



## Public Council Meeting

Town of Truro

Monday April 13, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.

Town Hall – Council Chambers

Present: Mayor C. Hinton, Deputy Mayor B. Thomas, Councillors J. Flemming, W. Talbot, I. McGrath, A. Graham

Councillor D. Pryor attended virtually via Teams

In Attendance: CAO M. Dolter, Director of Planning J. Fox, Director of Public Works O. Browning, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture A. Simms, Fire Chief B. Currie, Police Chief D. MacNeil, Manager of Strategic Services A. Grant, Director of Corporate Services T. Russell, Town Solicitor C. Thompson

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*Mayor C. Hinton called the meeting to order, beginning with a Land Acknowledgement. She recognised that we are gathered on Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq People, and acknowledged the significant contributions of the African Nova Scotia Community to our province over the past 400 years, despite enduring generations of inequality due to systemic racism.*

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1) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda for the April 13, 2026, Public Council Meeting was approved as presented.

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the March 2, 2026, Public Council Meeting were approved as circulated.

3) **PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Letter to MLA Ritcey re: Provincial Funding for Colchester- East Hants Public Library  
CAO M. Dolter read the outgoing letter to MLA Ritcey for information purposes.
- b) Letter to Chief Gloade re: Re-election.  
CAO Dolter read the outgoing letter to Chief Gloade for information purposes.
- c) Letter from Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre.  
CAO Dolter read the letter received from the Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre for information purposes. Council requested that staff invite the Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre to present at an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting.

4) **OLD BUSINESS**

a) **Request for Decision: Central Nova Scotia Civic Centre Society Repayable Grant Write-off**

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and J. Flemming, it was resolved that the Town of Truro forgive and write-off the \$814,923 repayable grant made to the Central Nova Scotia Civic Centre Society. Motion Carried.

b) **Briefing Note: Replacement of CN Pedestrian Crossing**

CAO M. Dolter read a Briefing Note regarding reinstating the pedestrian crossing removed by CN in August of 2025. The crossing was never intended for pedestrian use and to provide a safe crossing in the area would cost the town upwards of \$3 million. Staff recommends that Council does not pursue this project further.

c) **Briefing Note: Affordable Housing**

CAO M. Dolter reviewed a briefing note on Affordable Housing, focusing on the legal considerations surrounding property tax reductions or exemptions for existing dwellings. Under Article 57(4) of the Municipal Government Act, Council has the authority to grant tax relief to developers who create new residential units. However, current legislation does not allow the Town to offer tax exemptions or reductions for existing multi-unit properties unless the owner is a registered Canadian charity and the property is used exclusively for charitable purposes.

5) **IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT**

CAO M. Dolter reported that an in-camera meeting was held March 16, 2026, regarding two legal matters and one land issue.

6) **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **CAO Report**

The CAO report for the month of March was presented to Council.

b) **Corporate Services Report**

The Corporate Services report for the month of February was presented to Council.

Councillor I. McGrath inquired if the Town's Tax Sale occurred once a year. Director of Corporate Services T. Russell confirmed that was correct.

c) **Fire Service Report**

The Fire Service report for the month of March was presented to Council.

d) **Planning & Development Report**

The Planning & Development report for the month of March was presented to Council.

e) **Police Service Report**

The Police Service report for the month of March was presented to Council.

f) **Public Works Report**

The Public Works report for the month of March was presented to Council.

Deputy Mayor B. Thomas inquired if there was an anticipated end date for the repairs on the Walker Street bridge being conducted by the Province. Director of Public Works O. Browning replied that it is expected to be completed in the late fall.

Councillor A. Graham asked that the Lower Truro Road traffic study be shared with the public. Director of Planning, J. Fox explained that the proposed development agreement would be reviewed at the May Planning Advisory Committee meeting and the traffic study would be discussed at that time. Furthermore, citizens with questions or concerns can reach out to the Planning Department at any time.

g) **Parks, Recreation & Culture Report**

The Parks, Recreation & Culture report for the month of March was presented to Council.

By motion of Councillors W. Talbot and I. McGrath it was moved to approve the department reports. Motion carried.

7) **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

A discussion was held regarding the Deer By-law and issues with deer in the town.

By Motion of Councillors I. McGrath and A. Graham it was moved that staff review the Feeding of Wild Birds and Animals Bylaw in order to tighten restrictions against feeding deer. Motion carried.

