



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, September 16th, 2026

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

1. Meeting, Date & Time:

The Regular Council meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council was called to order on Wednesday September 16th, 2026, at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers Sherbrooke, N.S.

2. Attending:

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

Also Attending:

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

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- There was an addition to the agenda item 11b. Christmas of Sherbrooke Village Committee appointment.

4. Approval of Agenda:

On motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council approved the agenda as amended.

Motion approved.

5. Approval of Previous Minutes:

On motion of Councillor Tibbo and seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council approved the minutes from the Public Hearing held July 15th, 2026.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council approved the minutes from the Regular Council meeting held July 15th, 2026.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor Beaver and seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council approved the minutes from the Public Hearing held July 30th, 2026.

Motion approved.

On motion of Deputy Warden Malloy and seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council approved the minutes from the Special Council meeting held July 30th, 2026.

Motion approved.

6. Amendment of previously approved minutes

- a. May 20th, 2026, Regular Council

On motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council approved the amended minutes from the Regular Council meeting held May 20th, 2026.

Motion approved.

7. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- There was no business arising from the minutes.

8. Recommendations from Committees of Council:

Committee of the Whole – September 2, 2026

On motion of Councillor O'Connell, seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council recommend that staff investigate the request from the Sonora Community Centre and report back to Council with their findings and recommendations.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor Tibbo, seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council approve moving the regularly scheduled Committee of the Whole meeting from November 4, 2026, to November 2, 2026, due to the NSFM Conference.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor Beaver, seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council approve the engagement of Strait Engineering Ltd. to provide engineering design and procurement services for an accessible washroom at 16 Main Street, for a fixed fee of \$9,000 plus HST.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor O'Connell, seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council direct staff to proceed with public procurement for the construction phase of the 16 Main Street washroom and return with recommendations to Council.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor Tibbo, seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council direct staff to review the possibilities of installing security cameras, including applicable privacy considerations and related policies, and report back to Council with their findings and recommendations.

Motion approved.

On motion of Deputy Warden Malloy, seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council approve the revised scope of the Director of Economic Development position, with a 2026/27 salary scale of \$85,770 to \$105,713.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor Beaver, seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council authorize the CAO to undertake a public procurement process for professional consulting services to support the development of a Community Benefits Agreement Framework for the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's, including the option to obtain additional advisory support related to future Community Benefits Agreement discussions and negotiations, as required.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor Beaver, seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council direct staff to come back to Council with recommendations regarding updating the previous Proposed Cochrane Hill Goldmine Economic Impact Analysis.

Motion approved.

9. Presentation: Royal Canadian Mounted Police - Quarterly Presentation

Sgt. Natasha Farrell, District Commander, provided Council with the RCMP quarterly update.

Sgt. Farrell provided updates on staffing, training, community outreach, and current initiatives. She advised that Cst. John Campbell is the newest member of the Sherbrooke Detachment, having recently arrived from Depot.

Sgt. Farrell discussed the RCMP's new race-based data collection feature. She explained that the information will be used for data collection and reporting purposes and to help determine whether perceptions may be impacting service delivery. She noted that the collection of the information does not change how an individual is served.

Sgt. Farrell provided an update on community outreach activities, including visits to local daycares and demonstrations of police vehicles, equipment, and drones. Members are also participating in local community events.

A significant portion of the presentation focused on intimate partner violence (IPV) and a new initiative involving 211. Sgt. Farrell explained that, based on her experience, supports have traditionally been more readily available to individuals' experiencing violence, while fewer supports have been available to individuals causing the violence. She noted that the initiative is intended to provide resources that may help address the cycle of violence and reduce the potential for future incidents.

Individuals who have been charged in relation to IPV may be provided with a confidential information card directing them to 211. The service can assist with housing, substance-use supports, counselling, mental health services, and other community resources. Sgt. Farrell advised that the initiative began in the Guysborough County District and is now being shared throughout Northeastern Nova Scotia.

Discussion included challenges associated with IPV in rural communities, including isolation, limited cell service, transportation and mobility, financial insecurity, privacy concerns, and difficulty accessing safe housing and counselling. Sgt. Farrell advised that RCMP members can assist individuals in getting to a safe location when required and that a domestic violence coordinator can assist with finding accommodations within the province.

Council was also advised that local victim services are available through the detachment. Local victim advocates follow up with individuals following an incident to determine what supports may be required. Sgt. Farrell noted that circumstances can be complex where individuals return to the same household and that supports for the entire family may be required.

Sgt. Farrell identified local organizations and programs that may assist individuals and families, including 211, the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, the Naomi Society, Schools Plus, and a men's program operated through Community Services.

Sgt. Farrell advised that the RCMP will continue to follow up on the initiative and its use of 211 resources and will provide Council with updates.

10. Outside Committee Reports

- a. Port Bickerton Lighthouse Committee – August 28th, 2026
 - Please see the agenda/package for the outside committee report
- b. Sherbrooke Village Restoration Commission – June 26th, 2026
 - Please see the agenda/package for the outside committee report

11. Other Matters of Business:

- a. Staff Report – Sewer Lift Station Capital Project Contract Award
 - Teddy Stevens, Director of Public Works presented the Sewer Lift Station Capital Project Contract Award staff report as distributed in the meeting materials.

On motion of Councillor Tibbo and seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council award the wastewater lift station repairs to Nova Arc Industries for the Main Street, Village and Hospital Road lift stations, in accordance with the three submitted quotes for materials and labour, for a total cost of \$19,800 plus HST, with the work to be funded through the Canada Community-Building Fund as approved in the 2026/27 capital budget.

Motion approved.

- b. Christmas at Sherbrooke Village Committee Appointment

On motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council appoint Deputy Warden Beulah Malloy as the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's representative on the Christmas at Sherbrooke Village Committee for the 2026 Christmas at Sherbrooke Village event.

Motion approved.

12. CAO Report:

- Please see the Agenda/Package for the report; CAO McFarlane gave an overview of the report.
- CAO McFarlane highlighted the Municipality's 2026/27 tax sale process and thanked the Public Works Department for completing numerous projects over the summer months.

Adjournment

There being no further matters of business, Warden Fuller declared the meeting adjourned at 5:37pm.

Motion approved.



Recorded By
Janelle Fleet, Interim Municipal Clerk



Approved By
Warden Fuller

