

ATTENDING

Mayor Mike Trinacty, Chair
Deputy Mayor Johanna Kwakernaak (Via Zoom)
Councillor Ty Walsh
Councillor Justin Serino
Councillor Adam Lutz
Councillor Derrick Jamieson
Councillor Chris Goddard
Jen Boyd, Chief Administrative Officer
Lisa Walsh, Director of Finance
Aaron Dondale, Director of Public Works
Krista Longmire, Executive Assistant

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Meg Hodges, General Manager, Tidal Transit (left meeting at 8:00 pm)
8 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 APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 9, 2025, COUNCIL MEETING WERE ACCEPTED AS CIRCULATED.

4. PRESENTATION

Meg Hodges, General Manager of Tidal Transit Authority (former Kings Transit), presented an overview of the organization's history. She highlighted the organization's growth over the years, including the expansion of services to various areas such as Coldbrook, Berwick, and Annapolis Royal. A new governance model was adopted in June, which unified ownership among Kings, Annapolis, Digby, and several towns, streamlining the operations. Tidal Transit is also enhancing its online presence with a redesigned website, updated social media, and a bus tracking app, aiming to improve accessibility and communication for riders. Meg also addressed route restructuring efforts to improve service frequency and consistency, noting potential impacts on communities like Berwick. While costs are being allocated more evenly, significant savings have not yet been realized.

5. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

CAO Boyd reviewed the Action items as presented. Mayor Trinacty mentioned he and CAO Boyd would make a site visit to 109 Marsters Avenue to review the dangerous and unsightly order and bylaw requirements with the property owner. Councillor Goddard mentioned there is a faulty decorative light on Commercial Street in front of the Bell building.

6. COUNCILLOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNCILLOR LUTZ: Team Nova Scotia Boys Volleyball, with players from Berwick, attended Coupe de l'Est du Canada in Quebec recently. It was a great experience and learning opportunity for the players.

MAYOR TRINACTY: Congratulations to Team Lockhart out of the Berwick Curling Club, winning the Nova Scotia U18 Provincial Championship. They will represent NS at the 2026 National championships in Timmins, Ontario.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Winter Maintenance Update

Director Dondale reviewed the information report on the Winter Street and Sidewalk Maintenance that was circulated. He reported that 37% of the winter maintenance season has passed, with spending at 76% of the assumed amount in the tender evaluation. Snowfall this season has nearly doubled the average over the past five years. Director Dondale emphasized that while contracting winter maintenance was not expected to save operational costs, it would reduce the capital burden over the next six years. Common feedback with the first few snowfalls was that residents expected their street to be plowed sooner than it was. Staff will continue to receive, track and analyze feedback from residents and property owners, and will use it for contract management.

b. Valley Jets Sponsorship

Mayor Trinacty reviewed the tournament sponsorship letter received from the Valley Jets U13AAA hockey team, to assist with the year-end provincial championship hosted in Berwick.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT Council sponsor the ValleyJets U13AAA hockey team as a bronze/game sponsor for \$500.

**1 NAY – Councillor Serino
MOTION CARRIED**

c. Relief Fund Launch

Mayor Trinacty gave an update on the Berwick Electric Relief Fund, funded by local citizens in partnership with the Berwick Lions Club. Application forms are available at Town Hall, the Berwick Food Bank, the Evangeline Hub, the Berwick Library, and online through the Town of Berwick’s website. Applications will be processed beginning February 1 and will continue until April or until funds are depleted. The maximum relief available is \$400.

d. Strategic Planning Update

The Strategic Planning document has been refined to incorporate updates, revisions, and notes. The next step is to bring the document forward for budget discussions based on its recommendations.

e. Budget Update

A budget workshop will be held on January 29th for Council and Staff to begin working on the draft documents and the public presentations.

8. MAYOR’S REPORT – as circulated.

Mayor Trinacty highlighted that the public safety committee, a sub-committee of the Police Services Advisory Board, has continued working on the RCMP orientation package, which will be presented at the next PSAB meeting on Tuesday, January 20th. Monthly public safety workshops have also been created with more details to follow.

9. IN-CAMERA

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL BE ADJOURNED TO INCAMERA AT 8:11 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE INCAMERA SESSION BE ADJOURNED TO THE REGULAR MEETING AT 9:35 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT Council appoint Brian Easson to the Audit Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT Council approve the 2025-26 expense of \$35,000, for an accounting consultant secondment, to be funded by safe restart funds.

MOTION CARRIED

10. ADJOURNMENT

**IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR MEETING
BE ADJOURNED AT 9:37 PM.**

MOTION CARRIED

Approved by Town Council, February 10, 2026
As recorded by Krista Longmire, Executive Assistant