



Special Meeting – Budget Deliberations

May 14, 2026

Location: Council Chambers

Present: Warden Lois Landry (Virtually), Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette, Councillor Brian Marchand, Councillor Brent Sampson, Councillor Shawn Samson

Staff: Troy MacCulloch, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Chris Boudreau, Director of Public Works, Kathleen Jeffrey, Director of Finance, Shannon Mury, Director of Community Development and Recreation, Shelley David, Municipal Clerk

1. Call to Order

Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson, that the agenda be approved.

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson, that the main motion be amended by adding the words “with an additional in camera session for legal matters at the end of the meeting”.

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson, that the agenda be approved with an additional in camera session for legal matters at the end of the meeting.

Motion carried.

3. Budget Planning

a) Review of Capital and Funding Contributions

Funding Contributions

Kathleen Jeffrey provided a verbal overview of the outstanding items for which Council had requested further information, including:

- Ground Search and Rescue
- Seniors Take Action Coalition
- LeNoir Forge and Nicolas Denys Museum Agreements
- At Home Housing Association



- Dolly Parton Project
- Contributions to the SAREC Pool
- Allan J MacEachen Regional Airport
- River Bourgeois Light House
- St. Martha's Regional Hospital Foundation
- Cape Breton University
- Heavy Garbage Collection
- Insurance for Instructors
- Naviline 9 Accounting Software
- Fire Services Request for Tender
- Low Income Property Tax Exemptions

Kathleen Jeffrey guided Council through each section of the updated draft Funding Contributions List. It was the consensus of Council to have staff update the list to reflect the following:

- Seniors Take Action Coalition - \$20,000
- Cape Breton University - \$12,500
- Dolly Parton Imagination Library - \$2,600
- Trails - \$25,000
- Waterfront Development - \$25,000
- Supplementary Funding Applications (Tier 1/Tier 2) - \$62,000 (District Funds - \$25,000, General Funds - \$35,000, Instructor/Facilitator - \$2,000)
- Strategic Priorities of Council/Low Income Property Tax Exemption - \$25,000
- Infrastructure/Permit Fees - \$0

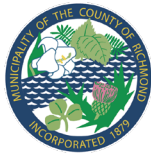
Warden Lois Landry left the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

Recess: 10:15 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.

Warden Lois Landry returned to the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

2026/2027 Year Capital Plan

Kathleen Jeffrey and Chris Boudreau provided an overview of the updated draft capital plan. Council reached a consensus to increase the budget for the Bulk Water Filling Station Project by \$25,000, bringing the total project allocation to \$75,000.



b) Canada Day Grants, Student Bursaries

Moved by Councillor Shawn Samson, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson, that Council approve the funding allocation for Canada Day Grant funding in the amount of \$15,000.

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that Council approve the funding allocation for Student Bursaries in the amount of \$3,000, to be distributed as follows:

Richmond Academy - \$1,500

École Beau-Port - \$750

Potlotek Education Centre - \$750

Motion carried.

4. In Camera Session - Personnel

Moved by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that the meeting move to an in camera session at 10:42 a.m.

Motion carried.

Warden Lois Landry left the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

Recess: 12:00 to 12:36 p.m.

Warden Lois Landry returned to the meeting at 12:36 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson, that the meeting revert to regular session at 3:46 p.m.

Motion carried.

5. Recommendations from In Camera

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Warden Lois Landry, that Council refer the Councillor Travel on how it is presented in budget to the Audit Committee.

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Shawn Samson, that Council investigate the cost related to streetlights.

Motion carried.



Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Warden Lois Landry, that Council direct the Warden to write a letter to the Allan J MacEachen Regional Airport and the Town of Port Hawkesbury regarding funding contributions.

Motion carried.

6. In Camera Session – Legal

Moved by Warden Lois Landry, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson, that the meeting move to an in camera session at 3:52 p.m.

Motion carried.

Councillor Shawn Sampson and Warden Lois Landry left the meeting at 3:58 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand that the meeting revert to regular session at 4:01 p.m.

7. Recommendation from In Camera

Moved by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that Council release the statement as discussed in closed session.

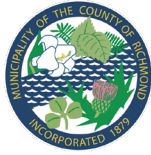
Motion carried.

Statement: As per Section 15 of the Regulations of the Code of Conduct

A complaint was made by Warden Lois Landry against Councillor Shawn Samson under Section 11 (Improper use of influence) and Section 14 (Fairness) of the Code of Conduct for Elected Officials of the Municipality of the County of Richmond on December 23, 2025.

As per the Code, an investigator was hired, and the investigation began shortly thereafter. The investigator presented his findings/report to Council on May 12, 2026. In his findings, he concludes that Councillor Shawn Samson has not breached the Code as alleged and there has been no improper use of influence nor special consideration, treatment, or advantage, and that no sanctions should be imposed.

At a special meeting of Council on May 14, 2026, Council moved that after a review of the investigator's report and hearing from Councillor Shawn Samson, they determined, that they agree with the investigator that no breach of the Code had occurred and thus no sanctions will be imposed against Councillor Shawn Samson.



8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

Chairperson

Municipal Clerk