

ATTENDING

Mayor Mike Trinacty, Chair
Deputy Mayor Johanna Kwakernaak
Councillor Ty Walsh
Councillor Adam Lutz, arrived at 7:01 pm
Councillor Derrick Jamieson
Councillor Chris Goddard
Councillor Carolynn Roberts
Jen Boyd, Chief Administrative Officer
Aaron Dondale, Director of Public Works
Katie Verrette, Manager of Community Development
Lisa Walsh, Director of Finance
Krista Longmire, Executive Assistant

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Barbara Lipp & Julie Johnson, AVRL Berwick Branch
4 members of the public

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

2. SWEARING IN OF NEW COUNCILLOR

Mayor Trinacty welcomed Councillor-Elect Carolynn Roberts and her family to the meeting. CAO Boyd proceeded with a recap of the Special Election results as presented from the recapitulation sheet: Carolynn Roberts, with 344 votes, and Deanna Queripel, with 187 votes. Carolynn Roberts took the Oath of Allegiance and Office.

One member of the public left the meeting at 6:40 pm

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

NEW BUSINESS

- b. Stormwater will be deferred until September
- d. Update on the AVRL board

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 9, 2026, COUNCIL MEETING WERE ACCEPTED AS CIRCULATED.

4. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

CAO Boyd provided an update on the 109 Masters Avenue property, reporting that four vehicles and significant debris have been removed, though the order remains in place. A follow-up visit is scheduled for Friday to assess progress on the remaining vehicles and the relocation of a tent.

A link to the AREA regulation's manual will be sent to Council.

5. PRESENTATION

Barbara Lipp announced that, due to the restructuring with the AVRL, she will be leaving the Berwick Branch after 18 years to manage the branch in Kingston. Barbara introduced Julie Johnson, who will take over as the new branch manager starting next Tuesday. Council thanked Barbara for her years of service in Berwick and wished her all the best in Kingston. She will be missed.

5. COUNCILLOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Goddard – On behalf of the President of the Berwick Legion, thanks are extended to the Director of Public Works for painting the accessible parking spaces at the Legion. Council was also invited to attend the 100th Anniversary celebration on Friday, July 17.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. RFD018-2026: Accessibility Upgrades

Manager Verrette reviewed the report regarding the Community Accessibility Grant application for accessibility improvements to Council Chambers. The proposed project included accessible furniture for Council and the public gallery, as well as upgraded audio-visual equipment to improve accessibility and sound quality. Council approved \$13,600 in the 2026–27 budget to support the project as the municipal contribution toward a \$30,000 grant application; the application was unsuccessful. Council could either proceed with spending the budgeted funds on accessibility improvements this year or defer the allocation to the next budget year and reapply for grant funding with a stronger application supported by additional quotations.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT \$13,500 IN THE APPROVED 2026-27 BUDGET FOR ACCESSIBILITY UPGRADES BE DEFERRED FROM OPERATIONS TO RESERVES.

MOTION CARRIED

b. Strategic Work Plan Quarter 1 Update

CAO Boyd advised that this was the first quarterly work plan status update and noted that future reports would include more consistent reporting. Staff recommended presenting quarterly work plan updates at the Committee of the Whole meeting rather than at a Council meeting, to allow all department heads to be available for discussion. The CAO highlighted that work on the CAO performance management plan is underway and will be presented in August.

In response to a question from Councillor Roberts regarding Smart Meters in the BEC update, Director Walsh advised that equalized billing will be available once smart meters and the associated software are fully implemented. The automated system will eliminate the current manual billing process, making equalized billing operationally feasible.

Director Walsh highlighted that the external auditors expect to present the draft 2024–25 financial statements in August. Staff recommended holding a Special Council meeting before the August Committee of the Whole meeting to allow both Council and the Berwick Electric Commission to receive the auditors' presentation and approve the financial statements. It was agreed to have the Special Council meeting beginning at 5:30 pm, followed by the regular Committee of the Whole Meeting on August 25th.

Director Walsh also provided an update on the proposed Berwick Electric Commission rate increase, noting a total increase of 3.155%. The proposed residential energy rate remains approximately 3.67% lower than Nova Scotia Power's current rate. It is expected that the rate will be approved and implemented within the next month. Staff will communicate the update through the Town's website, social media, billing inserts, and direct communication with industrial customers.

Manager Verrette reported that an offer has been accepted on the vacant Active Living Coordinator position and will begin work on August 10th.

Director Dondale reported on the blower replacement project, which has been ongoing for approximately two years, is nearing substantial completion. Final reports and commissioning are expected to be completed within the next two weeks, marking a significant milestone for the project.

c. Annapolis Valley Regional Library Update

Councillor Walsh gave an update on the Annapolis Valley Regional Library from the emergency meeting held on Monday, July 13th. A decision at that meeting was to extend the operations of five branches until September 30, 2026, using a model with reduced staffing in some areas to keep all 11 branches open. The library board is requesting 50% funding from the eight municipalities, with a deadline set for September 17th. He noted that Berwick had already contributed 67% of the

requested amount. The board emphasized that this extension is a temporary solution and that ongoing discussions with the provincial government and municipalities are crucial for securing long-term sustainability.

Barbara Lipp and Julie Johnson left the meeting at 7:45 pm

7. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Harassment Study

Mayor Trinacty reminded Council to complete the survey they received from the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM).

8. MAYOR'S REPORT – as circulated. Mayor Trinacty highlighted that there will be Council Coffee Chat session on Tuesday, July 21st at 9:30 am at the Fire Hall.

9. IN-CAMERA

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR MEETING BE ADJOURNED TO INCAMERA AT 7:52 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE INCAMERA MEETING BE ADJOURNED TO THE REGULAR MEETING AT 8:37 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

10. ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:37 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Approved by Town Council, September 08, 2026
As recorded by Krista Longmire, Executive Assistant