

**Committee of the Whole Meeting
 Approved Minutes
 April 7, 2026 at 5:00 pm**

1. Call to Order	Deputy Mayor Sybil Skinner-Robertson called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm
2. Present	Mayor Amery Boyer, Councillor Adele MacDonald, Deputy Mayor Sybil Skinner-Robertson, Councillor Lynn Myers, Councillor Heather Sadkowski, CAO Sandi Millett-Campbell and Recording Secretary Kim Dunning Member of the public: Roger Lindala – who has waived the live recording notice
3. Regrets	None
4. Absents	None
5. Additions to Agenda	11. New Business x. FS Fulmar 2026 Visit to Annapolis Royal In-camera New Business 7. V. Plans to buy, sell and lease property
6. Approval of Agenda	MOTION #CoW2026-04-07-01 It was regularly moved and seconded to approve the agenda with the above additions by unanimous consent.
7. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest Issues	None
Edits to the Minutes	None
8. Approval of Minutes	MOTION #CoW2026-04-07-02 The March 3, 2026 minutes were approved as presented by unanimous consent.

9. Presentation
None

10. Public Input

Roger Lindala was very happy to attend the engagement session and added that this is a great format for letting residents chat about concerns and ideas. The survey shared at the engagement session was very good and is happy with what/and how we communicate.

11. New Business

- i. Request for Decision – Repeal GENIE Policy
CAO Millett-Campbell advised that due to the 2026 budget changes, there isn't any money in the budget to support this grant.

MOTION #CoW2026-04-07-03

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council to repeal the Grants for Encouraging New and Interesting Events (GENIE) Policy #2023-05 dated March 16, 2023.

Motion carried.

Councillor MacDonald asked if one of the reasons that this was removed was due to the funds not being spent. CAO Millett-Campbell responded that the funds were not used completely in previous years. Mayor Boyer added that the Town is now providing funding with the County of Annapolis for a shared Economic Development Officer.

- ii. Request for Decision – Repeal PIQL Policy **(TAB 3) DM**
CAO Millett-Campbell advised that the repeal is for the same reason as the repeal of the GENIE policy.

MOTION #CoW2026-04-07-04

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council repeal of Projects to Improve Quality of Life Fund Policy #2023-06 dated March 16, 2023. **Motion carried.**

- iii. Request for Decision – Replace Fines and Fees Policy
CAO Millett-Campbell advised that, in accordance with the Vending By-law changes, there is a need to remove the words to garden centres” and “mobile” from the policy to align with the

By-law.

MOTION #CoW2026-04-07-05

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council repeal of Fines and Fees Policy #2025-10 dated July 17, 2025 and its replacement with replace Fines and Fees policy #2026-03 dated April 2026. **Motion carried.**

- iv. CleanFoundation Joint Climate Action Plan
CAO Millett-Campbell advised that this will be shared with the Environment Advisory Committee tomorrow. Councillor Myers asked if they are planning to engage with youth, and CAO Millett-Campbell responded that CleanFoundation has booked dates with the schools.
- v. Proposal for a Friendship City Relationship with Dashinchilen, Mongolia
CAO Millett-Campbell advised that the Town received an email. Councillor MacDonald thought that this was a good idea, and perhaps they should contact other municipalities. Deputy Mayor Skinner-Roberson added that if they want to engage with schools, perhaps they should contact them directly. Mayor Boyer suggested that there is potential for a pen-pal setup, and it was agreed that Mayor Boyer would respond and include reaching out to the County of Annapolis.

ACTION: Respond with options/ideas and contacting the County of Annapolis

NAME: Mayor Boyer

DUE: April 30, 2026

- vi. Request a Leave of Absence from Council
Deputy Mayor Skinner-Robertson is requesting a leave of absence to provide support for their family and advised that there is the possibility that they may need to extend the leave. CAO Millett-Campbell advised that there is a need for a motion to hold their position.

MOTION #CoW2026-04-07-06

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve a leave of absence from Council from April 20, 2026 to June 30, 2026 for Deputy Mayor Skinner-Robertson, as they will be out of Province on a family matter. **Motion carried.**

vii. Secondary Signing Authority **DM**

CAO Millett-Campbell advised that due to Deputy Mayor Skinner-Robertson;s absence for six weeks, there is a need for someone to cover this duration to sign cheques or approve payroll. Councillor Sadkowski offered to be a secondary signing authority.

