would be set at an elevation to allow for clearance for ice overtop in the case of a 1:50 year flood event and over a standard 1:100-year event factoring in the effects of sea level rise plus climate change WSP used the year 2100.

Mayor S. Cameron stated that he is not in favour of the Active Transportation Project and would have preferred a different route than over Columbus Field.

**e) Potholes**

K. Meisner stated that it has been a significant winter for potholes based on the rapid up and down shifts in temperature resulting in a freeze and thaw cycle which causes potholes to form. Therefore, he recommended that Council increase the patching project budget and consider skim coating/Spread patching such that New Glasgow does to get a smooth surface on the streets. He noted that the $200,000 could be bumped up to $500,000 to cover more areas that require attention.

**f) Sewer Treatment Plant Front End Upgrades**

Design work for the new building which will house the screener is behind schedule. Expected to be completed this winter, ready to go to tender this spring. This means that the screener will not be ready till this fall.
K Meisner supplied a visual of the STP Screening Layout, explaining that there will be full redundancies with double channels and double screens, roll off bins will be used for collection, with a waste service provider facilitating the disposal of the materials.

Discussion followed on ensuring that the smell is eliminated from the system and would not be a repeat of last year's issues.

J. Jackman explained that the increase in air flow to the front end of the existing system has shown meaningful results. She commented that now the airflow is where it is needed. She noted that there are thirty aerators where there used to be eight. Manual work will continue to keep the aerators clear of debris, as well as work to spray down with peroxide and skim and vacuum off sludge from the lagoon.

K. Meisner advised that a complete aeration system upgrade with a move to the larger aerators is what is required and that the new front end STP Screening Building will ensure that the plant meets the needs of the community for years to come.

Questions and Concerns

K. Meisner concluded his presentation and opened the floor to questions from the committee.

Councillor L. MacLellan commented that it is crucial that the Sewer Treatment Plant does not have the issues that it had last year. He stated that next budgeting meeting would need to have firmed up costs for each project and a better idea of funding dollars available from provincial and federal programs to make sound decisions.

The mayor acknowledged R. B. Chisholm member of the public who as a former town Councillor had recommended during his term a standardized package for the building of the water treatment plant.

M. Grant commented that numbers for the bridge for the Northern Collector may be lower than projected if box or round culverts could be used. He noted that a good strong road is important but if it were a paved road, it would be more attractive to development.

The Committee agreed that developing the source water wells is a priority in addition to the Northern Collector for securing access to the hospital and enabling needed housing for the community.

Chair, J. Sullivan advised that Council is tasked with big decisions for the upcoming budgeting season.

M. Barkhouse explained that she will be working with K. Meisner in preparation for the next capital budgeting meeting to get the most accurate numbers available for Council to make an informed decision.

K. Meisner stressed the importance of having the infrastructure budget in place to have the tenders ready to roll out at the beginning of the construction season.

**Adjournment.**

Councillor L. MacLellan called for adjournment. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned 8:00 p.m.

**Meeting Date and Time**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending. He noted that budgetary meetings will be held in February and therefore he will call the next Infrastructure Meeting in March. He advised that he should review his calendar and the meeting date will be circulated when available.

Next meeting date TBD