
ATTENDING

Mayor Mike Trinacty, Chair
Deputy Mayor Johanna Kwakernaak
Councillor Ty Walsh
Councillor Chris Goddard
Councillor Adam Lutz
Councillor Derrick Jamieson
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 6:30 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE AGENDA BE AMENDED AS CIRCULATED.

**11. In-Camera
Personnel**

Mayor Trinacty also mentioned that there would be a special guest arriving at the meeting around 8:00 pm

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF MAY 26, 2026, WERE ACCEPTED AS CIRCULATED.

4. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

CAO Boyd gave an update on 109 Marsters Avenue. The Order was issued with a deadline of 3:00 p.m. on June 24. If the vehicles are not removed by that time, the Town will begin removing them on July 6. The Town's solicitor has confirmed that if the vehicles are returned to the property by the property owner, it will still violate the Order.

5. COUNCILLOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Goddard – displayed a photo of the president of the Berwick Legion and the Kings County Mayor in front of the mural on the west wall of the Kentville Legion. 2026 marks the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Legion. The Berwick legion will celebrate the anniversary in July.

Councillor Lutz – Congratulations are extended to the graduating students from Berwick & District, West Kings and Central Kings. Also, a reminder that the Apple Capital museum is now open for the season.

Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak – Congratulations to Megan Woodworth from Berwick, who was recently drafted to the Professional Women's Hockey League. Also, the planters around Town have now been planted and cleaning up of the gardens is ongoing. Plans for the gateway project are slowly moving forward. This evening was the 2026 Annual General Meeting of the Wellness Hub, after a successful year.

6. NEW BUSINESS - Nil

7. MANAGEMENT REPORT

CAO Boyd Staff explained that the departmental updates had been consolidated into a single report to better align with the Strategic Plan and to combine cross-departmental initiatives and project updates. It was noted that the report includes the information previously contained in individual departmental reports, while routine activities, such as meeting attendance, have been omitted unless they resulted in a substantive update. Council was invited to provide feedback on the revised reporting format.

CAO Boyd provided an update on the Provincial Policing Services Review and the proposed municipal funding formula for municipalities participating in the Provincial Policing Services Agreement. It was reported that the proposed formula would be based on a combination of uniform assessment, population, and per-officer costs. The province is proposing a five-year implementation period, during which municipalities would see no increase in police costs under the new funding formula, with annual changes ranging from no change to a maximum decrease of 25%. It was noted that further clarification is required regarding the impact of future RCMP resource reviews and any resulting changes to officer complement. The Town will participate in a one-on-one workshop with the Department of Justice over the summer to review the proposed funding model in greater detail.

CAO Boyd also highlighted the OS2 zone discussion. Letters were sent to approximately 40 property owners along Main Street whose properties border the river regarding proposed zoning changes previously discussed by the Planning Advisory Committee. Following consultation with affected property owners, staff determined that additional time is required to prepare a report addressing the concerns raised. It was noted that, if the report is completed before the end of July, a special meeting of the Planning Advisory Committee will be scheduled; otherwise, the matter will be brought forward at the Committee's September meeting. CAO Boyd mentioned that there was some misunderstanding between the mapping; the O2 zone is related to flood mapping from the river that was done for the province, and the stormwater management plan that the Town has done.

Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak inquired about the snow removal review/report expected in July/August and if there were still opportunities for input. Director Dondale mentioned that he had engaged several community groups as well as the feedback received over the winter; however, if anything was missed, he would welcome the feedback for the report.

Director King provided an update on the recent copper theft at the substation, resulting in several unplanned power outages. The theft involved the removal of the system neutral, a critical component that provides the electrical system's reference point and helps maintain system stability. Without the system neutral, the electrical system becomes unpredictable and could result in catastrophic equipment failures within substations, as well as damage to customer-owned electrical equipment. Given the significant safety risks, along with the potential for extensive infrastructure damage, the decision was made to de-energize the system until repairs could be completed.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **AREA** – circulated. Councillor Jamieson gave an overview of the last AREA meeting.
- b. **Annapolis Valley Homelessness Committee** – circulated. Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak reported that the homelessness advisory committee's website has been launched and is a useful resource. The committee discussed ongoing efforts to address homelessness, and subcommittees have been formed.
- c. **Annapolis Valley Regional Library** – circulated. Councillor Walsh reported from the Annual General Meeting and the regular general meeting of the library board. The board continues to have ongoing communications with the province regarding funding challenges and branch closures, noting that the public support for libraries has been overwhelming. Currently, there is no provincially appointed representative on the regional board.
- d. **Community Development Committee** – circulated. Councillor Walsh reported that the community development committee discussed reforming its structure and terms of reference to better align with the new strategic plan. The committee considered increasing citizen representation by potentially adding two more members.
- e. **Diversity Kings Committee** – circulated. Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak reported that the committee continues robust discussions on topics such as gender-based violence, with members marking important dates such as Indigenous History Month, Pride Month, and World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.
- f. **NSFM – Municipal Insurance Info** – circulated. Councillor Walsh reported that he attended an NSFM municipal insurance workshop. CAO Boyd mentioned that the town previously saved over \$20,000 on insurance rates by going through a competitive process and consolidating policies under one broker instead of being split between Aon and BrokerLink.

- g. **Police Services Advisory** – circulated. Councillor Goddard reviewed the report as presented. The upcoming public safety workshop in August will focus on scooter safety.
- h. **Valley REN LOC**– circulated. CAO Boyd highlighted that the meeting focused on their operational restructuring. An update will be presented at their AGM on June 24th, and Mayor Trinacty will be attending.
- i. **Valley Regional Services** – circulated. Councillor Goddard highlighted that fleet conditions are still an issue; however, it is on track to restore buses and routes with the August schedule redesign. CAO Boyd will circulate the staff report that was circulated to the board.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Councillor Lutz mentioned that he attended the Lieutenant Governor's annual Garden Party at Government House.

10. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Trinacty Highlighted that he and CAO Boyd have been working on the performance assessment for the CAO.

SPECIAL GUEST:

Megan Woodworth, who was recently drafted 42nd overall in the PWHL draft, stopped by to accept congratulations from Council. Megan grew up in the Town of Berwick and began her ice-sport career with the Berwick and District Ringette Association before joining Valley Wild Minor Hockey. Mayor Trinacty presented Megan with a couple of mementos from the Town of Berwick.

11. IN CAMERA

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR MEETING BE ADJOURNED TO INCAMERA AT 7:45 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE INCAMERA MEETING BE ADJOURNED TO REGULAR MEETING AT 8:29 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

12. ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:29 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

**Approved by Committee of the Whole, August 25, 2026
As recorded by Krista Longmire, Executive Assistant**