MOTION #CoW2026-04-07-07

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve the appointment of Councillor Sadkowski as a secondary signing authority from April 20, 2026 to June 30, 2026. **Motion carried.**

viii. 2026-27 Tax Exemption Request

CAO Millett-Campbell advised that the Town has received a request for a tax write-off. Town staff had responded no, because this would create a precedent for other ratepayers in the same situation. They have asked for this to go to Council. Councillor MacDonald asked how many rate payers could potentially come forward. CAO Millett-Campbell responded that they wouldn't know. Mayor Boyer did check with PVSC earlier and the Town has one of the highest number of tax exempt and partially exempt properties, and there have to be better business models to make them viable. Deputy Mayor Skinner-Roberston added that they didn't think this a step they can take, and it was agreed that Council would decline the request.

ix. Tidal Gravity Generator

Mayor Boyer advised that this is tied in with what could happen with the Wharf to enable it to become a useful structure. The documentation included in the package refers to a UK project that had received funding. This company supports floating/non-floating hotels on the port with gravity generators (displacement of the water feeds the generator). She advised that not only are they doing this, but they also have the UK experience and UK

money to partner with others with higher tides. There is an opportunity to say that we are interested in learning more about the project. Mayor Boyer would like to hear from Council on their opinions before completing a contact form. She added that staff have also found a water desalination unit that operates through reverse osmosis, which is an idea that the Town could also explore. Councillor MacDonald added that other smaller components could be added to make something bigger. It was agreed to explore this opportunity.

ACTION: Send a contact form to Sunborn regarding potential opportunities

NAME: Mayor Boyer

DUE: April 15, 2026

x. FS Fulmar 2026 Visit to Annapolis Royal

Mayor Boyer advised that a French offshore patrol ship wants to visit the Town of Annapolis. They would like to anchor in the Town and have checked with the Port of Digby which has agreed to provide any support needed with this request. The Town Crier will be greeting them on April 25, 2026 and the ship will leave on April 27, 2026 in the morning. Mayor Boyer will invite members of Council and others to a reception for the Captain and crew of the vessel.

ACTION: Send invitation to members of Council

NAME: Mayor Boyer

DUE: April 17, 2026

12. Unfinished Business

i. Council Engagement Session

Mayor Boyer gave an update on the recent engagement session.

- Eleven people attended (including four Council members)
- Two PowerPoint presentations were made, one of the results of the recent Communications Survey and the other on the statistics of the live-streaming of six Committee of the Whole and six Council meetings and the

- pros and cons of livestreaming as expressed to date
- A copy of the two presentations as well as notes on the feedback received are available upon request
- The main takeaway was that respondents want to know how decisions are being made
- There were very good comments which will help provide a basis for the development of a Town communication plan

ii. Live-streaming of Council Meetings

Councillor Sadkowski started the discussion with a motion.

MOTION

That Council amend the Municipal Live-streaming of Council Meetings Policy to discontinue the live-streaming of Council meetings on YouTube and any other platform, and that video recordings of Council meetings no longer be maintained as a public archive. **Motion deferred.**

Deputy Mayor Skinner-Roberston advised that all Council members should follow Robert's Rules, and everyone would be given ten minutes to speak and after everyone had spoken there was the option of further discussion.

Councillor Sadkowski advised that they are opposed to live-streaming and archiving videos and wanted to clarify that they are not making this motion lightly, and that the purpose is not to reduce access and transparency within our community. They added that even though they are opposed to the live-streaming and archiving of the videos on YouTube they are open to finding other solutions that will work to make the meetings accessible for those who are unable to attend in person. They advised that only 20-30% of municipalities in Nova Scotia live stream their Council meetings, and nationally only 15%. They added that it is not a provincial or national standard, and they don't think that the Town wants to stress that those who aren't live-streaming aren't offering accessibility alternatives to being transparent. Yesterday, Mayor Mood from Yarmouth posted a video online that highlighted a discussion of female Councillors across Canada discussing the rising rates of harassment of female

