

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, March 26, 2024. The meeting was called to order by the Warden at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

- Warden Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson
 - Councillor George El-Jakl
 - Councillor Shaun Hatfield
 - Councillor Andrea Mood-Nickerson
 - Deputy Warden Jody Crook – Absent due to work commitments.
-
- 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 February 27th and Special Council Meeting held March 12, 2024 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

EHS PRESENTATION

As a result of discussions at the Committee of the Whole Council Meeting held on March 12, 2024, an invitation was extended to Jeff Fraser to meet with Council to discuss the Provincial Ambulance Service Act and the establishment of an ambulance service in Woods Harbour.

Jeff Fraser, Senior Executive Director and Oliver Mohan, Manager, of the Office of the Regulator, Department of Health and Wellness, appeared before the meeting to provide information on Emergency Health Services. A copy of the presentation is attached and forms part of the minutes.

Community members of Shag Harbour and Woods Harbour were present for the presentation and provided a list of questions relating to the ambulance service they would like to provide. Questions provided were read aloud by the CAO of which a copy is attached and forms part of the minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m. for a short break.

The regular Council Meeting was called back to order at 7:54 p.m.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no matters arising from previous meetings.

REPORT OF WARDEN

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

REPORT OF COUNCILLORS

Each Councillor provided a brief report on their activities since the last meeting of Council.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL

Councillor Hatfield reported on recommendations from the Committee of the Whole Council.

Request from Shelburne County ATV Association

Resolution C240302

Being duly moved and seconded that the Shelburne County ATV Association and the Woodland Multi-use Trails Association be provided with a letter in support of their project to connect the 36.9 kms of rail bed between Roseway River and Clyde River, as outlined in their letter dated January 10, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously.

Loss of Housing Units in Shelburne County

Resolution C240303

Being duly moved and seconded that a letter be sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to inquire about the loss of the family housing units in Port LaTour.

Motion carried unanimously.

BMHS Gym Usage – Rosalin Nickerson “CARE” Fund Group

Resolution C240304

Being duly moved and seconded that a letter be sent to Jared Purdy, Regional Executive Director of Education of the Tri-County Regional Centre for Education, requesting that the decision not to allow the Rosalin Nickerson "CARE" Fund Group the use of BMHS' gymnasium for their vendors market fundraiser be reconsidered.

Resolution C240305

Being duly moved and seconded that the above motion be tabled in order to provide the Barrington Municipal High School and the Rosalin Nickerson “CARE” Fund Group an opportunity to sort out the request.

AFFIRMATIVE

Shaun Hatfield
Andrea Mood-Nickerson
Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson

NEGATIVE

George El-Jakl

Motion carried.

Request from Shelburne County Fish and Game AssociationResolution C240306

Being duly moved and seconded that the Shelburne County Fish and Game Association be exempt from Section 33.0 of the Municipal Grants and Sponsorship/Advertising Policy requiring them to have 2/3 of the project cost at the time of making application to the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORT

The Chief Administrative Officer prepared a report for the period ending March 26, 2024 of which a copy is attached and forms part of the minutes.

NEW OR OTHER BUSINESSRepeal of Policy No. 33 "Returning Officer"

It is recommended that Policy No. 33 "Returning Officer" be repealed as it is no longer required under the CAO system of governance.

Notice concerning the repeal of this policy was given on March 12, 2024.

Resolution C240307

Being duly moved and seconded that Policy No. 33 "Returning Officer" be repealed as it is no longer required.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ratify decision to sell surplus Municipal PropertyResolution C240308

Being duly moved and seconded that the decision to accept the offer received from Jun Wang in the amount of \$8,000.00 plus HST for the purchase of municipal property located in Centreville, identified as PID 80030109, be ratified.

Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

On February 26, 2024, the Government of Nova Scotia announced: “The Future of our Coastline: Nova Scotia’s plan to protect people, homes and nature from climate change”. The plan has 15 actions for property owners, municipalities and the province to keep coastal homes, communities and natural areas safer from the impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels and more frequent and intense storms which lead to coastal flooding and erosion. More information can be found at novascotia.ca/coastal-plan.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Warden

Chief Administrative Officer

Secretary for the Meeting

Emergency Health Services

EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

MARCH 26, 2024



1

Background

2

- ▶ EHS provides province-wide emergency medical response, care, and transport for patients in need.
- ▶ EHS works with Emergency Medical Care, Inc. (EMC) who operate the EHS system.
- ▶ EMC is a single, central operator of ambulatory EHS across the entire province. They manage all ambulances and paramedics 24/7 everywhere in Nova Scotia.
- ▶ In instances when ambulances are not rapidly or ideally available to patients, EMC coordinates with local Medical First Responder groups (MFRs) throughout Nova Scotia to provide rapid, life-stabilizing care while patients wait for paramedics in an ambulance arrive to the patient(s).
- ▶ Department of Health & Wellness has recently enhanced its regulatory oversight of EMC and the EHS system to improve readiness and reliability of ambulance throughout the province to meet increase care needs.



2

Legal Context

3



- ▶ Must be **under agreement with the Minister** of Health & Wellness to operate/provide EHS
- ▶ Only one entity in Nova Scotia, **EMC, is authorized to provide emergency and medical response**, care, and transportation anywhere in Nova Scotia.
- ▶ Any other entity providing these services, especially in response to emergency or 911 calls, is unauthorized and **would be operating outside established laws**.



- ▶ No entity or individual is permitted to practice paramedicine or provide medical care while a patient is being transported **except licensed paramedics or health professionals working with EMC**.
- ▶ MFRs are permitted to respond to emergency calls while waiting for an ambulance response but are **not legally authorized to transport** patients.

Unauthorized providers of emergency medical care and transport pose significant risks to patients, communities, EHS providers and MFRs, and the broader EHS system. Liabilities associated with these risks would shift to the patient and unauthorized provider if carried out without authority.



3

Improvements

4

Over the last 24 months, the Department of Health & Wellness has made the following investments in the Western NS region:

- ▶ Implementation of Low Acuity Transport (LAT), Patient Transfer Units (PTU), Medical Transport Service (MTS), and SPEAR units, putting more ambulance back on the road
- ▶ Opening Yarmouth-based Paramedic Training program (and other investments/supports for Paramedic Students)
- ▶ Non-Critical Care LifeFlight Air Transport for routine, long-distant transport
- ▶ Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) Profession and Training
- ▶ New Collective Bargaining Agreement with Paramedics to improve compensation, benefits, and working environment and culture
- ▶ Investment in Medical Communications Centre Technology to improve deployment plans, locations, and ambulance availability



4

Opportunities

5

- ▶ Though emergency response and transport is not authorized, DHW/EHS works regularly with community-based organizations who provide low acuity and routine medical transport for patients in need of help getting to and from medical appointments and facilities.
- ▶ Any entity seeking to provide these services must also be under agreement with the Minister of Health & Wellness or another provincial department's minister (e.g., Minister of Public Works)
- ▶ EHS is happy to explore opportunities to utilize aspects of the planned Woods Harbour service to meet these needs in the community.

Can you provide additional information beyond your interpretation of Section 7 of the Emergency Health Services Act to support the claim that a Medical First Responder (MFR) transporting a person requiring immediate, life-saving emergency care to the nearest hospital is operating outside established laws? Are MFRs specifically mentioned in the Paramedics Act or the Emergency Health Services Act or are they classed as paramedics in one or both of these Acts? Would not the Volunteer Services Act permit anyone to offer services and/or assistance should EHS be untimely or unavailable.

If MFRs are not permitted to transport persons requiring immediate, life-saving care, can you please explain why MFRs transport persons via off-road trails as well as via watercraft when an emergency situation requires it?

Do RCMP and/or other police officers transport persons requiring emergency care? If yes, please provide documentation on why they are permitted to do so.

