



ATTENDING

- Mayor Jodi MacKay
- Deputy Mayor Jennifer Ingham
- Councillor Mike Butler
- Councillor Wendy Elliott
- Councillor Kelly van Niekerk
- Councillor Howard Williams
- Chief Administrative Officer, Glenn Horne
- Recording Secretary, Laura Morrison

ALSO ATTENDING

- Director of Finance, Beth Hopkins
- Director of Engineering and Public Works, Alex de Sousa
- Director of Planning & Economic Development, Devin Lake
- Manager of Communications & Strategic Initiatives, Barb Shaw
- Manager of Community Development, Nick Zamora
- Manager of IT, David Hopkins
- Interested members of the public

REGRETS

- Councillor Ian Palmeter

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Deputy Mayor Ingham, called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Mayor MacKay read the Land Acknowledgement

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions
1. Approval of Agenda	27-03-25 IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED. CARRIED
2. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No conflicts of interest declared
3. Public Input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No-one for public input.
4. Staff Reports for Discussion	
a. RFD 012-2025: 2025-26 Budget & Operations Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Accelerator Fund change in government may affect this funding, it is unlikely money received will be clawed back but unknown



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	<p>at this stage. The biggest risk would be around staffing, we have a staff person funded through the HAF.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCMP budget is less than anticipated. There is \$110k savings from version 1 based on the new service agreement under contracted services. • Historical Society receives 5,000k under Strategic Partnership and \$5,000k under a different budget line. • Clarification on historical funding provided for Acadia Pool and Athletics. Last year Acadia asked for a change to the funding for Athletics from \$50k to \$35k and the Pool from \$60k to \$75k. This was approved in 24/25. • In response to the question as to whether the Acadia pool sum could now be used to fund other recreational use at other pools, it is believed earmarking that money for some unidentified project at this time is not best use of funds. Town is actively listening to the community to see what the gap is with the pool closure. As previously mentioned, our issue with recreational programme delivery is not necessarily funding but capacity. The Town is limited in what we can provide. Provincial government stated openly they are committed to some level of funding. Look there first as Town's focus is on medium to long term plan of a regional recreation centre with our partners. • Capital budget - providing a five-year forecast rather than 10 years as has been done in the past helps to provide a more accurate estimate to Council. • Difficult to budget for Community Infrastructure. Year 1 and 2 is typically known what is planned for. However, oftentimes capital projects are outsourced which can be affected by a lack of external sources to complete the work, supply chain and procurement issues. Council haven't done their strategic plan yet. Once that is done there will be clearer direction on the focus and the funding in years coming could change. Only looking for budget approval for year one. • The upgrade of chimney at Robie Tufts Park has not been included in the operational plan as the presenter has yet to meet with staff to look at the chimney and make recommendations. • Restricted reserves are funds granted for a particular project and can only be used for that purpose with a report going back to the funding agency. • Unrestricted reserves allow council the opportunity to choose what those funds are used for.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biofouling is a phenomenon that occurs on outside of well screens over time. As well water is drawn through, items are filtered out by screens. Any of 'alive' items can become accumulated on the outside of the screens. The treatment includes pulling the entire well pump, motor and riser pipe assembly out of the well with the use of a crane as it is 100ft long. It is laid down, checked, ensured it is fit for purpose. All this helps longevity. A camera is then passed down to check the well casing and screens from inside and to determine what if any, treatment is required for biofouling and any other issues occurring on screens. In some cases, screens wear down over time, a visual inspection is important to inform of the conditions. A conservative guess is there will be biofouling based on similar wells in the valley and money that is in budget will be enough for a contractor to deal with that. Few contractors exist who have qualifications to do this work. There is no prescribed number of years on how often it needs to be done. Current conditions once assessed will help inform that. The Wickwire Well has been in service since 2007 and this has never been done. Wickwire well is planned to be done this fiscal. Cherry Lane well will be done in a future fiscal year. The recommendation for when work is being carried out would be a water conservation advisory to be issued and work carried out during a time when the splashpad is not open. May to June would be best timing. Believed the process takes about one to two weeks but depends on what is found and if something needs to be serviced. • Clarification on Long Term Debt – typo in presentation should be \$514,500. • Ops Plan updates discussed. Final review, proof reading and copy editing will be completed before being published. • A list of all Grants to Organizations grants are included. • Community partnership grants are still being reviewed and will then be added. • Financial trends and levy rates added. • Additional financial information added once budget approved. • A pilot project to address concerns with the impact of continual crosswalk use to address concern of undue congestion on the crosswalks at Gaspereau/Highland and University will be explored with further information coming back to Council for consideration – this has been added to Crosswalk Evaluation Project. • RCMP FTEs have been added.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status column on the capital investment plan providing current state of those projects has been added. • Parks Maintenance-staff led projects are completed by Town staff versus contracted out. • Earnscliff Ave reconstruction costs of \$89,000 covers only the design, and professional services to get the project ready for next fiscal year. • HR needs review with partners is still going ahead despite changes in leadership in Kentville. RFP issued about a week ago. Could be small delay. • Other recreation programming, teens and young adults programmes included just not listed in plan. • Parks and Recreation - we are finalizing scope of work for external consultant review. Will be started within next couple of weeks. • Mud dam – is the Nature Reserve this can be added for clarity. • Updates to Council on progress of Ops plan will be primarily through the monthly CAO repot. Many initiatives will be coming to council with their own decision points and twice a year report to COW, near summer and before budget. • Thanks to all staff for the tremendous amount of work that went into creating the Budget and Operational Plan and contents, and thanks to Council for all their thoughtful input and feedback. <p>28-03-25 IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FORWARD THE FOLLOWING MOTION TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION:</p> <p>That Council approve the 2025/26 Town Operating Budget, Five Year Capital Investment Plan, and the Water Utility Operating and Capital Budget, including the following details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Operating Budget with revenue & expenditures in the amount of \$16,388,511. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Residential Tax Rate of \$1.4655 per hundred dollars of assessment applied to taxable residential and resource assessments ○ Commercial Tax Rate of \$3.5655 per hundred dollars of assessment applied to taxable commercial assessments



