



## Regular Council Meeting

February 24, 2026

Location: Richmond Room and Council Chambers

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

Staff: Troy MacCulloch, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Shelley David, Municipal Clerk

1. Call to Order

Warden Lois Landry called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. In Camera Session

Moved Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette, that the meeting move to an “In Camera” session at 6:30 p.m.  
Motion carried.

a) Personnel

b) Contract Negotiation

Councillor Brian Marchand arrived at 6:34 p.m.

Moved by Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that the meeting revert to “Regular” session at 6:58 p.m.  
Motion carried.

3. Opening Acknowledgement

The Warden made the following opening acknowledgment:

We are proud to acknowledge that we are gathered today on Unama'ki, the Land of Fog, a part of Mi'kma'ki, the unceded traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people since time immemorial. We honour and thank the Mi'kmaq for sharing their land and home with us.

4. O'Canada

Warden Lois Landry asked everyone to stand, if able, for the singing of O'Canada.

5. Roll Call of Councillors

Troy MacCulloch, CAO, took the roll call of Councillors.

6. Recommendations from In Camera Session

a) Personnel

Moved by Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson, that Council approve the appointments of Trina Hall and Jessica Madden to the Inclusive, Diverse, Equitable, Accessible (IDEA) Committee.

Motion carried.

b) Contract Negotiation

Moved by Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that Council approve the Municipality of the County of Richmond entering into the Community Benefit Agreement for the Community Vibrancy Fund with Everwind Fuels as discussed in camera.

Motion carried.

7. Items Added to the Agenda (Approval of Agenda)

- Items Added to the Agenda Request: Destination Cape Breton Briefing Note, Re: Announced closure of the Port Hastings Visitor Information Centre

Moved by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that the agenda be approved with the late addition of the Destination Cape Breton Association Briefing Note to be included under Correspondence, Action Required. Motion carried.

8. Review of Minutes, Re:

Councillor Brent Sampson declared a conflict of interest regarding the January 27, 2026, Public Hearing minutes and left the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

a) January 27, 2026, Public Hearing

Moved by Councillor Brian Marchand, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that the minutes of the January 27, 2026, Public Hearing be adopted. Motion carried.

Councillor Brent Sampson returned to the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

b) January 27, 2026, Regular Council

Moved by Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson, that the minutes of the January 27, 2026, Regular Council meeting be adopted.

Motion carried.

9. Question Period:

There were no questions.

10. Committee Reports:

a) Committee of the Whole

- i. The Committee discussed the Three-Year Cost-Share Agreement for Subdivision Streets.

Moved by Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and authorize the Warden and the CAO to sign Cost Share Agreement No. 2026-018.

Motion carried.

- ii. The Committee discussed the request to proclaim March as Amyloidosis Awareness Month.

Moved by Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and approve the proclamation to proclaim March 2026 as Amyloidosis Awareness Month in Richmond County.

Motion carried.

Amyloidosis Awareness Month Proclamation

Whereas, March is Amyloidosis Awareness Month, a month dedicated to raising awareness, funding research, and supporting those living with amyloidosis and their loved ones; and

Whereas, Amyloidosis is a group of diseases that occurs when an abnormal protein, known as amyloid, builds up in the tissues and organs of the body. Left untreated, the disease can result in organ failure and can be fatal; and

Whereas, Amyloidosis can mimic the signs and symptoms of more common medical conditions and the disease can be challenging to diagnose; and

Whereas, Amyloidosis often affects people who are older or middle aged; however, younger people have been diagnosed with this disease; and

Whereas, Some of the signs and symptoms of amyloidosis can include shortness of breath, weight loss, fatigue, swelling in the ankles and legs, numbness in the hands and feet, foamy urine, carpal tunnel syndrome, bruising around the eyes, and an enlarged tongue; and

Whereas, Early diagnosis can lead to better outcomes for both patients and their families; and

Whereas, Raising awareness about all the amyloidosis diseases, including hereditary and non- hereditary forms of the disease, can contribute to the building of healthier communities across Canada.

Therefore, be it resolved that I, Warden Lois Landry, on behalf of Richmond County Municipal Council, do hereby proclaim March 2026 as "Amyloidosis Awareness Month" in the Municipality of the County of Richmond.

Dated at Arichat, Nova Scotia, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026.

- iii. The Committee discussed the letter from Nicholas MacInnis, Warden of the Municipality of the County of Antigonish, addressed to the Honourable Tim Houston concerning the Nova Scotia Power Rate Application for 2026/2027.

Moved by Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson, that Council accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole and authorize the Warden to write a letter of support.

Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that the Committee of the Whole Report for the month of February 2026 be adopted.

Motion carried.

b) Planning Advisory/Heritage Committee

- i. The Committee discussed the subdivision and minimum lot size standards for unserviced lots.

Moved by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory/Heritage Committee and have the Warden write a letter to the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change, requesting a review of provincial minimum lot size standards and on-site septic disposal system regulations to allow smaller lots based on newer technology.

Motion carried.

- ii. The Committee discussed the MOCR Dangerous and Unsightly Premises By-law and Policy.

Moved by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Advisory/Heritage Committee and refer the Dangerous and Unsightly Premises By-Law, By-law No. 28, and the Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Policy to the By-law/Policy Committee.

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette, that the Planning Advisory/Heritage Committee Report for the month of February 2026 be adopted.

Motion carried.

c) By-law/Policy Committee

- i. The Committee discussed the amendments to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Performance Review Policy.

Moved by Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson, that Council accept the recommendation of the By-law/Policy Committee and adopt the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Performance Review Policy as presented.

