

**Town of Annapolis Royal
 Council Meeting
 Approved Minutes
 April 15, 2026 at 6:00 pm**

<p>1. Call to Order</p>	<p>Mayor Boyer called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm</p>
<p>2. Present</p>	<p>Mayor Amery Boyer, Deputy Mayor Sybil Skinner-Robertson, Councillor Adele MacDonald, Councillor Heather Sadkowski, Councillor Lynn Myers, Director of Finance (DoF) Melony Robinson and Recording Secretary Kim Dunning</p> <p>Members of the Public: Roger Lindala Paula Hafting left at 6:48 pm Alan Melanson left at 6:48 pm Bill MacDonald left at 6:48 pm Thomas Dort left at 6:48 pm Jeff Hafting left at 6:48 pm Steve Robertson left at 6:48 pm</p> <p>Mayor Boyer noted the passing of former Councillor Doug Shaffner. Visitation is from 7:00 to 9:00 pm on April 15, 2026 and there will be a celebration of his life at their church, St Luke's Church in Annapolis Royal at 11:00 am on Thursday, April 16.</p> <p>She also mentioned that there will be a celebration of life for former Director of Finance for the Town, Terry Silver, on July 4, 2026 at 4:00 pm.</p>
<p>3. Regrets</p>	<p>CAO Sandi Millett-Campbell</p>
<p>4. Absents</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>5. Additions to Agenda</p>	<p>In-camera 16. New Business. ii. Labour relations and contract negotiations</p>
<p>6. Approval of Agenda</p>	<p>MOTION #C2026-04-15-01 The agenda was approved with the above addition by unanimous consent.</p>

7. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest Issues	None
Edits to the Minutes	None
8. Approval of Minutes	MOTION #C2026-04-15-02 The Council Minutes of March 18, 2026 were approved as presented by unanimous consent.

9. Presentations
 None

10. Public Input

Paula Hafting stated that they are a resident of the Town of Annapolis Royal and would respectfully ask Council to reconsider the decision to discontinue the live-streaming of meetings or at the very least, pause this decision until an alternative has been put in place. They added that they were a former Town Councillor and during their time there the Town invested in purchasing the Owl camera system and introduced live-streaming to improve transparency, accessibility and public engagement. Live-streaming is not just a convenience, it is a core part of how residents stay connected to their local government. Not everyone can attend your meetings in person, People have work commitments, mobility challenges, childcare responsibilities, or simply cannot sit through the entire meeting just to hear one item that matters to them. Live-streaming allows the Town’s residents to stay informed, see how your decisions are made, hear discussions and not just the outcome. Without it transparency is reduced to the written minutes, which don’t capture the full context of discussions, questions and reasoning.

They know that the live-stream meetings are averaging around 43 views each meeting, and the Town has already invested in the equipment to support this. Many municipalities across Nova Scotia continue to live-stream successfully. This tells us two things: there is consistent public interest, and the system is in place, and it is working, so removing it does not solve a

problem, it removes a benefit. As elected officials, councillors have stepped into the public roles based on the principles of transparency, accountability and public access to information, and councillors already know public office naturally comes with a higher level of visibility. Putting it into perspective, each of you councillors already maintain Facebook profiles with hundreds of connections, photographs and information about yourselves that are available online through news and public sources. The concern around visibility needs to be weighed against the responsibility of your public engagement.

They understand that there may be concerns around privacy or the potential for misuse of video footage, but there are no cases in Nova Scotia that they are aware of where municipal live-streams have been used maliciously against elected officials. The risk of deep fakes or misuse of Council footage appears to be in theory but not reality. Photos of councillors already appear online, however, if you have concerns about privacy or misuse, there are many practical ways to reduce that risk: e.g. use a wide angle shot of the whole Council table instead of the close ups. Position camera to avoid constant direct facial close-ups. This would reduce personal exposure while still allowing viewers to follow your meeting. The solution to risk isn't removal, it is thoughtful adjustment. If live-streaming is removed, there are several potential issues that may arise:

- how will residents access special presentations?
- how will residents understand how decisions are made?
- will staff face increased workload responding to enquiries?

