



Town of Oxford
Committee of the Whole
Council Chambers and Zoom
Wednesday, February 12, 2025
6:00 pm

AGENDA

1. Call to Order – Welcome – Mayor Henley

2. Approval of Agenda
Pages 1 -2

3. Approval of the Minutes – January 8, 2025
Pages 3 - 6

4. Town Departments Reports
 - 4.1 Public Works Department – presented by Linda Cloney
Pages 7 - 8

 - 4.2 Fire Department – presented by Bruce Rushton and Kyle Purdy
Page 9

 - 4.3 Administration Reports – presented by Linda Cloney
Pages 10 – 11 – Administrative Assistant Report
Pages 12 – 15 – Manager of Finance Report

5. Council Committees and Boards Reports
 - 5.1 Recreation Commission Report – presented by Councillor McNutt
Verbal report

 - 5.2 All Saints Community Health Care Foundation Update
Pages 16 - 17 – approved minutes

 - 5.3 Police Advisory Board Committee Update
Pages 18 – 21 – RCMP Report

6. Items of discussion and correspondence – presented by Linda Cloney

6.1 Correspondence to Minister Lohr, Municipality of Chester's concerns regarding the Code of Conduct Policy

Pages 22 – 23

6.2 Press Release – NSFEM Emphasizes Collaboration with Province on U.S. Tariff Concerns

Page 24

6.3 Letter from Municipal Affairs re: reduction in inter-provincial trade barriers and to resource development support and follow up letter from Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

Pages 25 - 26

7. Adjournment



Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting

Place: Council Chambers, Zoom, streamed live to Facebook
Date: Wednesday, January 8, 2025
Presiding Officer: Deputy Mayor Carla Black
Councillors Present: Mayor Greg Henley, Chrystal McNutt, Brenton Colborne, Padraic Moore, Olivia Canning-Sweet, and Paul Jones
Councillor Regrets: *Nil*

A quorum was present throughout the meeting.

Staff in attendance: Linda Cloney - CAO, Stan McDougall – Admin Assistant / Recording Secretary, and Bruce Rushton – Fire Chief

Staff Regrets: Nick Purdy – Public Works Supervisor

Presenters in attendance: PVSC (Property Valuation Services Corporation) - Paul Beazley, Municipal Account Manager and Ken McKinnon, Assistant Director

Media and Gallery in attendance: Marion Abbott and Giancarlo Piccin

1. Call to Order – Welcome

At 6:00 PM, Deputy Mayor Black called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance in the Gallery.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Mayor Henley and seconded by Councillor Jones that the agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting for Wednesday, January 9, 2025, be approved, as presented.

Motion Carried

3. Presentation

3.1 Property Valuation Services Corporation – Paul Beazley, Municipal Account Manager and Ken McKinnon, Assistant Director presenting.
a copy of the presentation is available in the Council Package

Deputy Mayor Black thanked Paul Beazley and Ken McKinnon for their presentation.

4. Approval of the Minutes – December 11, 2024, Pages 3 – 6

Deputy Mayor Black, Chair, on December 11, 2024

5. Town Departments Reports

5.1 **Public Works Department – presented by Linda Cloney, CAO**
a copy of the report is filed in the Council Package

5.2 **Fire Department – presented by Bruce Rushton, Fire Chief and Kyle Purdy, Deputy Fire Chief**
a copy of the report is filed in the Council Package

5.3 **Administration Reports – presented by Linda Cloney**
Admin Assistant Report
Manager of Finance Report
Revenue Officer/Reception Clerk
a copy of the reports is filed in the Council Package

It was presented that the position of Crossing Guard has been filled, however, the position for MPAL (Municipal Physical Activity Leader) is still vacant.

Linda also presented that three citizen volunteers are being sought for the Planning and Development Committee and encouraged all interested in joining this committee to reach out to the office.

Deputy Mayor Carla Black thanked the Town Departments for their respective reports.

6. Council Committees and Boards Reports

6.1 Recreation Commission Report – presented by Councillor McNutt

Verbal report

Councillor McNutt discussed the vacant MPAL position which was posted online and encouraged all who were interested to contact her for more information.

The Recreation Commission did host a Kids Dance in December, which was well attended, and Councillor McNutt thanked all volunteers who assisted in the dance.