Motion carried.

- ii. The Committee discussed the Advertising and Sponsorship Policy.  
Moved by Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that Council accept the recommendation of the By-law/Policy Committee and adopt the Advertising and Sponsorship Policy as presented.

Motion carried.

- iii. The Committee discussed the Travel and Expense Policy.  
Moved by Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that Council accept the recommendation of the By-law/Policy Committee and adopt the Travel and Expense Policy as amended.

Motion carried.

- iv. The Committee discussed the Strategic Communications Plan.  
Moved by Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson, that Council accept the recommendation of the By-law/Policy Committee and adopt the Strategic Communications Plan as amended.

Motion carried.

Moved by Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Shawn Samson, that the By-law/Policy Committee Report for the month of February 2026 be adopted.

Motion carried.

- d) IDEA (Inclusive, Diverse, Equitable, Accessible) Advisory Committee
  - i. The Committee discussed a proclamation for International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Moved by Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that Council accept the recommendation of the Inclusive, Diverse, Equitable, Accessible Advisory Committee and proclaim March 21, 2026, as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Motion carried.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Proclamation

Whereas:

In 1966, the United Nations declared March 21 as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to commemorate the peaceful anti-apartheid demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa in 1960, where dozens of protestors were killed, and many more were injured while opposing discriminatory pass laws that enforced racial segregation;

And Whereas:

This day is solemnly observed worldwide as both a remembrance and a call to action, reminding us that racial discrimination, systemic racism, injustice, and hate continue to affect individuals and communities locally and globally, limiting people's ability to participate safely and equitably in society;

And Whereas:

Racism and discrimination threaten human rights and create barriers to equal access to employment, healthcare, housing, education, and other essential community services, while undermining equity, inclusion, and social justice within our communities;

And Whereas:

While progress has been made, many racialized individuals and communities, including First Nations Peoples and people of colour, continue to face prejudice and discrimination in their daily lives;

And Whereas:

The Municipality of the County of Richmond is committed to confronting and dismantling systemic racism, promoting inclusive practices, and fostering a community where diversity is valued, every person feels a sense of belonging, and all residents can thrive without fear of discrimination;

Therefore, be it resolved that I, Warden Lois Landry, on behalf of Richmond County Municipal Council, do hereby proclaim March 21 as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in the Municipality of the County of Richmond and encourage all residents to reflect, learn, and take meaningful action toward eliminating racism and discrimination in our community.

Dated at Arichat, Nova Scotia, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026.

Moved by Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brian Marchand, that the IDEA Advisory Committee Report for the month of February 2026 be adopted.

Motion carried.

11. New Business, Re:

a) Recreation Instructor/Facilitator Liability Insurance Funding

Moved by Councillor Brent Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette, that Council accept the recommendation of the Director of Community Development and Recreation and authorize the allocation of additional funding, within the existing 2025-2026 departmental budget, to further offset the cost of instructor and facilitator liability insurance, provided that the total amount of requests does not exceed the funds budgeted for the 2025-2026 fiscal year AND FURTHER MOVE that Council approve \$10,000 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year to offset instructor/facilitator liability insurance cost at a rate of \$250 per instructor with the option to allocate further funding at the end of the fiscal should the budget allow.

Motion carried.

12. Correspondence

a) Action Required:

- i. Letter from Laura Emery, CEO, Eastern Counties Regional Library, Re: Request for the \$20,000 in funding allocation be reallocated to the project in the Municipal budget for 2026-2027

Moved by Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson, that Council reallocate the \$20,000 in funding for the St. Peter's Hub project from the 2025-2026 budget to the 2026-2027 budget.

Motion carried.

- ii. Destination Cape Breton Association Briefing Note, Re: Announced closure of the Port Hastings Visitor Information Centre

Moved by Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette, seconded by Councillor Shawn Sampson, that Council authorize the Warden to write a letter to the Provincial Government urging them to reverse their decision to close Visitor



Information Centres at key ports of entry to the province, including the gateway to Cape Breton Island in Port Hastings, as well as Yarmouth, Amherst, and the Halifax Airport, citing information on economic multipliers, reputation and strategic risks as outlined in the briefing note from Destination Cape Breton Association, AND FURTHER MOVE that Council collaborate with other municipalities in advocating for a reversal and exploration of potential alternative models for service delivery.

Motion carried.

b) For Information Purposes

- i. MOCR letter to the Isle Madame Boat Club regarding support for the efforts to advance Phase Two of its phased renewal project to upgrade the clubhouse to meet current safety, capacity, and year-round use needs
- ii. MOCR letter to Telile Community Television regarding support in the efforts to secure funding for the installation of a wheelchair ramp and accessible door at the rear exit of their building
- iii. Letter from the Seniors Take Action Coalition to the Honourable Barbara Adams, Minister of Senior and Long-term Care, regarding a policy to establish and implement a guaranteed basic income
- iv. Eastern Counties Regional Library, Media Release, Re: Funding Advocacy – How the Community Can Help
- v. MOCR Letter to the Honourable Trevor Boudreau, M.L.A. for Richmond, Re: Richmond Arena
- vi. MOCR Letter to Mr. Jaime Battiste, MP for Cape Breton-Canso-Antigonish, Re: Richmond Arena
- vii. MOCR letter to the Richmond River Roots Market Garden Society regarding support for their application to Feed Nova Scotia

13. Review of Action Items

a) Action Items List

For information only.

14. Items Added to the Agenda

See item 12. a) ii.

15. Question Period

Rosie Weiman approached Council.



16. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

---

Chairperson

---

Municipal Clerk