



Public Council Meeting

Town of Truro

Monday September 8, 2025 – 1:00 p.m.

Town Hall – Council Chambers

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

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

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.

1) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Councillors J. Flemming and I. McGrath, the agenda was approved as circulated. Motion carried.

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a) **Public Council Meeting Minutes – July 7, 2025**

By motion of Deputy Mayor B. Thomas and Councillor W. Talbot the minutes for the July 7, 2025, Public Council Meeting were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

b) **Special Council Meeting Minutes – August 13, 2025**

By motion of Councillors J. Flemming and D. Pryor the minutes for the August 13, 2025 Special Council Meeting were approved. Motion carried.

3) **PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

a) **Correspondence regarding “Nourishing Communities Program”**

CAO M. Dolter read correspondence received from Minister Dave Ritcey in response to Council's letter of support for the “Nourishing Communities Program”.

4) **OLD BUSINESS**

a) **Request for Decision: Central Nova Scotia Tourism Development Society MOA & Bylaw**

CAO M. Dolter updated Council on the Memorandum of Understanding created after direction from Council at the May 5, 2025 Council meeting.

By motion of Councillors J. Flemming and I. McGrath it was resolved that Council approve the Memorandum of Association and By-laws for the Central Nova Scotia Tourism Development Society as presented. Motion carried.

b) **Request For Decision: Cumberland County and Town of Truro Community Solar Garden Program**

CAO M. Dolter reviewed the options available with regards to the Cumberland County and Town of Truro Community Solar Garden Program. Options at the time include, obtaining a new Engineering, Procurement, and Construction provider to explore possibilities that include cost reduction, to seek a private partnership in the project, to sell or transfer the project or to pause the project application until the results of the program review are available.

By motion of Councillors J. Flemming and I. McGrath it was resolved that Council approve pausing the application to the Nova Scotia Community Solar Program. Motion carried.

c) **Request for Decision: Naturalized Lawn Care Policy**

Director of Planning J. Fox informed Council that there has not been enough interest in naturalized lawns to warrant regulations at this time.

By motion of Councillor W. Talbot and Deputy Mayor B. Thomas it was resolved that Planning Staff prepare the necessary by-law, by-law amendments, and/or policy to implement the proposed naturalized lawn care approach as outlined in the related Staff Report dated June 5, 2025. By vote of 4 to 2 the motion was defeated.

d) **No. 2 Construction Battalion Athletic Facility & Ballfield Update**

CAO M. Dolter provided an update on the No. 2 Construction Battalion Athletic Facility and the Argus Street Ballfields. The No. 2 Construction Battalion Athletic Facility construction is near completion with a list of deficiencies to be completed by mid-September.

The construction contract of the Argus Drive Ballfields are considered substantially complete with some minor deficiencies to be addressed. Staff will present Council with pricing for filling in the ponds at the October Public Council meeting.

5) **IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT**

CAO M. Dolter advised there was an in-camera session held on August 13, 2025 regarding 2 human resource issues and 1 contractual issue. There are no items to discuss with Council in-camera following today's meeting.

6) **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **CAO Report**

The CAO report for the months of July and August was presented to Council.

b) **Corporate Services Report**

The Corporate Services report for the months of July and August was presented to Council.

It was noted that 70% of Town of Truro recreation facility users are residents of the County of Colchester. By motion of Deputy Mayor B. Thomas and Councillor W. Talbot, it was moved that the Town of Truro send a letter to Colchester County requesting that they reconsider their contribution to the No. 2 Construction Battalion Athletic Facility. By vote of 5 to 1, motion carried.

c) **Fire Service Report**

The Fire Service report for the months of July and August was presented to Council.

