



# Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee of The Whole (COTW) Meeting

Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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*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 COTW Meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council to order on Wednesday March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 5:51pm. 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, Interim Municipal Clerk

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

- a. Added item 8.d. Emergency Health Services Coverage and Future Presentation to Council

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

*On the motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council approved the agenda with the addition.*

***Motion approved.***

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

Warden Fuller called for any errors or omissions to the previous minutes. The CAO highlighted one amendment to the minutes was required, in Item 8.d., she clarified that the motion should read as follows:

*On recommendation of Councillor Beaver seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council approve that due to excessive costs of installing dry hydrants combined with ineffective functionality, investment in dry hydrants and the Fire Service 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.*

*On the motion of Deputy Warden Malloy seconded by Councillor O'Connell, hearing no further errors or omissions to the previous minutes, Council approved the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026, as amended.*

***Motion approved.***

## 6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- The CAO clarified that as per Council's direction regarding the provincial budget cuts, a media release was issued on March 5<sup>th</sup> encouraging the public to voice concerns to the province. Website and Facebook updates were also posted.

## 7. Correspondence:

- a. Letter of Support Coalition of End Poverty - Antigonish County Warden Nicholas MacInnis.
- Please see the Agenda/Package for the report.

Council directed staff to write a letter to government in support of ending poverty.

## 8. Other Matters of Business:

- a. Staff Report – Wastewater Treatment Plant Blower Replacement
  - Please see the agenda/package

*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.***

- b. Staff Report – General Government Grants
  - Please see the agenda/package

Staff indicated that a preliminary balanced budget had previously been prepared without an increase in property taxes, prior to the provincial budget being announced. Given the significant cuts to community-based programming which were included in the provincial budget, Council gave direction to staff to build the 2026/27 fiscal year budget based on two-cent increase to the tax rate for the 2026–2027 fiscal year. This increase will provide an additional \$16,500 to the General Government Grants budget, bringing the total allocation to \$61,500, allowing the maximum funding possible to be available to support community events and/or programming.

Grants to Organizations - Council provided direction regarding awarding the following:

- Sherbrooke Village – \$2,000, with funds to be released once the event is confirmed to proceed.
  - East River St. Mary's Fire Department – \$500
  - Lions Club – \$2,000
  - Trails Association – \$2,000
  - Arts Connection – \$1,500
  - Goshen Community Centre – \$2,000
- Total Grants to Organizations: \$10,000

Council indicated that they could support additional requests of the above organizations from their District Grants, as needed.

District Grants - Council approved District Grants in the amount of \$9,700 per district, for a total of \$48,500. This approach to maximize District Grants will allow the maximum flexibility to

support the needs of community organizations as the impacts of the provincial budget cuts are identified throughout the year. Members of Council agreed that they could collaborate and coordinate the use of their District Grants towards the greatest needs of the community as they are identified throughout the year.

Scholarships - Council directed that \$3,000 be allocated for school scholarships.

The above direction will be presented at the Annual General Meeting, where a formal motion will be made.

- c. Staff Report - Internal and External Committee Appointments
  - Please see the agenda/package for the staff report.

Council directed that the following changes be made to the Committee Appointments, with these changes to be ratified at the Annual General Meeting:

- GALA – Appointment to be removed.
  - Community First Housing – Appointment to be removed.
  - Smart Go – Appointment to be removed.
  - Fire Services Advisory Committee – Councillor O’Connell to be added.
  - All other internal and external committee appointments will remain unchanged.
- d. Emergency Health Services Coverage and Future Presentation to Council
- Council expressed concerns regarding Emergency Health Services (EHS) coverage within the Municipality of the District of St. Mary’s, particularly in relation to response times and service availability. Council indicated an interest in receiving a future presentation or update on EHS service levels in the area.

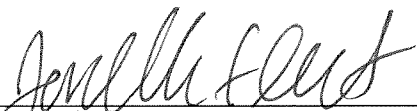
*On recommendation of Deputy Warden Malloy, seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council approves inviting representatives from Emergency Health Services (EHS) to attend a future Council meeting to provide a presentation on current service levels within the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's, including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

**Recommendation approved.**

## **Adjournment**

*On motion of Warden Fuller there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 6:42pm.*

**Motion approved.**

  
Recorded By  
Janelle Fleet, Interim Municipal Clerk

  
Approved By  
Warden Fuller

