

Special Meeting of Council
Wednesday, February 25, 2026
10:00 a.m.
Council Chambers

MINUTES

Council: Warden Bonny MacIsaac
Deputy Warden Lynn Chisholm
Councillor Claude Poirier
Councillor Blair Phillips
Councillor John MacLennan
Councillor Catherine Gillis

Staff: Keith MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer
Melanie Beaton, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Christina MacDonell, Director of Finance
Erin Gillis, Chief of Operations
Morgan Murray, Director, Culture & Community Development
Megan, Wludyka, Chief Communications Officer
Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council/ Chief Administrative Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Warden MacIsaac called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken.

2. 2026-2027 Budget Review Process – Organization Presentations

i. Marielle Bourgeois, La Coopérative de Transport de Chéticamp (L'Acabie)

La Cooperative de transport de Cheticamp, better known as L'Acabie, is a community based, non-profit transportation cooperative. L'Acabie continues to serve seniors, persons with disabilities and special needs, and all those needing affordable, reliable transportation. However, anyone can use their service. They have five non-accessible six passengers van, two non-accessible five passenger SUVs and three accessible four passenger vans. Ridership has increased steadily since it was established in 2012. With the recent news of a 20% cut from the Community Transportation Assistance Program (CTAP) funding from the province, L'Acabie would like to see an increase to the funding from the Municipality from \$30,000 to at least \$40,000.

ii. Lloyd MacDonald, Al MacInnis Sports Centre, Port Hood

The primary sources of revenue for the Al MacInnis Sports Centre include:

- Ice rental.
- Windmill revenue.
- Annual golf tournament.
- Annual Chestico Days Summer Festival.

Current expenses for the Al MacInnis Sports Centre include:

- Power bill of \$600 per day.
- Increasing water bill.

The four key improvements sought for this year are:

- New Roof.
- Elevator Replacement.
- Ice Plant Refurbishment.
- Heat Source in the Stands.

The total cost for these improvements is \$427,000.

Potential Breakdown: Federal 35%, Provincial 35%, Municipal 20% and arena contribution 10%.

iii. Cyril Camus, Harvey Bourgeois, Cabot Trail Arena, Chéticamp

Fiscal year (01/11/2024 - 31/03/2025)

Revenue (ice rentals) - \$125,562

Expenditures - \$148,341

Difference = \$22,779

Other revenues (fundraising, donations, etc.) - \$70,377

Other expenses - \$34,633

Difference = \$35,744

Fiscal year - large expenditures:

NS Power - \$50,877

Wages - \$27,606

Insurance - \$20,450

Ice plant - \$17,209

Building maintenance - \$13,222

These large expenditures account for 87% of all expenditures.

Upcoming expenditures:

Repair/replace roof – both sides \$500,000

Tractor Purchase - \$50,000

3. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: NEXT STEPS

In 2025 the Municipality received federal funding in the amount of \$48,000 for a Transportation Engagement Pilot Project. Staff are working on a report that will be presented to Council soon. It is an excellent opportunity to reassess both transit services within the Municipality - L'Acadie and Strait Area Transit.

4. ARENAS: NEXT STEPS

The two remaining arenas in the Municipality are scheduled to present to Council during the week of March 1, 2026.

5. "IN CAMERA"

MOTION: *That Council move to "In Camera" at 11:55 a.m.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Phillips
SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier
MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That Council move out of "In Camera" at 12:18 p.m.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier
SECONDED BY: Councillor Gillis
MOTION CARRIED

6. NEXT MEETING DATE

March 5, 2026 – 9:30 a.m., Regular Meeting of Council

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 12:18 p.m.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis