
ATTENDING

Mayor Mike Trinacty
Deputy Mayor Johanna Kwakernaak
Councillor Ty Walsh
Councillor Chris Goddard
Councillor Adam Lutz (VIA Zoom)
Councillor Derrick Jamieson
Councillor Carolynn Roberts
Adam King, Director of Electric Utilities
Aaron Dondale, Director of Public Works
Katie Verrette, Manager of Community Development
Jen Boyd, CAO
Krista Longmire, Executive Assistant

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

3 members of the public

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 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 JUNE 23, 2026 WERE ACCEPTED AS CIRCULATED.

4. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

CAO Boyd highlighted that the strategic plan was updated with new pictures, icons, and colours, and will be uploaded to the website with a link to be shared with community members who were involved in the process. She also provided an update on 109 Marsters Avenue. Currently, there are two separate issues with this property: the dangerous and unsightly order, and compliance with land use bylaws regarding storage tents. CAO Boyd also mentioned that the winter maintenance report will be presented at the September 8th Council meeting.

5. COUNCILLOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak - extended congratulations to Chris and Sue Goddard on 54 years of marriage.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Acknowledgements – Land and respectful public participation

Mayor Trinacty mentioned two new acknowledgment initiatives: a land acknowledgment to be developed in conjunction with First Nations, and a respectful participation acknowledgment following recent incidents around the province. Once the acknowledgements have been prepared, they will be circulated for Council to review.

7. MANAGEMENT REPORT

Mayor Trinacty provided an update on the Provincial Policing Services, explaining that a new financing model has been proposed with potential savings and reinvestment requirements for public safety, though specific details and costs are still being negotiated with the Department of Justice.

Manager Verette provided an update on summer programming, including new initiatives like Brave the Bike and sand and serve programs, and confirmed that the Active for Life program has secured funding for at least one additional year with sessions starting in September and December.

Director Dondale provided an update on the commemorative crosswalk on Veterans Drive. The design from the Royal Canadian Legion is ready for implementation; however, they are waiting for the asphalt paving to be completed. Director Dondale will investigate additional signage to encourage proper use of designated crosswalks. He also clarified that white lines on Maple Avenue are meant to delineate shoulders rather than create sidewalks.

Director King mentioned that the Factorydale Hydro project received regulatory approval and is now moving to the finance stage with a target completion date of 2027.

It was suggested that page breaks be placed between the various headings in the new Management report.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **AREA** – circulated. CAO Boyd indicated that the previously declared dividends have already been recorded as receivable, so when the payment is received it will clear the receivable account. Although the 2026–27 budget anticipated receipt of the 2025–26 dividend, it was budgeted for reserves; therefore, the delay does not affect operating results but reduces the planned contribution to reserves. AREA’s cash-flow review remains underway.
- b. **Audit Committee** – circulated.
- c. **Annapolis Valley Homelessness Committee** – circulated. Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak reported that the homelessness challenges in Kentville have worsened. The Kentville Police, the committee chair, and Nova

- Scotia's Minister of Justice will meet later this month to discuss the issue. Dr. Louis Francescutti, an Edmonton emergency physician and University of Alberta professor, presented a successful homelessness initiative and has joined the Committee as an advisor on a potential local pilot project.
- Annapolis Valley Regional Library** – Councillor Walsh reported that the library board received a \$300,000 donation from NS author Rachel Reid. A fundraising event is scheduled for September 12th at Acadia; the funds are expected to support the remaining 10 library branches for the rest of the fiscal year.
- d. **Annapolis Valley Trails Coalition**– Councillor Goddard reported that the AVTC has completed its mandate and will be phased and replaced by a Harvest Moon Trail working Group. This group will meet twice yearly and include representatives from various municipalities and organizations.
 - e. **Berwick Blooms** – circulated. Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak reported success with the drought-tolerant planters and plans to add bulbs this fall, though the Gateway Project has been postponed due to current fiscal priorities.
 - f. **Kings County Trails Society** – circulated. Councillor Goddard highlighted that planned summer work includes repairing bridge decks, staining the new kiosks, and requesting new Trans Canada Trail support signs.
 - g. **KMCC Governance Board** – circulated. Mayor Trinacty highlighted that the BDCA installed \$80,000 in epoxy flooring in common areas at the KMCC. CAO Boyd will continue exploring security cameras, and discussions on the solar initiative will continue.
 - h. **Kings Point to Point** - circulated. Councillor Goddard highlighted that the Executive Director performance evaluation is being drafted and the board continues succession planning for the position. Kings Point to Point's bylaws, practices, and procedures were reviewed & approved, with two new policies added.
 - i. **Kings REMO** – circulated. CAO Boyd reviewed the report and highlighted that Craig Gibson has been hired as the new Manager of Emergency Services.
 - j. **Valley REN LOC** – circulated. Mayor Trinacty highlighted that they reviewed a new governance model proposed by the Valley REN Board, though municipalities did not agree on funding levels or formulas. Concerns were raised about the sustainability of the private investment model and the need to understand what services would benefit Berwick's specific business community before making any commitments.
 - k. **Valley Regional Services** – circulated. Councillor Goddard reviewed the report and highlighted that the new transit schedule has been implemented and the launch of the Summer Youth Pass. Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak attended a funding announcement of \$10 million in federal and provincial government funding for Tidal Transit.

9. CORRESPONDENCE - nil

10. MAYOR'S REPORT – circulated. Mayor Trinacty highlighted that there is some interest in the development initiative for Berwick. The repurposing of the old Grandview Manor property is progressing. They are working on getting an architect to do some design work inside.

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 9:48 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

12. ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 9:48 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

**Approved by Committee of the Whole, September 22, 2026
As recorded by Krista Longmire, Executive Assistant**