



**Council Minutes
Council Chambers
March 24, 2026**

- 1. IN ATTENDANCE:** Warden Linda Gregory (via Zoom), 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: Duff Wilson, and Roger Tatlock to provide presentations to Council, as well as four members of the public

REGRETS: None

CALL TO ORDER: Deputy Warden Ross called the March 24, 2026 Council meeting of the Municipality of the District of Digby to order at 5:00pm.

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

2. ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES

2.1 Approval of Agenda-Additions/Deletions

MOTION #C2026-03-24-01

It was regularly moved and seconded that the agenda for March 24, 2026 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

2.2 Disclosure of Conflict-of-Interest Issues: None

2.3 Delegations/Presentations:

- a) Duff Wilson, Bear River Board of Trade

MOTION #C2026-03-24-02

It was regularly moved and seconded that Duff Wilson from the Bear River Board of Trade come before Council to present.

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Wilson came before Council to present on the Bear River Board of Trade's funding request for an engineering study for the Digby side of Bear River's waterfront to address erosion conditions and rising sea levels.

Council was informed that Eagle Beach Contractors will be engaged to complete the survey work. The estimated cost of the engineering study is \$6,000 plus HST, and the contractor would remain involved throughout the entirety of the project. Mr. Wilson advised that approximately \$2,000 has already been raised within the community, reducing the current funding request to \$4,840.

He further noted that upon completion of the survey, the project would be considered "shovel-ready." Mr. Wilson has met with representatives MP Chris d'Entremont and MLA Jill Balser regarding the project and identified ACOA as a potential funding partner. It was also indicated that the Board of Trade does not

expect the Municipality to be a primary funder, as additional funding requests will be made to provincial and federal partners.

Council thanked Mr. Wilson for the information.

Mr. Wilson left Council Chambers at 5:16pm.

- b) Roger Tatlock, Basic Income Guarantee Presentation

MOTION #C2026-03-24-03

It was regularly moved and seconded that Roger Tatlock come before Council to present on the Basic Income Guarantee.

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Tatlock, a volunteer with Basic Income Guarantee Nova Scotia (BIG-NS), appeared before Council to request support in initiating discussions between the federal and provincial governments regarding a basic income guarantee.

He noted that approximately 10.9% of Canadians and 12.5% of Nova Scotians are currently living in poverty, and advised that approximately 20 municipalities, representing 80% of the population, have called for the examination or implementation of a basic income guarantee. Mr. Tatlock requested that the Municipality consider writing a letter of support to both levels of government.

Council members shared comments and concerns and thanked Mr. Tatlock for his presentation.

Mr. Tatlock and 4 members of the public left Council Chambers at 5:43 p.m.

2.4 Approval of Minutes: Council February 24, 2026

MOTION #C2026-03-24-04

It was regularly moved and seconded that the minutes from February 24, 2026 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

2.5 CAO Report

- a) Meeting Reminders

Deputy Warden Ross 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 2025-2026

Council reviewed the update on the capital projects.

- d) Financial Report

- i) Income & Expense Reports

The February 2026 Income & Expense reports were reviewed.

MOTION #C2026-03-24-05

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve the February 2026 Income & Expense reports.

MOTION CARRIED

3. **STANDING COMMITTEE ITEMS**

By-Law & Policy Recommendations

- 1) Workplace Harassment Policy

MOTION #C2026-03-24-06

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve the workplace harassment policy as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

- 2) Sexual Harassment Policy – Repeal

MOTION #C2026-03-24-07

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council repeal the sexual harassment policy #7.003.

MOTION CARRIED

- 3) 2026-27 Low Income Tax Exemption Amount and Income Level

MOTION #C2026-03-24-08

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council agree to increase the 2026-27 Low Income Tax Exemption “income level” by \$1000.00 per category.

MOTION CARRIED

- 4) Digby Curling Club – Request to Defer Funding

MOTION #C2026-03-24-09

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council defer the Digby Curling Club’s grant of \$5,000 to the 2026-27 fiscal year, and move it into the operating fund reserve.

MOTION CARRIED

- 5) 2026 Woodland Conference Funding Request

MOTION #C2026-03-24-10

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council provide \$100 for the 2026 Woodland Conference.

MOTION CARRIED

- 6) Proposed New Aquaculture Sites Letter

MOTION #C2026-03-24-11

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council agree to write a letter to the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture strongly opposing the current fish pen developments in Saint Mary’s Bay as requested by the community.

