Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Special Council Meeting
Monday, September 28th, 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 Special Council Meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council to order on Monday, September 28th, 2026, at 5:00pm in Council Chambers.

2. Attending:

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

Absent with Regrets:
Councillor Scott Beaver

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

3. Approval of Agenda:

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

Motion approved.

4. Approval of 2025-26 Audited Financial Statements

The 2025-2026 Audited Financial Statements were presented by Director of Finance Marian Fraser.

Marian advised that the 2025-2026 Audited Financial Statements had been received by the Municipality's external audit firm, MNP. The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Public Sector Accounting Standards, and the Sherbrooke Water Utility Financial Statements have been prepared under the Nova Scotia Utility & Review Board Water Accounting Handbook.

The financial statements audited for the year ending March 31st, 2026, include Non-Consolidated Financial Statements, Sherbrooke Water Utility Financial Statements and Consolidated Financial Statements.

Marian reviewed the Municipality's Non-Consolidated Financial Statements and noted that the Statement of Financial Position on page 1 shows a decrease in cash and cash equivalents due to capital purchases, while deferred revenue remains steady due to external capital grant funding.

Overall, the Municipality had an operating surplus of $74,315 which, by Council motion, was transferred equally between the Capital Reserve Fund and the Fire Services Reserve Fund. The Fire Services Reserve Fund, shown on page 10, which was created new in 2024-2025, now has a balance of $112,157.

Marian reviewed the Sherbrooke Water Utility Statement and advised that a deficit occurred in 2025-2026. It was noted that accounting standards from the NSUARB regarding amortization of deferred assistance have changed. The Water Utility's capital debt was paid down, and no new capital debt was incurred by the Utility, while capital improvements to infrastructure were completed with grant funding.

The third and final set of financial statements being presented for the year ending March 31st, 2026, is the Consolidated Financial Statements. These statements summarize together the Non-Consolidated, Capital and Water Utility into one.

Marian noted that while a decrease in consolidated cash is shown due to investments in capital assets on page 2, non-financial assets have increased, which indicates increases in those tangible capital assets. An overall consolidated accumulated surplus was realized for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Upon acceptance from Council of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending March 31st, 2026, the Municipality will submit them to the Department of Municipal Affairs as part of the annual timing and reporting process. In addition to the audited statements, a copy of the approved budget for 2026-2027 and the provincial Grant in Lieu of Taxes application will be submitted.

St. Mary's Audit Committee - September 23rd, 2026

On Recommendation of Deputy Warden Malloy, seconded by Councillor O'Connell, the St. Mary's Audit Committee recommend that Council accept the 2025-2026 Audited Financial Statements for the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's and the Sherbrooke Water Utility with non-substantive changes to the non-consolidated financial statements on pages 5, 6 and 7 for clarification of expense category wording.

Recommendation approved.

The non-substantive changes to the non-consolidated financial statements on pages 5, 6 and 7 for clarification of expense category wording have been completed in the attached statements.

The following revised motion was moved, seconded and carried:

On motion of Deputy Warden Malloy seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council accept the 2025-2026 Audited Financial Statements for the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's and the Sherbrooke Water Utility as presented.

Motion approved.

Adjournment:

There being no further matters of business, Warden Fuller declared the meeting adjourned at 5:07pm.

Recorded By
Janelle Fleet, Interim Municipal Clerk

Approved By
Warden Fuller