

**2024-03-19 Municipal Council  
Summary of Motions**

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Minutes of the regular session of Municipal Council held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 10:00a.m., at the Municipal Administration Building, 752 St. George Street, Annapolis Royal, NS.

Warden Morrison noted the recent passing of former Warden Harry DeLong.

### **Roll Call**

District 1 – Bruce Prout, present  
District 2 - Brian “Fuzzy” Connell, *absent*  
District 3 – Dustin Enslow, present  
District 4 – Clyde Barteaux, present  
District 5 – Lynn Longmire, present  
District 6 – Alex Morrison, present  
District 7 – David Hudson, present  
District 8 – Michael Gunn, present  
District 9 – Wendy Sheridan, present  
District 10 – Brad Redden, present  
District 11 – Diane LeBlanc, present

**Also Present:** CAO Chris McNeill, Municipal Clerk Carolyn Young; other staff including A. Anderson, L. Bent, D. Campbell, C. Mason, N. McCormick, B. Olsen, D. Ryan, and N. Whitman,

### **Disclosure of Interest**

Councillor Enslow disclosed an interest in item 6.3 SR2024-18 Letter to the Minister of Justice.

### **Order of the Day**

Approved as circulated.

### **Minutes**

Re: 2024-02-20 Regular Minutes

Approved with no errors or omissions.

### **Committee of the Whole Recommendations 2024-03-12**

Re: SR2024-14 Policy 109 Tax Exemption and Reduction NEW

#### **Motion 240319.01 SR2024-14 Policy 109 Tax Exemption and Reduction NEW**

That Municipal Council approve *Policy 109 Tax Exemption and Reduction*, pursuant to seven-day notice given on March 12, 2024.

Moved: Deputy Warden Redden

Seconded: Councillor Prout

Motion carried.

Re: SR2024-15 Derelict Vehicle Collection Program

**Motion 240319.02 SR2024-15 Derelict Vehicle Collection Program**

That Municipal Council approve the Derelict Vehicle Collection Program for a three-year term (2024-2025 to 2026-2027) with an option for the County of Annapolis to extend the Program for an additional two years.

Moved: Councillor LeBlanc

Seconded: Councillor Hudson

Motion carried.

Re: SR2023-04 (3) Community Grants Application Upper Clements and District Community Hall Association

**Motion 240319.03 SR2023-04 (3) Community Grants Upper Clements and District Community Hall Association**

That Municipal Council approve a grant to the Upper Clements and District Community Hall Association in the amount of \$1,200 to support roof repairs to the hall in accordance with *AM 1.4.9 Community Grants, Community Halls and Centres Assistance Program*.

Moved: Councillor Gunn

Seconded: Councillor LeBlanc

Motion carried.

Re: SR2023-04 (3) Community Grants Application Fundy Folk Association

**Motion 240319.04 SR2023-04 (3) Community Grants Fundy Folk Association**

That Municipal Council approve a grant to the Fundy Folk Association in the amount of \$5,000 to help support the Evergreen Theatre Stage Lighting Replacement Project in accordance with *AM 1.4.9 Community Grants, Small Project Matching Grants*.

Moved: Councillor Prout

Seconded: Councillor Gunn

Motion carried.

Re: SR2023-04 (3) Community Grants Application Round Hill and District Recreation Commission

**Motion 240319.05 Community Grants Round Hill and District Recreation Commission**

That Municipal Council approve a grant to the Round Hill and District Recreation Commission in the amount of \$16,679.87 to support building repairs and upgrades to the Bishop Park recreation facility in accordance with *AM 1.4.9 Community Grants, Large Capital Pledge Grant*.

Moved: Councillor Barteaux

Seconded: Councillor LeBlanc

Motion carried.

Re: SR2024-16 Bridgetown Dog Park

**Motion 240319.06 SR2024-16 Bridgetown Dog Park**

That Municipal Council enter into a three-year lease agreement with Bridgetown Dog Park Association for the lease of PID# 05149505; Bridgetown, to allow for the creation of a dog park.

Moved: Councillor Enslow

Seconded: Councillor Sheridan

Motion carried.