On average, the Town's meetings receive about 43 views online and if live-streaming is discontinued, will Council be prepared to accommodate up to 43 people in person, given that Council chambers have seating for approximately 16 people. The Town has expressed goals about improving accessibility and engagement heading towards the year 2030 and removing live-streaming is counterproductive and moves to the opposite direction. Accessibility today includes digital access, not just physical presence. They feel that the decision is being made

without a clear alternative, which they feel could be looked at as shortsighted. If Council still has concerns, they suggest:

- pause your decision – rather than finalizing it tonight
- consult the public more broadly; explore alternatives (audio recordings, adjusted video formats and privacy angled camera setups).

Most importantly, don't remove access to it without replacing something instead.

Live-streaming is a simple, effective way to keep the Town's residents informed, engaged and connect with Councillors, the local government. It supports transparency, reduces confusion, and strengthens trust. They respectfully ask Council to continue live-streaming or at a minimum to delay the decision until a clear and accessible alternative is in place.

Alan Melanson advised that they used to come to all the Council meetings until COVID happened, and they like to watch it online. They can watch it live or later. They want to bring up a point (brought up by Councillor MacDonald) that watching the live-stream of Committee of the Whole meeting is where a matter is discussed and then the Council meeting, where the decisions are made. The minutes are not available for a month. They want to see something in place before live-streaming stops. Communication is approximately 55-58% of body language, and you can see how councillors are presenting themselves, and they feel that this should be done live.

Roger Lindala would like to put a hold on repealing the PIQL and GENIE policies. These are fabulous opportunities for the Town. There isn't a need to fund them, but the opportunities should stay. Regarding live-streaming, recording and archiving, they know that these functions have become critical to assist daily life, and understanding the business of our Town. They are popular, offer quality of access, clarity and an understanding of the type of business and the good work of staff and officials. Several points have already been mentioned but that they heard as a counter to the policy made them worry that individuals' fear of future and even hypothetical poor behaviours

outside of our realm are being elevated to the point where they are damaging the public good. They want to add their voice to those who are asking to pause the decision. Let's keep doing it that way.

Thomas Dort is a resident of the Town and wanted to thank councillors for their public service and being the public face may be uncomfortable sometimes, but that comes with the job. This is no different to working, and if you work for the Town, it will be public. Everything councillors do is scrutinised by the public, that comes with the position – good or bad. There is a need for transparency, especially in this day and age, with everything going on in all the media, etc. and transparency starts at home. There is a need to have uncomfortable conversations, but that must be done so that the public can see it. This needs to be recorded as a lot of people are busy. They do not want to see the recordings stopped, and if anything, there is a need more transparency. There is a need to bring in the younger people, get them involved. Bring the public in and be more connective. This way people get to find out what's going on, and it is less likely for people to find out something at the last minute and react. They wanted to again thank councillors for the work they do, but they need people from public service to work for the taxpayers to be open to the public, so they can be talked to. This can be uncomfortable sometimes, but sadly that's part of the job. It may be uncomfortable and that's why we really cherish the people working for the public. There may be occasions when it is going to be bad, and someone may get upset, but that is what your job is. There is a need to have records so that people can look back six months down the road. Thanks again for the work that you do, the public sometimes doesn't understand what councillors might take home every day.

Bill MacDonald is a resident taxpayer of the Town and former Mayor. They had recently attended the Council Engagement Session where they expressed their opposition to the proposed discontinuation of live-streaming of the Council and Committee of the Whole meetings and deleting of previous archived meetings. The rationale, as they understood it, was a privacy

concern of one of the councillors, however, there is the reality that there are limits on the privacy on public officials for Canada. The limits are primarily driven by the principles of transparency, accountability and the public right to know. They feel these should take precedence over the personal privacy of those holding public office. The Minister of Municipal Affairs himself emphasized the importance of transparency, accountability, and public confidence in local government. Municipalities are responsible for balancing these principles within their own decisions. Making these processes and legislative authority, while considering the perspectives of residents, which you have here this evening. Ultimately, with the greatest respect raises, the actions proposed favour the concerns of one person over the greater good and the public interest of the community. They remain opposed to the proposal and ask that councillors reconsider it also.