A babysitting course is scheduled for February 15, 2025, at the Oxford Fire Hall through the YMCA of Cumberland County. Registration was available online for this program and the advertisement for this program was posted on the Town of Oxford Website and Facebook page.

A planned meeting for the Recreation Commission will be held soon and will be posted on the Town of Oxford - Recreation Commission Facebook page. This meeting will be held to discuss and plan for activities in 2025.

Deputy Mayor Carla Black thanked all Council Committees and Boards for their respective reports.

7. Items of discussion and correspondence – presented by Linda Cloney

7.1 Email from Jo Franklin – ban the use of Non-Disclosure Agreements

a copy of the email is available in the Council Package

Linda reviewed the email from Joe Franklin with the Committee of the Whole. The email was sent to all Nova Scotia municipalities and is advocating for victims of sexual violence in Nova Scotia and is trying to convince the Provincial Government and Premier to ban the use of Non-Disclosure Agreements in cases related to sexual violence. The email further

requested that Council would consider and implement something at the municipal level.

Staff had reached out to a colleague and mentioned that if the Mayor and Council wished to express their opinions on this matter to write a letter to Justice of Nova Scotia.

Consensus was given from the Committee of the Whole to direct staff to send an email to the Correspondence of Justice of Nova Scotia requesting more information. Also, a reply to Jo Franklin to let her know that staff and the Council has sought further information.

7.2 Email from Ronald Furlong – Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee request to make a presentation to Council, Page 12

Linda reviewed the email from Ronald Furlong requesting to make a presentation to the Council regarding the Forestry Industry in Cumberland County and how it contributes to the economy.

Consensus was given from the Committee of the Whole to reach out to Ronald Furlong to schedule a presentation to the Council at a future meeting.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 PM.

Deputy Mayor, Carla Black, Chair

Stan McDougall, Admin Assistant

Date Approved

Public Works Report January 2025

Weekly Water samples.

Monthly Lagoon samples.

Weekly water checks.

Weekly garbage collection.

Cleaned lift station floats.

Cleaned up cardboard at transfer site.

Salted and plowed streets and sidewalks as needed.

Water break Lower Main Street.

Provided cross walk training to new employee.

New doors installed at new shop.

Installed new hydraulic hoses on Kubota plow.

Water meter reads.

Removed Christmas light around town.

Removed tree from corner park.

1 ton truck needed safety inspection completed, needed some work to pass.

Moved tipped over shed at ball field.

Installed new water shut off at a residence on Black River Road.

Moved salt bin to fire hall.

New bearings and shaft for truck salt spreader installed.

Water meter re-reads.

Meter repairs and replacements, doing roughly 3 per week. Getting hard to schedule with snow.

Topped up salt bins around town.

Installed missing street signs.

Plowed wells, Chlorine building, water towers, lagoons, fire hydrants and lift stations.

Cleared snow from fire exit doors on town buildings.

Filled reported potholes with cold patch.

Daily furnace checks at theatre.

Town van heater repaired.

New cut edge installed on 624 plow.

All equipment washed and greased.

Cleaned shop.

Nick Purdy

Public Works Supervisor

902-397-3002

Fire Dept Report for the month of January

2025 is off to a busy start, we responded to 16 emergency calls for the month of January

6 medical emergencies

7 Motor vehicle accidents

2 structure fires

1 CO alarm

4 of those calls were Mutual Aid calls

10 of those calls were in our fire district,

2 of the calls were within town limits

This coming Thursday evening the fire dept will be training throughout the town.

We have 2 members signed up to take the hazmat awareness course

Connors was in and serviced the Cascade system

Repairs were done to Truck 2, the exhaust and Air dryer was fixed

We had our hydraulic rescue gear tested, everything passed!

We had a very successful banquet last month, recognizing the accomplishments of the fire dept. We would like to thank everyone who was able to attend.



