

**DIGBY TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 5, 2025  
Council Chambers**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Mike Bartlett, Chair  
Deputy Mayor Paul Saulnier  
Councillor Rick Foote  
Councillor William McCormick  
Councillor Shane Weir

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tom Ossinger, Chief Administrative Officer  
Leslie Brinton, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Karen Morrell, Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

**REGRETS:**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Bartlett called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

**B. Land Acknowledgement**

Land Acknowledgment stated by the Chair “We would like to begin by acknowledging that we are in Mi’kma’ki (MEEG-MA-GEE), the traditional (or ancestral) territory of the Mi’kmaq people”.

“We also acknowledge that people of African descent have been in Nova Scotia for over 400 years and we honour and offer gratitude to those ancestors of African descent who came before us to this land”.

**C. AGENDA**

**C.1 Additions/Deletions**

None.

**C.2 Approval**

**MOTION:**

***Moved by Deputy Mayor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick that the agenda for August 5, 2025, be approved as presented.***

**Motion Carried**

**D. DECLARATIONS OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

**D.1 None**

## **E. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**E.1** None

## **F. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**F.1 July 7, 2025**

Councillor Weir spoke about the wording from the last meeting the words he spoke about was from a place of reflection and not meant to reflect that. And he would like to have the minutes reflect that.

**The meeting minutes were approved by consensus.**

## **G. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**G.1** None

## **H. REPORT OF CAO**

**H.1** The CAO report was provided and the CAO provided an overview of the process to come from this point forward. The decision will not be before November of 2025. The NSRAB hearing from the Fundy Complex it will likely be 60 days before a decision is rendered. Private structure on the right away notice was provided to the residents and the CAO and Deputy CAO meet with the two property owners to discuss. The UARB hearing relating to the Transit hearing the CAO provided an update. The save the date on the August something and preregistration will be coming this week. Is there any Council member at this time who will be attending the Justice Meeting with the Mayor Councillor Foote would like to also attend this meeting. DFD training facility, Council approved the site to north of the current Fire Hall and that size lot was too small and couldn't accommodate, a new site was discussed because we are the owner of that lot Council would like to have more information before approving the site. DFD also did a press release on that training facility. The CAO read the press release from the DFD which was very heartfelt plea for the facility. The CAO spoke to Deputy Chief and Chief they have decided to put the facility on hold until the fall and the province is currently seeking a large facility for training. There will need to be funding in order to make this happen. The Development Officer stated that the site is zone correctly if Council was to make the decision for that site. Mayor Bartlett received correspondence today from Minister Lohr concerning training facilities, this was to be discussed at the Digby Fire Committee meeting however a meeting might be needed before hand. The CAO discussed the sale of land on Queen Street. The town has received notice of a gift of a road the CAO said that Council will need to give this road a name and there is also issues with the civic addressing in that area as well. Mayor Bartlett threw out a couple of suggestions for names for that road.

## **I. REPORT OF MAYOR**

**I.1** Mayor Bartlett provided his report to the Council. The Mayor received a call regarding staff shortage for the emergency department the Mayor contacted the site manager to discuss. The Mayor attended the opening and closing of Lobster Bash. The

Mayor has received calls regarding Kings Transit. The Mayor attended the Joe Casey Award Ceremony.

**J. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**J.1 Marketing Levy Advisory Committee**

Councillor Foote provided a report on the Marketing Levy Committee the June 30<sup>th</sup> meeting was called to talk about a DATA request missed from a prior meeting this amount has been funded from the Marketing Levy funds, and Digby Scallop Days request was presented and approved by the Marketing Levy Committee.

**J.2 Library Report**

The funding agreement has expired and they have had no increases for the last three years and expenses have increased and they are at a point they will have to start to utilize our reserves to assist. They will not be able to dip into funds for long. The Western County Regional Library can maintain services currently however by the fall they will have to have a hard look at the programing. Digby may be one of the library that will have to be looked at for cut backs should the provincial funding not be approved. Deputy Mayor asked about numbers relating to the Library.