Stephen Robertson advised that they think the issues of transparency and accountability are somewhat overblown, and we need to look at how people feel safe and looked after within our community. This can be achieved with transparency and accountability without having live-streaming happening all the time. They aren't a big fan of social media and tries to stay away from it. They were disheartened to see some of the comments, and there is the need to be a kinder community and support one another regardless of what our positions in our community are. They are sure that there are many good alternatives that can be explored which will accomplish all the generals? with transparency and accountability. This will make this a safer community for everyone. They want inclusion in our communities.

Mayor Boyer thanked everyone for their input and explained the procedure that this will be discussed by Council later in the agenda.

11. New Business

i. 1726 Treaty 300 Year Celebration

Mayor Boyer stated that this is for information only. They have the plans made by Fort Anne and can share it as needed.

- ii. Celebration of First Responders – June 20, 2026
Mayor Boyer stated that the Town has received a request for a flyby on June 20, 2026. It was agreed to support this event. Letter will be sent out. It was also suggested to include the information in the Town Crier Newsletter.

ACTION: Send letter out supporting this event

NAME: Recording Secretary Dunning

DUE: May 1, 2026

ACTION: Add to June's Town Crier Newsletter

NAME: Recording Secretary Dunning

DUE: May 24, 2026

12. Unfinished Business

None

13. Recommendations from Committees, Boards and Commissions

MOTION #C2026-04-15-03

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

Deputy Mayor Skinner-Robertson acknowledges that there is a member of the public concerned with discontinuing this funding. Councillor Sadkwoski added that the Town is supporting an Economic Development position with the County of Annapolis, and they would be working with businesses in the Town and County. Councillor MacDonald added that this new position may help find ways for other opportunities going forward.

MOTION #C2026-04-15-04

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

Councillor MacDonald advised that this is based on the same reasoning which had been discussed for the GENIE Policy that would apply to the PIQL Policy. They wanted to share that Town staff had done an amazing job putting these policies together, that included a ranking tool to take away the decision making from staff and Council.

MOTION #C2026-04-15-05

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

MOTION

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve the repeal of Live Streaming of Council Meetings Policy #2023-04 dated February 16, 2023 and its replacement with audio recording effective the next meeting. **Motion deferred.**

Councillor Sadkowski advised that they had made their position clear during the previous meetings. They still support discontinuing live-streaming and archiving of Council meetings. They want to reiterate, which perhaps wasn't clearly done at the previous meeting, that they are opposed to the video of live-streaming of Council meetings and the archiving of them on YouTube. They are motivated to find alternatives that can mitigate some of those safety risks and concerns, but also to continue to meet accessibility needs, and maintain our commitment to transparency. They added that this motion is not about reducing public awareness or participation, it has been discussed at our public consultation sessions. This has been discussed at multiple Council sessions that have been advertised to the public and that have encouraged their participation and communication. Council has also prioritized developing a communication strategy. They stated that they

were open to audio recording, it's the video component they are opposed to.

Councillor MacDonald advised that they have three points to make with respect to the motion:

1. They do not understand why Council is taking such an extreme action before making any attempt to use the existing privacy tools that are already available to Council. The tools address all the privacy concerns and potential harassment concerns that have been raised. There have been vague discussions about wanting to explore alternatives so we can meet more than the bare minimum required of us with respect to accessibility, inclusiveness and transparency. They added that the bare minimum standard of those three things is not the goal they want Council to strive for – we can do better than that. A request for staff was made to generate a report about the privacy protections that can be put in place, and provide information on some other, as of now, unknown method of making our meetings accessible. Staff advised that they couldn't provide a report in time for this meeting, with just one week's notice, Council is still pushing this motion forward rather than waiting for the additional information to help Council make the most informed decision possible.
2. The Town is about to undergo a personnel change, and Council has been advised that one of the skills, specifically minute taking, is very hard to find. With this motion, the Town is preventing a video recording of the meetings that could be used by personnel to confirm the accuracy of their minute taking, while they build this skill and help them to put councillors' faces to their voices in a way that electronic recording doesn't report. They currently use the videos to go back and confirm minutes on the rare occasions that they think that a correction might be needed, and that's what the highly skilled minute taker we already have does, and in fact they used the

video of last week to go back and review whether or not the final motion still included deleting the archive, and they learned that it did not. The video recording was the only way they could check that as the written minutes had not been produced. They are quite certain that the person who moved that motion would still want that included. That level of detail for our discussions in the written minutes isn't usually included anyway.