January 2025

- New Year – new year processes – email, calendar year filing, etc.
- Website updates:
 - o Proclamation for Alzheimer’s Awareness Month.
 - o New cellphone number for Oxford Fire Chief in directory
 - o Red Dirt Skinner Concert Scheduled for September 15, 2025
 - o Surplus Fire Truck for sale
 - o Volunteers needed for Planning Advisory Committee.
 - o PVSC reminders for residents to review their PVSC assessments - deadline to appeal (February 13, 2025).
 - o Posted for babysitting course hosted by the YMCA in Oxford February 15, 2025.
 - o Oxford Food Bank hours updated - Tuesday nights from 6-7 and the first and second Thursday from 1:30-2:30.
- Interest Posting for December completed.
- Mid-month reporting for December completed for payroll.
- Follow up email to plumbers regarding front office boiler heat not working.
 - o Plumbers came in and found the problem was related to the second thermostat that controlled the roof-top unit. Baseboard heat in reception is now working but still requires backup/top-up heat from the side-splits.
- Replied to an inquiry for information concerning empty commercial spaces in downtown Oxford.
- Reviewed and printed water meter read sheets for public works to begin reading water meters for next water bill. Reviewed and tested laptop and data connected cell phone so public works can enter the water meter reads directly into TownSuite instead of writing them manually on the sheets to help prevent type-o and human error and hopefully streamline the process and save on administrative time.
- Attended All Saints Community Hospital Foundation meeting in Springhill January 14, 2025, as new Oxford member to replace CAO.
- Updated payroll services with new information for new employee Wanda Butler (our new crossing guard for the Town of Oxford).
- Draft Action plan created for the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism committee. Plan forwarded to AMANS directorate Julie Glaser and Roxanne Pereira for their review and input.
- Assist Manager of Finance with wording of possible funding opportunities to help with financing south side water tank and Pugwash Rd water main as well as main street development.

- Updating of Public Works and Town Owned Vehicle registration information to assist with asset management and tracking of registrations.
- RCMP report for Oct 1 to Dec 31, 2024, uploaded to website and link posted to news section on website and to our FB pages.
- Worked on 3rd Quarter Water Bill Consumption analysis to work toward the printing of the water bills prior to the end of January. Sent out re-reads list Jan 23, 2025, to clarify reads that are in question to verify before bills sent out.
- Assisted the Clerk in updating the Water Meter Read Sheets to include a column for Property Account Number to replacing the manual hand-updated sheets kept at the front counter. Handy "Oxford Directory" to look up property and water accounts quickly at the front counter when customers come in to pay bills, without their bill.
- Setup email address deputyfirechief@oxfordns.ca for our Deputy Fire Chief.
- 3rd Quarter Water Billing process completed, and consumption report analyzed. Printed Monday January 27, 2025 – assisted clerk in preparing to mail and email the bills out on Tuesday January 28, 2025.
- Provided a new "broke" water meter list to public works for water meters needing repair, or replacement.
- Worked with TownSuite to resolve an issue with Oxford Frozen Foods water bills only charging a portion of the quarterly base rate.
- Daily & weekly administrative tasks as required including bill payments, bill posting, documentation, research, etc.