Re: Policy 108 Medical Recruitment Financial Assistance

To recommend that Municipal Council approve *Policy 108 Medical Recruitment Financial Assistance Policy*, in accordance with seven-day notice given on March 12, 2024.

Moved: Councillor Longmire

Seconded: Councillor Sheridan

**Motion 240319.07 Policy 108 Medical Recruitment Financial Assistance**

That Municipal Council send Policy 108 Medical Recruitment Financial Assistance Policy back to the Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee (Adhoc) for further review.

Moved: Councillor Longmire

Seconded: Councillor Gunn

Motion carried.

Re: Mandate of Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee (Ad Hoc)

**Motion 240319.08 Mandate of Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee (Ad Hoc)**

That Municipal Council confirm that the mandate for the Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee includes supporting community recruitment and retention activities such as community navigators and welcomers.

Moved: Councillor Longmire

Seconded: Councillor LeBlanc

Motion carried.

**New Business**

Re: SR2024-14 M8 Marketing Levy Bylaw – Final Reading

**Motion 240319.09 SR2024-14 M8 Marketing Levy Bylaw – Final Reading**

That Municipal Council give Final Reading to approve the new *M8 Marketing Levy Bylaw*, in accordance with First Reading given on February 20, 2024.

Moved: Councillor Gunn

Seconded: Deputy Warden Redden

Motion carried.

**Warden's Remarks on the Budget**

On behalf of Municipal Council, I am pleased to provide some remarks concerning Council's consideration of the proposed 2024-2025 operating budget and 5-year Capital Investment Plan. It was an intensive journey to get here but we did it!

Council has given serious and extensive consideration to the budget process, and I feel we have drafted a budget that is ambitious and positive in approach, and one that plans for the well-being of our citizens.

**Tax Rate:**

I am sure the tax rate is foremost in many minds of our citizens, so I will address that first. It is proposed that the county-wide base tax rate will remain at \$1.025 for residential and resources properties per \$100 of assessment, and \$1.80 per \$100 of assessment for commercial properties.

However, in addition, Bridgetown's community rates are proposed to increase to 45.31 cents for residential and resource per \$100 of assessment, and to 74.13 cents for commercial per \$100 of assessment.

This increase is to reflect the growing costs and still allow for specific services to Bridgetown, such as former Bridgetown debt payments, increases in road and street maintenance costs, as well as an additional \$47,000 directly to Bridgetown Fire Department.

**Capital Investment Plan:**

The 5-Year Capital Investment Plan speaks to community investments in municipal infrastructure, with upgrades and extensions of water and sewer services in Lequille, Bridgetown, and Bear River; these are the initial Year 1 capital investments. This will be followed up in years 2-5 with capital infrastructure investments in the east end and west end communities.

Our capital plan is positive and aggressive, but not being positive and aggressive will result in our communities falling behind. We need to be positive and aggressive for community growth.

Some highlights in the plan include:

- strengthening emergency planning capability with the installation of more generators at wastewater treatment plants
- planning additional improvements to community recreation facilities through accessible trail development in Upper Clements and accessible playground improvements in Nictaux.
- In Year 2, there are plans for a major upgrade to the Granville Ferry Water Tower to ensure the long-term sustainability of potable water to Granville Ferry, Annapolis Royal and Lequille,
- As well as capital improvements to municipally owned recreational properties - Delap's Cove Wilderness Trail and Raven Haven Beachside Family Park.
- The biggest capital item in the 5-year plan is the proposed construction of a new \$40 million recreation complex in 2027-2028 to replace current aging infrastructure and to create a modern facility for families to enjoy multiple ways to continue to be active and maintain good health.

Work on this project will begin immediately in 2024 with the searching for a suitable piece of land to locate the new facility. No decisions have been yet made as to what the new facility will include, those public discussions will begin in 2025.

**Operating & Capital Budgets:**

The budget process was a difficult one of balancing the continuing inflationary costs, while ensuring that we support and manage the growth of our county wisely and strategically. We understand that property assessments have increased, and costs have increased. The municipality is also affected by these increases, which is evident with purchasing and tendering for capital projects that are sometimes coming in double what was budgeted.

This budget reflects a balance of managing growth while limiting financial impacts on our communities to small amounts.