3. Today's motion does not include permanently deleting the entire archive, and that was part of the original motion made at CoW, before it was revised to the shorter motion being discussed now. They think this was overlooked as opposed to not being a desired outcome by the mover of the motion. Council will now have to revisit the deletion of the archives, and why is Council considering taking such an irreversible action as to delete the live-streaming archives, when Council can simply be using the privacy and security measures that already exist to prevent public access to them, while Council does the work to determine what could/should replace live-streaming. Once the archive is deleted, those records are gone forever. If this is an issue of wanting privacy, while also wanting to remain accessible, why not secure them and make them private rather than destroy them. They would like to reiterate that Council already can protect privacy without deleting everything. Their vote remains no, and they sincerely urge Council to reconsider their position and instead use the tools that already exist to thoroughly protect our privacy, rather than repealing the live-streaming policy now or deleting the archive in the future.

Councillor Myers advised that first, they agreed that live-streaming is very convenient for watching in real time, or later for those who are busy, and appreciate those who have made the effort to do so. They have often done so in the past and completely understand both sides of this argument. They do reject the notion that live-streaming is the only or even the most

transparent format for sharing council information with our town. Keeping in mind that live-streaming is not mandated, nor is it used by all towns/municipalities. It has been said that video makes our message more accessible, and they would argue that it does not for the following reasons:

While it may be helpful for low vision, it is not necessarily the best way to convey this information, especially if they are not familiar with the process and structures of Roberts Rules.

This manner can obfuscate the nature of Council discussions, and it is not suitable for people that are hearing impaired simply because of lack of accuracy in closed captioning. Council does not have control over this, nor can it improve this. For people who choose not to or are unable to attend, the Town has a variety of means to reach them:

- electronically by the website
- push email for newsletters (mailchimp)
- free mailing of hard copies

All these currently exist. The Town website is in the early stages of being updated to accommodate adaptability tools. I would absolutely agree that to be fully transparent, we should add to the minimum requirement of minutes, and in fact this is the core of discussion we started at our CoW meeting - "how do we improve transparency and accessibility?". As they stated earlier, livestreaming is not a panacea for addressing communication with the Town due to the ease by which it can be manipulated either through clipping, AI tools or memeification, etc. Context can easily be lost or intentionally removed, thus corrupting the nature of council discussions and decisions.

To highlight the importance of maintaining context, they were recently notified of a commentary by a member of the public that misrepresented our dialogue, claiming that we are striving for "minimal" communication while ignoring accessibility. This is a prime example of how social media comments can selectively strip away context to manipulate public perception, and to

clarify again: our recent dialogue centered on how we can meet and surpass current standards while ensuring safety, privacy and an accurate message that cannot be manipulated nor misinterpreted by biased actors. The spirit of our conversation was, in fact, that we can and must do better. Council is looking at alternative tools to YouTube given that misinformation is being shared on social media even though we do have live-streaming.

Moving forward, we will strive to develop a plan to ensure that Council decisions are released with context to prevent half-truths. Furthermore, it is important to remember that this Council acts as a unified body; while we have robust debates, we stand by our collective decisions once a vote is cast, regardless of individual stances. They have complete faith that we will work together to achieve a communications plan that informs, is accessible and cannot be misinterpreted nor manipulated. This could look like some form of live-streaming or not, our doors continue to be open to the public and Council does appreciate public input on alternative methods. We also offer coffee with Council where we may come with a theme but are always remain open to discussing the issues that are of interest to the people of our town.

