



NOTICE

- MEETING:** Regular Council Meeting
- DATE:** Wednesday April 15th, 2026
- TIME:** 5:00pm
- PLACE:** Council Chambers, 8296 Highway 7, Sherbrooke

Please Advise If Unable To Attend



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 15th, 2026

We acknowledge that we are gathering in Mi'kmaqi the traditional unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Additions to the Agenda
 4. Approval of the Agenda
 5. Approval of Minutes of Council Meeting held Tuesday March 24th, 2026
 6. Business Arising from Minutes
 7. Recommendations from Committees of Council
 - a. Committee of the Whole – March 24th, 2026
 - b. Committee of the Whole – April 1st, 2026
 8. Outside Committee Reports
 - a. Port Bickerton Lighthouse Association – March 2026
 - b. Eastern Region Solid Waste Management – March 2026
 9. Other Matters of Business
 - a. Council appointment – Term Director of Community Development and Recreation for the period from May 4, 2026, through October 29, 2027
 10. CAO Report
- Adjournment
- A 10-minute question and answer period pertaining to agenda items.



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 24th, 2026

We acknowledge that we are gathering in Mi'kma'ki the traditional unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

1. Meeting, Date & Time:

The Regular Council meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council was called to order on Tuesday, March 24th, 2026, at 5:01pm in the Council Chambers Sherbrooke, N.S.

2. Attending:

Warden James Fuller
Deputy Warden Beulah Malloy
Councillor Dana O'Connell
Councillor Scott Beaver
Councillor Emma Tibbo

Also Attending:

Lesley McFarlane, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance/Treasurer
Mallory Tibbo, Director of Community Services and Recreation
Janelle Fleet, Interim Municipal Clerk

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- There were no additions to the agenda.

4. Approval of Agenda:

On motion of Deputy Warden Malloy and seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council approved the agenda as presented.

Motion approved.

5. Approval of Previous Minutes:

On the motion of Warden Fuller, hearing no errors or omission to the previous minutes, Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting held March 4th, 2026.

Motion approved.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- a. No business arising from the previous minutes.

7. Presentation: Royal Canadian Mounted Police – Sgt. Natasha Farrell, Guysborough County RCMP

- Sgt. Farrell provided a presentation, as included in the meeting materials.

- Sgt. Farrell also clarified that Danielle Desjardins, RCMP Liaison from the provincial Department of Justice, will be holding a session in Guysborough on April 21st at 6pm, about what a Police Advisory Board does and their purpose. Council and appropriate staff are welcome to attend.
- Council asked if a future session could be arranged in St. Mary's, and it was discussed that there could be training provided locally once a Board is established in St. Mary's.
- Council inquired about traffic incidents and Sgt. Farrell agreed to increase enforcement focus on Cochrane Hill and the area of Highway 7 near the daycare in Sherbrooke to address speeding.
- Council agreed with the priority areas identified in the presentation.

8. Recommendations from Committees of Council:

Committee of the Whole – February 18th, 2026

On the motion of Councillor Beaver and seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council requested staff to provide recommendations to Council regarding the letter from Robin MacDougall about Childcare Facilities.

Motion approved.

On the motion of Councillor O'Connell seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council agreed to combine the Volunteer Appreciation Event, First Responder Event and the Healthcare Appreciation Event into one Community Heroes Appreciation Event.

Motion approved.

Committee of the Whole – March 4th, 2026

On the motion of Councillor Tibbo, seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council approve the selection of the St. Mary's District Lion's Club to provide catering services for the provision of monthly snacks, at a maximum cost of \$9,072 for the term of March 2026 to February 2027, with funding to be provided from the Office of Health Care Professionals Recruitment Fund received by the Municipality.

Motion Approved.

On the motion of Councillor O'Connell, seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council declare the property at 8164 Highway 7, PID 37501871, AAN 04147405, to be no longer required for the purposes of the municipality.

Motion approved.

On the motion of Councillor Beaver, seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council approve that due to excessive costs of installing dry hydrants combined with ineffective functionality, investment in dry hydrants and the Fire Services Capital Reserve Policy be paused, and considered as part of the broader policy and governance review associated with implementing the Support for Fire Protection Services Act.

Motion approved.

On the motion of Councillor Tibbo, seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council approve that the Warden, Deputy Warden and CAO be approved to attend the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Spring Conference in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia from April 29 to May 1, 2026.

Motion approved.

On the motion of Councillor O'Connell, seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council approve that all five (5) members of Council plus the CAO be approved to attend the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Fall Conference in November 2026, with attendance to be confirmed pending announcement of conference details.

Motion approved.

On the motion of Deputy Warden Malloy, seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council confirms that no members of Council will attend the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference in Edmonton, Alberta from June 4 to June 7, 2026.

