Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee of The Whole (COTW) Meeting
Wednesday, September 2nd, 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, September 2nd, at 5:01pm. 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
Kelsey Reese, Director of Emergency Services

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- There were no additions to the agenda.

4. Approval of the Agenda:

On the motion of Councillor Tibbo and seconded by Councillor O'Connell, 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 July 15th, 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. RCMP From the Cruiser – July 2026
   - Council reviewed the correspondence. Warden Fuller commended the local RCMP for their involvement and engagement with the community and school.

b. Sonora Community Hall Request
   - Council reviewed the correspondence.

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

Recommendation approved.

c. EA Decision – Harbour Hills Wind Project
  - Council reviewed the correspondence and requested that staff provide any additional information received as it becomes available.

d. Nick Spears – Thank You Letter
  - Council reviewed the correspondence and expressed their appreciation for the kind letter.

8. Presentation: REMO Coordinator Kelsey Reece – REMO Update

- Council received an update on regional emergency management activities, including upcoming committee meetings and training initiatives. Staff are continuing work on the All-Hazard Plan, which will be reviewed by the Executive Committee before being brought forward to Council. Community outreach efforts are also underway, with a focus on engaging local groups in emergency preparedness initiatives. Council members were asked to provide suggestions for community groups that may be interested in participating.

9. Other Matters of Business:

a. Staff Report - November 4th, 2026, COTW to be moved to November 2nd, 2026, due to NSFM
  - Council reviewed staff report as distributed in the meeting materials.

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

Recommendation approved.

b. Staff Report – 16 Main Street Accessible Washroom - Design Contract
  - CAO, Lesley McFarlane presented staff report as distributed in meeting materials.
  - Councillors asked whether exterior cameras could be considered and suggested exploring the initiative as part of the strategic planning process. The CAO advised that privacy considerations would need to be assessed.

On recommendation of Councillor O'Connell 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.

Recommendation approved.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Malloy, seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council direct staff to proceed with public procurement for the construction phase of the 16 Main Street washroom and return with recommendations to Council.

Recommendation approved.

On recommendation of Councillor Beaver, 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.

Recommendation approved.

10. In-Camera: Contract Negotiations & Personnel Matters

On motion of Councillor O'Connell, seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council agreed to move In-Camera for Contract Negotiations at 5:22pm.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor Tibbo, seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council agreed to reconvene to regular session at 7:29pm.

Motion approved.

On recommendation of Councillor O'Connell, seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council approve the revised scope of the Director of Economic Development position, with a 2026/27 salary scale of $85,770 to $105,713.

Recommendation approved.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Malloy, seconded by Councillor Tibbo, 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.

Recommendation approved.

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

Recommendation approved.

Adjournment

There being no further matters of business, Warden Fuller declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Janelle Fleet

Recorded By
Janelle Fleet, Interim Municipal Clerk

Approved By
Warden Fuller