Deputy Mayor Skinner-Robertson stated that everyone needs to be aware that Council must work within Roberts Rules, and this applies when Council has an open discussion about how things might be adjusted. Council was made aware that there was a need to rescind the policy or not, and discussion followed. The policy refers directly to YouTube, which is probably not a great thing to have in the policy, and it may not be the best tool to help the Town. Everyone has talked about transparency, that it is very important, their understanding is that everyone at Council supports this, and the disagreement is about how to deliver it. The concern they have is assuming that Councillors who have safety concerns don't want transparency and that undermines their integrity as public servants. Every one of our

councillors shows up, does the work, and serves this community at the personal cost of time and peace of mind. Councillors have managed to come up with some great solutions and have had efficient and productive discussions where Council focuses on things that need to be disputed and aligned appropriately. Disagreeing about the right platform is not the same as opposing transparency. Conflating the two shut down legitimate debate and makes it harder for us to find a solution that works for everyone. Suggesting that there is only one solution to transparency misrepresents the situation. They added that these are only two options around the use of YouTube live-streaming, and “doing nothing” is a false choice.

There can be full transparency of the public record, every word spoken, every decision made, searchable and accessible, without requiring that two colleagues accept a level of personal exposure that they have told us makes them feel unsafe. In the last year, there have been changes in what is available out there in terms of tools for conveying information, sorting and making information. YouTube was a great tool at the time that it was implemented, it was what was available, but they think that the world has moved on so much in one year that other options that support the needs of the public and the needs of Councillors should be considered.

Everyone needs to think about the message that is sent, just not tonight but going forward, when we tell two women that their safety concerns are not valid and that we cannot reflect and choose a better option, that is not good enough, we can do better. They are worried that the next generation of women, especially women in helping professions who are exposed by the nature of their work to people who may seek to do them harm or have improper interactions with them. Women with families, women who already face disproportionate online harassment decide that running for office simply isn't worth it. They have heard a couple of statements that this is what you step up for in public office, and to a degree that is true, but

women also face highly disproportionate levels of harassment. There have been examples in Nova Scotia of people being harassed to the point where they lost the last election, and several women have stepped down. One example is a person in the community who went after a woman's handicapped child. Some people say that there are no valid concerns because you can't point to examples, when we can. They think it would be a profound loss for this community if the younger generation don't feel comfortable stepping forward. There are people who have lived in a different world who maybe wouldn't understand what they have been exposed to in terms of bullying and people being intrusive into their lives and they may have a better picture than we do of what that might mean, not to mention that they will have to live with the consequences much longer than us.

This is what they would like Council to commit to tonight, not just defeating or passing a motion, but solving the problem:

- If the concern is that residents can't access their Council, let's fix that. Let's talk about audio streaming, improvements to the municipal page, better minutes, accessibility supports. They would like to see a plan that only addresses these issues but many of the other issues brought forward by the public about transparency.
- When we reduce it to that and when the rhetoric in the community suggests that anyone who disagrees with the live-streaming policy must be hiding something, that is certainly not the intent of this Council. It is unfortunate to see that type of commentary, and this speaks to the level of hysterical rhetoric that is engaged in in many parts of the world these days and has led us down the road of dissension, disagreement and hate when we should be looking for solutions that give safety and transparency.

Mayor Boyer advised that two people mentioned audio recording as a suggestion, and this could be a temporary solution, and asked if everyone was in favour of continuing audio

recording – everyone said yes. Councillor MacDonald responded that there could be a challenge to the use of an audio file and that we should get a response back from the accessibility community in that you can't identify the speaker in an audio file, but they would be of the opinion to make the choice to move to something rather than get rid of it. They don't think that it would be an appropriate position to take – getting rid of it. They do take a bit of offense at the implication the discussion around this table was about diminishing people's safety, and that is not happening at all. The fact of the matter is that the biggest issue is how the Town can approach this, and rather than wiping things out, finding a way to use tools available, and the best way to move forward. They feel this is probably the singular message that is getting muddled up.

Mayor Boyer stated that the current motion to repeal does not include what would replace the current policy, and this appears to be due to a function of time. She added that there is one issue that is missing in the existing Communications Policy, not because of oversight, but because technology is changing, and that it is safety online. She added that safety must be balanced with transparency, and safety is first as the Town would be liable if the Town hurt the public in some way, and she doesn't think that we can exclude councillors from that, as we do it for staff every day. She would be in favour of an interim solution until a strategy has been developed. It was agreed to move to audio only recording, keeping the livestream copies. Deputy Mayor Skinner-Robertson asked if the archive videos could be protected, and was advised that yes, they can. The only concern Mayor Boyer had was that this could take a lot of staff's time.