Motion approved.

On the motion of Councillor O'Connell, seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council approves the Annual General Meeting be set for 5:30pm on Monday April 27th, 2026.

Motion approved.

On the motion of Councillor O'Connell, seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council approves willing members of Council to attend a session about police advisory boards in Guysborough April 21st, 2026, at 6:00pm.

Motion approved.

On the motion of Councillor Beaver, seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, approve that Council award the Old Road Hill Multi-Use Trail Design contract to Strait Engineering Limited in the amount of \$25,145.00 (plus applicable taxes), with \$6,286.25 plus applicable taxes to be funded through the approved 2026 Capital Budget and \$18,858.75 plus applicable taxes from the Connect2 funding received from the Province of Nova Scotia.

Motion approved.

9. Other Matters of Business:

- There were no other matters of business.

10. CAO Report:

- The CAO presented the CAO report, included in meeting materials.
- The CAO provided Council with an update on the recruitment of the Regional Emergency Management Officer (REMO). Council was advised that Kelsey Reece has been hired for the position and is scheduled to begin on April 14. Ms. Reece is a paramedic and an active community volunteer. A formal public announcement will be made at a later date.

11. In Camera - Contract Negotiations

On motion of Deputy Warden Malloy seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council agreed to move In-Camera for Contract Negotiations at 5:36pm.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor Tibbo seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council agreed to reconvene to regular session at 5:43pm.

Motion approved.

On the motion of Deputy Warden Malloy and seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council approved the Shared Service Agreement with MODG for Dog Control, Building Inspection, and Sub-Division Processing and Land Use Services be renewed as per the updated schedule of fees, for the period of April 1st, 2026 through March 31st, 2031.

Motion approved.

Adjournment

On motion of Warden Fuller, there being no further matters of business, the Council adjourned at 5:44pm.

Motion approved.

Recorded By
Janelle Fleet, Interim Municipal Clerk

Approved By
Warden Fuller



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Wednesday, April 15th, 2026
Council Meeting

Recommendations from Internal Committees of Council

Committee of the Whole – March 24th, 2026

On recommendation of Councillor Beaver, seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council approves awarding Maritime Blower Repair Inc., the purchase and installation of two new blowers, at a cost of \$21,219.70 plus HST, to maintain redundancy at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, with funds sourced from the Canada Community-Building Fund.

Recommendation adopted.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Malloy, seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council approves inviting representatives from Emergency Health Services (EHS) to attend a future Council meeting to provide a presentation on current service levels within the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's, including response times, coverage, and any identified challenges or opportunities for improvement.

Recommendation adopted.

Committee of the Whole – April 1st, 2026

On recommendation of Councillor Tibbo and seconded by Deputy Warden Mallory, Council release the 2025-26 grant funding of \$4,016.34 to Coastal Nova Scotia funded through the 2025-26 Economic Development Tourism Budget.

Recommendation adopted.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Malloy and seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council provide pre-budget approval to award Francis J. Boyle Construction Ltd., the purchase and installation of the materials and complete permanent repair of the water main in Clover Farm parking lot, at a cost of \$9,000 plus HST, with funds to be sourced from the Canada Community-Building Fund.

Recommendation adopted.

On recommendation O'Connell and seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council authorize the emergency expenditure of \$1,744.20+HST to Sherbrooke Electrical for the essential service repair of the heat trace controller and electrical box in Clover Farm parking lot, with funds to be sourced from the Canada Community-Building Fund.

Recommendation adopted.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Malloy and seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council approve, subject to the 2026-27 capital budget approval, awarding Flowstar the purchase of 25 new water meters, at a cost of \$6,294.75 plus HST, to maintain proper water usage tracking and billing, with funds to be sourced from the Canada Community-Building Fund.

Recommendation adopted.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Malloy and seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council award the contract for the design of a multi-use community centre in Ecum Secum to IMCO Custom Designing in the amount of \$69,550 plus HST, to be funded by \$60,000 in provincial grant funding, with the remaining \$9,550 to be funded through the municipal fire services operating budget.

Recommendation adopted.

On recommendation of Councillor Tibbo and seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council ratify the award to Davis MacIntyre & Associates to conduct an Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment on PID 37541620, at a cost of \$6,749.22 plus HST.

Recommendation adopted.



Report to Council

Member of Council: Deputy Warden Malloy

Board/Agency/Organization: Port Bickerton Lighthouse

Date Attended: March 2/2026

PB Community

Centre

Meeting was called to order at 7PM on March 2/2026

Minutes were approved.

Financial report was given and approved.

AGM

John Zandvliet was nominated for the Presidents role and was elected by default. Brian Gary declined to continue as President.

