



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 20th, 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 Wednesday May 20th, 2026, at 5:04pm in the Council Chambers Sherbrooke, N.S.

2. Attending:

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

Absent with Regrets:

Councillor Emma Tibbo

Also Attending:

Lesley McFarlane, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance/Treasurer
Janelle Fleet, Interim Municipal Clerk
Kelsey Reece, Director of Emergency Services/REMO Coordinator
Shaun MacLaughlin, Department of Emergency Management

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- There was one addition to the agenda: Item 10.d. – Statement Regarding Shoppers Drug Mart in Sherbrooke, Nova Scotia.

4. Approval of Agenda:

On motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Councillor Beaver Council approved the agenda as amended.

Motion approved.

5. Approval of Previous Minutes:

Warden Fuller called for any errors or omissions to the minutes of the Council Meeting held April 15th, 2026, the Annual General Meeting held April 27th, 2026, and the Special Council Meeting held April 27th, 2026.

An error was noted in Item 4 of the Special Council Meeting minutes dated April 27th, 2026. The minutes stated that the agenda was approved "as amended"; however, there were no changes to the agenda. The wording was corrected to read "as presented."

On motion of Councillor Beaver and seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting held April 15th, 2026, the Annual General Meeting held April 27th, 2026, and the Special Council Meeting held April 27th, 2026, as amended.

Motion approved.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- a. There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Correspondence

- a. Department of Municipal Affairs - 12 Month Notice of Provincial Changes Impacting Budget
 - Please see meeting materials for correspondence.

- b. Road Infrastructure Management Master list 2026-2028
 - Please see meeting materials for correspondence.
 - Council discussed the Road Infrastructure Management Master List. Councillor Beaver inquired about the status of repairs to the Archibald's Brook bridge and why the project was not included on the 2026–2028 RIM list. Warden Fuller noted that, based on previous information provided by Basil Pitts, the project was understood to be included on a separate list and planned for a later date.

- c. From the Cruiser – March 2026
 - Please see meeting materials for correspondence.

- d. From the Cruiser - April 2026
 - Please see meeting materials for correspondence.

8. Recommendations from Committees of Council:

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-Hate and Accessibility Advisory Committee – April 10th, 2026

On motion of Councillor Beaver and seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council approve the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's 2026-28 Inclusion Plan.

Motion approved.

Committee of the Whole – April 15th, 2026

On motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council approve the transfer of any Municipal Operating Surplus for the 2025/2026 fiscal year to the Municipal Capital Reserve fund and the Fire Service Reserve equally.

Motion approved.

Committee of the Whole – May 6th, 2026

On motion of Deputy Warden Malloy seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council approve the purchase of the F-150 Regular Cab truck from Highland Ford at a price of \$55,500 plus HST, to be funded through the 2026/27 capital budget.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor O'Connell seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council award Strait Engineering Ltd., the design of the Westside Water Main replacement at a cost of \$30,875.00 plus HST to maintain reliable water distribution to the Westside and to help promote growth to our community, funded from the Housing Accelerator Fund program.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor Beaver seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council recommend approval for the CAO to be authorized to enter into an agreement with Clean Foundation to provide project management and oversight for the Low Carbon Communities – Large Scale Solar Feasibility Study Project.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor O'Connell seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council approve transferring \$61,739 in Low Carbon Communities Program grant funding to Clean Foundation to manage as part of the Low Carbon Communities – Large Scale Solar Feasibility Study Project.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor Beaver seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council recommends attendance of up to two (2) members of council with mileage expense to be reimbursed for those attending the Strengthening Municipal Partnerships: Community Challenges and StFX Research Solutions on May 27th, 2026.

Motion approved.

9. Outside Committee Reports

- a. Guysborough County Home Care Support Agency – February 26th, 2026
 - Please see report in the meeting materials.
- b. Sherbrooke Restoration Commission - February 27th, 2026
 - Please see report in the meeting materials.
- c. GALA - March 14th, 2026
 - Please see report in the meeting materials.
- d. Smart-Go – April 14th, 2026
 - Please see report in the meeting materials.

10. Other Matters of Business:

- a. REMO Introduction – Director of Emergency Services - Kelsey Reece
 - Kelsey Reece was introduced to Council as the shared Director of Emergency Services / REMO Coordinator for the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's, the Municipality of the District of Guysborough, and the Town of Mulgrave.
 - Shaun MacLaughlin, Department of Emergency Management, also introduced himself to Council. Mr. MacLaughlin advised that he works with Region 2, which includes Pictou, Antigonish, and Guysborough Counties, and supports municipalities in establishing their Regional Emergency Management Organizations, including the development of by-laws and service agreements.

