MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, June 23, 2026, Following Committee of the Whole

Council Chambers
Municipal Administration Building
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

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1. Call to Order – Chair Nicholas MacInnis
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Consideration of June 9, 2026 Municipal Council Minutes
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
5. Delegations
   a. There are no scheduled delegations
6. Correspondence
   a. Hon. John A MacDonald, Minister of Municipal Affairs – One year notice of any legislation, regulation or administrative action undertaken by or on behalf of the Government of the Province that would have the effect of decreasing the revenue received by municipalities in Nova Scotia or increasing the required expenditures of municipalities in Nova Scotia
   b. Hon. Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice – Bail Reform Act Update
7. Committee Reports
   a. June 17, 2026 Joint Council Committee Report
   b. June 23, 2026 Audit Committee Report
   c. June 23, 2026 Asset Management Committee Report
   d. June 23, 2026 Committee of the Whole Report
8. Motions
9. Miscellaneous Business
10. Adjournment

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Special Municipal Council Meeting- Minutes

Tuesday, June 9, 2026
7:30pm
Council Chambers
Municipal Administration Building
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Councillors Present:

Warden Nicholas MacInnis	Councillor Shawn Brophy
Deputy Warden John Dunbar	Councillor Wayne Melanson
Councillor Mary MacLellan	Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Adam Baden-Clay	Councillor Harris McNamara
Councillor Richelle MacLaughlin	Councillor Sterling Garvie

Regrets:
None

Staff Present:

Shirlyn Donovan, CAO	Meghan MacGillivray Case, Municipal Solicitor
Beth Schumacher, Municipal Clerk	

Also Present:

Corey LeBlanc (by Zoom)	Matt Draper, XFM News
Gallery (in person and online)	

Call to Order- Warden MacInnis

Warden MacInnis called the meeting to order at 7:31pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden MacInnis called for approval of the Council meeting agenda. An addition to the agenda was requested under correspondence, for a letter from the St. Martha's Auxiliary.

Min # 2026-78
Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Consideration of the June 1, 2026 Municipal Council Minutes

Warden MacInnis called for any errors or omissions in the minutes of June 1, 2026. Two errors in the minutes were highlighted for staff's attention. Hearing no further concerns, the minutes were considered accepted as presented.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Delegations

There were no scheduled delegations.

Correspondence

Hon. Kim Masland, Minister of Emergency Management – One year notice of impacts of the *Act to Provide Support for Fire Protection Services*

Mrs. Donovan provided Council with a summary of the correspondence outlining requirements regarding fire protection services, and changes that are coming in the next 12-18 months. Discussion followed regarding funding implications for the municipality, and the proposed risk assessment took that the province is proposing to roll out in the fall of 2026.

St. Martha's Hospital Auxiliary

Warden MacInnis read a thank-you card that was provided to the municipality from the St. Martha's Auxiliary for the support provided for the Mayfest event. The card was passed around the table for councillors to view.

Committee Reports

June 9, 2026, Committee of the Whole Report

Min # 2026-79
Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council enter into an easement agreement in perpetuity with the property owner at PIDs 10118768 and 10118750 for the purpose of constructing a connector trail and provide a one-time payment of $60,000 for the use of the land, contingent on both property owners agreeing to the easement.

Motion Carried

Min # 2026-80
Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approves approve signing the joint letter from the Strait Area Chiefs, Mayors, and Wardens to Minister Fred Tilly, Minister of Public Works, regarding cellular service concerns in the region.

Motion Carried

Min # 2026-81
Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council re-appoint Robert Mattie as a member of the Municipal Audit Committee for a one-year term, effective until July 2027.

Motion Carried

Min # 2026-82
Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council awards a grant in the amount of $95,245.90 to the Antigonish Affordable Housing Society as part of the Spring 2026 round of the Housing Accelerator Fund Non-Profit Affordable Housing Grant program.

Motion Carried

Min # 2026-83
Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council awards a grant in the amount of $54,754.10 to the Naomi Society as part of the Spring 2026 round of the Housing Accelerator Fund Non-Profit Affordable Housing Grant program.

Motion Carried

Min # 2026-84
Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council re-appoint Councillor Shawn Brophy and Councillor Harris McNamara to the RK MacDonald Board of Directors for a three-year term.

Motion Carried

Reports from Individual Council Members on Outside Boards, Conferences, and Community Activities

- Deputy Warden Dunbar reported on his attendance at the FCM Conference in Edmonton, listing the workshops that he had participated in. He also attended the regional delegates meeting for participants from Atlantic Canada.
- Councillor MacLellan reported on an ACALA meeting. The Pictou Antigonish Regional Library AGM will be held in New Glasgow.
- Councillor McNamara shared an update from the RK MacDonald Board. He shared information about a tour that is planned for Council at the facility on Tuesday, June 16th.
- Councillor Garvie attended the Eastern Region Solid Waste Management meeting on May 28th, sharing details about illegal dumping including tires, and diversion calculations. He shared that a suggestion was made to look at creating

a larger billboard at the Transfer Station, and funding is being sought for that initiative.

