
ATTENDING

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

1 member of the public

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

Mayor Mike Trinacty

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak welcomed Adam King, Director of Electric Utilities.

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 APRIL 28, 2026, WERE ACCEPTED AS CIRCULATED.

4. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

CAO Boyd reported that there have been no changes to the action items since the last meeting.

5. COUNCILLOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Walsh – glad to be back home after a week away.

Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak – The Access Awareness flag raising will be later in the week.

Councillor Lutz – Extended congratulations to the Grade 11 high school students who recently received the Lt. Governor awards at a ceremony in Halifax.

6. NEW BUSINESS - Nil

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CAO Boyd mentioned that the management team has been reviewing a new reporting template that would better align department reports with the Strategic Plan. The proposed changes are expected in June.

- a. **Community Development** – circulated. Councillor Lutz congratulated the staff on the very successful Community Party in the Park. He has received numerous very positive comments.
- b. **Finance** – circulated. Director Walsh highlighted that the auditors are on site this week. The new financial analyst started on Monday, which means the finance department is fully staffed. The Berwick Electric Commission meeting will be held on June 23rd, followed by a joint session with the Audit Committee for the presentation of the financial statements. A Special Council Meeting will be held that evening to allow the auditors to present the financial statements to Council.
- c. **Public Works** – circulated. Director Dondale highlighted that milling and paving on a section of Commercial Street between Grandview Manor and Orchard Street will commence tomorrow. Councillor Goddard asked for clarification of the meeting with DesignPoint. Director Dondale explained that municipal specifications outline the standards for municipal infrastructure. The current municipal specifications have not been updated for some time and no longer reflect current standards and expectations. Councillor Jamieson inquired about the sludge bathymetry process. This is a process of measuring and mapping the depth and distribution of sludge that has accumulated. The information collected is used to determine sludge volumes, assess treatment capacity, and help plan future sludge removal or maintenance.
- d. **BEC** – circulated. Director King highlighted that his current efforts have been focused on becoming familiar with BEC's systems, including energy consumption and operational requirements. Ongoing projects include the 14V conversion and work related to the hydro system. He is also reviewing existing projects and asset information to better understand current conditions, project objectives, and overall asset health.
- e. **CAO** – circulated. Councillor Walsh inquired about the meeting with the Annapolis Valley First Nations. She highlighted that it was an introductory meeting with representatives of the organization. The meeting focused on relationship-building, sharing current priorities and areas of mutual interest, and establishing open lines of communication for future collaboration. An invitation was extended for representatives to tour the power assets to gain a better understanding of local operations.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **AREA** – circulated. An update was received on the financial sustainability project being undertaken by Deloitte. The review is focused on policies related to dividends, cash management, reserve funds, and asset retirement obligations.
- b. **Accessibility** – circulated. Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak highlighted that the committee discussed Access Awareness Week. Also, their recommendation for the placement of the next bus shelter is across the street from the current one at Foodland.
- c. **Annapolis Valley Homelessness Committee** – circulated. Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak reviewed the report as circulated. She highlighted that a key milestone was the completion of responses to the numerous questions raised by the public at the community meeting. The responses have been compiled into a document of approximately 40 pages.
- d. **Annapolis Valley Regional Library** – circulated. Councillor Walsh highlighted that the Board has approved a major restructuring plan to address the funding shortfall. The budget has been amended to include three-year financial projections. A communications plan is also being developed with a national public relations firm to support the communication of upcoming changes at the library.
- e. **Berwick Blooms** – circulated. Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak advised that preparations are underway for planting the planters. Committee members have developed a work plan and will be completing the planting and related work themselves. At this time, no assistance from Public Works is anticipated.
- f. **Diversity Kings Committee** – Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak reviewed the report as circulated.
- g. **Kings County Trails Society** – circulated. Councillor Goddard highlighted that progress on the trail has been slow. Resurfacing is scheduled for mid-May, and recent work includes the replacement of signage and posts and brush cutting west of Berwick. A new organizational logo has been selected and will be circulated shortly.
- h. **Planning Advisory Committee** – circulated. Councillor Lutz highlighted that the meeting discussed the potential stormwater management Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) policy amendments. Engagement will take place with residents in the affected area to gather feedback to further refine the amendments.
- i. **Police Services Advisory** – Councillor Goddard noted that Inspector 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.
- j. **VCFN & VCFNA** – circulated. Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak reviewed the report. She reported that several new contracts have been signed, providing a modest additional revenue stream; however, the organization continues to operate with a deficit that is being actively addressed. She also noted that, due to an administrative oversight, partner contributions

- for the previous year were not billed and will be issued shortly. In addition, upgrades to the network infrastructure are planned.
- k. **Valley Regional Services** – circulated. Councillor Goddard reviewed the report as circulated. He highlighted the LINK NS initiative for an expression of interest for operating a transit service from Kentville/Wolfville area into HRM. Tidal Transit submitted a proposal with what they could offer.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Update from the 12-month notice from NSFM.
CAO Boyd advised that this follow-up letter was issued to clarify the items under the Fire Protection Services Act. The letter responds to questions raised regarding fiscal year requirements and outlines timing and planned work over the next year.

10. MAYOR'S REPORT – no report

11. IN-CAMERA

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR MEETING BE ADJOURNED TO INCAMERA SESSION AT 7:32 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE INCAMERA SESSION BE ADJOURNED TO THE REGULAR MEETING AT 8:29 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

12. ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:29 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

**Approved by Committee of the Whole, June 23, 2026
As recorded by Krista Longmire, Executive Assistant**