**K. CORRESPONDENCE**

**K.1** None.

**L. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**L.1** None.

**M. NEW BUSINESS**

**M.1** Town of Digby Operating Budget Resolutions 2025/2026

**Estimates of Revenues and Expenditures**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Saulnier and Seconded By Councillor McCormick

THAT Council accepts the following estimates of the sums required by the Town of Digby for the fiscal period ending March 31, 2026, prepared in accordance with Section 72 of the Municipal Government Act:

<b>Revenues</b>	
Taxes	4,553,710
Grants in Lieu of Taxes	160,867
Services Provided to Other Local Gov't	263,844
Sale of Services	196,538
Other Revenue from Own Sources	151,177
Unconditional Transfers	417,043
Conditional Transfers	18,800
Other Transfers	3,000
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>5,764,979</b>

<b>Expenditures</b>	
General Government Services	1,027,508
Protective Services	1,872,037
Transportation Services	885,161
Environmental Health Services	885,717
Public Health Services	35,667
Environmental Developmental Services	191,441
Recreation and Cultural Services	568,784
Finance and transfers	298,664
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>5,764,979</b>

**Motion Carried.**

**General Tax Rates**

Moved By Councillor McCormick and seconded by Deputy Mayor Saulnier

WHEREAS total estimated expenditures for the fiscal period are \$5,764,979 and

WHEREAS total estimated revenues, other than taxes to be levied are \$1,211,269 and

WHEREAS the balance of revenues required, \$4,553,710 must be rated;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT for the Town of Digby for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026:

The general tax rates are as follows:

Residential / Resource \$1.95 per \$100 of assessment

Commercial \$4.28 per \$100 of assessment

AND THAT these taxes are due and payable on Taxes to be billed by way of interim tax bill (issued in April, due May 31, 2025) and Final tax bill (issued in September, due the October 31, 2025); with interest to be charged on all final tax accounts outstanding on Interest on overdue amounts to be charged at a rate of 19% per annum.

Councillor Weir wanted to say that he is voting no to this budget, we have just lost the public transit that people rely on for work and medical appointments and raising taxes is wrong. and the loss of revenue from the Digby Pines and we need to demand the province help before its to late, we have options and reserves and surplus from properties, Shore Road Visitor Centre, and others need to be looked at and we need to many short term responsibility and revisit the DARC cost sharing model the town is currently paying a 50/50 model and he would like to have that looked at more. Councillor Weir would like to have people move here and raising taxes is driving people away however he will respect Councils decision for the tax increase.

Deputy Mayor spoke about the Council have talked about some of these things in the past and the are a concern.

Councillor McCormick spoke about other partners that need to be reviewed. The tax burden on towns and the amount of funding received from the Province of NS are an issue, the province can run a deficit and we cannot.

Mayor Bartlett spoke about the loss of revenue from the Digby Pines a letter going out to the MLA with the concerns, DARC funding is an old model but recreation is important to children and youth. The RCMP contract is a Provincial Contract and should we have a major incident we will have coverage.

Deputy Mayor Saulnier spoke about the current drought and the availability of the water supply for the residents and no one likes to raise taxes.

**Ayes**

**Councillor William McCormick**

**Deputy Paul Saulnier**

**Councillor Rick Foote**

**Mayor Mike Bartlett**

**Motion Carried.**

**Nayes**

**Councillor Shane Weir**

**Fire Protection Rate**

Moved By Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Foote

WHEREAS Council is authorized under Section 80 of the Municipal Government Act to levy a rate on the value of all assessable property assessment in the area served by a water system in the town, as defined by the council by policy, in order to recover that part of the cost of the water system that is attributable to fire protection; and

WHEREAS the cost of fire protection (water supply and Hydrants) has historically been covered in the general tax rate of non-exempt residential, resource and commercial taxable assessment; and