General Operating Fund	Approved Budget for 2024/25 year	As of Jan 28th, 3rd quarter end, 75% of the year	Percentage Realized	Explanation Compare to last year at 75% of the year
REVENUES				
Tax Revenue (<i>residential, commercial, sewer, deed transfer tax</i>)	2,611,150	2,733,385	100%	\$63,637
Grants in Lieu for Federal and Prov properties	66,330	45,309	68%	Waiting for DNR & Can Post
Services to Other Governments (<i>Cumberland County - Fire Protection</i>)	69,089	69,089	100%	Cumberland County - Fire Protection sent a statement in Dec
Own Source Revenue (<i>Program Registrations, Rent (Office, Theatre), Building Permits, Dog Licence, Heritage Gas Revenue, Sales of Materials, Tax Certificates</i>)	101,927	50,878	50%	Application for at year end Heritage Gas Revenue \$ 27,000, Building Permits \$4160, Office rent from Water \$6068, Program Registration at 100% , Oxford Arena Association (4th quarter expenses-10,055)
Unconditional Transfers (<i>Municipal, Financaill Capacity Grant, Farm Acreage, HST offset</i>)	216,454	136,279	63%	<i>HST offset \$6,000 lower than Expected</i>
Other Transfers (<i>Funding for MPAL and Summer students, GFL Other Misc Grants</i>)				Clean NS for Horticulturalist \$1654, County Physical Activity-\$1123.67, GFL rebate \$879.79, Mortgage Fees-\$15.90, Connecting Cultures \$753.49, Communities in Bloom \$995.41, Payment from Agricultural Society for Arena use \$1972.70, ATV Association \$1,228, Donation to Parade \$200 MPAL will be lower (at least 20,000) than expected
	55,506	23,906	43%	
Total General Operating Revenues	3,120,457	2,847,040	91%	Last year at 93%
<i>Percentage of Budget</i>		91%		
Expenditures				
General Administration (<i>Mayor, Council and Admin Staff wages & Benefits, office supplies, town hall expenses, audit, busaries, PVSC charge, Bank service fees, valuation for receivables</i>)	507,279	381,353	75%	Last year at 64%
Protective Services - Police, Crosswalk Guard & Corrections	607,305	454,156	75%	Same as last year
Protective Services - Fire Department	314,489	288,347	92%	Last year at 84% , \$11,271 accrued interest for Dec-March
Protective Services-Emergency Management	9,263	6,562	71%	Same as last year
Other Protective Services (<i>Building Inspector & Animal Control</i>)	8,050	5,870	73%	Same as last year
Transportation Services (<i>Public Works wages, benefits, small equipment, fuel, tools, garage expenses (lights, heal), health & safety courses & equipment, salt, street & Sidewalk maintenance</i>)	566,900	465,591	82%	Last Year at 65%, \$16,000 Overspends in Maintenance of equipment and equipment & Small tools \$10,000 on loader & plow-unexpected repairs & tires, \$3,000 on the salt/dump truck, \$3,000 Small equipment & Tools
Environmental Health Services (<i>Sewer wages, maintenance & power, transfer station, tip fees</i>)	271,897	187,224	69%	Last Year at 67%,
Public Health & Environmental Development (<i>Medical Centre, Town planning, tree removal, Walk & Wheel program</i>)	61,064	49,210	81%	Last Year at 55% (low due to Regional Housing Authority expense is not applicable this year)
Arena Expenses	63,614	48,858	77%	Last Year at 61% (hike in electrical for Nov & Dec \$4000) Town pays Grant to cover \$46,890 of electric, gas, phone & water, \$10,055 left to cover Jan-March
Fields and Library (<i>festive décor, trails, tennis courts, ball & Soccer fields, Skateboard Park, Library</i>)	39,271	32,111	82%	Last Year at 82%
Theatre Expenses	16,674	12,068	72%	Last Year at 52% (may go over budget this year)
Recreation (<i>MPAL wages & Benefits, summer students, program expenses, community garden project</i>)	71,589	15,410	22%	Lower than expected due to staffing issues
Fiscal Services (<i>Debebture principal payments, transfer to reserves, district School Board Payment</i>)	583,063	493,250	85%	Higher than expected, School Board increase greater than expected, additional \$36,000 per year
Total Expenditures for General Operations	3,120,456	2,440,009	78%	this year

Water Operating Fund

Approved Budget for 2024/25 year	As of Jan 28,2025, 3rd quarter end, 75% of the year	Percentage Realized	Explanation Compare to last year at 75% of the year
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REVENUES

Metered Sales(OFF included)	534,933	444,819	83%	81%
Other Sales	174,936	179,811	103%	104%
Total Revenues for Water Operating	709,869	624,630	88%	

EXPENDITURES

Source, Power and Pumping Total	103,487	110,574	107%	63%
Treatment Total	74,635	64,321	86%	90%
Transmission and Distribution Total	114,690	94,510	82%	77%
Administration Total	154,525	91,945	60%	82% Waiting invoice for SKADA set up budgeted \$30,000
Other (Depreciation, Taxes, Fiscal, Reserve)	265,870	220,730	83%	84%
Total Expenditures for Water Operating	713,207	582,080	82%	

Revenues Compare to Last Year Same Time

	2023/24	2024/25	Increase (Decrease)
Metered Water/Base Charge	134,383	144,909	10,526
Metered Water/Consumption	28,528	27,473	-1,055
Metered Water/O.F.F. Base Charge	21,962	22,571	609
Metered Water/O.F.F. Consumption	248,088	249,866	1,778
Flat Rate Sales	8,657	9,425	768
Sale of Services	2,332	2,300	-32
	443,949	456,543	12,594
			3%

Town of Oxford CAPITAL BUDGET FOR 2024/25

Capital Projects Revenues

	Approved Budget	Added to Capital Budget	Expected by Year End	Capital Reserve
Revenue Land Sale	0	40,000	40,000	40,000
Revenue from Sale of Fire Truck	0	?	?	?