politicians that they experienced personally and professionally and the impact that it had on their lives. They suggested that the tone of political discord in Canada has shifted, and discussions are becoming more polarized, and less respectful. They believe that municipal politics is a very different experience for men and women but is invested in young future politicians who might be interested in this role, whether that's women or individuals from marginalized groups. They would like to find a way that they are not dissuaded from engaging in this role because of the implications of live-streaming or the way that they may feel that their safety or online presence may be impacted. They added that in general, YouTube and other platforms allow comments, clipping and reposting. Live-streaming meetings can unintentionally amplify harassment and abuse directed at Councillors, particularly women. They think that the Town does a really good job of communicating, and we can do a much better job at communicating content through the communications plan. The Town already provides written minutes and agendas ahead of time, we have the ability for people to attend in person, we hold quarterly engagement sessions, online surveys, and communicate through Facebook and the Town's newsletter. Going forward, we could provide written summaries and briefing notes to the public, so that they are aware of what decisions have been made and how. These can be shared after the meetings.

The biggest point that they want to drive home is that transparency is about access to information and decision making and is not about permanent video broadcasting. They added that this is a safety concern and most of us have other roles in and around the community. Having your children and a long career ahead of you and having this left online can have an impact on them and their family in lots of different ways. Their final statement was to say that they are not opposed to finding alternative solutions but would like to see live-streaming with permanent archiving on YouTube removed.

Councillor MacDonald advised that they have spoken to quite a few people in the community and stated that they did not share

their view on this with any of them (acquiring information only).
Of the 22 people they spoke to:

- 4 didn't care
- 3 overlapped with the engagement session of continuing live-streaming
- 1 overlapped with the email received from public
- 1 requested it for to the IDEA committee
- 13 wanted it to continue (but not sure on what form this should be)

They advised that in good conscience, the feedback does not support the ending of the live broadcast, and the digital archive could change from its current format for the Council meetings. The primary issue they have is when they look at the scraping and how it works, in a live stream that's happening now, you can't actually scrape the video because you can't scroll back in the stream, and you are only getting what's happening in the moment, so the most you can do is record it via cell phone or something like that, but you couldn't actually download or scrape the video. They have looked at several technical issues e.g. YouTube channel doesn't have a comment option; the video could be made unlisted and there is an option to share a link. Also, the archive copies could be made unlisted and again there is the option to share the link. Because the live stream itself is not scrapeable, the archive of it could be made unlisted. They added that if anything were to get out of hand, the Town could make it completely private, and no one could access it. They advised that there are levels of control out there that we have before wiping things out completely, because so many people are focused on the issues of transparency, accessibility and inclusiveness.

One of the things that does concern them is that they are an elected official, their roles are inherently public and there is not a choice for this; there isn't an ability not to be public in terms of their work with Council. If they attend a public meeting or a public event, there is always an opportunity for photography and videography to be taken, and they cannot prevent that from happening; they don't have the ability to not do public facing.

They have looked at politicians who have stepped down due to negative online experiences, and there have been quite a few, but none of them have been related to scraping video or memes produced using the videos. Primarily most of them were conflicts that generated in the comments that got out of hand, and people got crazy about it.

They also mentioned the podcast with Mayor Mood, and they connected them with the relevant people for the podcast. They do think that there is no platform that can fully prevent downloading of images, audio or video, but the Town does have the ability to control it more. There is the option to go into the details section and select “don’t allow” remixing. This would not let people who would be doing this legitimately unable to do this. They feel that in our current political climate, our transparency, inclusiveness and our accessibility are more important than ever. Council is accountable to the community, to the residents who elected us and we should not reduce their ability to see exactly how we work together and how we work with staff. This is very critical to them, and they appreciate the official records of their meetings, but what they don’t provide is how we interact and work in good faith to provide municipal governance for our friends and neighbours.

We are a very small community and the people who are looking at us are our friends and neighbours, but the visual recording of the meeting is just as important. One of the reasons they chose to run for Council was that they were able to go back and look at meetings and see how they were conducted. They added that they routinely hear from people who have looked at the recordings later as they were unable to attend in person, and they only watch the segment that is important to them, as they don’t want to come and sit through the whole meeting.

