

Committee of the Whole and Asset Management Meeting Highlights – May 12, 2026

*Meeting Highlights provide a snapshot of public meetings, and not all agenda items may be captured. For the official record, please refer to the adopted minutes, **which will be posted on our website after they are approved at the next regular meeting.***

Consult this meeting's agenda found on our website to view presentations and files mentioned in the Highlights.

- [Committee of the Whole Agenda](#)
- [Council Meeting Agenda](#)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The purpose of the Committee of the Whole (CoW) is to provide an opportunity for detailed discussion and review of matters before Council makes a final decision. The Committee also makes recommendations to Council on proposed actions and initiatives.

The Committee of the Whole meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Meetings are open to the public and are held in Council Chambers at the Municipal Administration Building.

Delegations

- Chelsea Ash and Gillian Sampson spoke to the Committee about concerns with the condition of Pomquet Beach Road. The road is used by local residents, visitors, and tourists travelling to Pomquet Beach. Concerns were raised about the impact the road conditions are having on local businesses, tourism, and public safety. Since the road is maintained by the Province, Council approved a motion to send a letter supporting the concerns raised by the community.
- Kathleen Robertson presented on behalf of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Since 2023, over 20,000 books have been delivered to over 1000 local children in the mail for free in Antigonish.

Continuing Business

- The Committee approved a recommendation to increase sewer rates. Sewer utility rates have remained the same since the 2018–2019 fiscal year. The increase will help cover the costs of operating and maintaining the sewer system. Under the new rates, the residential flat rate will increase from \$316.29 to \$325. Commercial rates will increase from \$0.11 to \$0.12 per square foot, and industrial rates will increase from \$0.14 to \$0.15 per square foot.

COUNCIL MEETING

Statutory Public Hearing

- John Bain, Director of the Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC), presented proposed amendments to the Municipality of the County of Antigonish Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law. The proposed changes would align municipal planning documents with new provincial regulations related to wind turbine setbacks.

Members of the public spoke both in support of and in opposition to the proposed amendments. One resident raised safety concerns related to the potential for ice throw from turbine blades and its impact on setback distances. Other residents spoke in support of the recommendations, noting that modern wind turbines include technology designed to reduce risks related to ice throw and that the proposed setback distances are consistent with standards used across Canada.

The Committee decided to table the matter to allow time to review additional documentation.

Correspondence

- The committee reviewed a letter from John A. MacDonald, Minister of Municipal Affairs. The letter outlined changes to the Municipal Government Act (MGA). The amendments are intended to strengthen municipal governance and support councils in their leadership and accountability roles.