8) **NEW BUSINESS**

a) **Request for Decision: Approval of 2026/27 Operating & Capital Budget and Tax Resolution**

By motion of Councillors J. Flemming and I. McGrath it was resolved that Council approve the 2026-2027 Town budget, including general operating budget of \$43,359,637 and capital budget of \$ 8,680,231 and the water operating budget of \$5,343,654 and water capital of \$958,000. Motion carried by vote of 5 to 1.

**Tax Rates 2026-2027**

By motion of Councillors J. Flemming and W. Talbot it was resolved that the estimated expenditures of the Town of Truro for the period April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027, be approved and adopted in the amount of \$43,359,637. Motion carried by vote of 5 to 1.

**Residential Rate \$1.85/\$100**

By motion of Councillors W. Talbot and A. Graham it was resolved that Council authorizes the levying and collection of a rate for the current year of one dollar and eighty-five cents (\$1.85) per \$100.00 of assessment for residential and resource property (that rate being hereinafter called the "Residential Rate"). Motion carried by vote of 5 to 1.

**Commercial Rate \$4.50/\$100**

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and A. Graham it was resolved that Council authorizes the levying and collection of a rate for the current year of Four dollars and Fifty cents (\$4.50) per \$100.00 of assessment for commercial property (that rate being hereinafter referred to as the "Commercial Rate"). Motion carried.

**Road Preservation Tax – Residential Rate \$0.05/\$100**

By motion of Councillors J. Flemming and I. McGrath it was resolved that Council authorizes the levying and collection of a rate for the current year of five cents (\$0.05) per \$100.00 of assessment for residential property (that rate being hereinafter referred to as the "Residential Road Preservation Rate"). Motion carried.

**Road Preservation Tax –Commercial Rate \$0.05/\$100**

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and W. Talbot it was resolved that Council authorizes the levying and collection of a rate for the current year of five cents (\$0.05) per \$100.00 of assessment for commercial property (that rate being hereinafter referred to as the "Commercial Road Preservation Rate"). Motion carried.

**Sewer Rate \$0.85/cm, under 1250 cubic metres; \$0.22/cm, over 1250 cubic metres**

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and J. Flemming it was resolved that Council authorizes the levying and collection of a rate for the current year of eighty-five cents (\$0.85) per cubic meter of water consumed under 1250 cubic meter on a quarterly billing and twenty-two cents (\$0.22) per cubic meter of water consumed over 1250 cubic meters on a quarterly billing for the current year (that rate being hereafter called the "Sewer Rate"). Motion carried.

**Solid Waste Uniform Charge**

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and A. Graham it was resolved that Council authorizes the levying and collection of a solid waste uniform charge of \$50.00 per residential dwelling unit be applied as a solid waste charge for all dwelling units of 3 or less. Motion carried.

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and J. Flemming it was further resolved that the payment of rates and taxes set down for 2026-27, as accepted and approved by Council, shall be required to be made to the Treasurer on or before the Thirty First Day of October 2026. Motion carried.

**Interest Rate - 15% per annum**

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and J. Flemming it was moved that an additional charge at the rate of Fifteen per cent (15%) per annum shall be and is hereby imposed for the non-payment of such rates and taxes by the Thirtieth Day of June, 2026 on the interim bill and at the same rate for the non-payment of such rates and taxes by the Thirty First Day of October, 2026 on the final billing, such interest to be added monthly after the due dates above. Motion carried.

**Downtown Truro Partnership Rate**

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and J. Flemming it was moved that Council approve the Downtown Truro Partnership Budget and Area Rate of Forty-Two Cents (\$0.42) per \$100.00 of Commercial assessment to a maximum of \$2,000,000 in the designated area. Motion carried.

b) **Request for Decision: Highway of Heroes – Fly Past Request**

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and J. Flemming it was resolved that the Canadian Air Division be permitted to perform a low-level Fly Past over the town of Truro on August 15, 2026. Motion carried.

c) **Request for Decision: Set Public Hearing Date for 219 Queen Street**

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and A. Graham it was resolved that Council set a Public Hearing date for May 4, 2026, to consider amending an existing development agreement with Arkham Developments Limited to convert vacant ground-floor commercial space in an existing mixed-use building at 219 Queen Street (PID No. 20486288) into two (2) residential dwelling units. Motion carried.

9) **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:33 pm.

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Cathy Hinton  
Mayor

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M. Dolter  
Chief Administrative Officer