Councillor Sadkowski advised that they have never suggested deleting the archive documents, and their point was no longer putting future videos on archive, so they weren't sure where that came from. They do support password protection of the archived videos.

Deputy Mayor Skinner-Robertson suggested the following:

- When audio recording, a Councillor would state their name when speaking for the time being
- Creating a password for existing videos.
- Confirming that Council would develop a communication plan/policy and online safety plan going forward.

MOTION #C2026-04-15-06

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve the repeal of Live Streaming of Council Meetings Policy #2023-04 dated February 16, 2023, and replace it with audio recording effective from the next meeting with the following provisions:

1. the audio recording will identify the speaker by whatever manner is feasible;
2. archival YouTube livestreams will be retained and password protected;
3. the above provisions are considered interim measures, subject to the development of a fully articulated communications policy and plan. **Motion carried.**

Councillor MacDonald offered their assistance with password protecting the YouTube livestreams.

Mayor Boyer advised that Roger Lindala is at Town Hall recording the meeting for community reporting.

Planning and Heritage Advisory Committee

MOTION #C2026-04-15-07

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve entering into a Development Agreement with Andrew Landon and Hillary Lavelle to permit the development of an accessory structure (“carriage house”) comprised of a ground floor garage and second storey dwelling unit at 46 Drury Lane (PID 05003447) pursuant to the application, site plan and building design details dated February 5, 2026. **Motion carried.**

Deputy Mayor Skinner-Robertson advised that this development agreement was designed in a sensitive way. Mayor Boyer added that this would certainly help low-income residents going forward.

MOTION #C2026-04-15-08

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve first reading of the Development Agreement between the Town of Annapolis Royal and Andrew Landon and Hilary Lavell for an accessory structure at 46 Drury Lane (PID 05003447) as detailed in the Development Agreement. **Motion carried.**

Councillor MacDonald stated that there was a lot of good discussion on this during the PHAC meeting

MOTION #C2026-04-15-09

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council set the Public Hearing date for the Development Agreement for the development of an accessory structure on May 20, 2026 at 6:00 pm. **Motion carried.**

MOTION #C2026-04-15-10

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council give heritage approval to the applicant at 46 Drury Lane to add an accessory structure as detailed in application 26-01-DA, providing all conditions of the Land Use By-law are met. **Motion carried.**

Councillor MacDonald advised that Chris Millier and PHAC committee wanted confirmation on where the shed was going to be moved, and this was received before the Council meeting.

MOTION #C2026-04-15-11

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council give heritage approval to the applicant at 619 St George Street to install a greenhouse as detailed in the application 25-29-HER, providing

the requirements of the Land Use By-law are met. **Motion carried.**

MOTION #C2026-04-15-12

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council give heritage approval to the applicant at 644 St. George Street to install two new secondary exits, one as a side door and the second as a sliding door leading to a deck and stairs as detailed in application 26-02-HER, providing the requirements of the Land Use By-law are met. **Motion carried.**

MOTION #C2026-04-15-13

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council give heritage approval to the applicant at 150 St George Street to parge the exposed brick chimneys as detailed in application 26-03-HER, providing the requirements of the Land Use By-law are met. **Motion carried.**

14. Reports from Committees, Boards and Commissions

- i. Mayor's Report
- ii. Attached. Mayor Boyer attended the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors Interim Board Meeting this morning and the Meeting Minute summaries will be shared in the next Council package.
- iii. Chief Administrative Officer Reviewed.
- iv. Planning Services Report Reviewed.
- v. Water Report Reviewed.
- vi. Valley Regional Services Board of Directors Interim Board Reviewed.
- vii. Audit Committee

Attached. Mayor Boyer asked if the Audit Committee had made any comments about the potential for an asset retirement obligation for the Town wharf. DoF Robinson will look into this and report back.