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Taxes to be billed by way of Interim Tax Bill (issued in April, due May 30th, 2025) and Final Tax Bill (issued in August, due October 1st, 2025) ○ Interest in overdue amounts to be charged at a rate of 1.00% per month, compounded ● Town Capital Budget with Year 1 totaling \$9,275,085, including capital reserve funding of \$2,887,025, operating reserve funding of \$215,800, long term debt funding of \$1,902,860, Active Transportation Grant funding of \$620,800, Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) funding of \$3,483,200, and other grant funding of \$105,400. ● Water Utility Operating Budget with operating revenues of \$1,594,200, operating expenditures of \$1,712,020, non-operating revenues of \$36,000, and non-operating expenditures of \$101,780. ● Water Utility Capital Budget totaling \$1,746,600, including Capital Reserve Funding of \$418,300, Municipal Capital Growth Program funding of \$514,500, Capital from Operating Reserves funding of \$6,250, Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development funding of \$293,050, and Long-Term Debt funding of \$514,500. ● Fire Protection Area Rate (pursuant to Section 80 of the Municipal Government Act) of \$0.0562 per hundred dollars of assessment ● Business Development Area rate (pursuant to Section 56 of the Municipal Government Act) of \$0.23 per hundred dollars of commercial assessment ● Sewer fees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sewer usage rate of \$7.08 per 1,000 gallons of water used by customer ○ Flat Rate fee of \$135.70 per quarter ○ Minimum quarterly charge for any metered customer \$29.85



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sewer connection fee of \$6,500 ○ Water connection fee of \$6,500 ○ Sewer and Water connection fee of \$6,500 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Low Income Property Tax Exemption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Income threshold to qualify a maximum of \$46,500 ○ Maximum tax exemption of \$1,065 ● Grants to Organizations under General Government/Community Development (not part of Strategic & Community Partnership Policy) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Acadia Scholar Bursaries \$11,000 ○ Acadia University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Events hosting contribution \$30,000 – Summer Camps \$15,000 – Athletics \$35,000 <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</p> <p>29-03-25 IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FORWARD THE FOLLOWING MOTION TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION:</p> <p>THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE 2025/26 TOWN OPERATIONAL PLAN, PERMITTING STAFF TO ADD FINANCIAL DETAILS AS APPROVED IN THE 2025/26 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</p> <p>30-03-25 IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FORWARD THE FOLLOWING MOTION TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION:</p> <p>THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE HIRING OF A FULL-TIME PERMANENT COMMUNITY RECREATION PROGRAMMER AS PART OF THE 2025-26 BUDGET.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</p>



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	<p>31-03-25 IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FORWARD THE FOLLOWING MOTION TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION:</p> <p>THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE HIRING OF A FULL-TIME PERMANENT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT IN THE OFFICE OF THE CAO AS PART OF THE 2025-26 BUDGET.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</p> <p>32-03-25 IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FORWARD THE FOLLOWING MOTION TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION:</p> <p>THAT COUNCIL APPROVE A \$40,000 ONE-TIME CAPITAL GRANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE WOLFVILLE LEGION TO SUPPORT FACILITY UPGRADES AS PART OF THE 2025-26 BUDGET.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</p> <p>33-03-25 IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FORWARD THE FOLLOWING MOTION TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION:</p> <p>THAT COUNCIL APPROVE A \$2,500 ONE-TIME OPERATIONAL GRANT CONTRIBUTION TO HORTON HIGH SCHOOL FRANCHISE TO SUPPORT THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH 'EXPERIENCES CANADA EXCHANGE' AS PART OF THE 2025-26 BUDGET.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</p>
<p>b. RFD 013-2025: Municipal Fees Policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitary Sewer Usage (per 1,000 gallons of water used by customer) should read \$7.08 • Sanitary sewer flat fee rate should read \$135.00 <p>34-03-25 IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FORWARD THE FOLLOWING MOTION TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION:</p>



Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions
	<p>THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE MUNICIPAL FEES POLICY #140-015 AS ATTACHED TO RFD 013-2025 AS AMENDED.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</p>
<p>5. Public Input</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrea Lynn, 74 Sherwood Drive. Recap on previous issues already raised such as concern about the 100% digital elections; concern with the speed at which the provincial election came into effect, and concern with what the Premier of the province was asking of the councils. Concern our municipalities are disconnected, interfered with and infiltrated. Call me a Conspiracy Theorist. Councils use taxpayers money to do the projects within budget. Concerns of money laundering. Council need to get out of the partners for climate projection. You're 5 levels into it. You're steeped in it. You probably don't know what council is anymore. Handouts to give to Council but not staff as they are not from here.
<p>6. Regular Meeting Adjourned</p>	<p>35-03-25 IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR MEETING ADJOURN AT 10:22am.</p>

Approved by Committee of the Whole Motion 06-04-25 April 2025
As recorded by Laura Morrison, Town Clerk & Manager of Administration