In regard to the operating budget, citizens can expect more services and programs, with Council providing the leadership to make things happen. We will continue to invest in our community halls with a more generous community grant program, new support for community hall generators, and continue with our tax exemption for community facilities. These items total more than \$435,000 in our operating budget this year.

The proposed operating and capital budgets make unprecedented investments in emergency services with more than \$880,000 in additional funding for policing, including the addition of three new front line police officers effective immediately, and additional fire protection funding in excess of \$300,000.

Many of our larger financial costs are outside of the municipality's control, such as:

- an additional \$471,000 in funding to the Annapolis Valley Regional Centre of Education to support our local schools and students.
- an additional \$200,000 in funding for Kings Transit.
- an additional \$385,000 in costs to pay for curbside solid waste collection from our contractor.
- an additional \$216,000 in operating costs due to Valley Waste to manage our solid waste processing.
- an additional \$40,000 in salaries and \$21,000 in materials and supplies allocated to operate the Bridgetown Sewer System to reflect more accurately the staff time spent on this system.
- an additional \$195,000 in inflationary policing costs, and an additional \$80,000 in inflationary capital funding to fire departments.
- a reduction of \$50,000 in our annual equalization funding from the province.
- an additional \$85,000 to conduct the autumn 2024 municipal election.

However, in addition to non-discretionary spending, Council is making the following investments in 2024-2025:

- a grant of \$60,000 to the Annapolis Royal Pool Society for capital upgrades to the community swimming pool.
- an increase of seasonal parks and trails staff from 2 to 4 to maintain all municipal parks and greenspaces across Annapolis County at an additional estimated cost of \$55,000.
- \$50,000 grant to Annapolis County Outdoor Sports Society (ACOSS) to operate and maintain the Bridgetown Sports Hub.
- continuation of our annual library contribution of \$130,700 as well as operating costs for the Bridgetown Library building, with a commitment to increase this amount to any matching increase that the province provides in 2024.
- addition of \$85,000 to be used for the establishment of an Annapolis County Economic Development Inter-municipal agency, or to be used to join the Valley Regional Enterprise Network, also known as the Valley REN.
- new funding to create and manage an emergency alert app for the exclusive use of Annapolis County REMO including Annapolis Royal and Middleton where residents will be able to sign up for real time emergency alerts.
- new funding for the creation of a new Development Officer position to oversee the issuing of development permits that are required for the new county-wide Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB) as directed by the Province of Nova Scotia.
- continuation of funding to hire an external consultant to work on updates to several municipal planning strategies in Bridgetown and the East End that are overdue for updating.

- an increase in low-income tax exemptions for local residents to decrease the amount of taxes they pay to the municipality. The total amount being exempted in 2024 is expected to be \$285,000, up \$85,000 from 2023.
- a combined increase of \$90,000 in recreational funding among Town of Middleton, Town of Annapolis Royal, and Lawrencetown Recreation Society, as recognition of the many county residents that access their facilities and programs.
- a decrease of \$100,000 in external consultant fees and a decrease of \$42,000 in other contracts and agreements.
- funding and staff resources to hold active living and recreation strategy meetings throughout Annapolis County to create a 5-year active living plan for future resident programs, services, and infrastructure.

A detailed look into the 2024-25 budget will be shared in the coming weeks and months.

The support and encouragement received from community members has allowed Council the leadership to build quality infrastructure and programs for the most vulnerable, and to support the next generation of community leaders: our youth.

Thank you to all members of Council and our Chief Administrative Officer and his municipal staff for their willingness to come together to make sacrifices to achieve today's balanced budget and support significant capital investments to grow Annapolis County in the years ahead.

Re: SR2024-17 2024-2025 Operating Budget

**Motion 240319.10 SR2024-17 2024-2025 Operating Budget**

That Municipal Council approve the draft 2024-2025 operating budget reflecting revenues of \$25,789,443, expenditures of \$25,786,839, and a residual surplus of \$2,603.

Moved: Councillor Sheridan

Seconded: Councillor Gunn

Motion carried, 9 in favour, 1 against (Hudson).

