



**Council Minutes  
Council Chambers  
May 19, 2026**

- 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:** Yolande Donaldson to provide a presentation to Council, and one member of the public

**REGRETS:** None

**CALL TO ORDER:** Warden Gregory called the May 19, 2026 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 and Councillor Manzer read the Municipality of Digby's Mission Statement.

**2. ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES**

**2.1 Approval of Agenda-Additions/Deletions**

**MOTION #C2026-05-19-01**

**It was regularly moved and seconded that the agenda for May 19, 2026 be approved as presented.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**2.2 Disclosure of Conflict-of-Interest Issues: None**

**2.3 Delegations/Presentations:**

- a) Yolande Donaldson, Remember Them Project

**MOTION #C2026-05-19-02**

**It was regularly moved and seconded that Yolande Donaldson come before Council to present on the Remember Them Project.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Ms. Donaldson thanked everyone for the opportunity to present and shared that the project has been in development for the past two years, noting that Bob Garron originally started the initiative. She explained that the project was created to honor and remember the men and women buried overseas and stated that the group felt it was important to do something meaningful to recognize their sacrifice.

Ms. Donaldson advised that the project focuses on creating a visual impact through the use of cemetery imagery, including a photograph of the cemetery at Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, where 2,049 graves are located. She noted that students would be able to recognize important symbols throughout the display, including poppies and maple leaves.

She further explained that local photographs have been incorporated into the display, and that the circular design symbolizes the "Dead Man's Penny." Ms.

Donaldson shared that each photograph is accompanied by information and stories about the individuals being honored. She then briefly reviewed the men featured in the Digby County portion of the display.

Ms. Donaldson concluded the presentation by asking the Municipality to consider purchasing one or more of the pictures. Council asked various questions and thanked Ms. Donaldson for the great presentation.

***Yolande Donaldson and one member of the public left Council Chambers at 5:20 p.m.***

2.4 Approval of Minutes: Council April 28, 2026

**MOTION #C2026-05-19-03**

**It was regularly moved and seconded that the minutes from April 28, 2026 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

2.5 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 2025-2026

Council reviewed the update on the capital projects.

d) Financial Report

i) Income & Expense Reports

The April 2026 Income & Expense reports are awaiting budget approval.

**3. STANDING COMMITTEE ITEMS**

**By-Law & Policy Recommendations**

1) Calvary Temple Funding Request

**MOTION #C2026-05-19-04**

**It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve the Calvary Temple's funding request in the amount of \$10,000 and provide a letter of support.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Committee of the Whole Recommendations**

2) Peters Island Lighthouse

**MOTION #C2026-05-19-05**

**It was regularly moved and seconded that Council approve the recommendation of the Heritage Advisory Committee to install Hardie Plank siding on the Peter's Island Lighthouse, as recommended by the Islands Historical Society, in recognition of the challenging environmental conditions on the island and the need for a durable, cost-effective exterior material.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

3) Youth Grants

**MOTION #C2026-05-19-06**

**It was regularly moved and seconded that Council provide a Youth Grant to Kennedy Laybolt, from Islands Consolidated School, in the amount of \$250 for the NSSSA Provincial Conference.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

- 4) Canadian Volunteer Fire Service Association Awards

**MOTION #C2026-05-19-07**

**It was regularly moved and seconded that Council write a letter to the Plympton & Gilbert's Cove Fire Department letting them know that the Municipality of Digby will participate in the Canadian Volunteer Fire Service Awards for firefighters between 10 and 29 years of service as requested.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

- 5) Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program

**MOTION #C2026-05-19-08**

**It was regularly moved and seconded that Council agree to end the Property Assessed Clean Energy Program as of November 10, 2026 due to the fact that the Clean Energy Financing will no longer be administering the program.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

- 6) Windmills

**MOTION #C2026-05-19-09**

**It was regularly moved and seconded that Council agree to decommission both windmills due to the increase in breakdowns and expenses.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**4. BUSINESS ITEMS**

4.1 Operating Budget Approval

Cora Lee Ross, Director of Finance, reviewed the statement of estimates and provided Council with an in-depth overview of the draft 2026-2027 Operating Budget.