Capital Projects Expenses

General Capital -Buildings

	Approved Budget	Added to Capital Budget	Expected by Year End	Op Reserve	Capital Reserve	Gas Tax	Prov Grant	Other Grant	MFC Debt	Water Capital	Comments
Town Hall - Roof	50,000		44,353		44,353						\$5,647 Under estimated Budget Cost
Town Hall Heat & Cooling Generating Systems	35,000		34,154		19,686			14,467			Grant from NS power for \$14,467.17
Library-One Time fee	2,451		2,451	2,451							As per budget
Capitol Theatre-New furnace	15,000		6,779		6,779						\$8,221 Under estimated Budget Cost
Development costs-Preparation for land sale	0	14,843	14,843	14,843							Required to sell land
Update Asset Management Plan	0	12,000	12,000		6,000					6,000	Plan ready end of February required to plan for reserves

Transportation

Sidewalks	50,000		51,717		51,717						\$1,717 Over estimated Budget Cost
Paving	200,000		0								No funding available for 50 cent \$
Equipment Fleet-Zero Turn Mower	13,000		8,932		8,932						\$4,068 Under estimated Budget Cost
Public Works Heating System	14,000		0								In discussion
Public Works Storage Building -replacement	150,000		122,647		121,668						in progress Structure build, Electrical not completed

Sewer Additions

Waste Water Pump	10,000		0								not required this year
Waste Water LAGOON UV Light Replacement		23,148	23,148		23,148						Unexpected replacement

Protective Services

Fire Truck - Pending on agreement with County	1,000,000		1,003,550		3,550			100,000	900,000		\$3,550 Over estimated Budget Cost
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General Capital Total	1,539,451	49,991	1,324,573	17,294	285,833	0	0	114,467	900,000	6,000	
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Funding

Capital Projects Expenses	Approved Budget	Added to Capital Budget	Expected by Year End	Funding							Comments
				Op Reserve	Capital Reserve	Gas Tax	Prov Grant	Other Grant	MFC Debt	Water Capital	
Water Capital											
Watermain Replacement Foundry Street	1,860,054		1,280,719		291,217	219,898	640,360			129,245	\$458,991 under estimated budget cost
Replace water line on River Avenue	219,496		110,644				55,322			55,322	
Overruns Extra for Finding Valves Paving extra 15 feet	0		196,163				98,082			98,082	
Design cost for River Ave & Project Manager Cost			32,537				16,269			16,269	
Hydrant Replacement	5,000		0								Not required this Year
Water Rate Review		11,000	11,000							11,000	Require a rate review to maintain operations
Well #4 New Pump	0	56,625	56,625							56,625	Unexpected Replacement
Land Survey / Costs to buy Wellfield Property	60,000		0								post phone till 2025/26
Design plans for water across the highway	0	79,518	79,518				39,759	39,759			No Cost to Town
Water Capital Total	2,144,550	147,143	1,767,207	0	291,217	219,898	849,791	39,759	0	366,542	
Combined totals (General & Water)	3,684,001	197,134	3,091,780	17,294	577,050	219,898	849,791	154,226	900,000	372,542	

Total Cost for Foundry & River Avenue Watermain Replacement	1,667,949	100%
<i>Provincial Municipal Capital Growth Program</i>	810,032	49%
Municipal Town of Oxford Water Capital Reserves	322,859	19%
<i>Provincial Sustainable Services Growth Grant</i>	291,217	17%
<i>Federal Canada Community Building Fund (Gas Tax)</i>	219,898	13%
<i>Provincial Capital Assitance Program 2023/24</i>	23,942	1%

ALL SAINTS COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION

Regular Meeting

November 12th, 2024

9:30am

Board Room, All Saints Hospital

Present: Doug Marshall, Bob Spence, Mary-Lou Bourgeois, Eric Johnston, Richard Harrison, Wanda Smith, Rev'd Dr. Brian Spence, Ken Brownell, Linda Cloney, Carol Brown

Regrets: Archie St.Peter, Dr. Colette Sauveru,

1) Call to order: Chairman Doug Marshall called the meeting to order at 9:35am.

