

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Barrington Municipal Council held in the Council Chambers, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., on Tuesday, September 26, 2023. The meeting was called to order by the Warden at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

- Warden Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson
  - Deputy Warden Jody Crook
  - Councillor George El-Jakl
  - Councillor Andrea Mood-Nickerson
  - Councillor Shaun Hatfield – Absent due to vacation.
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- Chris Frotten, CAO
  - Lesa Rossetti, Municipal Clerk

#### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Being duly moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Being duly moved and seconded that minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held August 22, 2023, be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no matters arising from previous meetings.

#### SECOND READING – NEW BY-LAW NO. 9 “NOISE BY-LAW”

At 7:05 p.m., Council considered the adoption of a new “Noise By-law” to replace the existing one.

It was reported that Notice of Second Reading of new By-law No. 9 “Noise By-law” was advertised in the Vanguard Newspaper on September 6, 2023, and posted on social media.

The new by-law identifies decibel levels to be considered when determining an unreasonable disturbance of the peace and tranquility of a neighbourhood, clarifies the definition of “point of reception”, and addresses some housekeeping items such as, changing “Clerk-Treasurer” to “CAO”, etc.

Byway of email dated September 22, 2023, Peter Austin-Smith and Gabrielle Breault expressed concern regarding noise in the Port LaTour area and provided examples of noise limits to be considered.

Members of the audience were given an opportunity to address members regarding the proposed by-law. No comments were forthcoming.

Resolution C230901

Being duly moved and seconded that new By-law No. 9 “Noise By-law” be approved in Second and final reading.

AFFIRMATIVE

Jody Crook  
George El-Jakl  
Andrea Mood-Nickerson

NEGATIVE

Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson

Motion carried.

REPORT OF WARDEN

The Warden provided a brief report on his activities since the last meeting of Council.

REPORT OF COUNCILLORS

Deputy Warden Crook and each councillor provided a brief report on their activities since the last meeting of Council.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL

Deputy Warden Crook reported on recommendations from the Committee of the Whole Council.

Account Write-offs

It was proposed that outstanding balances on accounts indicated below be written off as they are uncollectible:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AA#</u>	<u>PRINCIPLE</u>	<u>INTEREST</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
CARMEN DORTHEA NICKERSON	08449714	\$330.46	\$385.66	\$716.12
SANDRA ELAINE BRANNEN	06354114	\$392.37	\$ 77.34	\$469.71
BAY SIDE TIGERS	BAYSI002	\$100.00	\$66.51	\$166.51
TIGERS BALL TEAM	TIGER001	\$100.00	\$75.49	\$175.49
		\$722.83	\$463.00	<b><u>\$1,527.83</u></b>

Resolution C230902

Being duly moved and seconded that outstanding balances on accounts in the name of Carmen Dorthea Nickerson, Sandra Elaine Brannen, Bay Side Tigers and Tigers Ball Team, as indicated above, totaling \$1,527.83 be written off, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Grant RequestsResolution C230903

Being duly moved and seconded that a grant be provided to the Doctor's Cove Old Cemetery Association in the amount of \$500.00 for 2023/24.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution C230904

Being duly moved and seconded that a grant in the amount of \$2,499.00 be provided to the Chapel Hill Historical Society for 2023/24.

Motion carried unanimously.

Tax Sale by TenderResolution C230905

Being duly moved and seconded that the 2024 Tax Sale be conducted through a public tender process.

AFFIRMATIVE

Jody Crook

George El-Jakl

Andrea Mood-Nickerson

NEGATIVE

Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson

Motion carried.

Beach SignageResolution C230906

Being duly moved and seconded that a letter be sent from Council to the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables pointing out that there was no entrance sign this year indicating the entrance to Sandhills Provincial Park and, therefore, requesting that a sign be placed early in the season next year to identify the entrance to Sandhills Provincial Park, and that this sign be placed in a location more visible to the line-of-view of vehicular traffic and that the letter be copied to the Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables and MLA Nolan Young.

Moton carried unanimously.

Sale of Surplus Municipal Property – Forbes Point

Resolution C230907

Being duly moved and seconded that the offer received from Jordan Collinet and Randi Collinet in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the purchase of municipal property located at Forbes Point, identified as PID 80016546, be accepted.

Motion carried unanimously.

Barrington Lake Wildfire Assessment Adjustments

As a result of losses due to the Barrington Lake Wildfire, Property Valuation Services Corporation has reassessed those properties affected.

Resolution C230908

Being duly moved and seconded that the 2023/24 property taxes on the following properties be reduced based on the revised 2023 assessment value.