**MOTION #C2026-05-19-10**

**It was regularly moved and seconded to approve the 2026-2027 Operating Budget in the amount of \$14,006,749.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

4.2 Tax Rate Resolution

**MOTION #C2026-05-19-11**

**It was regularly moved and seconded to approve the Tax Rate Resolution for 2026-2027. (See attached)**

**MOTION CARRIED**

4.3 Sandy Cove Conservancy Community Grant Request

Council reviewed the financial request and discussed the intent of the project, noting that it was aimed at improving the lives of local residents. During discussion, concerns were raised regarding whether the proposal represented a good use of taxpayer dollars, with members noting that there are free software options currently available. Council also noted that there are other avenues available to build websites and advertise at no cost.

**A motion was made to provide funding in the amount of \$1,500. MOTION DEFEATED**

A motion was then made to send a letter to the organization:

**MOTION #C2026-05-19-12**

**It was regularly moved and seconded to write a letter to the Sandy Cove Conservancy advising that, at this time, due to Community Grant constraints, the Municipality of Digby cannot fund their project.**

**MOTION CARRIED (1 NAY)**

**5. INFORMATION ITEMS**

5.1 Correspondence

- a) 12 Months' Notice - NSFM and AMANS

Reviewed and noted.

## 5.2 Councillor District Activity Report

**Councillor Manzer** gave an update to Council on various district activities such as attending all regular committee meetings, the NSFM Conference in Yarmouth, a community meeting with the Weymouth Village Commission to discuss increasing the village rates to help upgrade the sidewalks, and has been hearing that roads are getting graded which is great news.

**Councillor Scherer** gave an update to Council on various district activities such as discussing local road priorities with residents, reaching out to the residents of Tiverton to discuss signage and state of the road in the area, connected three different groups who have similar ideas so they can collaborate together, attended the NSFM Conference in Yarmouth, and has been helping groups apply for community grant funding.

**Councillor Ross** gave an update to Council on various district activities such as attending all the regular Council and committee meetings, both Bear River Fire Department and Smith's Cove Fire Department Saturday breakfasts as well as Thursday coffee time in Smiths Cove, the monthly Seniors Day at the Bear River Community Clinic, and at least 2-3 Tuesdays each month at the Community kitchen in Bear River, the NSFM Conference in Yarmouth, the TIANs strategic planning session, the Seniors Day at Bear River Wellness Clinic, met with Bear River Board of Trade and Chris D'Entremont, and volunteered for several shifts during Smile Cookie Week.

It was also noted that she is hearing concerns regarding the grant money spent on cats when people are going hungry in the community, property valuations, bike paths and wider shoulders, and the volunteer awards are too restrictive.

**Warden Gregory** gave an update to Council on various district activities such as attending all regular committee meetings, the NSFM Conference in Yarmouth, went to the SWANA National Conference in Whistler, and is now heading to a recreation conference for the remainder of the week.

**Deputy Warden Ross** gave an update to Council on various district activities such as attending the NSFM Conference in Yarmouth, the Brighton-Barton Fire Department AGM, the Celebration of Life for Junior Theriault, all regular committee meetings, volunteered at Tim Hortons for Smile Cookie Week, and has been hearing a lot of complaints regarding garbage and garbage dumpsites.

6. **IN CAMERA ITEMS:** None

## 7. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION #C2026-05-19-13**

**It was regularly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 6:09pm.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

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Linda Gregory, Warden

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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 \$ **14,006,749** as presented for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2027.

**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.


<b>Sidewalk Maintenance</b>	<b>Codes</b>
Conway Sidewalk	ARCM 4.5 cents per \$100 of assessment
Mount Pleasant	ARMM 4.5 cents per \$100 of assessment
<b>Street lighting</b>	
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
<b>Fire Protection</b>	
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.

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**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 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026.**

  
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**Tyler Pulley**  
**Chief Administrative Officer**  
**Municipal Clerk**