MOTION CARRIED (1 NAY)

Committee of the Whole Recommendations

- 7) Acacia Valley Trail Society – Letter of Support Request

MOTION #C2026-03-24-12

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council send a letter to Premier Tim Houston, the Minister of Environment Tim Halman, and MLA Jill Balsler in support of the Acacia Valley Trail Society’s proposal to have two provincially owned woodlots designated as protected wilderness areas.

MOTION CARRIED

- 8) Timberland Shore Wellness Society - Letter of Support Request

MOTION #C2026-03-24-13

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council write a letter of support for the Timberland Shore Wellness Society.

MOTION CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

- 4.1 Amendments to Sewer By-Law #2007-01 – Second Reading

MOTION #C2026-03-24-14

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve the second reading of the amended Sewer By-Law #2007-01.

MOTION CARRIED

4.2 Historic Gardens 45th Anniversary (August 15, 2026)

Warden Gregory noted that it would be great if Council members could be present on August 15th to celebrate the Historic Garden's 45th Anniversary to show support. The date was noted by each Council member.

4.3 Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92 Funding Request

Council reviewed the funding request from the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92 to purchase an AED for their facility. Council agreed to provide \$1,000.

MOTION #C2026-03-24-15

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92 funding request in the amount of \$1,000.

MOTION CARRIED

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

5.1 Correspondence

- a) Letter of Support - Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty
Reviewed and noted.

MOTION #C2026-03-24-16

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council write a letter to MP Chris d'Entremont and Premier Tim Houston regarding support for the Basic Income Guarantee Supplement and ask that both the federal and provincial government work together to create a national livable basic income guarantee for all Nova Scotians.

MOTION CARRIED

5.2 Councillor District Activity Report

Councillor Scherer gave an update to Council on various district activities such as discussing the Canadian Salmon Ltd. fish pen applications amongst the district, working with community groups on administration items, working with the Food Enterprise group to facilitate a presentation to Council, and in discussion with a woman from Switzerland who would like to do some research in the area.

Warden Gregory shared that she has been taking many calls and performing her online meetings from home due to her recent knee surgery.

Councillor Manzer gave an update to Council on various district activities such as attending his regular monthly meetings, the Art Bank selected the art acquisition for this year, met with Irwin Gaudett and Gary Theriault regarding the Weymouth sidewalks, and has had many calls regarding the roads.

Councillor Ross gave an update to Council on various district activities such as attending all the regular Council and committee meetings as scheduled, went to the land use public meeting in Cornwallis where there was overwhelming support for the changes to their bylaw to enable the setup of a Bear River Fire Dept (BRFD) substation on the former Bear River Plastics site, continues to be available to residents at the Smiths Cove at the firehall Coffeetime each Thursday and the BRFD breakfasts, volunteers for the community kitchen held each Tuesday at the Bear River Legion, took part in the Community Climate Capacity session on Climate risks and Tourism Resilience, met with Duff Wilson regarding the progress the Bear River Board of Trade has been making on the waterfront project and also with a couple of residents with questions about trails and coastal protection, and has spoken with residents regarding the conditions of the roads. It was also noted that Maureen Turner has been hired as the new DATA Tourism Development Officer.

Deputy Warden Ross gave an update to Council on various district activities such as all of the regular Council and committee meetings, Doctor Prince's Going Away Dinner, and has been very busy dealing with issues in the community.

MOTION #C2026-03-24-17

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council move in-camera at 6:10pm to discuss four contractual items.

MOTION CARRIED

6. IN CAMERA ITEMS:

- 6.1 Contractual
- 6.2 Contractual
- 6.3 Contractual
- 6.4 Contractual

Council resumed regular session at 6:46pm.

MOTION #C2026-03-24-18

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve the contract as presented with SREI.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION #C2026-03-24-19

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council authorize the Warden and CAO to sign the Cost Share Agreement No. 2026-009 with Nova Scotia Public Works.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION #C2026-03-24-20

It was regularly moved and seconded that Council forgo the Digby Area Recreation Commission's five-year grant commitment of \$10,000/year approved by Council in June 2024 for the Zamboni loan and have the loan become part of the operational funding obligations.

MOTION CARRIED

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #C2026-03-24-21

It was regularly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 6:50pm.

MOTION CARRIED

Matthew Ross, Deputy Warden

Tyler Pulley, Chief Administrative Officer