They are really pleased that the Town as a community partnered with the surrounding municipalities with the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility Committee (IDEA) and quoted the key elements of that committee to this Council. They advised that they don’t particularly like seeing themselves on video and

photos out there, but their work has made that necessary both as a member of Council and their private business. They stated that the Town has just adopted the Annapolis County Joint Accessibility Plan 2026 – 2028, and one of its five areas of focus is:

“Information and communication ensuring all people can receive, understand and share the information they need to increase awareness and education about accessibility rights and opportunities that can benefit the whole community”.

The Inclusion, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Plan 2026 – 2029 (what is the name of the actual plan?) was also recently adopted, and one of the four main points in this document was to make our county more accessible, in our buildings, transportation and the way we share information. They feel that it is entirely inappropriate of the Town to consider moving one of the simplest ways that we have to make our meetings both inclusive and accessible, when they can in fact secure the information better, so that it is not so widely available to the public.

Councillor Myers stated that they did listen to the above-mentioned podcast last night and had to turn it off as it was quite upsetting. They added that one of the worst parts of all is that if you are a victim of harassment, there is very little remedy for that. They noted they agree with a lot of what Councillor Sadkowski has said. There is the option to increase accessibility when the Town gets its new website, ensuring that residents have easy access to minutes. Talking about equity, we have a member of our Council requesting an increased level of privacy and they support their fellow Council women and can't imagine not supporting them. They added that this does not affect transparency, and it isn't mandated. They appreciated the public input received and that is convenient for them and is open to looking at alternatives with Council that everyone here feels comfortable with. They can't imagine not supporting somebody by asking for privacy, no matter if they are an elected official or

not.

Mayor Boyer advised that they will not go through everything that has been said as there are two sides to every discussion. Her concerns are for the people who make the rules for Council, and she thinks the important rule is that we protect our employees, and we must also protect ourselves as Council members. She noted that individual Councillors choose to more or less engage online, and she is one of those who is careful about what they do online. She never speaks for the Town online, and she is not saying that other people do, but some members prefer to maintain their privacy. She will visit residents in their homes but gives them the option to choose where to meet. There are lots of things to improve and she offered to go online after meetings to summarize, change the way she does reports, whatever is needed. She is fully prepared to change what we have to do to improve two things – accountability and transparency. At the same time, she is very concerned about the safety of people online. People do take a risk when they go online and while they admire them for that, not everyone feels the same. She added that she does not feel as comfortable being online as much as others are, she has seen what happens and she does not want to become a victim.

Deputy Mayor Skinner-Robertson advised that they are very torn by this. The important thing for them is for the Town to be transparent and agree that just putting meetings on YouTube doesn't make this transparent. They think there are other ways to look at transparency. They added that the Town was transparent before YouTube came along. They have concerns about how much we need to find and find something that also works for staff, so we aren't burdening them with additional activity. They know it is not very long since this started, but the world is moving at light-speed with regard to different technologies, and it is understandable that it makes more people more reluctant to have their images on the internet where they are not fully in control of them. They have been back and forth on this and can see both sides. They are not sure if we must use YouTube for streaming and perhaps there is another option out

there that would give better and simpler control for staff. Need to create safety and comfort for everyone. They are concerned for the younger generation who are more worried about this than Council are. They are not on some of the platforms that Council are on, and we need to ensure that it is safe to step forward and volunteer. We need to think of the privacy of our Council members but also of their families. With being out in public, the risk has always been there, but people's behaviour on the internet is different than face-to-face discussions. They are not sure how they will vote as they see both sides, but if we have people who are super uncomfortable, we need to find a solution. Possibility is a sign-in process rather than allowing anyone from around the world to watch Council videos which could create a situation for where a member of Council faces bribery or extortion later down the line. Suggest looking at what's the best and safest tool to provide safety without creating a burden for staff.

Deputy Mayor Skinner-Robertson offered the option for Council to add additional comments.