Re: SR2024-17 2024-2025 Tax Base Rate

**Motion 240319.11 SR2024-17 2024-2025 Tax Base Rate**

That Municipal Council approve a 2024-2025 operating budget taxation base rate for all residential and resource assessments of 1.025 per \$100 of assessment, and a commercial tax rate of \$1.80 per \$100 of assessment for all commercial assessments.

Moved: Councillor Prout

Seconded: Councillor Sheridan

Motion carried, 9 in favour 1 against (Hudson)

Re: SR2024-17 2024-2025 Bridgetown Area Rate

**Motion 240319.12 SR2024-17 2024-2025 Bridgetown Area Rate**

That Municipal Council approve a 2024-2025 operating budget taxation area rate for all residential and resource assessments in Bridgetown of 45.31 cents per \$100 of assessment, and a commercial taxation area rate in Bridgetown of 74.13 cents per \$100 of assessment,

and a taxation area rate for all properties in Assessment District 12 (Lawrencetown) of the amount to be approved by the Lawrencetown Village Commission.

Moved: Councillor Barteaux

Seconded: Councillor Gunn

Motion carried, 9 in favour, 1 against (Hudson)

Re: SR2024-17 2024-2025 Fire Hydrant Area Rates

**Motion 240319.13 SR2024-17 2024-2025 Fire Hydrant Area Rates**

That Municipal Council approve fire hydrant taxation rates for the 2024-2025 fiscal year based on \$100 of assessment:

-	Margaretsville	District 2	18.69 cents
-	Inglewood	District 3	18.90 cents
-	Granville Ferry	Districts 4&5	17.05 cents
-	Carleton Corner	District 7	15.40 cents
-	Church Road	District 3	14.43 cents
-	Middleton	Districts 2&10	19.34 cents
-	Cornwallis Park	District 6	22.82 cents
-	Bridgetown	Districts 3&7	30.68 cents

Moved: Councillor Longmire

Seconded: Councillor Gunn

Motion carried.

Re: SR2024-17 2024-2025 Streetlight Area Rate

**Motion 240319.14 SR2024-17 2024-2025 Streetlight Area Rate**

That Municipal Council approve a 2024-2025 operating budget taxation area rate for all assessment accounts of 3.67 cents per \$100 of assessment, for the provision of streetlights county-wide.

Moved: Councillor Hudson

Seconded: Councillor LeBlanc

Motion carried.

Re: SR2024-17 Fire Area Rates

**Motion 240319.15 SR2024-17 Fire Area Rates**

That Municipal Council approve fire taxation rates for the 2024-2025 fiscal year as follows based on \$100 of assessment:

-	Kingston Fire	Districts 1&11	amount authorized by Kingston Fire Commission
-	Fire Capital	All Districts	6.11 cents

Moved: Deputy Warden Redden

Seconded: Councillor Sheridan

Motion carried.

Re: SR2024-17 2024-2025 Paving Area Rates

**Motion 240319.16 SR2024-17 2024-2025 Paving Area Rates**

That Municipal Council approve street paving taxation rates for the 2024-2025 fiscal year as follows based on \$100 of assessment:



- Chipman/Baxter	District 9	5.38 cents
- Cameron Drive	District 1	2.26 cents
- Brookside/Pine Grove	District 1	5.57 cents
- Bradley Street	District 1	3.75 cents

And that Ward Estates, District 11, be charged a lump sum amount of \$373.65 in lieu of a taxation rate.

Moved: Councillor Enslow

Seconded: Councillor Gunn

Motion carried.

Re: SR2024-17 2024 Tax Due Date and Interest

**Motion 240319.17 SR2024-17 2024 Tax Due Date and Interest**

That Municipal Council approve the due date for taxes of June 30, 2024, and that all rates and taxes remaining outstanding after this date be subject to interest at a rate of 12% per year, compounded monthly.

Moved: Councillor Enslow

Seconded: Councillor Sheridan

Motion carried.

Re: SR2024-17 2024-2025 Sewer Rates

**Motion 240319.18 SR2024-17 2024-2025 Sewer Rates**

That Municipal Council approve a sewer rate for all publicly connected sewer system customers outside Bridgetown of \$609.28 per year; and a base rate of \$23.98 per quarter and a usage charge of \$2.19 per cubic metre for all publicly connected sewer system customers within Bridgetown.