- Council discussed the Nova Scotia Guard. Ms. Reece advised that she connects with the Nova Scotia Guard through the Department of Emergency Management and noted that she had an upcoming meeting with Nova Scotia Guard representatives regarding community outreach and engagement.
 - Mr. MacLaughlin advised that the Nova Scotia Guard has approximately 1,500 volunteers across Nova Scotia, organized at different levels with various skill sets. He noted that the Nova Scotia Guard is not intended to replace first responders but may assist in the later stages of an emergency response, such as days two or three of an incident.
 - Council was also advised that Kaitlin Power works with Mr. MacLaughlin as an outreach officer and can provide community presentations to groups such as Lions Clubs and seniors' groups on emergency alerting, preparedness, and ways to build community resilience.
 - Council discussed provincial wildfire response resources, including the four water bombers recently hired by the Province. It was noted that the aircraft are single-engine, single-drop planes based in Debert and must return to an airstrip to reload with water or fire retardant. Council was advised that, for a multi-day fire, equipment may be moved closer to the incident area, such as Yarmouth, although that takes time. It was further noted that the Province also has helicopters in service and that provincial resources were active at the time of the meeting.
- b. Staff Report – Municipal Volunteer of the Year Selection
- Staff report included in meeting materials
 - Council reviewed the staff report regarding the selection of the 2026 Municipal Volunteer of the Year. The report noted that the Municipality issued a call for nominations, with submissions closing on May 15th, 2026. The selection criteria included community impact, commitment and dedication, and leadership.
 - Council selected Volunteer #3 by majority vote through secret ballot.

On motion of Deputy Warden Malloy and seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council agrees to select Volunteer #3 as the Municipal Volunteer of the Year.

Motion approved.

c. July & August Council & COTW Dates

- Council discussed the upcoming Council and Committee of the Whole meeting schedule for July and August.

On motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council approved moving the July 1st Committee of the Whole meeting to July 6th due to the Canada Day holiday.

Motion approved.

On motion of Deputy Warden Malloy and seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council agreed that regular Council and Committee of the Whole meetings be suspended for the month of August, unless otherwise required.

Motion approved.

d. Statement Regarding Shoppers Drug Mart in Sherbrooke, Nova Scotia

- Council discussed the announced closure of Shoppers Drug Mart in Sherbrooke, Nova Scotia, following notice that the pharmacy would be closing after June 11th, 2026.
- Council expressed disappointment with the decision and discussed the potential impacts on residents, particularly those who rely on local pharmacy services and prescription access.
- Council discussed possible interim options to support residents during the transition. Councillor Beaver noted that when the pharmacy previously lost its building, the Municipality assisted by offering an alternate location. He asked whether there were any similar options the Municipality could consider in the interim.
- The CAO reported that a number of actions were taken to try to allow Shoppers to continue operating in Sherbrooke, including providing a location for prescription pickup last summer, and then providing a convenient municipal location for Shoppers to operate from over the past year; the municipal parking lot in Sherbrooke.
- In addition, she mentioned that the municipality revised the sale of real property policy in the winter to enable a public procurement process to solicit companies to develop a pharmacy in the region, as well as promote interim pharmacy services during the development of a new service. She mentioned that the Expression of Interest for Pharmacy Services is still open, and closes on June 19th.
- The CAO also communicated that the municipality has supported the creation of a delivery service which Superstore Pharmacy has put in place in partnership with the Sherbrooke Library. Further, Smart GO will deliver prescriptions to any address within the municipality for a \$5 fee.

11. CAO Report:

- Please see the meeting materials for the report.
- Council received the CAO Report for the period of April 1st to April 30th, 2026.
- The CAO Report included updates on major municipal projects and departmental activities, including housing initiatives through the Housing Accelerator Fund, the Westside Water Main replacement project, climate change projects with Clean Foundation, REMO shared service work, tourism promotion, economic development activities, hospital and nursing home discussions, accessibility and inclusion work, recreation programming, and Public Works infrastructure projects.

12. In-Camera: Personnel Matters

On motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council moved into an in-camera session for personnel matters at 5:47 p.m.

Motion approved.

On motion of Deputy Warden Malloy and seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council reconvened to regular session at 6:07 p.m.

Motion approved.

Adjournment

There being no further matters of business, Warden Fuller declared the meeting adjourned at 6:08pm.



Recorded By
Janelle Fleet, Interim Municipal Clerk



Approved By
Warden Fuller