PID	2023 Current Value	2023 Capped Value	Revised 2023 Value	Tax Reduction	Fire Area Rate Reduction	Total Reduction
80066608	140,700	140,300	<b>140,200</b>	\$ 0.90	\$ 0.11	\$ <b>1.01</b>
80066863	271,700	271,700	<b>271,400</b>	\$ 2.70	\$ 0.32	\$ <b>3.02</b>
80064603	43,800	41,500	<b>40,900</b>	\$ 5.40	\$ 0.65	\$ <b>6.05</b>
80065998	49,600	49,000	<b>48,400</b>	\$ 5.40	\$ 0.65	\$ <b>6.05</b>
80067085	118,600	115,600	<b>114,700</b>	\$ 8.10	\$ 0.97	\$ <b>9.07</b>
80068141	106,900	106,900	<b>105,200</b>	\$ 15.30	\$ 1.83	\$ <b>17.13</b>
80066657	7,700	7,700	<b>5,600</b>	\$ 18.90	\$ 2.26	\$ <b>21.16</b>
80066582	73,000	70,800	<b>67,200</b>	\$ 32.40	\$ 3.88	\$ <b>36.27</b>
80065212	12,100	12,100	<b>8,000</b>	\$ 36.90	\$ 4.41	\$ <b>41.31</b>
80066921	22,900	15,700	<b>11,400</b>	\$ 38.70	\$ 4.63	\$ <b>43.33</b>
80067804	70,100	44,800	<b>39,200</b>	\$ 50.40	\$ 6.03	\$ <b>56.43</b>
80065360	30,100	25,700	<b>20,000</b>	\$ 51.30	\$ 6.14	\$ <b>57.44</b>
80065766	75,000	73,700	<b>67,800</b>	\$ 53.10	\$ 6.35	\$ <b>59.45</b>
80065709	76,700	75,900	<b>69,300</b>	\$ 59.40	\$ 7.11	\$ <b>66.50</b>
80064918	154,900	134,700	<b>127,940</b>	\$ 60.84	\$ 7.28	\$ <b>68.12</b>
80067556	174,000	174,000	<b>166,900</b>	\$ 63.90	\$ 7.64	\$ <b>71.54</b>
80067911	48,700	29,500	<b>20,000</b>	\$ 85.50	\$ 10.23	\$ <b>95.73</b>
80068109	53,300	35,100	<b>24,000</b>	\$ 99.90	\$ 11.95	\$ <b>111.85</b>
80064579	23,000	21,200	<b>6,000</b>	\$ 136.80	\$ 16.36	\$ <b>153.16</b>
80067416	212,600	203,300	<b>183,900</b>	\$ 174.59	\$ 20.89	\$ <b>195.48</b>
80067879	81,300	56,800	<b>32,600</b>	\$ 217.79	\$ 26.05	\$ <b>243.85</b>
80067887	91,200	74,700	<b>47,600</b>	\$ 243.89	\$ 29.18	\$ <b>273.07</b>
80067903	62,500	61,600	<b>32,600</b>	\$ 260.99	\$ 31.22	\$ <b>292.21</b>
80064793	74,400	74,400	<b>36,800</b>	\$ 338.39	\$ 40.48	\$ <b>378.87</b>
80065956	67,000	67,000	<b>24,000</b>	\$ 386.99	\$ 46.29	\$ <b>433.28</b>
82539297	80,700	76,000	<b>27,540</b>	\$ 436.13	\$ 52.17	\$ <b>488.30</b>
80067390	88,800	88,800	<b>20,100</b>	\$ 618.28	\$ 73.96	\$ <b>692.24</b>
80067366	97,200	96,200	<b>20,100</b>	\$ 684.88	\$ 81.93	\$ <b>766.81</b>
80066525	97,800	97,800	<b>21,200</b>	\$ 689.38	\$ 82.47	\$ <b>771.85</b>
82540048	108,000	98,800	<b>20,240</b>	\$ 707.02	\$ 84.58	\$ <b>791.60</b>

80067382	132,800	130,900	<b>17,800</b>	\$ 1,017.87	\$ 121.76	<b>\$ 1,139.63</b>
80067853	190,000	173,200	<b>54,900</b>	\$ 1,064.67	\$ 127.36	<b>\$ 1,192.03</b>
80066590	168,900	163,400	<b>44,600</b>	\$ 1,069.17	\$ 127.90	<b>\$ 1,197.07</b>
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 8,735.85</b>	<b>\$ 1,045.04</b>	<b>\$ 9,780.89</b>

Motion carried unanimously.