ACTION: Investigate assess retirement obligation for the wharf
NAME: DoF Robinson
DUE: May 1, 2026

viii. REMO

Counciller Myers advised that Brian Orde would like to attend the next Council Engagement Session to discuss Alertable, etc. A date does need to be finalized sooner to ensure Brian Orde's availability. Recording Secretary Dunning advised that the Engagement Session has been included in the May's Committee of the Whole (CoW) agenda. Deputy Mayor Skinner-Robertson suggested them explaining how to turn/control notifications for Alertable and asked that the Engagement Session be arranged for late June, as they will be away.

15. Correspondence

Mayor Boyer asked about the correspondence they received today regarding live-streaming. It was suggested to share this and other documents on the engagement page for residents to review.

ACTION: Scan documents/emails and share with Recording Secretary Dunning
NAME: Mayor Boyer
DUE: April 20, 2026

In-camera

Under Section 22(2) of the Municipal Government Act:

MOTION #C2026-04-15-14

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council move into camera to approve the in-camera minutes of March 18, 2026 and discuss plans to

buy, sell and lease property and labour relations and contract negotiations at 7:05 pm. **Motion carried.**

MOTION #C2026-04-15-16

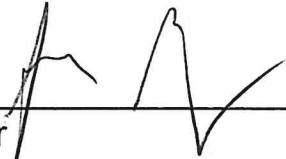
It was regularly moved and seconded that Council move out of camera at 7:25 pm. **Motion carried.**

16. Next Meeting

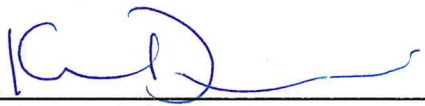
May 20, 2026

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.



Mayor
Amery Boyer



Recording Secretary
Kim Dunning

Mayor's Report, April, 2026

- Mar19, 2026 attended Nova Scotia Regulatory and Appeals Board public hearing on water rates
- Mar 23, 2026 attended public engagement meeting at the Legion from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm. The topics covered included a review and discussion of the Town Communications Survey conducted earlier, a review of the usage being made of livestreaming of Committee of the Whole and Council meetings, a discussion the pros and cons of livestreaming, as well as a discussion about provincial and municipal funding for libraries in Nova Scotia. Notes from the session as well as the results of the survey and livestreaming statistics are available on request from Town Hall. Topics suggested for future sessions include police, public works, tidal power and Town water.
- Mar 24, 2026 attended Adaptive re-use meeting for Annapolis Wharf
- Mar 31, 2026 Andrew Garrett of Valley Waste has been asked to attend and provide a presentation at a workshop for communities (municipalities) across Newfoundland. It is on May 21 & 22 in Gander.
- Apr 4, 2026 Assisted with "planting" of Easter eggs at Fort Anne in preparation for the Easter Egg Hunt that took place at 2:00 pm. Placement of the eggs took just over an hour with a good turnout of volunteers.
- Apr 23, 2026 Plan to attend Annapolis County Inter-Municipal Working Group meeting in Middleton.
- Apr 25 to 27 The French patrol vessel Fulmar which is stationed in St Pierre et Miquelon, is scheduled to visit our harbour, arriving at about 3:00 pm on April 25 and leaving at about 9:00 am on April 27. The Town Crier will welcome the ship and prepare a proclamation. Other planned events include a tour of the Town, a private visit to the Habitation in Port Royal, and a private welcome event for the crew and guests at 401 St George Street.
- Apr 29 to May 1 plan to attend NSFM Spring Conference in Yarmouth

Valley Regional Services Board (VRSB)

See separate VRSB Minute report. The next regular meeting is on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 10:00 am.

Condominium Board

The next meeting of the Condo Board will be on Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 4:30 pm. There will be a General Meeting on April 29, 2023 at 6:00 pm. I will have to miss the April 23 meeting due to the ACIMWG meeting in Middleton that same day as well as the April 29 meeting due to the NSFM Spring Conference in Middleton.

ACIMWG

Next meeting is April 23, 2026.

Amery Boyer

Audit Committee Meeting

March 26, 2026

Auditor Andy Forse provided a pre-audit overview of the town's financial statement procedures and design as part of the risk assessment process. To date, no high-risk areas have been identified. The auditor noted the competence of the staff, despite the conflicting accounting standards they are required to navigate. Final audit work is expected to conclude in late May.

