



Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting

Place: Council Chambers, Zoom, streamed live to Facebook
Date: Wednesday, May 28, 2025
Presiding Officer: Mayor Greg Henley
Councillor Present: Deputy Mayor Carla Black and Councillors Brenton Colborne, Olivia Canning-Sweet, Padraic Moore, Paul Jones, and Chrystal McNutt.
Councillors Regrets: Nil

A quorum was present throughout the meeting.

Staff in attendance: Linda Cloney – CAO, Ruthann Brookins – Manager of Finance, and Stan McDougall - Admin Assistant (recording secretary).

Gallery (media and public) in attendance: Mark Rushton - Hello Oxford/Radio for Hope Centre.

Prior to calling the meeting to order, Mayor Henley announced that it was Access Awareness Week and thanked all volunteers, council members, staff and volunteer members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for their time, achievements, and commitment to raise awareness about accessibility and disability issues.

1. **Call to Order**

Mayor Henley called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and welcomed Mark Rushton in the gallery.

2. Approval of Agenda, Page 1

Moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor McNutt, that the agenda of the Regular Council Meeting for May 28, 2025, be approved, as presented.

Motion Carried

**3. Approval of Minutes – Regular Council Meeting – April 23, 2025, Pages 2-8
Special Council Meeting – May 14, 2025, Pages 9 - 11**

Approved by _____


Mayor Greg Henley, on May 28, 2025

4. Business

4.1 RFD – Draft Town of Oxford Accessibility Plan, Pages 12 – 27

Linda provided an update to Council on the draft accessibility plan, which had been revised for grammar, spelling and clear language to align with the Nova Scotia mandate. Various professionals, staff, and the volunteers of the Accessibility Committee have all worked on this plan. The Accessibility Committee have made a motion to recommend to the Council to approve the draft Town of Oxford Accessibility Plan as presented.

Moved by Councillor McNutt and seconded by Councillor Jones to accept the Town of Oxford Accessibility Plan as presented.

Motion Carried.

4.2 RFD – Draft Operating and Capital 2025 / 2026 Budgets, Pages 28 – 49

Ruthann provided an overview of the final draft Operating and Capital budgets for 2025-2026, which the Council had been reviewing for the previous two weeks.

It was reported that a 2.3% CPI increase was used throughout the budget and a 3.9% increase in tax revenue due to property valuations increases overall in the Town of Oxford this budget year.

Motion #1 – General Operating Budget

Moved by Councillor McNutt and seconded by Councillor Jones that the Council accepts the General Operating Budget as presented for April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026, for the sum of \$3,322,978. The estimates of the sums were prepared in accordance with Section 72 of the Municipal Government Act.

Further resolved that the Deed Transfer Tax will remain the same at 1.5% and;

Further resolved that the Town Council hereby authorizes the levying and collection of a rate for the current year of \$4.2804 per \$100 on the value of the property assessed in the assessment roll as Commercial property and \$1.7874 per \$100 on the value of the property assessed in the assessment roll as Residential and Resource property, and \$0.25 on the value of the property assessed in the assessment roll as Forest Acreage under 50,000 and;

Further resolved that the Sewer rates will remain the same and they are as follows:

SEWR Sewer Flat Rate	\$325.00	
SW 2 Sewer Flat Rate Sen #1	\$4,875.00	
SW01 Oxford Frozen Foods Rate	\$15,725.00	
SW10 Sewer Flat Rate	\$325.00	
SW12 Sewer Flat Rate	\$487.00	
SW13 Sewer Flat Rate	\$569.00	
SW14 Sewer Flat Rate	\$650.00	
SW15 Sewer Flat Rate	\$731.00	
SW16 Sewer Flat Rate	\$812.00	
SW17 Sewer Flat Rate	\$975.00	
SW18 Sewer Flat Rate	\$1,381.00	
SW19 Sewer Flat Rate	\$1,137.00	
SW20 Sewer Flat Rate	\$1,300.00	
SW21 Sewer Flat Rate	\$1,462.00	
SW22 Sewer Flat Rate Sen #2	\$3,635.00	
SW23 Apt Complex OES	\$6,337.00	
SW25 OREC Sewer Rate	\$7,812.00	
SW28 Oxford Frozen Foods Office Building 05979188		\$974.00

and;

Further resolved that an interest rate of 1.5% per month, or 18% per annum, compounded, be charged on the 2025/2026 tax bills that interest charges are applied on the first day of each month for outstanding amounts.

