

**Town of Digby
Committee of the Whole
July 21, 2025
Council Chambers**

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

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Ossinger, Chief Administrative Officer
Leslie Brinton, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

REGRETS:

A. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Saulnier called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

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

One addition to the Agenda I.3 Digby Area Health

C.2 Approval

By consensus, the Committee of the Whole approved the agenda as amended.

D. DECLARATIONS OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

D.1 None.

E. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

E.1 Peter Iodice-Garbage

Peter submitted a letter to the Council in regards to the trash bill and he leaves and has no water or garbage collection during this time, and he is aware that we have a contract for garbage collection and he feels that he is being overcharged, he has no problem paying the fair share but for seasonal residents there should be a reduction for garbage cycles. He has no problem paying for garbage 365 days per year. Peter will bring trash to the dump anyway weekly while he is here. He is suggesting that tags be issued to seasonal resident for the collections. Peter doesn't have the current contract at this point but he can obtain a redacted copy for review, he would like to have this cleared up this summer before he goes back

the service is provided. Peter asked is there any way to opt out of the service as per the contract, that is more than just the collection curb side it would also include the tipping fees for the processing of the garbage. Peter is not disputing the price, more so the cost per collection. Deputy Mayor talked about the people who want to opt in to the service can this also caused some confusion for the collection company. This is the same premise that we pay for the school system costs even though you may not have kids that go to the school Deputy Mayor Saulnier mentioned. Councillor Foote sympathized with Peter on the fees paid for the service. Peter spoke about the taxes he pays he has no problem with the taxes he sees where that money goes, garbage is useless to him due to the short time he is here. It's not an easy discussion and there is no clear answer. Councillor Weir spoke about perhaps renting it out during the winter and off season when he is not here, he has explored that option in the past and that is not always easy. Public Drop off is paid for by the Town of Digby although it is not a fee to those folks who drop it off there we still pay for the transfer station. The rate for garbage is separate from the general tax rate this was done some time ago. Deputy Mayor Saulnier spoke about the collection under the bulk contract so to speak and is he opted out it would likely cost significantly more for the disposal. The current contract is expiring the first of April 2026. Peter would like to have the Town review the contract and see if there is a way to only pay per collection in the contract.

F. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

F.1 June 16, 2025

By consensus the minutes of June 16, 2025, are approved as presented.

G. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

G.1 Response-Correspondence-Grace United Church

G.2 Response-Correspondence-Nella Pidutti

G.3 Response-Correspondence Peter and Nicole Lockerbie

H. STAFF REPORTS

H.1 Director of Finance

a) Report

The Director of Finance Report was discussed the CAO would like to have the redacted line that relates to the PCAP should come of the report that information is not public at this time. Councillor McCormick mentioned the insurance premium for the Mount Street School being high.

b) Monthly Financial Statement – Operations

c) Monthly Financial Statement – Capital

H.2 Director of Public Works

a) Public Works Report - The Report was submitted with the package. Deputy Mayor Saulnier spoke about the lawn of Hal Theriault there needs to be some work done there the CAO will ensure that the Director is aware of the concerns related to the recent work done on Mount Street.

H.3 Special Constable/Bylaw Officer

a) Protective Services Report

Mayor Bartlett asked about sending correspondence to the festivals for the setup time to be limited to the day before and no setting up several days before. If they wish to come early they can stay at a camp ground in the area. The COTW directed the CAO to draft correspondence to The festivals.

H.4 Dangerous and Unsightly Administrator

a) Dangerous or Unsightly Premises Report

The Report was presented. Councillor Foote was asked about the safety of the 53 Racquette Road in relation to asbestos shingle removal, can out by law officer swing out and see if they Have the proper equipment for disposal. The CAO spoke about the procedure for the removal at the site and also Occupational Health and Safety should be contacted so that an inspection at the site can be done. The CAO suggested that they contact this office and we can report it along to Occupational Health and Safety. Councillor McCormick spoke that it was good to see a few reports on grass cutting. 10 Carleton Street the report says that third order or SOT ticket was issued and there will be no more tickets issued for the site, the building is secure and the lawn is now mowed. The work done to secure the site can be added to the price or ledger should the property be redeemed those costs can be recovered.

