MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

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
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

Regrets:
None

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

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

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