

Special Meeting of Council
Thursday, March 19, 2026
9:30 a.m.
Council Chambers

MINUTES

Council: Warden Bonny Maclsaac
Councillor Catherine Gillis
Councillor Blair Phillips
Councillor Claude Poirier
Councillor John MacLennan

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

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Warden Maclsaac called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: *That the agenda be approved as presented.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier
SECONDED BY: Councillor Gillis
MOTION CARRIED

3. PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL TO DATE

Transportation:

- L'Acabie – a request of \$50,000 has been made of Council.

Arenas:

- Al MacInnis Sports Centre – a request of \$85,266 has been made of Council.
- Dr. Bernie MacLean Cultural and Recreation Centre – a number of anticipated projects and future expenses were outlined for Council.
- Cabot Trail Arena- a number of anticipated projects and future expenses were outlined for Council.

Festivals:

- Cabot Trail Writer's Festival – no specific financial ask.
- Celtic Colours International Festival- no specific financial ask.
- Kitchenfest!- a request of \$7,500 has been made of Council.

Rescue Organizations:

- Chéticamp Search and Rescue- a request of \$7,500 has been made of Council.
- Strait Area Search and Rescue- no specific financial ask.
- Strait Mutual Aid Society- no specific financial ask.

Housing Initiatives:

- L'Arche Housing Project- a request of \$130,000 has been made of Council.

Other Considerations of Council:

- Extend an invitation to Destination Cape Breton to present a detailed overview of how the Marketing Levy revenue is spent.
- Reach out to the Orangedale Water Society to discuss their ongoing challenges.
- Reach out to the Margaree Equestrian Group re: potential funding options.

4. ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE SECTOR: CURRENT STATE

Demonstrations were held recently across the province in response to recent cuts in funding to the arts, culture and heritage groups. A detailed list of these cuts will be provided to Council at the next Regular Meeting.

5. FUNDING OPTIONS

Greater financial asks of community groups are expected this year. Potential funding avenues will be presented as possible options for all the various sectors that come forward with requests.

6. REVENUE OPPORTUNITIES

Through the Municipal Audit Committee, new revenue opportunities can be identified. The Municipality can look at resources, and new avenues for revenues. The focus can be on long term revenue opportunities as there is heavy reliance on the tax base.

7. SOLID WASTE REVIEW

One of the largest expenses in the Municipality is solid waste collection. Contracts currently exist with private sector companies to administer the collection. The entire solid waste component for the Municipality is under review.

8. BUDGET NEXT STEPS

A preliminary budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year will be brought forward to Council in April.

9. "IN CAMERA"

MOTION: *That Council move to "In Camera" at 10:42 a.m. to discuss a land item, and a contract item.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier

SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That Council move out of "In Camera" at 12:04 p.m.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier

SECONDED BY: Councillor Gillis

MOTION CARRIED

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 12:04 p.m.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis

MOTION CARRIED