Truro Fire Service received a gifted brush truck from the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables. By motion of Deputy Mayor B. Thomas and Councillor A. Graham, it was resolved that the Town will send a letter of thanks to DNRR. Motion carried.

d) **Planning & Development Report**

The Planning & Development report for the months of July and August was presented to Council.

e) **Police Service Report**

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

Councillor I. McGrath inquired if the gun range is currently closed. Chief D. MacNeil confirmed that it is currently closed and that the Truro Police Service will inform the Public through social media if they are utilising the gun range.

f) **Public Works Report**

The Public Works report for the months of July and August was presented to Council.

Councillor A. Graham asked if there were any concerns with water levels in the reservoir considering the dry conditions. Director of Public Works O. Browning replied that the level is lower than it was last year but that there were no serious concerns at this time. He noted that notices for water preservation would be issued in the coming weeks if conditions did not improve.

Councillor A. Graham asked if water flushing would occur this fall. O. Browning said any flushing scheduled to take place this fall would be put on hold.

Councillor W. Talbot noted that the pavement milling on George Street made the crosswalk unusable for those with mobility aids. O. Browning replied that there are two schedules for milling and paving and that he would look into installing some asphalt ramps if the schedule warranted it.

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

The Parks, Recreation & Culture report for the months of July and August was presented to Council.

By Motion of Councillors J. Flemming and W. Talbot, it was moved to approve the department reports. Motion carried.

7) **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

A discussion was held regarding CN removing the railway crossing behind the Esplanade at the directive of Transport Canada. CAO M. Dolter said that a conversation could be held with CN about options but that it is their property and that crossing railway tracks is against the law.

8) **MUNICIPAL GRANT REQUESTS**

a) **Curling Club Sponsorship**

By motion of Councillor W. Talbot and Deputy Mayor B. Thomas, it was resolved to support the Truro Curling Club with a donation of \$20,000 towards their revitalization fundraising campaign to replace the club's aging refrigeration system. Motion carried.

9) **NEW BUSINESS**

a) **Request for Decision: Set Public Hearing Date: 155 Arthur**

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and A. Graham it was resolved that Council set a Public Hearing date for October 6, 2025 to consider entering into a development agreement with Tidal Veterinary Services Inc. to permit the Animal and Pet Services use at 155 Arthur Street. Motion carried.

b) **Request for Decision: Capital/Operational Surplus Transfer**

By motion of Councillors I. McGrath and D. Pryor it was resolved that Council approve the transfer of \$926,628 to the capital reserve and \$710,000 to the operating reserve from the general operating surplus balance for 2024-25 fiscal year. Motion carried.

c) **Request for Decision: Temporary Borrowing Resolution Approval for Stadium Capital**

By motion of Councillor I. McGrath and Deputy Mayor B. Thomas it was resolved that Council approves the Temporary Borrowing Resolution allowing the Town to borrow an amount not exceeding \$1,800,000 from the Province of Nova Scotia for Stadium Capital, which includes \$1,500,000 for renovations and \$300,000 for the Ice Plant building. Motion carried.

d) **Request for Decision: Capital Reallocation**

By motion of Councillor I. McGrath and Deputy Mayor B. Thomas it was resolved that Council approve the reallocation of capital funds to defer the \$40,000 purchase of the side-by-side for the Fire department to fund Fire Truck # 5's repairs for \$37,053 and to reallocate \$7,915 of the slope remediation savings to fund the overage for the golf cart for the No 2 Construction Battalion site. Motion carried.

e) **Request for Decision: Atlantic Mayor's Congress**

By motion of Councillors D. Pryor and I. McGrath it was resolved that Council authorize the Town of Truro, in partnership with Colchester County, to proceed with the planning and organization of the Atlantic Mayors' Congress, scheduled to take place in December 2025. Motion carried.

f) **Request for Decision: Appointment of Citizen Member to Joint Flood Advisory Committee**

By motion of Deputy Mayor B. Thomas and Councillor D. Pryor it was resolved that Council approve the appointment of Jayden Marion as the Town of Truro's citizen representative on the Joint Flood Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

13) **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:48 p.m.

Cathy Hinton
Mayor

M. Dolter
Chief Administrative Officer