Road Name Petition Re: Civic Numbering

The property owner of a housing development in Barrington Passage is requesting that a lane within his development be officially recognized as “Portside Lane”.

Resolution C230909

Being duly moved and seconded that the private road in Barrington Passage, be officially recognized as “Portside Lane” as requested by the property owner, for civic numbering purposes.

Motion carried unanimously.

Letter of Support – Wesley Heritage Community Seniors Association

Resolution C230910

Being duly moved and seconded that the Wesley Heritage Community Seniors Association be provided with a letter in support of their application to the New Horizons Grant Program for funding for an emergency exit.

Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORT

The Chief Administrative Officer provided his report to members in advance to the meeting for the period ending September 26, 2023 of which a copy is attached and forms part of the minutes.

NEW OR OTHER BUSINESS

Consideration of Amendments to Policy 95 “Volunteer Policy”

The insurance company has suggested that our Volunteer Policy be amended to make specific reference to abuse policies of the Municipality.

It is proposed that Policy 95 “Volunteer Policy” be amended by deleting Section 5.6 and replacing it with the following:

***The Municipality is committed to a healthy, safe and supportive workplace and is committed to providing a work environment that values diversity and where all persons are treated with respect and dignity. Harassment, sexual harassment and discrimination affect the workplace and the well-being of individuals and will not be tolerated. Volunteers will follow the same***

***policies and practices contained in the Municipality's Occupational Health and Safety Policy, Personnel Policy No. 19 - Respectful Workplace Policy and any other policies that apply.***

***Volunteers will be required to sign a form acknowledging receipt of applicable policies and procedures and confirming their agreement to abide by them.***

Notice of consideration of amendments was given at the Committee of the Whole Council Meeting held on September 12, 2023.

Resolution C230911

Being duly moved and seconded that amendments be made to Policy 95 "Volunteer Policy", as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to be dealt with.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

There were no items brought forward.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

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Warden

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Chief Administrative Officer

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Secretary for the Meeting

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## KEY STRATEGIC AREAS

### 1. Growing our Economy

#### *3.1 Attract Accommodations*

We continue to facilitate discussions between a hotel management and development company and a local developer in the hopes of increasing the number of accommodations in the Municipality.

We've engaged HVS Consulting and Valuation Services to update the Short Narrative Appraisal Report for a Proposed Extended-Stay Hotel they completed in 2018. This will provide us with an update picture of the market demand and estimated market value for an extended-stay hotel in our Municipality.

#### *3.2 Invest in our Beaches and Parks*

We continue to work on the review our Beach Strategy. On August 25, we held a Grand Opening of our accessible beach at Stoney Island. It was very well attended and was a great opportunity for the municipality to promote its accessibility work.

#### *3.3 Improved Cell Service*

The poor cellular service in our area has been a topic of discussion at a number of tables of the past month. Earlier this summer, Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland called for urgent action from Canada's telecommunications regulator, the CRTC, after elected officials in Nova Scotia raised concerns that poor cellular service had prevented residents from receiving emergency alerts during recent floods and wildfires.

Recently, the Western Regional Enterprise Network has been working on gathering local data on cellular service. Through a survey, they determined that 37% of respondents felt that cellular service was very unreliable at their workplace and Barrington and Woods Harbour ranked in the top 5 location of noticeably poor cellular signal.

In an effort to get a better understanding of the Municipality's current cellular coverage and infrastructure, we reached out to Bell. They will be conducting a review of our coverage with an overlay of known problem areas and then provided a report outlining any upcoming projects that may improve those areas.



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Although there does not seem to be any expansion program or funding for new sites at this time, this will give us an idea of what the next steps could be and what kind of financial commitment may be required.

*3.4 Municipal Property Development*

Nothing new to report at this time.

*3.5 Renewable Energy*

Nothing new to report at this time.

**2. Investing in our People**

*2.1 Community Health Centre*

On September 8, we had our initial setup meeting with Jost + Architects Ltd. This was an opportunity for us to discuss roles and responsibilities, revise the project timeline, identify key stakeholders and determine immediate next steps. A kick-off meeting will be held in the next few weeks to officially get things underway.

*2.2 Doctor Recruitment & Retention*

Nothing new to report at this time.

*2.3 Public Transit*

Nothing new to report at this time.

**3. Strengthening our Communities**

*3.1 Infrastructure Renewal*

This objective is completed.

*3.2 Housing*

We continue to work with our provincial and federal counterparts to do what we can to improve the housing stock in our Municipality. Recently, Council identified a list of properties to be submitted to the Province for inclusion in their property inventory for new provincial housing developments. We hope that identifying these properties, along with supporting local developers in their projects, will help boost the local stock of housing options.



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*3.3 Improved Wastewater Services*

Nothing new to report at this time.

*3.4 Accessibility*

Our Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) continues to meet regularly. An accessibility audit on our main properties and facilities has been complete and we continue to pursue and promote funding opportunities to help offset the cost of improving accessibility.

Most recently, Terri Lynn Almeda, Director of Programs and Services with the Accessibility Directorate presented information on the Nova Scotia Accessibility Act, Access by Design 2030, standard development, collaboration and support, to the Committee.

On August 25, we held a Grand Opening of our accessible beach at Stoney Island. It was very well attended and was a great opportunity for the municipality to promote its accessibility work.

*3.5 Diversity and Inclusion*

After extensive research on varying options for diversity, equity and inclusion training, the senior management team will be trialing two options over the coming weeks to determine which best fit our needs. Following these trials, we will develop an implementation plan for the rest of staff.

**4. Operating Efficiently**

*4.1 Develop an Employee Retention Program*

Nothing new to report at this time.

*4.2 Create an Economic Development Office*

Nothing new to report at this time.

*4.3 Consider the Expansion of the C&D Site*

Nothing new to report at this time.

*4.4 Transparency*

We continue to work on having a strong social media presence to inform our residents on municipal matters and we continue to actively publish all publicly available municipal documents. Our Director of Marketing and Tourism and Recreation Director are participating in a community



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of practice for municipal communications professionals being hosted by the Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia. The goal of the community of practice is to share knowledge, advice, and best practices on a pre-determined communications related topic, as well as to foster relationship-building throughout the municipal communications community.

Municipal Awareness Week will once again be held in November, and we will be participating in recognize the vital role of municipal government and promote the services we provide.

## **5. Keeping Barrington Moving**

### *5.1 Enhance Recreation Programs*

Nothing new to report at this time.

### *5.2 Sherose Island Recreation Complex Strategy*

Nothing new to report at this time.

### *5.3 Increase the Number of Outdoor Spaces Strategy*

Nothing new to report at this time.

### *5.4 Trail Expansion*

In the month of August, 487 people visited the Sherose Island Nature Trail. In August 2022, there were 1,107 people. We attribute the low usage in comparison to last year to the bear sightings in late August.

Our Physical Activity Coordinator has been working on the next steps for the Sherose Island Nature Trail which will be to build a boardwalk near the ocean as that area is deemed inaccessible for a majority of residents. They have also been looking at ways for the trail to have more play and physical activity aspects.

Other trail projects include drafting a plan for a new nature trail in Centreville, partnering with BMHS to support a multi-use trail on the school property and continuing to promote the Woodland Multi-use Trails Association.

### *5.5 Sidewalk Expansion*

Nothing new to report at this time.



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**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FROM AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup> TO SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

**TOPICS**

**Sandy Wickens Memorial Arena**

The Arena opened on September 16, with the Southwest Storm, our local Nova Scotia Regional Junior Hockey League team, hosting tryouts. We are excited for the year ahead and look forward to welcoming all of the familiar and new faces.

**Recreation Programming**

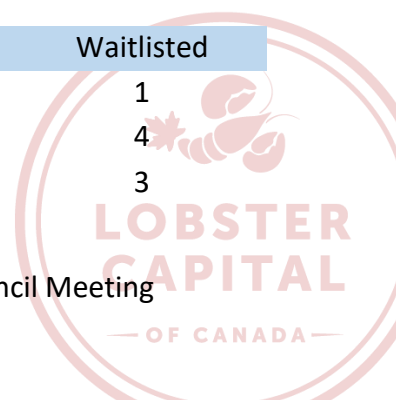
We are planning a slate of special events for the fall including a family outdoor movie night, family fun and adult hikes, drop in fun nights for youth, and starting to grow some pre-school programming as well as senior-specific activities.

Assessments of summer program data are complete. The addition of the pool chair lift was dependent on having a swim team and we did not get that off the ground fully this year. We are seeking alternative funding sources while not completely closing the door on the sport funding – it is still a good possibility. Based on the enrollment data, we will look for ways to better deliver swim instruction. An issue is training aquatic staff and the limited rural resources provided by the Lifesaving Society, which is now the only provider of certifications, is a challenge. We are looking into bringing in-house condensed instruction at the beginning of the pool season for our aquatic staff. This would help provide a good rationale to open in early June as well.

We achieved very good participation rates in our summer recreation programming and are collecting evaluations from participants to help plan for next year. Specialty camps were delivered each week for 3-4 days. We staffed Stoney Island Beach Days every Friday and those were extremely well attended. Next year we will look at revamping the junior leader program to better meet diverse needs.

*Summer Recreation Camp Program Data Summary*

Camp Name	Subcategory	Max	Total Participants	Waitlisted
Branching Out Nature Camp	Age 5-7	20	20	1
Down on the Farm Camp	Age 5-7	20	20	4
Magical Adventures	Age 5-7	20	19	3



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Work of Art	Age 5-7	20	18	0
Storybook Camp	Age 5-7	20	19	2
Wet N Wild Camp	Age 5-7	20	20	5
Disney Days	Age 5-7	20	20	5
Holiday Camp	Age 5-7	20	19	1
		160	<b>155 (96.88%)</b>	
Adventureland Camp	Age 8-11	24	16	0
All-Star Sports Camp	Age 8-11	24	22	0
Show Your Skills Camp	Age 8-11	24	14	0
Go for the Gold	Age 8-11	24	18	0
Wet n Wild	Age 8-11	24	23	0
Mad Science Camp	Age 8-11	24	19	0
Camp Carnival	Age 8-11	24	20	0
Holiday Camp	Age 8-11	24	22	0
		192	<b>154 (80.21%)</b>	

A few months ago, we applied for funding through Recreation Nova Scotia's equipment loan program to purchase skates for residents and newcomers to the area. The skates arrived in September and we will not be working with Schools Plus at BMHS to offer skating lessons for newcomer students.

#### **Building Permits & By-Law Enforcement**

From August 20 to September 9, 33 permits were issued for a total value of \$293,700. 90 building inspections along with 10 fire inspections, 8 fire re-inspections and one alcohol and gaming inspection were carried out during this period.

We issued 2 new civic numbers, and 5 places were visited to discuss proper civic numbering.

We continue to work on three outstanding subdivision applications.

We received one new by-law complaint, and one was resolved. This leaves us with 10 open complaints that we continue to work on.



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**Fire Services & Emergency Management**

Our Coordinator has begun a Firefighter I course with 20 students and completed an Instruct I course with 8 students and a Firefighter II course with 7 students.

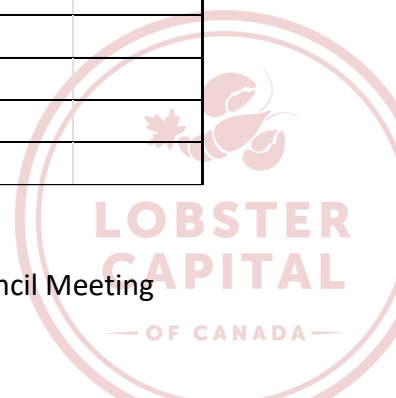
The BPLT Fire Department is exploring the possibility of replacing their Suburban which is nearing the end of its useful life, with a ¾-ton truck. No loan would be necessary for this replacement. They are also planning on the replacement of their pumper as per the equipment replacement plan but may have to order it soon as delivery times seem to be upwards of 3 years.

Work continues on the after-action review with external partners for the County in conjunction with Shelburne County East Emergency Management. Our Coordinator presented a timeline of the wildfire and reviewed information from the staff surveys with municipal staff. Implementation of the recommendations is ongoing.

Otherwise, our Fire Services/EMO Coordinator is monitoring for tropical cyclone development as hurricane season is upon us and has performed monthly fire and life safety inspections.

This past August, the Fire Departments responded to 25 calls, compared to 17 in August of 2022. Here is the data for this past month months:

<b>BARRINGTON MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE</b>							
<b>EMERGENCY CALLS August 2023</b>							
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>Fire</b>	<b>Mut</b>	<b>Auto</b>	<b>MFR</b>	<b>MVC</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
		<b>Aid</b>	<b>Aid</b>				
Barrington/Port La Tour FD	1				2	8	<b>11</b>
Island Barrington Passage FD	2			1	2	1	<b>6</b>
Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour FD				6	1	1	<b>8</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>25</b>
B/PLT - 1 Brush Fire							
IBP - 2 Brush Fire							
WH/SH-							



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**CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE**

Here is an update on our 2023-2024 Capital Projects:

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Status</b>
4	Beach Facilities Water Drilling	Not Started
1	Recreation Centre	In Progress
2	Community Healthcare Centre	In Progress
3	Pool Liner/Pool Lift	In Progress
5	Lighting/Power Stoney Island Beach	In Progress
6	Arena Shower/Flooring	In Progress
10	Lobster Sculptures	In Progress
8	Goose Lake Road Improvements	Completed
7	Property Services Building Heat Pump	Completed
9	Brass Hill Clarifier	Completed