Per the opportunities section of your presentation (slide 5, point 1), we would first like to emphasize that we are not seeking to provide routine transport for persons attending medical appointments. We are seeking the legal authority to transport persons requiring immediate, life-saving emergency care -- persons who cannot wait for EHS to arrive on scene.

Per the opportunities section of your presentation (slide 5, point 2), we acknowledge that we are seeking an opportunity to create an agreement with the Minister of Health to provide transportation services to persons requiring immediate, life-saving emergency care in the Woods Harbour area. We would appreciate any and all assistance with this, and would like to receive further information and communication on how EHS proposes to help us meet the needs of the people in our community (slide 5, point 3).

We have suggestions on how EHS can help us.

1. EHS can contact the Minister of Health on our behalf, requesting an agreement that will grant us the legal authority to transport persons requiring immediate, life-saving emergency care.
2. EHS can work with us to establish a municipal ambulance service within the Municipality of Barrington. Three ambulance bases providing emergency health care services could be provided in our municipality -- these services would be paid for by the citizens of the Barrington Municipality and the services would be based on provincial guidelines.

Staff Report March 26, 2024

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

The budget has been one of our main priorities in the last three months. Council has completed its review of the first draft of the operating and capital budgets and will be discussing the second draft next month. A final draft of the budgets will include the feedback received during these meetings and we are hopeful it will be approved at the end of April.

We have been working diligently over the past month to prepare for the satellite court to move into our building. The first scheduled hearing in Barrington is April 10. The courthouse in Barrington is a satellite of the Yarmouth Justice Centre. It will not offer public services and only operates when matters are scheduled.

It has been three years since we've launched our complaints handling system. Our "Helpdesk" has helped us streamline the complaint process through a cloud-based app which allows the public to submit complaints online. A public page that includes a form is available for residents to report problems 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from any device and location. Internally, Staff and Council will have access to an internal application (authorized access only) to manage the complaints/inquiries.

To provide an overview of the data associated with our third year of usage, we've prepared a "2023-2024 Complaints Report", which can be viewed here: [2023-2024 Complaints Report.pdf](#).

A reminder that residents can report problems by visiting our website and clicking on "Report a Problem" on our homepage or by visiting <https://helpdesk.barringtonmunicipality.com/report>.



We have worked with the local restaurants in the County to get the 1st Shelburne County Burger BUNanza going. There are a total of 15 restaurants participating and 17 burgers to try. We created a Burger passport and stamps and delivered them to all participating restaurants. 15 non-profits/organizations are benefiting from this event, with a \$1 from every burger sold going back into the community.



Staff Report
March 26, 2024

We are working with local ball leagues and participants to better address field maintenance and scheduling. The needs are consistently growing, and we expect this will be a focus for the next several years. This year, we are striving to improve communications, field preparation and maintenance and amenities.

We met with RAC members to discuss moving from a committee to a working group structure for future projects/ engagement.

We applied to the Connect 2 program to fund a connector trail from the Barrington Bay Trail to Island View Park.

The disc golf course is set at the Sherose island recreation complex.

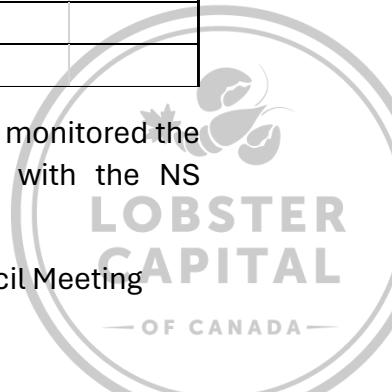
Our MPAL is in New Minas this week to become a Active Smarter Kids trainer. Active Smarter kids is a initiative that guides teachers to lead physical activity lessons in the classroom so students are moving more throughout the day instead of sitting down and learning.

From February 19 to March 17, 27 permits were issued for a total construction value of \$1,673,500. This represents a \$1,071,500 decrease from the same period last year. 66 building inspections, 1 fire inspection and 4 fire re-inspections were conducted over this period. 5 locations were visited to discuss civic numbering with 6 new civic numbers issued. 2 subdivision applications were received, and we currently have 4 open subdivision files. 1 new by-law complaint was received, and one was completed. We have 5 outstanding.

