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## **ATTENDING**

Mayor Mike Trinacty, Chair  
Deputy Mayor Johanna Kwakernaak  
Councillor Ty Walsh  
Councillor Chris Goddard  
Councillor Adam Lutz, arrived at 6:50 pm  
Councillor Derrick Jamieson  
Katie Verrette, Manager of Community Development  
Krista Longmire, Executive Assistant

## **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

4 members of the public

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm

### **2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 24, 2026, WERE ACCEPTED AS CIRCULATED.**

Councillor Walsh suggested that additional details, which may not be mentioned in the reports, be captured in the meeting minutes during the committee report discussions.

### **4. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS**

The review of the action items will be deferred until the next meeting.

### **5. COUNCILLOR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **a. RDF007-2026: 2026/27 Operating and Capital Budget**

Due to staff illness, it was agreed that Council would review the budget documents that were circulated, and any items requiring clarification would be brought back to staff for action. Mayor Trinacty also mentioned that there would be a Special Council meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

- **Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak** - expressed concern regarding the proposed increase to the commercial tax rate and would like the opportunity for further discussion on this matter. She also questioned whether there may be options

to apply different tax rates based on the type of business or organization. Additionally, interested in exploring other potential opportunities to reduce the winter maintenance budget.

- **Councillor Walsh** – concern was expressed with respect to the library’s funding request, as a 50% increase had been sought while the proposed budget includes a 25% increase. Also, it is expressed that sewer rates should be further increased to support the growth of the sewer reserve.
- **Councillor Jamieson** – questioned the potential increase to the deed transfertax and sewer rates. Consideration should also be given to whether there may be value in, or more cost-effective alternatives to, certain Intermunicipal Service Agreements (IMSAs), including policing and transit services.
- **Councillor Goddard** – suggested that additional funding be directed to reserves while maintaining the Town’s current overall debt level.
- **Mayor Trinacty** – suggested that staff benefits and discretionary expenditures be reviewed to determine whether efficiencies or potential cost savings could be realized. Also wondered if the contracted amount for planning services has been adjusted to reflect the completion of the MPS review.

## 7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- a. **Berwick Fire Department** – circulated. Councillor Lutz added that the Fire Services Sub-Committee met with the Town’s beautification committee to discuss use of the land by the new bridge for a potential garden.
- b. **Community Development** – circulated. Manager Verrette highlighted that the youth summer employment has been posted. Also, staff are working in conjunction with the Legion to provide the Easter event this year. Mayor Trinacty inquired about Gaelic week and if the Town has recognized this in the past. Clarification was given on the volunteer events that happen in neighbouring municipalities during April. The Town recognizes volunteers in the fall to coincide with the Provincial award ceremony.
- c. **Finance** – circulated. Councillor Walsh inquired if Kraken could be used for the financial software. Kraken will work with Municipal software; however, it isn’t financial based, which is required.
- d. **Public Works** – circulated. Councillor Lutz inquired about the date that the bin for yard waste will arrive.
- e. **CAO** – circulated

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **AREA** – circulated. Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak will be the new alternate on the committee.

- b. **Accessibility** – circulated. Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak highlighted that the committee discussed the winter maintenance impacts on accessibility throughout the town during the winter months.
- c. **Annapolis Valley Homelessness Committee** – Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak reviewed the report as circulated.
- d. **Berwick Development Group** – Mayor Trinacty reviewed the report as circulated. This informal group has been formed to promote development within the Town. Potential development properties and interested developers have been identified, and efforts are underway to connect the two. The group is also exploring potential businesses that may have an interest in locating in Berwick and identifying suitable locations for them.
- e. **Berwick Electric Commission** – circulated.
- f. **Diversity Kings Committee** – Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak reviewed the report as circulated. The group was noted as providing valuable educational and learning opportunities.
- g. **Fire Services Subcommittee** – Councillor Lutz reviewed the report as circulated. Councillor Jamieson inquired whether any capital reserves are designated specifically for fire services. Mayor Trinacty advised that the Town’s capital reserves are not service-specific. The possibility of implementing a fire tax to establish a dedicated fire reserve was discussed.
- h. **Kings County Trails Society** – circulated. Councillor Goddard circulated additional information on solar lighting for trails, parks and public spaces that are being looked at within Kings County.
- i. **Kings Point to Point** – circulated. Councillor Goddard reviewed the report as circulated. Councillor Walsh inquired about the rationale for maintaining two separate transit systems, Tidal Transit and Point-to-Point. It was noted that they operate under different service models (fixed-route versus demand-response accessible service). Evolving provincial accessibility requirements is contributing to increased operating costs and, without additional funding, may place some systems at risk.
- j. **Police Services Advisory Committee** – Councillor Goddard is now the chair of the PSAC. It was noted that Inspector Bill Collier will now serve as the primary contact for policing matters in the Town and would like to meet with Council at an upcoming Council meeting. The public safety workshops have all received sponsorship.
- k. **REMAC** – Mayor Trinacty reviewed the report as circulated. There was an extensive report on the Lake George wildfire. It was also noted that work still needs to be done for the Berwick Lions Hall to be designated as a Comfort Center.
- l. **Valley Regional Services** – Mayor Trinacty reviewed the report as circulated. Councillor Walsh questioned whether cleaning services could be a shared service between Tidal Transit/Valley Waste.

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Berwick Food Bank Achievement

**10. MAYOR'S REPORT – Circulated**

**11. IN-CAMERA**

**IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR MEETING BE ADJOURNED TO INCAMERA SESSION AT 8:20 PM.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE INCAMERA SESSION BE ADJOURNED TO THE REGULAR MEETING AT 9:20 PM.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 9:20 PM.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Approved by Committee of the Whole, April 28, 2026  
As recorded by Krista Longmire, Executive Assistant**