



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee of The Whole (COTW) Meeting

Wednesday, April 15th, 2026

We acknowledge that we are gathering in Mi'kma'ki the traditional unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

1. Meeting, Date & Time:

Warden Fuller called the COTW Meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council to order on Wednesday, April 15th, 2026, at 5:14pm. in the Council Chambers, Sherbrooke, N.S.

2. Attending:

Warden James Fuller
Deputy Warden Beulah Malloy
Councillor Dana O'Connell
Councillor Scott Beaver

Absent with Regrets:

Councillor Emma Tibbo

Also Attending:

Lesley McFarlane, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance/Treasurer (DOF)
Janelle Fleet, Interim Municipal Clerk

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- There were no additions to the agenda.

4. Approval of the Agenda:

On the motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council approved the agenda as presented.

Motion approved.

5. Approval of Minutes:

Warden Fuller called for any errors or omissions to the minutes of the COTW Meeting held April 1st, 2026. Hearing none, the Warden declared the minutes approved.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Correspondence:

- a. Department of Justice - Policing Service Recipient Update April 2026
- Council reviewed the updates provided in the report.

8. Presentation: 2026-27 Municipal Budget

- Marian Fraser, Director of Finance/Treasurer, presented the 2026-27 Municipal Budget, as included in meeting materials.
- Council reviewed the draft 2026–2027 Municipal Operating and Capital Budget.
- The budget is balanced at approximately \$4.71 million.

- A 2-cent increase is proposed for residential and commercial tax rates; other rates remain unchanged. Council noted that increases to municipal rates are largely attributable to provincial funding reductions beyond the Municipality's control.
- Key cost increases include education, policing, and community/recreation services.
- The water utility budget reflects an increase based on approved rates from the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.,
- A 2025–2026 surplus is anticipated, with a recommendation to transfer funds to capital reserves, a discussion occurred regarding the transfer of surplus funds in the previous year and the creation of the Fire Services Reserve.
- Warden Fuller suggested any municipal operating surplus for the 2025/2026 fiscal year be transferred to the Municipal Capital Reserve fund and the Fire Service Reserve equally.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Malloy and seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council approve the transfer of any Municipal Operating Surplus for the 2025/2026 fiscal year to the Municipal Capital Reserve fund and the Fire Service Reserve equally.

Recommendation adopted.

Mallory Tibbo, Director of Community Development and Recreation, entered the meeting at 5:24pm.

9. In-Camera: Contract Negotiations:

On motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council moved into an in-camera session for contract negotiations at 5:37pm.

Motion approved.

On motion of Deputy Warden Malloy seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council agreed to reconvene to regular session at 7:48pm.

Motion approved.

Adjournment

There being no further matters of business, Warden Fuller declared the meeting adjourned at 7:49pm.



Recorded By
Janelle Fleet, Interim Municipal Clerk



Approved By
Warden Fuller