
ATTENDING

Mayor Mike Trinacty, Chair
Deputy Mayor Johanna Kwakernaak
Councillor Ty Walsh
Councillor Chris Goddard
Councillor Derrick Jamieson
Jen Boyd, CAO
Lisa Walsh, Director of Finance
Aaron Dondale, Director of Public Works
Katie Verrette, Manager of Community Development
Krista Longmire, Executive Assistant

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

2 members of the public

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

Councillor Adam Lutz

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Mayor Trinacty acknowledged the passing of staff member Taylor Boylan's father.

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 MARCH 24, 2026, WERE ACCEPTED AS CIRCULATED.

4. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

CAO Boyd noted that the action items list had been cleaned up by removing deferred items, resulting in a more streamlined document. CAO Boyd mentioned that Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak and the new Director of Electric Utilities attended an AREA orientation session. The materials from the session will be shared with Council, and an orientation can be arranged for interested members of Council.

5. COUNCILLOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak – She noted that the KMCC dinner and auction was a successful event. Also, the community gardens group has secured funds to replace all the planters at Spicer Park.

Councillor Walsh noted the passing of Robert Stewart. Mr. Stewart had a long history with the Town and was a very community-minded resident. Bob was also

the father of BEC staff member Andrew Stewart. Celebration of life for Mr. Stewart will be on Friday at 2 pm at the Lions Club.

Mayor Trinacty highlighted that the KMCC Dinner and auction raised approximately \$48,774.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2026-27 Operation Work Plan

CAO Boyd presented the work plan developed to support the Strategic Plan, noting that it focuses on key initiatives rather than day-to-day operations. It was noted that the timeline and Q1 status columns are still being finalized and may be updated before the May 12 Council meeting. Discussion took place regarding the prioritization of initiatives, with some items potentially being deferred to future years. A workshop with staff and the Council will be held following the special election to review and refine priorities further. It was also noted that the Berwick Electric work plan may also be revised following review by the new Director, and staff are continuing to determine the preferred reporting format and frequency.

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- a. **Community Development** – circulated. Manager Verrette highlighted that preparations for the summer season are underway, including seasonal hiring. Priority was placed on filling the park's student position due to its 16-week term. It was also noted that, following the retirement of the Lead Hand position and current staffing vacancies within Public Works, flexibility in scheduling allowed the parks lead position to begin one week earlier, with a start date scheduled for the coming Monday. It was also noted that the lighting on the new bridge will be installed in the coming weeks.
- b. **Finance** – circulated. Director Walsh highlighted that there has been an accepted offer for the financial analyst position, and this completes the staffing vacancy in the finance department. Councillor Jamieson inquired about the Solar Garden transition. Director Walsh advised that work related to the accounting and reconciliation process stemming from the NSUARB ruling has been ongoing throughout the fiscal year and has been complex in nature. She noted that consultant support has been instrumental throughout the process, and the reconciliation process is expected to be fully finalized within the next two weeks. Councillor Walsh asked about the grid modernization project. Currently, staff is reviewing more than 500 system requirements for the Kraken software to determine which features are applicable and beneficial to the Town's operations. It was noted that the new system will enhance reporting capabilities and improve customer service through features such as a customer portal, real-time billing access, and consumption monitoring. It was also noted that Brian Easson should be sent the information for the online training for the Audit Committee.
- c. **Public Works** – circulated. Director Dondale reported progress on paving priorities, noting that work on Foster Street has begun, with Commercial and McIntosh Streets anticipated for early summer pending equipment

