



**Council Minutes
Council Chambers
May 27, 2025**

- 1. IN ATTENDANCE:** Warden Linda Gregory, Deputy Warden Matthew Ross, Councillor Joan Ross, Councillor George Manzer, and Councillor Peter Scherer

STAFF PRESENT: Tyler Pulley, CAO, Cora Lee Ross, Director of Finance, and Taylor Robinson, Executive Assistant, who took the minutes of the meeting.

ALSO PRESENT: Peter James, from Share the Wind to provide a presentation to Council

REGRETS: None

CALL TO ORDER: Warden Gregory called the May 27, 2025 Council meeting of the Municipality of the District of Digby to order at 5:01pm.

PAUSE TO SEEK GUIDANCE: Warden Gregory welcomed everyone and asked to pause to seek guidance. Warden Gregory then read the Municipality of Digby's Mission Statement.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES

2.1 Approval of Agenda-Additions/Deletions

- Addition under 4. BUSINESS ITEMS 4.4 Digby Area Learning Association Community Grant Request
- Addition under 6. IN-CAMERA 6.2 Personnel

MOTION #C2025-05-27-01

It was regularly moved and seconded that the agenda for May 27, 2025 be approved as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

2.2 Delegations/Presentations:

MOTION #C2025-05-27-02

It was regularly moved and seconded that Peter James from Share the Wind, come before Council to present.

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. James introduced himself and explained that since 2011, the Share the Wind program has provided rides for those that would not otherwise experience the thrill of a motorcycle ride. With the low to the floor, easily accessible sidecar, they give rides to many in long term care, hospitals, assisted living, or individuals' homes. The group is a spin-off of the Wharf Rat Rally but would eventually like to become its own entity. They currently have two bikes with sidecars and operate with four volunteers. It was noted that they would like to recruit two more volunteer riders and provide more than their previous year's amount of over 250 rides. Mr. James asked for the Municipality of Digby's support by providing a community grant and by sharing information by word of mouth. Council asked various questions and thanked Mr. James for the informative presentation.

Peter James left Council Chambers at 5:22pm.

2.3 Approval of Minutes: Council April 22, 2025

MOTION #C2025-05-27-03

It was regularly moved and seconded that the minutes from April 22, 2025 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

2.4 CAO Report

a) Meeting Reminders

Warden Gregory went over the meeting dates/reminders.

b) Action Items from Previous Meetings

All action items have been addressed to date.

c) Update on Capital Projects 2024-2025

Council reviewed the update on the capital projects.

d) Financial Report

i) Income & Expense Reports

The April 2025 Income & Expense reports will be presented once the budget is approved.

3. STANDING COMMITTEE ITEMS

By-Law & Policy Recommendations

1) Digby & Area Health Services Charitable Foundation Letter

MOTION #C2025-05-27-04

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve the Digby & Area Health Services Charitable Foundation Community Navigator funding request in the amount of \$35,666.67 for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

MOTION CARRIED

2) Strategic Plan

MOTION #C2025-05-27-05

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve the 2025 Strategic Plan.

MOTION CARRIED

Committee of the Whole Recommendations

3) Tee Box Sponsorship at the 10th Annual Richard Ellis Memorial Golf Tournament

MOTION #C2025-05-27-06

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve the Tee Box Sponsorship at the 10th Annual Richard Ellis Memorial Golf Tournament in the amount of \$200.

MOTION CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1 Operating Budget

Cora Lee Ross, Director of Finance, reviewed the statement of estimates and provided Council with an in-depth overview of the draft 2025-2026 Operating Budget.

MOTION #C2025-05-27-07

It was regularly moved and seconded to approve the 2025-2026 Operating Budget in the amount of \$12,844,185.

MOTION CARRIED

4.2 Tax Rate Resolution

MOTION #C2025-05-27-08

It was regularly moved and seconded to approve the Tax Rate Resolution for 2025-2026. (See attached)

MOTION CARRIED

- 4.3 Clare Bluegrass Association Funding Request
Council reviewed the funding request.

MOTION #C2025-05-27-09

It was regularly moved and seconded to approve the Clare Bluegrass Association community grant request in the amount of \$100.

MOTION CARRIED

Warden Gregory declared a conflict of interest and left Council Chambers at 5:55pm.

- 4.4 Digby Area Learning Association Community Grant Request
Council discussed the funding request and agreed that they need more information about the event before moving forward. Council gave staff direction to reach out to Digby Area Learning Association to coordinate a presentation.

Warden Gregory returned to Council Chambers at 6:03pm.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 5.1 Correspondence: None

- 5.2 Councillor District Activity Report

Deputy Warden Ross gave an update to Council on various district activities such as attending the Bowling for Kids' Sake event, the NSFAM Spring Conference, a meeting to discuss development with a constituent and Councillor Manzer, the Brighton/Barton Fire Department's AGM, the traffic transportation meeting, presented a plaque to the Digby General Hospital Auxiliary in celebration of their 100th anniversary, met with the Minister of Energy, and has been helping residents with garbage, road, and housing issues.