Minor items addressed included budget variances where funds were not fully spent—specifically regarding the Climate Adaptation and Chapel St. Force Main projects; however, auditors were provided with clear explanations for these. A walkthrough will be conducted to ensure processes function as intended. Notably, past audits have indicated well-designed controls that effectively detect errors, with no history of design issues. The auditors' primary focus remains on three key aspects: theft, fraud, and misappropriation.

The final Audit Committee Meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2026, at 4:00 PM.

REMO

Meeting Notes April 8, 2026

MOA – Tidal Transit

- Approved by all three Councils and signed.

REMO Budget 2026–2027

- Budget remains similar to the previous year.
- Increase reflects the Regional Emergency Management Office (REMO) Readiness Grant to support emergency capacity building.
- No intern position included.

Planning & Preparedness

- A new operations room has been established, equipped with TVs, maps, planning tables, and designated logistics sections, creating a more functional workspace.
- A new downstairs meeting room is available for media briefings and meetings with the Province.
- Three Emergency Management Coordinators from Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) have been engaged.
- **Debris Waste Management Plan**
 - Currently in development; will be brought to the Committee upon completion.
- **REMO Plan Standards**
 - Require updating, including the bylaw (IMSA).
 - Emphasis on consistency across the Province.
 - Updates to emergency plans and templates, including those for long-term care homes.
 - NSCC is exploring backup power options for all campuses (potentially mobile units).
 - Middleton site noted as fully equipped with a functional backup Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC).

Regional Readiness Grant Initiatives

1. Animal Care Facility

- Includes backup server and propane systems.

- Construction to begin this week.
 - Focus on reliable power, maintaining backup systems, and safe animal sheltering.
- 2. ECC Equipment & Supplies**
- Includes Owl camera, cell boosters, Wi-Fi routers, VoIP phones, TVs, whiteboards, Starlink, tables, and projectors.

Trining & Exercises

- Upcoming training sessions are being coordinated with CAOs; an additional staff session is planned for the fall.
- **ICS 200** – May 27–28 (23–24 participants registered at this time)
- **ICS 300** – Scheduled for the fall.
- **Comfort Centers**
 - Port George location is operational.
 - 7–8 additional centers are in progress.
 - Mochelle is working to join the initiative.

Public Information & Engagement

- Social media growth: Facebook (+116), X (-5).
- Website updated for improved usability.
- Alertable subscriptions increased by 67.
- Brian has accepted an invitation to attend a future public engagement session in Annapolis Royal (date TBD) and willing to produce pamphlets for the public.

Wildfire Preparedness

- Preparedness event scheduled for May 7 in Middleton.
- Wildfire season has begun; residents are encouraged to monitor the REMO website for updates.

Department of Emergency Management Update

- Valley Region 5 Representative (Sara Ede) provided updates:
 - Development of a Vulnerable Persons Registry to support province-wide continuity.
 - Six sprinkler protection units staged at Miller Lake pending registration and deployment to strategic locations.
 - Ongoing outreach—municipalities are encouraged to connect.

- Additional funding available for Ground Search & Rescue training.
- Request for award nominations from all levels of government.
- Recognition given to Brian for contributions.

Regional Collaboration & Environmental Planning

- Focus group held for Kejimikujik National Park and Tobeatic Wilderness Area in partnership with the Southwest Nova Biosphere Association.
- Discussion topics included:
 - Use of LiDAR technology.
 - Forestry and environmental considerations related to human use and activity patterns.
 - Trail systems and portaging routes.
 - Lack of designated roads impacting emergency response access.
 - Parks Canada fire risk strategy, including involvement of REMO Annapolis.
- Key takeaway: need for enhanced public education on risk awareness.

Committee Composition

- *The Advisory Committee shall be responsible for the governance and direction of emergency preparedness activities within the region and to advise the appointing Councils pursuant to Section 10 (1)(d) of the Emergency Management Act.*
- *Each party to this Agreement shall appoint to the Advisory Committee two (2) members of its Council, one of whom shall be the Mayor or Warden. Each Council shall also appoint a third member of Council to serve as an alternate, who may attend and participate in meetings when a regular member is unable to be present*

Next meeting June 11 @6:30
Office Council Chambers Town of Middleton