- availability. New blowers will be installed at the Wastewater treatment plant by the end of May to help address odour and noise concerns. Staff advised that approval had been received for the tertiary filtration permit and the Indigenous engagement process was complete, allowing the Town to proceed with issuing a letter of award. Councillor Goddard mentioned that the sidewalk markings for visually impaired are no longer visible. Director Dondale noted that they will be using oil-based paint this season and that it should improve durability. Brush pickup is scheduled to begin on Friday and will continue through May 15.
- d. **CAO** – circulated. CAO Boyd highlighted that Adam King, the new Director of Electric Utility, starts on Monday. Councillor Jamieson inquired about Bill 186. CAO Boyd noted that there is ongoing uncertainty related to the implementation of the new legislation, noting that many details, including regulations, training requirements, and implementation expectations, have not yet been finalized. It was also noted that there are concerns regarding the potential impact on volunteer firefighters, municipal budgets, and existing funding agreements with the County. The Fire subcommittee continues to monitor developments and document concerns for future discussion with other levels of government.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **AREA** – circulated. Mayor Trinacty reviewed the report as circulated. He noted that ongoing discussions related to the revised power purchase agreement, noting that staff continue to review the terms, potential benefits to AREA, impacts on participating municipal units, and the anticipated implementation timeline. It was also noted that progress is being made with a new billing arrangement related to tariffs and billing structures, which may improve forecasting and provide potential cost savings. Ongoing discussions with NSPI representatives continue regarding these matters.
- b. **Annapolis Valley Homelessness Committee** – Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak reported that the committee's terms of reference have now been finalized, and the committee structure is becoming more established. It was noted that the committee's role will be primarily advisory and focused on supporting organizations and individuals working directly in the field of homelessness. Open Arms is expected to assume responsibility for maintaining the committee's public communication platform. Several subcommittees are being developed, including groups focused on housing initiatives and communications. The committee will continue meeting monthly, with ongoing recognition that homelessness remains present within the community and that long-term solutions will require continued collaboration and effort.
- c. **Annapolis Valley Regional Library** - Councillor Walsh provided an update on the library's financial position. The projected deficit may decrease from the originally estimated \$625,000 to below \$400,000;

- however, reserve funds are still expected to be depleted by the end of the current library year. Board members will attend a town hall meeting to hear concerns directly from the staff, followed by a facilitated budget planning session to discuss significant financial decisions for the coming year.
- d. **Community Development Committee** – report as submitted. Councillor Walsh highlighted that the committee reviewed the summer camp planning and the camp screen policy regarding device usage during the camp. The committee also discussed the parks' infrastructure and maintenance issues. He also highlighted a restorative justice initiative, The "Circles Nova Scotia" project, to address housing, addiction, and mental health. The goal is to foster better community collaboration when supporting vulnerable populations. The CDC will be adjusting its schedule to ensure it hits the goal of six meetings per year, specifically avoiding August and December.
 - e. **Diversity Kings Committee** – Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak reviewed the report as circulated.
 - f. **Fire Services Subcommittee** – report as circulated.
 - g. **Kings Mutual Century Center** – report as circulated. Councillor Jamieson inquired about the Zamboni as mentioned in the report. CAO Boyd clarified that they had been waiting for some parts that were ordered.
 - h. **Kings Point to Point** – circulated. Councillor Goddard reported that Tim Harding has joined the committee as a citizen member in place of the representative from the Municipality of the County of Kings. He also mentioned that they are selling their 18-passenger minibus. The Committee is reaching out to local politicians to do a ride-along and get a better understanding of the Kings Point to Point services. Councillor Walsh was pleased to have attended a board meeting.
 - i. **Valley Regional Enterprise Network** – CAO Boyd noted that a special LOC meeting will likely be held before the Annual General Meeting on June 30th, to discuss what the REN would like from the municipalities during the transition plan. They still want to engage with Municipalities moving forward.
 - j. **Valley Regional Services** – Mayor Trinacty highlighted that the new logo has been approved and will begin circulation. He also mentioned that everything is going as well as can be expected with the new bulky item pickup that began on April 1st.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Minister of Municipal Affairs, Bill 212, Amendments to the *Municipal Government Act* and *Halifax Regional Charter Act*, April 22, 2026

10. MAYOR'S REPORT – Circulated

Councillor Jamieson inquired about the Grandview Manor Steering Committee. Mayor Trinacty provided an update that there are four key work streams underway with this committee, including a structural assessment of the building to determine whether it should be demolished or repurposed. It was noted that work has been

completed to resolve property identification and governance issues related to Orchard View and the adjacent properties. The Foundation Board will assume responsibility, and the properties will be consolidated under a single PID. The committee is also identifying potential tenants or users for the approximately 60,000 square feet of available space and assessing renovation requirements based on interest.

11. IN-CAMERA

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR MEETING BE ADJOURNED TO INCAMERA SESSION AT 8:05 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE INCAMERA SESSION BE ADJOURNED TO THE REGULAR MEETING AT 8:57 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

12. ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:57 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

**Approved by Committee of the Whole, May 26, 2026
As recorded by Krista Longmire, Executive Assistant**