Vice President Don Dodge agreed to continue in this capacity. Treasurer Sheila resigned and Recording secretary Diane Zandvliet agreed to continue in this capacity.

RAIN BARREL UPDATE

Multiple notices have been shared on Facebook and other social media accounts.

Kaiser Marine has agreed to have the barrels stored at their facility. Volunteers are needed on May 23rd to help off-load the delivery truck and help with payments and pickup.

Chase the ace as started a new round with the opening pot of \$1000.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE was awarded to Suzanne Stewart who is a writer and assistant teacher at ST.FX University.

NEW BUSINESS

ART Festival is slated for August 23rd and will be held only one day. More to come on that event later.

Next meeting date is Monday March 30/2026 at 7pm



Report to Council

Member of Council: Deputy Warden Beulah Malloy

Board/Agency/Organization: Solid Waste

Date Attended: March 26/2026 **Location:** Guys.municipal Office

ERSWM Meeting – Thursday, March 26th, 2026

New Regional Educator Update

- Tanya updated the Committee that Laura is continuing to do well and that Tanya is pleased with her work to date.

EPR for PPP – Circular Materials

- Website is up to date with all EPR criteria
- Depots in our Region only consist of MacMillians Service Centre Mobile Depot – Sherbrooke. MacMillians Service Centre, Antigonish County. Tanya explained to the Committee that Circular Materials is still working on getting locations for Depots. There is no new Depots to report currently.
- Tanya informed the Committee that until there is a depot in these areas the new recycling material should be placed in the garbage until further notice.
- Tanya mentioned that she still educates people as to what new materials should be recycled at depots.

Route ware Updates

- Tanya circulated a copy of the Invoice to the Committee in the amount of \$9,446.32. • The cheque will be in the mail as of today.

Datacall

- Tanya explained to the Committee that The County of Antigonish Datacall submission is still outstanding. Due to this outstanding submission, Diversion

Credits can not be completed, and money cannot be distributed throughout the Regions. As well, Tanya's Coordinators funding is also held back until this submission is completed.

- Tanya mentioned that once the new Datacall comes out this Fiscal that all CAO's will be copied on the email, in hopes that these late submissions will not be a problem going forward.

Divert NS Contracts

- Tanya explained that the Divert NS contracts will be completed soon and once completed The Chair Neil DeCoff will be permitted to sign them. The 3 Contracts include The Education Contract, The Coordinators Contract, and the Enforcement Contract.

Jackie Dort Memorial Bursary

- Bursary will be for The Town of Antigonish (Grade 12 graduates)
- Will send applications to the school
- Will post on ERSWM Website and social media page

Other Items

- 2 Information Sessions were done at the Farmers' Market
- Many school presentations have been completed. Tanya and Laura designed their own signage for the schools recycling and waste stream.
- Presentation was complete at the Pak'tnkek. Tanya and Laura have completed signage for the different buildings on the Reservation. They were helped with the Mi'kmaq language by Betty GooGoo and their language Coordinator.
- STFX Audit was complete and numbers will be tallied soon and shared with the Committee, The Town and STFX.
- Upcoming Events: Chamber of Commerce; Apple Day Care; Early Years Committee of Antigonish County; Stan Fest; Canso Lion's Club; Canso Scouts; GOALS; 4H; St. Andrews Seniors; Havre Boucher Wellness Committee Fair; Canso Library; Highland Games.
- Next regular ERSWM meeting will be May 28th, 2026.



2025-2026

CAO Report – Project Summary

For the period of March 1st to 31st, 2026

The Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

MAJOR PROJECT SUMMARY

1. Housing Initiatives –

CMHC- Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF)

Assessment underway of the water utility's requirements to support housing growth, decision pending budget review.

2. Climate Change Projects –

Leveraging the relationship with CLEAN Foundation to identify and address outstanding actions from the municipality's approved Climate Change Action Plan, specifically an updated approach to the Solar RFP with a focus on reducing energy costs for the Recplex.

3. EMO/REMO –

- REMO Coordinator position filled, candidate will be starting in mid-April.
- As per the municipality's Emergency Management Plan, the Emergency Coordination Centre was activated at Level 1 for Monitoring due to inland flooding on March 18th. The ECC was deactivated later that day as water levels had peaked.

4. Tourism Promotion & Electronic Content/Advertisements –

- TDAP Communities program is ongoing. A summer photo shoot to provide photos to update the Tourism website will be scheduled later this year.

5. Business Support–

- The recruitment for the Director of Economic Development continues, to identify a dynamic experienced individual to lead the municipality's economic development plan and implementation.

6. Upcoming Municipal Events

- a. Planning is underway for Canada Day celebrations.

