

**Committee of the Whole
October 7, 2025
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Mayor S. Cameron
Deputy Mayor D. Roberts
Councillor L. MacLellan
Councillor, P. McKenna
Councillor A. Murray
Councillor J. Pelly
Councillor J. Sullivan

Also in Attendance

R. Delorey, CAO
M. Fougere, Municipal Clerk and Recording Secretary
S. Long, Acting Director of Community Development

Members of the Gallery

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgment

Mayor S. Cameron called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people and recognized that we are all treaty people.

2. Approval and Additions of the Agenda

Additions to the agenda under Business from the Minutes include:

- 6.5 Radio Budget
- 6.6 Accessible Spaces
- 6.7 Left Turn Main and College St
- 6.8 4-way Stop at Pleasant St and College St

Motion: That the agenda be approved as amended.

Moved: Councillor MacLellan

Seconded: Councillor McKenna

Motion Carried

3. Acceptance of the Minutes

The minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on September 2, 2025, were accepted as presented.

4. Flag Raising

4.1 Naomi Society Flag Request (November 25- December 10, 2025)

Councillor McKenna recused himself from the meeting declared a conflict of interest.
The request was circulated to Council for information services.

This item is for information purposes only and will be brought forward to the next Regular Council Meeting.

5. Business from Minutes

5.1 Post Road Dam – Councillor P. McKenna

Councillor McKenna noted that he was contacted by the landowner where the Post Road Dam is located, who expressed concern regarding the dam's current state of disrepair and the overgrown vegetation in the area. The matter was brought forward for Council's awareness.

The CAO provided additional context, noting that the dam is owned by the Town and is used to manage water flow from the rivers into Town limits. The Director of Engineering is currently conducting an assessment of the dam's structural integrity.

5.2 Sister Town/City to Bethlehem

CAO, R. Delorey provided an update, noting that this matter had been raised at the August Council meeting. From a staff perspective, it was recommended that Council defer consideration of establishing a sister city relationship with Bethlehem at this time, given current geopolitical circumstances and the fact that such an initiative is not identified in Council's strategic plan.

Council discussion followed.

Council agreed to accept the staff recommendation not to pursue the sister city initiative at this time and to notify Mr. D. MacGillivray of the decision by letter.

5.3 Consolidation Financial Report – Deputy Mayor Roberts

Deputy Mayor Roberts requested clarification regarding a previous inquiry she placed about the Consolidation Financial Report, noting that an email had been circulated to Council seeking this information.

The CAO explained that while routine information requests can be provided directly by staff, this particular request was non-routine and would require significant staff time to compile. For that reason, the matter was brought to Council for direction. The CAO also noted that members of the public seeking similar information would be required to submit a FOIPOP application.

The Deputy Mayor also questioned why the matter came before Council rather than receiving a direct staff response, and the CAO confirmed that, as the request is non-routine, Council's consideration and decision on whether to pursue the information was required.

No further action was taken.

6. New Business

6.1 Title Change – Deputy Clerk

The CAO spoke to this item, noting that in keeping consistent with other municipalities, the title of Deputy Clerk has been changed to Municipal Clerk.

6.2 Public Infrastructure Safety Issues – Councillor A. Murray

(a) Skate Park

Councillor Murray referenced a letter previously circulated to Council outlining safety concerns at the Skate Park, where skateboards can cross the pavement, grass area, and sidewalk, entering vehicle traffic on West Street. Councillor Murray suggested the installation of a barrier and a possible swing gate at the sidewalk entrance to improve safety.

The CAO advised that the Director of Infrastructure and Engineering, as part of the West Street design tender, had incorporated a design element that includes a structure such as a half wall to help prevent this issue.
Discussion ensued.

(b) Parking Spaces Accessibility

Councillor Murray raised concerns regarding accessibility at designated parking spaces, suggesting that removing the curb could improve access for users. Councillor Murray also noted issues related to snow removal at accessible parking spots.

The CAO advised that the previous snow removal policy had been rescinded and that the Infrastructure Committee is developing a new policy, which will incorporate an accessibility lens to ensure inclusive design and maintenance practices.

(c) Parking Meters (Main St.)