Councillor Ross gave an update to Council on various district activities such as attending regular Council and committee meetings, the Bowling for Kids' Sake event, the Bear River Fire Department Awards Banquet, the volunteer recognition event in Digby, the NSFAM Spring Conference, the monthly event at the Bear River Health Clinic, the DATA Board meeting, and has been receiving phone calls concerning roads, cows, and garbage pick-up. Councillor Ross will also be travelling to Ottawa this week to attend the FCM Conference.

Councillor Manzer gave an update to Council on various district activities such as attending the volunteer recognition event in Digby, the Maud Lewis play hosted by the Electric City, prepared food at the Digby & Area Cancer Help Association fundraiser ATV Rally, and met with some of the PC Caucus members during their tour of Weymouth.

Councillor Scherer has been discussing property taxes with many residents, and will be having a meeting to discuss further and hear concerns. Councillor Scherer has also attended the monthly healthcare on the Islands phone call, and receiving complaints about parking. He also let Council know that the Coastguard has a new post in Freeport.

Warden Gregory gave an update to Council on various district activities such as attending the volunteer recognition event in Digby, the NSFAM Spring Conference, a Regional Chairs meeting, the NSAPG workshop and AGM, a meeting with a resident to discuss development, and has had calls regarding roads.

MOTION #C2025-05-27-10

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council move into in-camera at 6:25pm to discuss two personnel matters.

MOTION CARRIED

6. IN CAMERA ITEMS:

- 6.1 Personnel
- 6.2 Personnel

Council resumed regular session at 6:45pm.

MOTION #C2025-05-27-11

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council appoint Linda Weir to the Marketing & Promotions Levy Committee for a two-year term.

MOTION CARRIED

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #C2025-05-27-12

It was regularly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 6:46pm.

MOTION CARRIED

Warden Gregory

Tyler Pulley, Chief Administrative Officer

BE IT RESOLVED THAT pursuant to the authority contained in section 72 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the Municipality of the District of Digby hereby adopts the Statement of Estimates in the amount of \$ 12,844,185 as presented for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that a commercial rate pursuant to section 72 (6) (a) of the Municipal Government Act be established at \$1.85 per \$100 of assessment, a residential and resource rate pursuant to section 72 (6) (b) of the Municipal Government Act be established at \$1.30 per 100 of assessment.

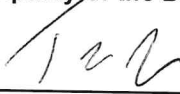
AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the following area rates pursuant to section 75 (2) be established for the provision of fire protection, street lighting and sidewalk maintenance.

Sidewalk Maintenance	Codes
Conway Sidewalk	ARCM 4.5 cents per \$100 of assessment
Mount Pleasant	ARMM 4.5 cents per \$100 of assessment
Street lighting	
Weymouth Falls Light Rate	ARL0 4.07 cents per \$100 of assessment
Bear River Light Rate	ARL1 4.07 cents per \$100 of assessment
Digby Neck Light Rate	ARL3 4.07 cents per \$100 of assessment
Barton Light Rate	ARL5 4.07 cents per \$100 of assessment
Culloden Light Rate	ARL7 4.07 cents per \$100 of assessment
Smith's Cove Light Rate	ARL8 4.07 cents per \$100 of assessment
Weymouth North	ARL9 4.07 cents per \$100 of assessment
Fire Protection	
Digby Neck Fire District	ARF2 5.0 cents per \$100 of assessment
Smiths' Cove Fire District	ARF3 6.0 cents per \$100 of assessment
Freeport Fire District	ARF4 5.0 cents per \$100 of assessment
Tiverton Fire District	ARF5 5.0 cents per \$100 of assessment
Westport Fire District	ARF6 5.0 cents per \$100 of assessment
Barton/Brighton Fire District	ARF7 10.0 cents per \$100 of assessment
Plympton Fire District	ARF8 5.0 cents per \$100 of assessment
Weymouth Fire District	ARF9 10.0 cents per \$100 of assessment
Bear River Fire District	ARFB 5.0 cents per \$100 of assessment
Digby Fire District	ARFD 5.0 cents per \$100 of assessment
Southville/Danvers Fire District	ARF0 15.0 cents per \$100 of assessment

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipality will bill and collect on behalf of the Commissioners for the Village of Weymouth, Village of Tiverton, Village of Freeport and the Village of Westport an amount as determined by each Commission at duly convened meetings.

Pursuant to the authority granted by the Municipal Government Act and Policy # FIN-2500-01 Municipal Tax Collection, the Municipal Council hereby sets the interest rate on overdue taxes at the rate of **15 percent per annum**, and an interest rate of 10 percent per annum be established for overpayment on taxes due to assessment appeals.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopting the tax rates for the Municipality of the District of Digby passed the 27th day of May, 2025.



Tyler Pulley
Chief Administrative Officer
Municipal Clerk