2) Approval of Agenda

MOTION

Ken Brownell/Linda Cloney

To approve Agenda as presented

CARRIED

3) Approval of Minutes:

MOTION

Mary-Lou Bourgeois/Richard Harrison

To accept the minutes of September 10th, 2024, as presented

CARRIED

4) Business arising from the minutes

- a) **Equipment Purchase Update** – The tv's invoice should be in anytime. Hopefully by year's end.
- b) **Parking lot/pathway** – Eric reported that paving will be done on the side street to the right of the building so some bad spots will be fixed in the parking lot. He intends to make all the closest spots handicap.
- c) **Deferred Revenue Contributions** – The X-Ray money (\$503.49) Eric is waiting to hear back from X-ray. The Cancer Support funds (\$3,483.83) – Melissa will have all the gas cards purchased by years end.

5) Reports:

- 1) **Eric Johnston** – Eric reported on what’s been going on at the hospital and he is picking away at making an equipment list for hospital needs. He reported we are now a Narcan site and the new evacuation site for the elementary school. Eric reported he will be off for a couple of months for medical reasons.
- 2) **Treasurer** – Mary-Lou reported on the Foundations finances.

MOTION

Ken Brownell/Wanda Smith

To accept the financial report as presented.

CARRIED

- 3) **Coordinator** – Melissa was in contact with Selena about the price of the audit and she explained the different forms of audits that can be performed. After some discussion the board agreed that a full audit is in the Foundations best interest. Melissa gave board members a copy of the bursary program report.

6) Correspondence: No Correspondence

7) New Business: Wanda reported that Lauren Davis from the GOVRC workshop will be volunteering at the hospital as part of the workshops job shadowing program.

8) Other: Next meeting is Tuesday January 14th, 2025 @ 9:30am.

9) Adjournment: Motion to adjourn this meeting was offered by Carol Brown.



Town of Oxford
Police Advisory Board

October 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

S/Sgt. Andrew Clarke

Town of Oxford

Calls for Service
October 1 – December 31, 2024

Criminal Code Offences

		Cleared by Charge	Cleared Other	Insufficient Evidence	Unfounded	SUI
Assault	5	1			3	1
Harassing Communication	1				1	
Disturbing the Peace	1			1		
Failure to Comply	2				2	
Forcible Confinement	1	1				
Fraud	2					2
Impaired	1				1	
Mischief	8	1		6	1	
Identity Theft	1				1	
Theft Other Motor Vehicle	2			2		
Theft	5		1	3		1
Uttering Threats	3			2		1
Total	32	3	1	14	9	5

Non-Criminal Code Offences

Motor Vehicle Act – Speeding	16
Off Road Vehicle Act	2
Traffic Collision	5
Check stops *	3
Other Provincial Traffic Offences	13
Firearms Act	2
Family Law Act	2
Mental Health Act	2
Criminal Justice Act	1
Suspicious Person/Vehicle/Property	10
Trespass Act	1
Assistance	7
Wellness Checks	4
Other non Criminal Code Offences	18
Total	86
Total Criminal Code and Non CC calls for Service	118

* Total individual Checkstops 3 – 193 Vehicles Checked

Oxford Detachment Occurrences

October 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

20241740348

Assault / Flight from Police: A call was received that a male just left a residence going towards Little River Rd after damaging property, assaulting the complainant and uttering threats. The suspect was driving a pick-up truck, possibly stolen, with back window smashed out. The suspect then texted that he was going to shoot his two dogs and himself. Suspect was located in Wentworth driving the pick-up and fled. A tire deflation device was utilized and a high-risk takedown was performed to get the subject into custody. The male suspect was held for court and appeared before a Judge the next morning. Suspect remains remanded in custody.

20241726673

Family Dispute: A call was received and a report made regarding a student, it was believed there would be custody issues with the student and the father of the baby. Members had dealt with both involved parties in the past and a FCS referral has been sent due to violence in the home and marijuana use around the baby. FCS is monitoring the matter. Reported for information purposes. No further issues reported.

20241709529

Forcible Confinement / Assault: A male attended the Oxford Detachment to report his wife had assaulted him and she is no herself. Statement obtained from this male who stated his wife grabbed him by the hair and punched him in the face. The suspect then took his phone away from him when attempting to call for help and while stopped him from leaving the house. Members located and arrested the suspect. When brought back to the detachment for processing, the suspect became unwell and EHS had to be called. Suspect was released on an Undertaking to appear in Provincial Court at a later date. Before the first appearance date the charges were withdrawn at court.