WHEREAS the provision of fire protection (water supply and hydrants) is beneficial to all assessable property assessment within the Town of Digby serviced by Digby Water Commission the Council wishes to levy a rate over all assessable property assessment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that it shall be the policy of the Council of the Town of Digby as of April 1, 2019 to separate the fire protection expenditures (water supply and hydrants) from the

estimated expenditures to be covered by general rate of non-exempt residential, resource and commercial taxable assessment; and apply a fire protection rate to cover the estimated fire protection (water and Hydrant) expenditures to all assessable property assessment in the area served by the Digby Water Commission in the town; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the total estimated fire protection (water and hydrant) expenditures for the 2025/26 fiscal year of \$219,146 be covered by a fire protection rate applied to all assessable property assessment serviced by the Digby Water Commission; and

That the fire protection rate for the 2025/26 fiscal year be set at \$0.14 per \$100 of Assessment; and be applied on the interim tax bill (issued in April, due May 31, 2025) and final tax bill in September are due and payable by October 31, 2025, with interest on overdue amounts to be charged at the rate of 19 % per annum.

Motion Carried.

### **Solid Waste Management Uniform Charge**

Moved By Deputy Mayor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick

WHEREAS Council has included in its estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026, the amount of \$438,163 to be expended for the purpose of solid waste management, a purpose for which the Town may expend funds; and

WHEREAS there are approximately 1,184 dwelling units within the boundaries of the Town of Digby; and

WHEREAS the Council may, under paragraph 75(4)(b) of the Municipal Government Act, in lieu of levying an area rate, levy a uniform charge on each property assessment in the area.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a uniform charge of \$370 be levied for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026 on each dwelling unit within the boundaries of the Town of Digby and that these uniform charges are applied on the interim tax bill in (issued in April, due May 31, 2025) and final tax bill in September and are due and payable by October 31, 2025 with interest on overdue amounts to be charged at the rate of 19 % per annum.

Motion Carried.

### **Sanitary Sewer Rates**

Moved By Deputy Mayor Saulnier and seconded by Councillor McCormick

WHEREAS Council is authorized by the Town of Digby Sewer Charges By-law to set rates for sewer services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the sewer service charge shall be \$6.17 per 1,000 gallons of water consumption; and

**Residential and Commercial** users shall pay:

Less than 1 million gallons annually 100% of the Sewer Service Charge, or more than 1 million gallons annually 50% of the Sewer Service Charge based on their annual water consumption of the previous year, and

**Industrial Premises** users shall pay:

Less than 1 million gallons annually 100% of the Sewer Service Charge, or more than 1 million gallons shall pay 10% of the Sewer Service Charge, or more than 10 million gallons shall pay 5% of the Sewer Service Charge based on their annual water consumption of the previous year; and

That the Sewer Service Charge shall be applied to the Water Utility's bi-monthly bill. All bills are due and payable under the same regulations as the Water Utility Bill.

Motion Carried.

### **Tax Certificate Fee**

Moved By Councillor McCormick and seconded By Councillor Foote

WHEREAS Council is authorized to set a fee for a tax certificate pursuant to section 132 (2) of the Municipal Government Act;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the tax certificate fee shall be \$40 per tax certificate.

Motion Carried.

### **N. IN-CAMERA**

#### **N.1 Contracts**

##### **Motion:**

***Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Weir that Council move to IN Camera for Contracts***

**Motion Carried.**

##### **Motion:**

***Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Weir that the Council Move out of In Camera.***

**Motion Carried.**

**O. BUSINESS FROM IN-CAMERA**

None.

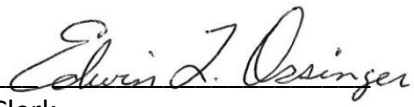
**P. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**

***Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Councillor Weir that there be no further business that the meeting be adjourned at 7:46 pm.***

**Motion Carried.**

  
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Mayor

  
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Clerk