Moved: Councillor LeBlanc

Seconded: Councillor Prout

Motion carried.

Re: SR2024-17 5-Year Capital Investment Plan

**Motion 240319.19 SR2024-17 5-Year Capital Investment Plan**

That Municipal Council approve the draft 5-year Capital Investment Plan reflecting financial investments over 5 years of \$75,557,819, and a 2024-2025 capital investment of \$8,857,819.

Moved: Councillor Sheridan

Seconded: Councillor Longmire

Motion carried.

Re: SR2024-17 3-Year Water Utility Operating Budget

**Motion 240319.20 SR2024-17 3-Year Water Utility Operating Budget**

That Municipal Council approve the draft three-year Water Utility Operating Budgets for Bridgetown and Annapolis County reflecting operating revenues in 2024-2025 of \$722,859 for Bridgetown and \$1,055,186 for Annapolis County.

Moved: Councillor Gunn

Seconded: Councillor Enslow

Motion carried.

**Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Enslow declared an interest in the next item as he is employed by the RCMP. ***He left the room at 10:59 a.m.*** and did not participate in any discussion or subsequent motion.

**Re: SR2024-18 Letter to Minister of Justice – 3 Officers****Motion 240319.21 SR2024-18 Letter to Minister of Justice – 3 Officers**

That Municipal Council send a letter to Nova Scotia Minister of Justice requesting an increase of three (3) RCMP officers assigned directly to the Annapolis County Detachment, effective April 1, 2024.

Moved: Deputy Warden Redden

Seconded: Councillor Sheridan

Motion carried.

***Councillor Enslow returned to the room at 11:06 a.m.***

**Councillor Comments*****District 1 – Councillor Prout (as submitted)***

Good morning from District 1. Since our last Regular Council I have attended a number of meetings, including two regarding the Wilmot and Area Neighborhood Watch and the Annual Meeting of the Melvern Square and Area Community Center, along with a number of Council related meetings.

With the official arrival of Spring just after midnight this Wednesday evening, along with the fast-approaching Easter Season, I would like to update everyone on some of the business activities in District 1. Gouchers' Market and Spurr Brothers, which I "share" with my colleague, Councillor Connell, are becoming even busier. Summerland Nursery will be opening on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Greenleaf Enterprises has a wide array of vegetable and herb transplants available, all without sprays or chemicals. They also offer fresh flowers galore and are open seven days a week. Please remember to buy local whenever possible as it keeps the money in our local area and helps to support those businesses who also support our communities.

The Community Pantry on Stronach Mountain Road continues to be well used. The issue of food insecurity is still with a number of our fellow citizens. Anyone wishing to drop off items at the Pantry may do so at any time.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the largest Flea Market in Annapolis County will be opening for the season, in Wilmot, during the first weekend in May.

***District 3 – Councillor Enslow welcomed Spring. He looks forward to the docks going back in the water, and is glad for kids to be back in school after March Break.***

He attended most recent ACOSS public meeting with lots in attendance. They are working on Spring preparation of the facility. Attended Chamber meetings, and yesterday a meeting on the Redevelopment of Mountain Lea Facility, looking forward to 2025 when they move, with lots of discussion on the future use of the current building. It won't be an abandoned building or an eyesore. He reminded all of the Lions Breakfast on the first Saturday every month.

***District 4 – Councillor Barteaux noted increased activity this month, including attendance at: SOOF, Forestry, Policing, Sports Hub, and lots more. Time to look at gardens and plant seeds. Support your local groups hosting community activities – halls with breakfasts, etc. are raising funds to keep running. Watch out for the Easter Bunny!***

*District 5 – Councillor Longmire (as submitted)*

Greetings from District 5

It sure looks like Spring out there. We are now just hours away. Motorcyclists will soon be polishing their rigs and hitting the highway. Let's keep everyone safe.

I am so excited to share with you the wonderful events happening at two of the Halls in my District:

The Granville Hall in Port Royal located at 3551 Granville Road offers a wide range of activities from yoga and fitness classes like Tai Chi to a Literacy Circle. They are also the host to the Good Cheer Self Sufficiency Society along with a monthly coffee club and so much more. Medea Holtz, Niki Clark, Elaine Bergen and Mary Ritchie are just a few of the amazing volunteers that make this space a super Hub.