H.5 Chief Administrative Officer

a) Report

The report is for the month of May and the month of June. There was 5 development permits issued in May and 4 development permits issued in June. The NSUARB hearing was held last week at the Digby Fire Hall there was 8 witnesses. The hearing concluded shortly after noon on Thursday July 17. The board set the following dates for final submissions which shall be received by the board at 2:00 PM on each respective date:

August 1, 2025 – Appellant submissions.

August 20, 2025 – Applicant and Respondent submissions.

September 2, 2025 – Filing of any reply to submissions.

The board has 60 days following the Filing of any reply to render a decision, so a decision in this matter will not be expected before November 2025. The Fire Department training facility was discussed with The Committee to locate the containers on the lot for the south side of the Fire Department.

Motion:

Moved by Mayor Bartlett that the Committee recommend to Council to locate the training facility containers on the South side of the Fire Department in the vacant lot and seconded by Councillor Foote pending approval from the Development Officer.

Councillor McCormick spoke about the decision being rushed during the presentation and is this the correct location for the facility, will this affect residents in the area, and is it going to be weekly, monthly that other departments will come into Town to use the site, what is the product that they will be burning, and Meteghan Fire Department has one that had to be moved cause it was too close to houses. Before we make a motion on this proposal will it be fenced in and there are questions that need to be answered Councillor Weir said. Deputy Mayor Saulnier asked why did this come to the Committee of the Whole rather than the planning committee because the Town of Digby owns the land being proposed and it would require the approval of Council for that to happen. Councillor Weir also asked about insurance for the facility with an already tight budget is this causing more stress on the budget. Mayor Bartlett spoke about the training officer providing a lot of the information being asked about by Councillor McCormick. Mayor Bartlett drove past the St Bernard site this has been in operation for a few years with little burn

marks on the exterior of the building. Mayor Bartlett asked for the presentation from Steve Savary to be sent to Council for review. If Council approves this can we add conditions to the permit. The Development officer is asking for permission of the Council to proceed with the application for Development permit for that site. Council asked about the restrictions or conditions attached to that facility. Mayor Bartlett asked about the appearance of the facility it would be good to see what it will look like. Councillor Foote asked about written conditions attached to this proposal.

Motion:

Mayor Bartlett suggested that the original motion be tabled to a later time to allow for more information, and an image to come forward to the next Council meeting along with any conditions attached to the site. Councillor Weir asked that the neighbours should be aware of what is happening there and have a special meeting with the Digby Fire Department.

Motion Carried.

The Fire Committee should be meeting to discuss the proposal and there will be no surprises for the Committee or the Digby Fire Department.

The Development officer is in receipt of a Development Agreement application and will be coming forward to the Planning Advisory Committee once all information is compiled. The ball is currently in their court we are waiting for information to come back. There was 4 development permits issued in May and 7 building permits issued in June. The Shore Road VIC report was given by the Chief Administrative Officer, slow start but they are looking forward to a busy summer. The Supervisor expressed to the CAO that the Centre should move back to 110 Montague Row, The UARB hearing relating to the transit issue was discussed.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Mayor Bartlett that the Committee recommend approving reports as presented.

Motion Carried.

I. CORRESPONDENCE

I.1 Letter-Maureen Gauthier

This correspondence is coming forward as an information item regarding transit and Mayor Bartlett has spoken to her regarding the transit service.

I.2 Letter –Christian Orde

This correspondence is coming forward as an information regarding transit and Mayor Bartlett has asked for a meeting with Mr. Orde, Mayor Bartlett is still waiting for a response.

I.3 Letter-Nancy Whalley Community Navigator

This is correspondence is for a letter of support for Residential Development in the Town of Digby.

J. NEW BUSINESS

J.1 None.

K. IN CAMERA

K.1 Legal

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Mayor Bartlett that the Committee move to In Camera for Legal.

Motion Carried.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Mayor Bartlett that the Committee move out of IN Camera for Legal.

Motion Carried.

L. ADJOURNMENT

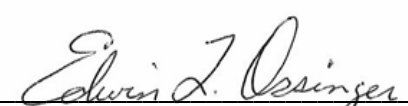
Motion

Moved by Councillor Weir and seconded by Mayor Bartlett that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned as there is no further business at 8:36 pm

Motion Carried.



Deputy Mayor



Clerk