7. Community Development and Recreation Programs

- a. 50+ Hockey had another successful season, providing participants with consistent opportunities for recreation, physical activity, and social connection. The program maintained strong participation and positive engagement throughout the season, contributing to a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere on the ice. The season officially wrapped up on March 26th, marking another enjoyable season for all involved.
- b. Adult Recreation Hockey continued throughout March, bringing together over 40 players across three teams for fun and competitive play.
- c. House League Hockey continued throughout March, with approximately 40 participants aged 5 to 15. The program has been well received, providing an opportunity for skill development, teamwork, and community engagement.
- d. Senior Skates continued throughout the month of March, providing participants with an enjoyable opportunity to stay active on the ice while socializing with fellow

community members. The final session of the season was held on March 25, marking a successful conclusion to the program.

- e. The Pond Hockey Program ran on Wednesday evenings from 7:00–8:00 p.m., offering participants a relaxed, informal pick-up style of play. While initial registration was modest, attendance continued to grow each week, and participants expressed appreciation for the opportunity to get on the ice in a laid-back and social environment. The final session was held on March 31, marking a positive end to the season.
 - f. Learn to Skate continued throughout March with approximately 18 children registered and many participating each week. The Department has received great feedback about this program.
 - g. Before and After School Program continues, with strong attendance.
 - h. The Active Women’s Group experienced a few weather-related cancellations throughout March; however, participants continued to enjoy the sessions that were able to proceed. The program ran smoothly overall, with attendees providing positive feedback and demonstrating ongoing engagement and satisfaction with the group.
8. **Capital projects supporting Community Development and Recreation**
- a. Connect 2 – Multi Use Trail Design – Council awarded the design project tender to Strait Engineering on March 24th. The design will be completed this fiscal year.
9. **Accessibility & Inclusion**
- a. A call for Committee members was included in the April 2026 Municipal Newsletter. The deadline for submissions is April 15th.
10. **Public Works**
- Municipal Utilities & Infrastructure**
- The temporary water line bypass in the parking lot of Clover Farm will be replaced with a permanent underground water main. The work is anticipated to be completed by May 1 2026. The heat trace component repair has been awarded and will take place as soon as the parts arrive.
 - Consultation took place with Strait Engineering, FracFlow, Department of Environment and Climate Change to discuss the next steps with the remediation of the buried cells and ground water and leachate monitoring plan for the transfer station moving forward. There is currently a plan in place on how to approach this project by Strait Engineering and Fracflow and this plan has been formally submitted to Department of Environment and Climate Change. The work and testing on this will begin in late April of 2026.
 - A scope change has been requested and accepted for the Inflow and Infiltration project. All wastewater collection lines and lift stations will now be cleaned and video inspected to inspect the system for further inflow and infiltration issues. This work is scheduled to begin in June and to be completed by October of 2026.

Capital Projects

Description	Update
I&I Recommendation Phase 2 & 3	Project completed.
Dry Hydrant – Fisherman’s Harbour/PB	Fire Dept confirmed this location is no longer available. This dry hydrant will not be implemented.
Dry Hydrant – Liscomb	Paused due to high cost; alternative approach to be considered pending Fire Services review.
Recplex -RFD – Compressor	Project completed.
Recplex – RFD – Flooring	Project completed.
Flushing Hydrant (Cameron Rd.)	Project completed.
Admin Bldg – Recpt Area Privacy upgrades	Project cancelled; not required.
Accessible Public Washroom 16 Main	Work on this project is expected to start later in the fiscal year.
Water Tr Plant – Heating and Cooling System	Project completed.
Public Works Garage – Electrical upgrades	Project completed.
Port Bickerton Lighthouse Rd.	Grading planned for spring.
Sewer Testing Equipment/Blower	Approval to proceed with this project requested of COTW in March, to be recommended for Council approval in April.
Water Treatment Plant – Programmable Logic Controller/Auto Control System	RFP draft in legal review prior to being issued in April.
Replace roof on water pump house	Project completed.
Recplex Ammonia Detection System	Project completed.
Library Kitchen/Community Room Renos	Next steps under review pending budget approval.
Connect 2 – Multi Use Trail Feasibility Study	At the Council Meeting held on March 24 th , Council awarded the tender for the design of the trail to Strait Engineering Limited.
Water Tr Plant Bubble Traps for Filters	Project completed.
Sewer Tr Plant – Cross Supports Rebuild	Project completed.
Low Carbon Communities Solar Program	Clean is proposing a revised approach that will focus on energy reduction for Recplex; to be presented for Council approval later this spring.
Water Meter Upgrade project	Purchase of meters for installation in 2026/27 to be recommended to Council for approval in April.
Sewer Equalization Pump Motor Drive	Project completed.