Steve Skafté has announced his spring speaking schedule and on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm he will be at the Lower Granville Hall. He is a local storyteller and author of the "Dead Die Twice" which tells of the stories of 20 abandoned cemeteries across the province. He is also the author of "Dead Center", which is a pocket guide to 144 grave sites in Annapolis County along with "Sleeping in a Cemetery", which is about children's graves. If you have not met Steve Skafté, if you have not read about or had the pleasure to hear him speak you must. He is a marvel to be in the presence of and his storytelling is first class. His books are available locally at the Maregold Bookstore and at the Mad Hatter Books and Endless Shores bookstore. Contact information [lowergranvillehall.com](http://lowergranvillehall.com), 902-955-1955, [LowerGranvilleHall@gmail.com](mailto:LowerGranvilleHall@gmail.com)

The Fundy Community and Recreation Center located in Young's Cove at 5407 Shore Rd West has been super busy with their Coffee Club on Mondays and Thursdays at 10 AM. They have been fundraising in order to do the necessary upgrades to their Hall so they can be considered a comfort center. It is so exciting to see their Hall thriving. Two volunteers I want to mention are Brian Rafuse and Linda Lowe- they are unstoppable. Recently, they have been holding Friday night potlucks & Jam sessions with open mic. This past week they held a Kids Party over March Break and of course Saturday they held their St. Paddy's Day Dance and Social. They have an eager group of volunteers, seeking lots of opportunities to bring the local communities together. More events to come this Spring. Contact information: Youngs Cove Community Hall on Facebook, It has also been wonderful to see the Halls present on social media not only promoting their events, but sharing important information around weather/storms, planned power outages, comfort centers when open and of recent, the 2024 Burn and Wildfire Season and I quote Brian Orde "let's do our part, exercise caution and prevent disasters". If you do not follow Annapolis REMO I encourage you to do so on Facebook (if you have the ability). If you do not have social media you can get the up to date information on the 2024 Burn Wildfire Season, by calling 1-855-564-2876.

If you are looking for a venue to rent for an event, consider your local halls.

*District 6 – Warden Morrison (as submitted)*

Spring has sprung, the grass is riz!! Community halls are getting busy, new activities and publications designed to feed the intellect and the natural hunger for tasty goodies.

Community Yard Sale Deep Brook Waldec Lions club hall and the community market (itself Wed 2 to 5) Sun March 24 11am to 2pm

Same Lions Club community breakfast Sat 23 March

Dinner theatre on the horizon.

Cornwallis Park community centre breakfasts second Sat of each month. The hall is busy with community activities every day and most evenings.

Clementsport Legion continues with Friday suppers, Wednesday coffee breaks and other community-wide events.

Upper Clements Community Hall has recently published an attractive, two-page bulletin of hall and community news. Features include an introduction to the hall and its activities, a review of past activities and forecasts for the future.

*District 7* – Councillor Hudson echoes all the comments on spring. People are anxious to get outside for outdoor activities and he hopes good weather increases. The arrival of spring is of particular interest to the golfers! He also attended lots of meetings over the past month.

*District 8* – Councillor Gunn

Councillor Gunn read comments from a prepared document.

*District 9* – Councillor Sheridan noted she is looking forward to spring. Ashe attended the March 3<sup>rd</sup> celebration at the Nictaux Fire Hall – their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The next Nictaux Fire Hall Bingo is on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

*District 10* – Deputy Warden Redden reminded all of the upcoming solar eclipse – don't look too close! The Lawrencetown and Area Seniors association meets on the second Tuesday of the Month, April 8<sup>th</sup>, they offer good conversation, a book club, and other activities. The Lawrencetown Legion hosts an open mic night on the second Friday of each Month.

*District 11* – Councillor LeBlanc is ready for spring. Easter is coming to the Three Rivers on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and the Easter Bunny will be waiting to see everyone. The Three Rivers Community Centre has a lot of activities – check their Facebook page. Of note, there is a clothing give away for people who may need access to that hosted by the Frugal Moms group. Always good entertainment with minimal cost. Enjoy!

### **Adjournment**

The Warden declared the meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.