Councillor Murray suggested moving the parking meters away from the curb and reposition them closer to the buildings along Main Street, to facilitate snow clearing and reduce snowbank buildup.

Discussion ensued.

6.3 Antigonish Community Fridge (Donation) – Councillor P. McKenna

Councillor McKenna advised that he received an email from a County Councillor, Mr. A. Baden-Clay, noting that the Community Fridge does a valuable job in supplying prepared food but is running low on supplies.

For discussion, Councillor McKenna recommended supporting the initiative with a \$1,000 contribution. The Mayor followed up with the Community Fridge coordinator, who indicated that they are requesting funding from both the Town and County, as well as volunteer assistance at an upcoming Community Soup Gathering event on December 7th.

This item was provided for information purposes and will be placed on the agenda for the Regular Council meeting on October 20th.

6.4 ACALA 2025 Grant Application – Councillor A. Murray

Councillor Murray reported that ACALA was successful in receiving a grant for its International Food Fair 2025. However, the individual leading the project is currently unavailable, and the event cannot proceed as originally planned.

ACALA has inquired whether the event deadline could be extended beyond the December 31st commencement date outlined in the application. While extensions are possible within the current fiscal year, if the event cannot be held, the funds would need to be returned, and a new application submitted next year.

It was noted that any change to the event itself would require Council approval by motion.

This item was presented for information purposes and will be brought forward to the October 20th Regular Council meeting for discussion and direction.

6.5 Radio Budget

The Mayor inquired whether the Town currently has a designated radio budget. The CAO advised that there is an advertising budget in place but not one specific to radio. The Mayor suggested creating a dedicated radio budget to help promote Town-related events and share important community messages. Discussion followed, with Councillor Sullivan expressing support for the idea, noting it would be a good opportunity to keep residents informed.

It was also noted that 98.9 XFM periodically reaches out to offer opportunities for short community segments.

6.6 Accessible Spaces

These items were brought forward from the Police and License Committee, suggesting that the Town consider completing an assessment of accessible parking spaces for the next capital budget. This would provide an opportunity to ensure that the parking spots are correctly located.

The Deputy Mayor requested that staff review and update the painting of accessible parking spots, including those behind Creighton Lane.

Councillor McKenna noted his appreciation that the Police and License, Infrastructure, and Accessibility Committees are all working together, highlighting the benefit of applying an accessibility lens across initiatives.

6.7 Left Turn Main and College Street

Deputy Mayor Roberts brought this item forward, noting discussions with the Director of Infrastructure and Engineering regarding the possibility of adding a dedicated left-turn lane from Main Street onto College Street.

The Director, K. Meisner advised that the existing traffic signals require full replacement before any modifications can be made, as there are currently no electrical conduits to support upgrades. This would be considered a capital project.

Discussions with WSP traffic engineers indicated that while a dedicated left-turn lane and through lane could help reduce congestion, the change would result in the loss of some parking spaces along Main Street. It was recommended that any modifications be deferred until a parking study is completed and the five-year capital plan is updated.

Discussion ensued, including consideration of reinstating a flashing green light at the intersection, the compatibility of the current traffic signal system with flashing phases, and the planning of dedicated turning lanes at other intersections in Town. Council noted that these factors should be considered in future capital budget planning.

6.8 4-way Stop Pleasant St./ College St.

Deputy Mayor Roberts brought this item forward following a recommendation from the Police and Licensing Committee.

Council discussed several safety concerns at the intersection, including limited visibility, increased traffic due to new development, and vehicles parked along the street creating potential hazards. It was suggested that staff review the possibility of implementing no-parking zones on either side of the street to improve safety.

7. Councillor Reports

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts

Deputy Mayor Roberts reported attending the following events and meetings: the P&L Committee meeting, an online AREA meeting, and the Infrastructure Committee meeting, and the Town Fire Department Awards Banquet. Deputy Mayor also represented the Town at the Day of Action for Climate Change.

Additional events attended included a breakfast event at the Coady Institute, the 25th Anniversary of the Katherine Fleming International Development Award Ceremony, and the Cadets Flag Raising.

Deputy Mayor also expressed regrets for being unable to attend the Town Council meeting on September 15, 2025, and the Joint Town and County Council meeting on September 17, 2025.

Councillor J. Pelly

Councillor Pelly reported attending the RK Board AGM and the Town Fire Department Awards Banquet. Councillor Pelly will be hosting a Recreation Committee meeting on October 14.

Councillor A. Murray

Councillor Murray reported attending the RK Board AGM, various flag-raising events, and speaking at the Climate Change event hosted by the Coady Institute. Councillor Murray will be holding a Beautification Committee meeting on October 17 and expressed appreciation for the new lighting installed on the Clock Tower, which illuminated the Town in blue for Homecoming weekend.

Councillor J. Sullivan

The Infrastructure Committee met on October 2. Several tenders are currently under review, including Bay Street, James Street/West Street, the sewer lining project, and West Street recapitalization.

The Substation Grid Modernization project is progressing, with two new 400 MV transformers delivered and assembly underway. Work continues at the wastewater treatment plant, with manageable impacts noted since students returned. The tender for the screener has closed, and test wells for additional water are in progress.

The Greening Drive sidewalk project is underway, improving pedestrian safety, with Church Street next in line. Snow removal planning continues, with Main Street and accessibility lots identified as priorities.

The Planning Advisory Committee met to discuss the Housing Accelerator Fund's five key points. An open house with Upland Planning is scheduled for November 3 from 3–7 p.m. at the John Paul Centre.

Councillor P. McKenna

Councillor McKenna reported attending the following meetings and events: the St. Martha's Golf Tournament, Police and Licensing Committee, Good Neighbour Visits, PARL, RK Steering Committee, Waste Management, RK Finance (x2), RK Board AGM and regular meeting, Town Fire Department Awards Banquet, RK Strategy Meeting, Accessibility Committee, Infrastructure Committee, Cadet Flag Raising, and STFX Homecoming events.

Councillor L. MacLellan

Councillor MacLellan reported attending the Infrastructure Committee and Planning Committee meetings and highlighted an important issue related to committee mandates, suggesting a review of the current committee structure. Discussion took place on this matter.

As Chair of the Waste Committee, Councillor MacLellan noted that a community waste cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, October 18, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Councillor MacLellan also provided an update on the transition to Circular, the organization taking over recycling operations from the Town. Councillor MacLellan expressed concerns regarding which items will be accepted under the new system and anticipates some challenges during the transition period, noting that Circular has not yet hired a collector.

The CAO added that Circular, as the producer-responsibility organization, will be responsible for contracting collection services and that social media content has been shared to keep residents informed about the upcoming changes.

Mayor Cameron

Mayor reported attending most committee meetings and various community events, including flag raisings and other activities. Participated in the St. Martha's Day Golf Tournament. Attended the Town Fire Department Awards Banquet, noting it was the first time all Council members were in attendance and that it was a wonderful evening.

Mayor Camreon updated Council on some upcoming events taking place.

- The National 4-H Rooted Gala will be held in Halifax on Wednesday, November 5, while most of council will be in Halifax attending the NSFM Conference. Discussion took place regarding ticket purchases for this event.
- The Town received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 59. The CAO was also recognized for his past support as MLA in securing funding for the Legion's building purchase.
- Antigonish Affordable Housing will host an Open House on Friday, October 17, at 3 p.m.
- The Chamber of Commerce Annual Business Gala will be held on Tuesday, October 22, in St. Andrews.
- St. Martha's Radio Help Day will take place on Wednesday, October 29. The Foundation has invited Council members to sign up to assist during the event.

Homecoming Weekend Summary

The Mayor provided a report on Homecoming Weekend, noting that the event was well-organized and safely managed through strong collaboration between the Town and StFX University.

The RCMP reported that no large street parties or traffic disruptions occurred during Homecoming weekend and noted a high level of cooperation from students. The focus on campus-based events contributed to a safe and positive Homecoming experience.

On behalf of Council, the Mayor extended thanks to the RCMP, StFX University, and Town staff for their collaboration and efforts in ensuring a safe and successful Homecoming. Council agreed that a letter of appreciation should be sent to the RCMP, Town Bylaw staff, and StFX recognizing their support and cooperation.

The next Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on Monday, November 3, due to Council's attendance at the NSFM Conference in Halifax on November 4.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, Councillor Sullivan moved the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.



Mayor Sean Cameron

Randy Delorey, CAO