20241527453

Fraud: Complainant called reporting she works from home and uses a laptop. A pop up came up on the screen saying she was hacked and to contact Microsoft. The pop up referenced international sites and complainant gave "Microsoft" permission to share her screen, gave access to bank information and credit cards. Complainant to call and cancel bank card and credit cards. The matter is still under investigation.

20241724711

Threats: Com reports her step-brother is threatening com and other family members today and subject of complainant stated he is going to break every bone in complainant body, and stated " you don't know the people I deal with". Subject of complaint currently has an outstanding warrant of arrest. Complainant believes subject of complaint has access to firearms, unknown alcohol, may be high on meth, Officers on duty located subject of complainant on the property but he fled in a pick-up truck. Subject has since been arrested and remains in custody on other matters.

Cumberland County RCMP Resources

District Office:

District Commander: Staff Sergeant
Operations NCO: Sergeant
Community Policing officer: Constable
Domestic Violence Coordinator: 1 Public Servant
District Assistant: 1 Public Servant

Amherst Detachment:

NCO: Corporal (sick leave)
Investigators: 5 Constables (2 constables on FCP)
Detachment Administrative Support: 1 Public Servant

Oxford Detachment:

NCO: Corporal
Investigators: 4 Constables (1 constable on FCP)
Detachment Administrative Support: 1 Public Servant

Parrsboro Detachment:

NCO: Corporal
Investigators: 4 Constables, (1 vacancy, replacement arrives early 2025 from NWT)
Detachment Administrative Support: 1 Public Servant

Pugwash Detachment:

NCO: Corporal
Investigators: 3 Constables (1 vacancy, replacement from MB)
Detachment Administrative Support: 1 Public Servant

Springhill Detachment:

NCO: Sergeant
Investigators: 6 Constables, (1 on admin duties, 1 off duty sick)
Detachment Administrative Support: 1 Public Servant

Street Crime Unit:

NCO: Corporal
Investigators: 2 RCMP Constables and 2 Amherst Police Constables



THE MUNICIPALITY OF
CHESTER

Office of the Warden
The Municipality of Chester
151 King St, PO Box 369
Chester, NS B0J 1J0

Phone: (902) 275-3554
Fax: (902) 275-4771
www.chester.ca

f /ChesterMunicipality
t @chestermun

January 17, 2024

Minister John Lohr
Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing
14th Floor North, Maritime Centre
1505 Barrington Street
P.O. Box 216
Halifax NS B3J 2M4

Dear Minister Lohr:

On behalf of the Municipality of the District of Chester, I am writing to seek further clarification regarding Clause 14(2) of the Model Code of Conduct for Municipalities, which states:

A Council member must not give special consideration, treatment or advantage to an organization or group due to the Council member, or person closely connected to the Council member, being involved with the organization or group.

This clause raises questions regarding the permissible extent of involvement or membership that Council members may have with local organizations or groups, as well as the practical implications for their role in municipal decision-making.

Based on our current understanding a Council member must declare a conflict of interest and recuse themselves from deliberation and decision-making if they are involved with or a member of an organization or group that could benefit from Council decisions. Alternatively, they could choose to refrain from involvement or membership with such organizations or groups altogether to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

While we have adopted the Code of Conduct as required by the legislation, our concerns with the implication of this clause remain. We feel it is imperative that we express our objection to the restriction. The implications of this requirement are significant, particularly in small communities where Council members often play vital roles in local organizations, whether as volunteers or active members. These connections are often integral to maintaining close ties with the community and supporting its growth and development. The perceived restriction on membership or involvement with local organizations could discourage Council members from maintaining valuable community connections.

Additionally, we strongly disagree with the notion that Council members should be unable to participate in discussions related to community groups to which they belong. These discussions are often critical in representing community interests and ensuring informed

NOVA SCOTIA'S TREASURE

decision-making. Excluding Council members from such discussions could inadvertently limit their ability to fulfill their duties effectively and to advocate for the needs of their communities.

The requirement to declare a conflict of interest and recuse oneself from deliberations was seen as potentially limiting elected officials' ability to represent community interests effectively.

While the principles of transparency, fairness, and avoiding improper influence are essential, we respectfully request further clarification on the definition of "involvement" and the scope of recusal required under the clause to ensure proper interpretation and application of Clause 14(2).