Councillor MaCDonald wanted to add a couple of things that they had forgotten earlier. 30% of the municipal live-streaming only accounts for live-streaming, and there would be probably an additional 30% being aired on TV. There is a much larger number that goes up when you look at the live broadcast compared to live-streaming. The only other thing they would say about this is that they are not against ways to protect our privacy, but what they are against is making wholesale changes without including the other people in the IDEA Committee. They asked about including people in the community who have a vested interest in how we are communicating now. They do feel very strongly about this and they suggest connecting with IDEA as they may have some ideas on how this could be managed. They felt very strongly that Council is making a decision here, that on one hand, it's for our protection and privacy, and on the other hand Council is here because there is a whole community of people that we are serving. They feel that the community of people need to have some weight in this discussion, and right

now they don't see that happening.

Deputy Mayor Skinner-Robertson responded that one person going round and talking to several people isn't necessarily representative, so there needs to be a broader approach than a single person interviewing people. Councillor MacDonald agreed.

Councillor Sadkowski suggested amending the motion to remove live-streaming, archiving and exploring new options, and Mayor Boyer added that this would substantively change the motion on the table. Councillor MacDonald would like to have the discussion on changes before the motion proceeds further. After further discussion there will be two motions: one for removal; and one for investigation of other options.

CAO Millett-Campbell suggested that before Council proceeds further, a decision should be made on whether or not the policy should be repealed, and a second motion should be made on how we should move forward. Councillor Sadkowski added that the moving forward could tie into our communication strategy as Council has started an exploration for making changes to the Town's communication policy, and this could be added on. Councillor MacDonald has concerns that they are making changes before Council has done the work. They are not opposed to making people's privacy more secure, but Council is talking about making a big change before doing the work to explore what we should/should not do. Mayor Boyer added that she would go with the potential for harm: where a Councillor is saying there is a danger of potential harm, you stop what you are doing. We do it all the time in municipal government if we are not sure. She likes the idea of developing the communication plan and exploring what else can do. She does not think that safety issues were considered in the development of the existing communications policy and there is nothing in it about protecting anybody. Our environment has become more toxic, and she is concerned about harm. Councillor MacDonald wasn't sure how they would be harmed, and Mayor Boyer responded that there are lots of examples of how people are

being harmed.

It was agreed that the discussion should stop as everyone had spoken. CAO Millett-Campbell advised that policy motions are recommended at Committee of the Whole and then approved at Council meetings.

MOTION #CoW2026-04-07-08

It was regularly moved and seconded to recommend to Council to repeal Live-streaming of Council Meetings Policy #2023-04 dated February 16, 2023 with effect from April 15, 2026. **Motion carried. 2 nay**

Deputy Mayor Skinner-Robertson asked about the second motion and after further discussion, it was agreed for Council and staff brainstorm on what options are available, as there is a communications plan that needs to be developed as well as a review of the existing communications policy. Councillor MacDonald added that there is a need to include what protections are already in place. CAO Millett-Campbell wanted to reiterate that live-streaming will not continue after April 15, 2026, once the motion has been approved at Council. Mayor Boyer added that further discussion for information sharing, etc. can be included in this. CAO Millett-Campbell advised that a report will not be ready in time for the next Council meeting. Deputy Mayor Skinner-Roberson added that everyone supports transparency but wants to ensure that everyone feels safe, including Councillors.

13. Correspondence
None

14. In-camera
Under Section 22(2) of the Municipal Government Act:

MOTION #CoW2026-04-07-09

It was regularly moved and seconded to move in camera at 6:07 pm to approve the in-camera minutes of March 3, 2026, and to discuss two

labour relations and contract negotiations, two personnel matters, and plans to sell, buy or lease property. **Motion carried.**

MOTION #CoW2026-04-07-11

It was regularly moved and seconded to move out of camera at 6:55 pm.
Motion carried.

MOTION #CoW2026-04-07-12

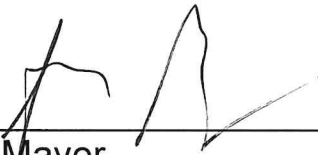
It was regularly moved and seconded that Council accept the offer for Lot 1, Victoria Street (PID #05318423), and to proceed with the sale of the property as-is. **Motion carried.**

15. Next Meeting

May 5, 2026

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 pm.

For


Deputy Mayor
Sybil Skinner-Robertson



Recording Secretary
Kim Dunning

