



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

## **1. Meeting, Date & Time:**

Warden Fuller called the Additional Meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council to order on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 5:07pm. 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 Development and Recreation.  
Janelle Fleet, Municipal Clerk

## **3. Additions to the Agenda:**

- Invitation to Members of the Public to Address Council on Impacts of Provincial Budget Cuts.

*Moved by Councillor Tibbo that an item #8 be added to the agenda to address the impacts of the Provincial Budget. Seconded by Councillor Beaver.*

***Motion Approved.***

## **4. Approval of the Agenda:**

*On the motion of Councillor Tibbo and seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council approved the agenda as revised.*

***Motion approved.***

## **5. Approval of Minutes:**

*Warden Fuller called for errors, omissions or amendments to the minutes of the Council meeting held February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Hearing no errors or omissions to the minutes, the Warden declared the minutes were approved.*

## **6. Business Arising from Minutes:**

- No business arising from the previous minutes.

## **7. Correspondence:**

- a. Correspondence – Sherbrooke Village Budget Cuts
  - The agenda package contained an email from Sherbrooke Village Executive Director York Lethbridge to St. Mary's CAO McFarlane, and an accompanying letter sent by Sherbrooke Restoration Commission to the Premier and several Provincial Ministers regarding impacts of the cuts in the provincial budget.
  - Councillor Beaver read aloud the letter from the Commission to the Province.
  - Councillor Tibbo read aloud the email from the Executive Director to the CAO.

## **8. Invitation to Members of the Public to Address Council on Impacts of Provincial Budget Cuts:**

- Warden Fuller invited members of the public, in order that their names appeared on the sign-in sheet that had been provided prior to the start of the meeting, to address council.
- The Warden introduced each person by name.
- Community members expressed their concerns and displeasure with the upcoming provincial budget cuts.

### **Public Comments:**

Vickie Bruce - SHOPS:

Vickie Bruce spoke regarding the SHOPS program and advised that the program has received notice of a 100% funding cut effective April 1. She noted the program has received funding for approximately seven years and provides daytime programming for vulnerable individuals. Ms. Bruce indicated that eight other agencies have also received similar funding cuts and that information has been sent to Greg Morrow, MLA.

Barb Furlong:

Barb Furlong spoke regarding the funding cuts and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to speak about the impacts on community organizations and vulnerable individuals.

Jean Robichaud:

Jean asked whether Council had received any updates from Greg Morrow, MLA regarding the funding cuts. Council advised that Mr. Morrow indicated that no final decisions have been confirmed.

Minister Derek Elsworth – United Church Minister:

Derek spoke regarding the potential impacts of the provincial budget on vulnerable individuals and community services, including the food bank, and noted concerns regarding the impacts on rural communities. He highlighted the lack of advance notice of provincial changes.

Heather Kreffer – SMART-GO Community Transit:

Heather advised that SMART-GO Community Transit has received notice of a 20% funding cut. She noted that the service provides transportation for individuals to programs, medical appointments, and other services. This means that the cuts to one area impact on viability of other programs.

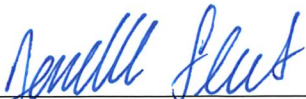
Council thanked all speakers for attending and sharing their concerns. Council acknowledged the potential impacts these funding cuts may have on vulnerable residents, community organizations, and

local businesses, and noted that they will continue to monitor the situation as more information becomes available regarding the provincial budget decisions.

### **Adjournment**

*On motion of Warden Fuller there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 5:29pm.*

***Motion approved.***



---

Recorded By  
Janelle Fleet, Interim Municipal Clerk



---

Approved By  
Warden Fuller