We appreciate the province's commitment to ensuring accountability and integrity among elected officials and fully support the principles underlying the Code of Conduct. However, greater clarity on this clause will help ensure its consistent application and prevent unintended barriers to community engagement by elected officials.

We kindly request your response at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your guidance and further clarification.

Sincerely,



Allen Webber
Warden

CC NS Municipal Units (via email)
MLA Danielle Barkhouse



NOVA SCOTIA
FEDERATION OF
MUNICIPALITIES

NSFM Emphasizes Collaboration with Province on U.S. Tariff Concerns

Halifax, Nova Scotia – February 4, 2025 – As the collective voice for municipalities in the province, the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) expresses concern over the potential economic impact of U.S. tariffs on Canadian goods and underscores the importance of a strong, coordinated response.

NSFM proudly represents all 49 municipalities with over 370 municipally elected officials, and we stand with the government of Nova Scotia in working toward solutions that protect local economies, businesses, and workers across the province.

"Municipalities are at the heart of Nova Scotia's economy, fostering growth, innovation, and job creation," said NSFM President Pam Mood. "While we are encouraged by the 30-day delay in implementing these tariffs, the threat remains. Tariffs harm not only local businesses and supply chains but also the well-being of our communities. We are committed to working with the provincial government to ensure a unified response that safeguards our economic interests."

NSFM urges the federal and provincial governments to continue urgent discussions on reducing interprovincial trade barriers and diversifying trading partners to strengthen economic resilience. We remain actively engaged with provincial and federal partners to navigate this challenge. Coordination across all orders of government is essential to mitigate the impact of trade disruptions and ensure the long-term stability of our communities.

Additionally, we recognize the importance of fostering strong cross-border relationships and remain committed to advocating for the interests of Nova Scotia's municipalities in the face of shifting trade policies.

For more information, please contact:

Charlene Fekeshazy | Communications Advisor

Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

cfekeshazy@nsfm.ca | 902-266-2739

www.nsfm.ca



NOVA SCOTIA

Municipal Affairs Office of the Minister

PO Box 216, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2M4 • Telephone 902 424-5550 Fax 902 424-0581 • novascotia.ca

February 11, 2025

Dear Mayors and Wardens:

Recent events in our world are changing the landscape of our province and country. We are experiencing new fiscal challenges that will have a significant impact on our economy. It is clear we need to become more self-reliant. And, at the same time, we need to better integrate our economy with other Canadian provinces and territories.

Our Government has recently announced that Nova Scotia must say “yes” to both a reduction in inter-provincial trade barriers, and to resource development within our province. Both steps need to be taken carefully and in consultation with our communities. Resource development, in particular, is of incredible importance.

If you are supportive and agree, I am asking for you and your council to signal your support for greater resource development within our province - by letter or press release.

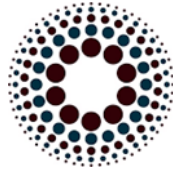
Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John A. Lohr".

Honourable John A. Lohr
Minister of Municipal Affairs

c: Chief Administrative Officers
Juanita Spencer, NSFM



Delivered via email

February 12, 2025

RE: Letter from Honourable John Lohr (February 11)

Hello Elected Municipal Officials,

With regard to the letter received by Mayors and Wardens from the Honourable John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs, dated February 11 (a copy is enclosed for your reference), we recognize that this letter raises important questions and want to let you know that we are actively seeking clarity on these matters. Our goal is to provide you with the insights needed to make informed decisions on these complex issues.

NSFM is aware that there are possible impacts on each municipality, and on you as elected officials, and that more information is needed before you can respond to the request put forth. Know that we are working with the Province to gather that information. Specifically, we are focused on the call for greater resource development within Nova Scotia and the reduction of inter-provincial trade barriers and what this means. We know both are important as we move forward as a province. With regard to the resource development, it is imperative we are clear on the ask and that the Province is aware of limitations, for example, on protection of our watersheds and other water sources, so that we can all move forward together in the best way.

We remain committed to supporting all Nova Scotia municipalities. Through collaboration and open communication, we can leverage our collective strength to navigate these challenges in a way that benefits our communities and benefits the province as a whole. A win-win.

We will reach out as we have further information.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us at info@nsfm.ca. Hoping this helps!

Sincerely,

Pam Mood
President
Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities