JOINT TOWN AND COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Monday October 26, 2026, 6:00pm
Keating Centre Conference Rooms B & C
1100 Convocation Boulevard, Antigonish

1. Call to Order – Chair, Warden Nicholas MacInnis
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Review of September 22nd, 2026 Joint Council Committee Minutes
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
5. Delegations
    a. Presentation of the findings of the Recreation Facilities and Recreation Needs Assessment by Agamani "Mani" Chakrabarty of ASBB Economics and Research Ltd.
6. Continuing Business
7. New Business
8. Additions to the Agenda
9. In-Camera Items
    a. Contract Negotiations
10. Adjournment

Joint Town and County Council Minutes

Wednesday, September 23, 2026, 6:00 PM
Pomquet Community Centre
791 Taylors Road
Pomquet, NS

Present:

County of Antigonish

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

Town of Antigonish

Mayor Sean Cameron
Deputy Mayor Andrew Murray
Councillor Leon MacLellan
Councillor Patrick McKenna
Councillor Diane Roberts
Councillor Juantia Pelly
Councillor Jack Sullivan

Shirlyn Donovan, CAO
Alisha Bowie, Administrative Assistant
Cole MacIsaac, Director of Public Works

Randy Delorey, CAO
Melanie Fougere, Municipal Clerk
Kyle Meisner, P. Eng., Director of Infrastructure and Engineering

Also Present:
Houssam Elokda, Transportation Planner, Happy Cities
Denise Dunn, Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) Coordinator
Richie Connors, Antigonish Community Transit

Gallery (In-Person and by Zoom)

Absent with Rregret: None

Call to Order

The Joint Town and County Council Committee was called to order by Chair Warden Nicholas MacInnis at 6:06 PM. Warden MacInnis welcomed those in attendance.

Approval of the Agenda

Addition: In-Camera Session respecting the acquisition, sale, lease, and security of municipal property pursuant to Section 22(2)(a) of the Municipal Government Act.

Agenda Amendment: The Water and Sewer Systems Update was moved ahead of the Happy Cities delegation presentation.

Warden MacInnis called for any further additions or deletions to the agenda.

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried.

Approval of the June 19, 2025, Council Minutes

Warden MacInnis called for any errors or omissions in the minutes of the Joint Council meeting held November 19, 2025. A correction was noted to the attendance record to reflect the attendance of Councillor Brophy. Hearing no further errors or omissions, the minutes were approved as amended.

Continuing Business

Water and Sewer Systems Update

Kyle Meisner, P. Eng., Director of Infrastructure and Engineering for the Town of Antigonish, provided an update on ongoing water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

Mr. Meisner advised that voluntary water conservation measures implemented during Summer 2026 were sufficient and that reservoir levels have since recovered. He reported that work continues on the source water well project, including finalization of a memorandum of understanding for land acquisition, regulatory approvals, and preparations for production well drilling and testing.

With respect to wastewater infrastructure, Mr. Meisner provided an update on improvements at the wastewater treatment facility, including the resolution of odour issues through the installation of new aerators and ongoing upgrades to the front-end screening and aeration systems. He also noted that the sewage flow study monitoring period has concluded and that a final report is anticipated in early 2027.

Councillor Jack Sullivan joined the meeting at 6:19 pm

Councillor MacLaughlin inquired about potential impacts on nearby residents arising from construction activities associated with the new MacQuarrie's Pharmacy development and the measures being taken to communicate with affected property owners. Mr. Meisner advised that he has been maintaining regular communication with residents and is working to minimize impacts while ensuring public safety.

Councillor Garvie noted positive feedback received from businesses in the St. Andrews Street area regarding the progress of the infrastructure work.

The Warden thanked Mr. Meisner for the update.

Delegations

Happy Cities – Upgrades to the Antigonish Community Transit Bus Route

Mr. Houssam Elokda, Transportation Planner with Happy Cities, presented the findings of a transit study examining opportunities to improve the Antigonish Community Transit service. The study was supported through funding from the Nova Scotia Department of Energy and focused on improving accessibility, reliability, and ridership.

Mr. Elokda reviewed the results of community consultation undertaken during Summer 2026, including online and in-person engagement. He advised that feedback was gathered from more than 500 community members and informed the development of proposed route enhancements.

Two service options were presented for consideration:

- A revised single-bus route operating on a 60-minute loop to improve travel times and service reliability while maintaining access to key destinations.
- A future expansion option utilizing two buses operating on 30-minute service intervals with a central transfer point, providing more frequent service and expanding access to additional destinations, including the new medical clinic located on Beech Hill Road, while requiring additional operating and capital resources.

Discussion followed regarding route design, travel times, service frequency, connections to the new medical clinic, ridership patterns, operating requirements, and potential impacts on Dial-a-Ride services.

Mr. Elokda advised that approximately 63% of survey respondents preferred the two-bus service model and noted that annual ridership is currently approximately 10,000 passengers.

In response to an inquiry regarding next steps, Mr. Elokda advised that Happy Cities will prepare a final report outlining both service options for consideration by the Town and County Councils. Any future decision on service enhancements would be considered through the budget process.

The Warden thanked Mr. Elokda for the presentation.

In-Camera Items

Moved and Seconded

Motion: That the Joint Council Committee move into an in-camera session to discuss acquisition, sale, lease, and security of municipal property pursuant to Section 22(2)(a) of the Municipal Government Act at 7:06 p.m.

Motion Carried.

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Moved and Seconded

Motion: That the Joint Council Committee adjourns the in-camera session at 7:35 p.m.

Motion Carried.

New Business

There were no items of New Business.

Warden MacInnis introduced Mr. Cole MacIsaac, the new Director of Public Works for the Municipality of the County of Antigonish.

Adjournment

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Warden Nicholas MacInnis	Mayor Sean Cameron
Shirlyn Donovan, CAO, County of Antigonish	Randy Delorey, CAO, Town of Antigonish

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