Mayor Henley – Yes

Councillor McNutt – Yes

Councillor Black – Yes

Councillor Canning-Sweet – Yes

Councillor Colborne – Yes

Councillor Moore – Yes

Councillor Jones - Yes

Motion Carried

Motion #2 – Capital Budget

Moved by Deputy Mayor Black and seconded by Councillor Moore that the Council accepts the Capital Budget as presented for April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026, for the sum of \$516,429.

Mayor Henley – Yes

Councillor McNutt – Yes

Councillor Black – Yes

Councillor Canning-Sweet – Yes

Councillor Colborne – Yes

Councillor Moore – Yes

Councillor Jones - Yes

Motion Carried

Motion #3 – Water Operating Budget

Moved by Councillor Canning-Sweet and seconded by Deputy Mayor Black, that the Council accepts the Water Operating Budget as presented for April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026, for the sum of \$821,550. The estimates presented are based on rates to be approved by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board in July 2025. The proposed rates are as follows:

April 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025

Water Base Charges (Quarterly)

Unmetered (based on 15,000 imp. gal. per quarter) \$109.55

Size of Meter

5/8"	\$80.30
3/4"	\$117.84
1"	\$192.92
1.5"	\$380.61
2"	\$605.85
3"	\$1206.47
4"	\$1882.18
6"	\$3759.14

Consumption Rate (per 1000 Imp. Gallons) \$1.95 per 1000 Imp. Gallons

Minimum Bill - The minimum bill shall be the Base Charge.

AND

Proposed rates

October 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026

Water Base Charges (Quarterly)

Unmetered (based on 15,000 imp. gal. per quarter) \$135.02

Size of Meter

5/8"	\$87.96
3/4"	\$128.82
1"	\$210.54
1.5"	\$414.83
2"	\$605.85
3"	\$1,313.75
4"	\$2,049.22
6"	\$4,092.21

Consumption Rate (per 1000 Imp. Gallons) \$1.95 per 1000 Imp. Gallons

Minimum Bill - The minimum bill shall be the Base Charge.

Mayor Henley – Yes

Councillor McNutt – Yes

Councillor Black – Yes

Councillor Canning-Sweet – Yes

Councillor Colborne – Yes

Councillor Moore – Yes

Councillor Jones - Yes

Motion Carried

5. Correspondence

nil

6. In-Camera

6.1 acquisition, sale, lease and security of municipal property

At 6:54 PM it was moved by Councillor McNutt and seconded by Councillor Jones to go in-camera to discuss the acquisition, sale, lease and security of municipal property.

Motion Carried

At 7:11 PM it was moved by Councillor Colborne and seconded by Councillor Jones to come out of in-camera and resume the Regular Council Meeting.

Motion Carried

Upon coming out of in-camera, Linda discussed that the Council had received a letter of request from Al and Maxine Clarke of Oxford, requesting the town's permission to use a portion of the town land that is adjacent to the Braggs-owned land in the "Bunny Trail" area to extend and create an additional small trail around the sink holes that are visible in this area of land. The trail would go from the sewer lagoon to the red bridge look out. The proposed trail has been flagged and that is when it was noted that the land included a portion owned by the town.

Moved by Councillor McNutt and seconded Deputy Mayor Black by to approve the request for Bunny Trail development as presented.


Motion Carried

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM



Greg Henley, Mayor, Chair



Stan McDougall, Admin Assistant

06-25-2025

Date Approved