- Councillor Brophy noted that he missed the Heritage Museum meeting due to the Special Council meeting held on June 1st. He also attended the FCM conference in Edmonton. He also attended the RK meeting and shared that the new build is on schedule.
- Warden MacInnis shared that he has been at an AREMO meeting, with an update about the training facility and the forest fire activity in the community.
- A general discussion was held regarding the upcoming re-naming of St. Martha's Hospital.

Motions

There are no motions.

In-Camera Items

Min # 2026-85
Moved and Seconded

That Council move into an in-camera session to discuss the Solicitor Client Privilege at 7:52pm.

Motion Carried

Min # 2026-86
Moved and Seconded

That Council adjourns the in-camera session at 9:44 pm.

Motion Carried

Min # 2026-87
Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council does not accept the Investigator's conclusions and recommendations where the report was not presented within six months of the initial complaint, as per Section 11(1) of the Code of Conduct for Elected Officials Regulations.

Motion Carried

Miscellaneous Business

There was no miscellaneous business.

Adjournment

Min # 2026-89
Moved and Seconded

That the Municipal Council meeting adjourn at 9:49pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Nicholas MacInnis

Shirlyn Donovan, CAO

NOVA SCOTIA
Municipal Affairs
Office of the Minister

PO Box 216, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2M4 • Telephone 902 424-5550 Fax 902 424-0581 • novascotia.ca

June 9, 2026

Mayors and Wardens
Via Email

Dear Mayors and Wardens:

Under Section 519 (1) of the *Municipal Government Act (*Requirement to notify Union*)*

> *The Minister shall notify the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (NSFM) at least one year prior to the effective date of any legislation, regulation or administrative action undertaken by or on behalf of the Government of the Province that would have the effect of decreasing the revenue received by municipalities in Nova Scotia or increasing the required expenditures of municipalities in Nova Scotia.*
>
> *(2) Subsection (1) does not apply with respect to any legislation, regulation or administrative action applying to the Province generally and not mainly to municipalities.*

This letter is intended to provide notice of such changes for fiscal year 2027-2028 and beyond.

The Department of Municipal Affairs (DMA) canvassed all provincial departments to seek information on plans for legislative, regulatory, and policy changes in the coming fiscal year. Below you will find a summary of the results of that process.

Department of Emergency Management

1) The Department acknowledges that elements of ongoing work to strengthen fire services in Nova Scotia may have a financial impact on some municipal units.

   With the introduction of the *Act to Provide Support for Fire Protection Services*, the Department is providing one-year notice that all municipalities – whether they oversee fire services or not – will be required to:
   - conduct a fire protection service review in order to ensure municipalities and fire service providers make evidence-based decisions about the services they provide to their community,
   - ensure that local firefighter competencies, training, and personal protective equipment meet the service standard required by the fire protection service review, and
   - participate in a common records management system.

   The possible impacts of these new requirements, which will be further detailed through regulations and standards, may vary significantly based on local context, including existing governance and collaboration models, levels of municipal readiness, and voluntary fire service provider capacity.

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This legislation is part of an ongoing commitment to strengthening the fire service sector through:

- access to specialized firefighter training and the certification process,
- education/training for municipal elected officials,
- procurement support,
- mutual aid and service agreement templates,
- the new Fire Records Management System, and
- a risk-based assessment tool to facilitate council decision-making around fire protection service levels.

Department of Justice

1) The Nova Scotia Comprehensive Policing Review was released in June 2025. Since that time, the Department of Justice has met with all municipalities to discuss implementation of the six foundational changes and the expanded role of the provincial police service. These foundational changes are designed to strengthen public safety across the province and support more effective, consistent, and sustainable outcomes. As part of implementation:
    - Municipalities are required to meet established provincial policing standards. Municipalities that are unable to meet these standards independently will be required to contract with the provincial police service for the delivery of those services and, effective April 1, 2027, will be required to purchase those services on a fee basis. While these changes are intended to enhance public safety and ensure greater consistency across jurisdictions, they may result in increased costs for some municipalities. At this time, the specific nature and extent of any financial impacts cannot be determined for any individual municipality.
    - The Province will continue to enhance and modernize its policing standards over time. The creation or expansion of standards may result in additional costs for municipalities.
    - The Province will procure a province-wide records management system (RMS) in fiscal year 2026–27. The Province will fund the acquisition and associated start-up costs. It is anticipated that beginning in 2027–28, as part of implementation, municipalities with their own police agencies will be required to contribute annual licensing fees associated with the RMS. For municipalities policed by the RCMP under the provincial policing model, RMS-related costs will be incorporated into the provincial billing model.
    - The Province will continue to work toward the development of a new municipal billing model for provincial police services during fiscal year 2026–27. Municipalities will continue to be engaged throughout this process. The specific structure of the model and the extent of any financial impacts cannot be determined at this time for any individual municipality; however, changes to the billing model could result in increased costs for some municipalities beginning in 2027–28.

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2) The National Police Federation is the certified union representing regular members and reservists of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) below the rank of Inspector. The current Collective Agreement expired on March 31, 2025, and labour negotiations between the National Police Federation and Treasury Board Secretariate Canada are ongoing. The cost implications cannot be determined at this time.

3) The 'H' Division (Nova Scotia) Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) have provided the Department of Justice with the annual Multi-Year Financial Plan (MYFP), that reflects the organization's budget requests for the next fiscal year, and strategic planning for subsequent years. The cost implications cannot be determined at this time.

Department of Public Works

1) The recoverable cost to municipalities for adjustments to catch basins, manholes, and water valves during construction work will increase June 1, 2027. Manhole and catch basin adjustments will increase from $600 to $1200, and water valve adjustments will increase from $300 to $600.

Department of Service Nova Scotia

1) Nova Scotia's new FOIPOP Act will come into effect on April 1, 2027, and regulations are currently under development to support the new Act. The legislation requires municipalities to adopt new privacy policies and practices, requires mandatory reporting of significant privacy breaches to affected individuals and the Information and Privacy Commissioner, and gives the Information and Privacy Commissioner oversight over municipal privacy programs for the first time. It is anticipated that these changes will require municipal resources in the form of personnel to undertake privacy assessments for any new projects or programs where personal information is being collected, for mandatory privacy breach notifications when there are significant privacy breaches, and for responding to privacy complaints filed with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC). The Province will support municipalities through creation of templates, training materials, and education campaigns to help mitigate some of these impacts.

Yours truly,



Honourable John A. MacDonald
Minister of Municipal Affairs

c: CAOs
David Mitchell, President, NSFM
Juanita Spencer, Chief Executive Officer, NSFM

Minister of Justice
and Attorney General of Canada

Ministre de la Justice
et procureur général du Canada

The Honourable / L'honorable Sean Fraser, P.C., K.C., M.P. / c.p., c.r., député
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H8

Mr. Nicholas MacInnis
Warden
Municipality of the County of Antigonish

Dear Mr. MacInnis:

I am writing to inform you that the *Bail and Sentencing Reform Act* (Bill C-14) is now law.

A safe, peaceful, and prosperous Canada depends on strong protections for our communities. With over 80 changes to the *Criminal Code*, this legislation delivers on the federal government's promise to strengthen bail and sentencing laws, in particular for repeat and violent offending.

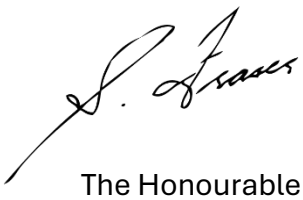
With these reforms, obtaining bail will be more difficult for those accused of repeat offending and for those charged with serious offences such as violent auto theft, organized crime, home invasion, human trafficking, and violent extortion. Sentencing laws will be tougher for serious crimes through consecutive sentences and restrictions on house arrest for certain sexual offences, including sexual offences against children.

These sweeping reforms reflect extensive consultation and close collaboration with partners across the country. We heard your concerns, considered your feedback carefully, and worked hard to reflect those perspectives in the legislation. The result: a stronger *Criminal Code*. Thank you for your collaboration throughout this process.

To support this work, we are providing funding to help provincial and territorial governments strengthen national bail data collection, reporting, and analysis. Better national data will help measure what is working, identify gaps, and support public safety on an ongoing basis. This builds on nearly $1 billion in annual federal investments across the country, including funding for legal aid, victims' services, and other programs that help provinces and territories deliver justice services.

The federal government is doing its part to make communities safer. I look forward to continuing to work closely with you and other partners across Canada to ensure these reforms achieve their intended impact.

Yours sincerely,



The Honourable Sean Fraser, P.C., K.C., M.P.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

To: Municipal Council
From: Warden Nicholas MacInnis
Subject: **Joint Council Advisory Committee Report**
Date: June 23, 2026

The Joint Council Advisory Committee was convened at 6:00pm on Wednesday June 17, 2026, at the Town of Antigonish Council Chambers. The following members were present:

Warden Nicholas MacInnis
Deputy Warden John Dunbar
Councillor Mary MacLellan
Councillor Adam Baden-Clay
Councillor Richelle MacLaughlin
Councillor Shawn Brophy
Councillor Wayne Melanson
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Harris McNamara
Councillor Sterling Garvie
Mayor Sean Cameron
Deputy Mayor Andrew Murray
Councillor Dianne Roberts
Councillor Leon MacLellan
Councillor Pat McKenna
Councillor Juanita Pelly

No recommendation were made.

The following items were discussed:

- Town staff provided a presentation regarding the water and sewer systems, including planned upgrades to the sewer treatment plant and the ongoing source water well development work.
- Municipal staff provided a presentation regarding municipal infrastructure and community support.
- An in-camera session was held for Contract Negotiations.