Fire departments responded to 18 calls this January compared to 20 in February 2023.

BARRINGTON MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE							
EMERGENCY CALLS February 2024							
FIRE DEPARTMENT	Fire	Mut	Auto	MFR	MVC	Other	TOTAL
		Aid	Aid				
Barrington/Port La Tour FD	2					1	3
Island Barrington Passage FD			1		1	1	3
Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour FD			1	9		2	12
TOTALS	2		2	9	1	4	18
B/PLT - 1 Structure, 1 Chimney							
IBP -							
WH/SH-							

Our Coordinator taught a Safety Officer and Strategy and Tactics course. He monitored the various storms and maintained situational awareness. He has liaised with the NS



Staff Report **March 26, 2024**

Department of Public Works regarding the closure and reopening of the Bloody Creek Bridge due to elevated water levels

UPCOMING INITIATIVES

The summer staff hiring process will take place in April. We have received more applications than in the past few years and at least 95% are returning applications.

We are working with Shelburne & Lockport Recreation Departments, Our House, Schools Plus and CCTH to plan and facilitate a full day girls leadership summit for grades 7-10 on May 15th in Barrington.

We will work with schools to schedule June aquatic and recreation programming. This process started in December so that we would have the time needed to allocate resources, partner with the Lifesaving Society to fund the participating schools and ensure we have trained staff. We are contracting a trainer to come work with all new and experienced aquatic staff to provide needed training and touch on gaps seen in our swim instruction.

We will be attending the Saltscapes Expo in April, preparation for materials and booth design are in progress. Planning for the Lobster Festival and the 75th Causeway Anniversary is underway as well.



Staff Report
March 26, 2024

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

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

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



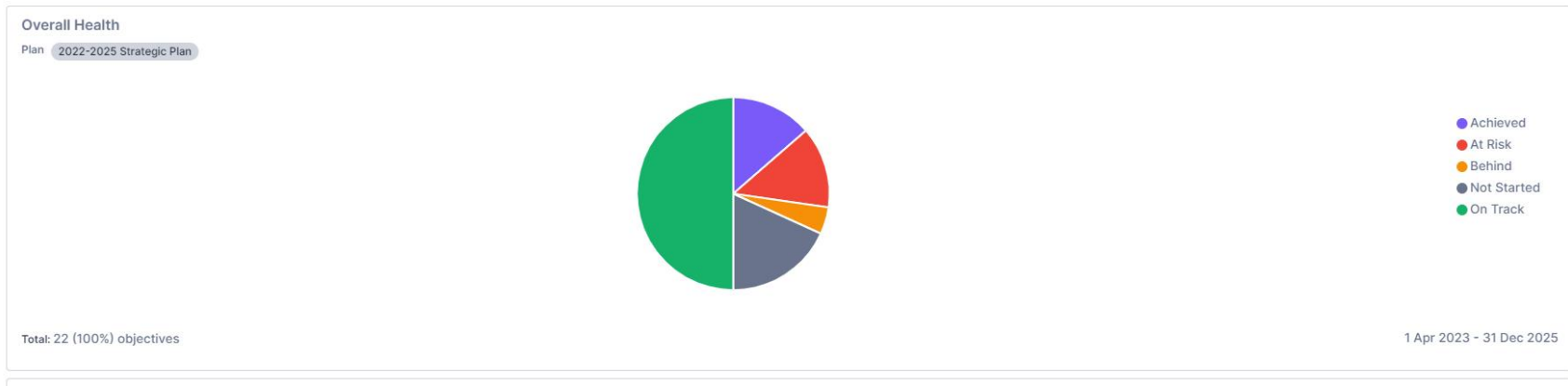
Staff Report

March 26, 2024



2022-2025 Strategic Plan Update

Here is a brief update on our strategic plan's progress. This update outlines our achievements, key performance indicators, and the impact of initiatives.



Staff Report

March 26, 2024

1 Apr 2023 - 31 Dec 2024

FOCUS AREA: STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITIES				
PLAN: 2022-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN				
	Objective	Health	Progress Change (MoM)	Time Frame
	Housing	On Track	↑ 59% (0% - 59%)	Jan 01, 2024 Dec 31, 2024
	Diversity and Inclusion	On Track	↑ 38% (0% - 38%)	Jan 01, 2024 Dec 31, 2024
	Improve Wastewater Services	Not Started	0% (0% - 0%)	Apr 01, 2024 Dec 31, 2025
	Accessibility	On Track	↑ 92% (0% - 92%)	Apr 01, 2023 Dec 31, 2024
	Infrastructure Renewal	Achieved	↑ 100% (0% - 100%)	Mar 01, 2023 Dec 31, 2023
FOCUS AREA: OPERATE EFFICIENTLY				
PLAN: 2022-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN				
	Objective	Health	Progress Change (MoM)	Time Frame
	Consider the Expansion of the C&D Site	Not Started	0% (0% - 0%)	Apr 01, 2024 Dec 31, 2025
	Develop an Employee Retention Program	Achieved	↑ 8% (92% - 100%)	Mar 01, 2023 Dec 31, 2023
	Create an Economic Development Office	At Risk	↑ 31% (0% - 31%)	Jan 01, 2024 Dec 31, 2024
	Transparency	On Track	↑ 79% (0% - 79%)	Apr 01, 2023 Dec 31, 2024



Staff Report March 26, 2024

FOCUS AREA: GROW OUR ECONOMY				
PLAN: 2022-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN				
+	Objective	Health	Progress Change (MoM)	Time Frame
🎯	Invest in our Beaches and Parks	● On Track	↑ 71% (0% - 71%)	Mar 01, 2023 Dec 31, 2024
🎯	Attract Accommodations	● On Track	↑ 95% (0% - 95%)	Mar 01, 2023 Dec 31, 2024
🎯	Municipal Property Development	● At Risk	↑ 32% (0% - 32%)	Mar 01, 2023 Dec 31, 2024
🎯	Improved Cell Service	● On Track	↑ 83% (0% - 83%)	Apr 01, 2024 Dec 31, 2025
🎯	Renewable Energy	● At Risk	↑ 40% (40% - 80%)	Mar 01, 2023 Dec 31, 2023
FOCUS AREA: KEEP BARRINGTON MOVING				
PLAN: 2022-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN				
+	Objective	Health	Progress Change (MoM)	Time Frame
🎯	Sherose Island Recreation Complex Strategy	● Not Started	0% (0% - 0%)	Apr 01, 2024 Dec 31, 2025
🎯	Increase the Number of Outdoor Spaces Strategy	● On Track	↑ 62% (0% - 62%)	Apr 01, 2023 Dec 31, 2024
🎯	Enhance Recreation Programs	● On Track	↑ 58% (0% - 58%)	Apr 01, 2023 Dec 31, 2024
🎯	Trail Expansion	● On Track	↑ 56% (0% - 56%)	Jan 01, 2024 Dec 31, 2024
🎯	Sidewalk Expansion	● Not Started	0% (0% - 0%)	Apr 01, 2024 Dec 31, 2025



Staff Report
March 26, 2024

FOCUS AREA: INVEST IN OUR PEOPLE				
PLAN: 2022-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN				
+	Objective	Health	Progress Change (MoM)	Time Frame
🎯	Public Transit	● Achieved	↑ 100% (0% - 100%)	Mar 01, 2023 Dec 31, 2023
🎯	Community Health Centre	● Behind	↑ 63% (0% - 63%)	Mar 01, 2023 Sep 01, 2025
🎯	Doctor Recruitment & Retention	● On Track	↑ 45% (0% - 45%)	Mar 01, 2023 Dec 31, 2024

