

**Town of North Rustico
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
Monday January 12, 2026 at 6:30PM**

PRESENT:**Mayor****Councillors****Staff****Others**

Heather McKenna

Margaret Goulding, Donna Coll, David LeClair, Linda McFalls,
Lana Penman and Michelle PineauStephanie Moase, Sheri Prosser Dykstra, John Anthony
Langdale**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Heather McKenna called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Councillor David LeClair and seconded by Councillor Lana Penman that the agenda be approved as presented.

(5-0) MOTION CARRIED

(2026-01-001)

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

4. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Donna Coll and seconded by Councillor Margaret Goulding that the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting November 3, 2025, be approved as presented.

(5-0) MOTION CARRIED

(2026-01-002)

4.1 Business Arising from the Minutes

The First aid class at the school was full, Council members are interested in joining a course depending on costs. Margaret will look into it.

The CAO has been getting feedback from multiple municipalities regarding the Province's proposed regulations for ATV's. The issue all comes down to enforcement. Most municipalities do not have the ability to enforce issues of ATV's that may be driving recklessly or outside of a proposed bylaw. They are afraid of the possible implications of taking on this role that should be properly policed.

5. DELEGATIONS & SPECIAL SPEAKERS- NIL

6. REPORTS

6.1 Wellness Centre GM Report

John Anthony presented his report. Options are still being reviewed for the venting for the canteen. There continues to be roadblocks as the kitchen location presents problems not being on an outside wall, being under major plumbing from the gym changing rooms and roof penetrations requiring practical and safe access points for servicing. Getting quotes for a non ducted option. New displays and cabinets are ready to be installed in the canteen to allow for better storage of stock and better merchandising to free up space for items such as a hotdog machine. There has been an issue with loss of glycol in the refrigeration/HVAC system, appears to be associated with heating, staff has been reviewing with an HVAC company to find the root cause.

John Anthony left the meeting at 7:04pm

6.2 CAO Report

Council reviewed the report. The MSC funding for the Simon Dr Sewer and Water extension, has been denied, CAO will re-apply for the March 27th intake. Still awaiting confirmation of CHIF funding for the Sewer and Water Capacity modelling project. Hoping to have the IRAC filing complete for February for the rate increase.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Sewer and Water Utility Board

Brad Paugh has taken over as operator for the Sewer and Water, thank-you to Preston and good luck in your retirement!! Brad continues to work with Lenny to get up to speed on our systems and will be meeting regularly with David and Stephanie to ensure a smooth transition. Discussed water testing grid, will be new areas added. There was a pipe broken inside a settling tank that was repaired this week.

7.2 Planning Board

The committee will continue to review the bylaw. Thanks to Climatatlantic for funding a planning risk and liability session with planner Hope Parnham scheduled for Jan 22 2026, hoping all Council and Planning Board can attend. Council reviewed the permit report for November, there were no permits issued in December.

7.3 Recreation & Events Committee

Chair Margaret Goulding presented her reports. Two of the carriage rides were unfortunately cancelled due to weather but the one that went forward was very much enjoyed. Began working on Canada Day already, the theme will be Just for Kicks! North Rustico Celebrates the FIFA World Cup of Soccer.

Councillor Michelle Pineau joined the meeting at 7:30pm

7.4 Wellness Centre Advisory Committee

Chair Michelle Pineau provided a verbal report. It was her first meeting so she was getting up to speed. Committee discussed the success of the Legends game fundraiser and what fundraisers are ongoing and coming up.

7.5 EMO Committee

Chair Linda McFalls presented her report. Council discussed the option of additional signage for the reception centre, there is currently a sign on the Lions Club building, Linda will check with Ben at the Lions Club to see if something can be added to the road sign.

7.6 Finance & Infrastructure Committee

Council reviewed the November financials and the draft 2026-2027 budget. Sewer and water maintenance costs remain high; there is not enough coming in to budget higher maintenance costs. Sewer and water have not been raised since 2008 and 2013. CAO is working on an IRAC request for an increase. The property tax grant in lieu for municipal properties has been added into the budget, by request of MRSB. The Wellness Centre continues to make gains in revenue, not showing deficit each month. The Town continues to provide an operational grant The Fire Dept has had some new members in the last year so training costs were higher. The Town is requesting a deferral on the FPEI loan for another year.

7.7 North Rustico Lighthouse Committee- No meeting

CAO is still awaiting PSPC review of the lighthouse, currently doing an assessment value of the lighthouse. Another meeting will be called when we have more information.

7.8 Wellness Centre Fundraising Committee

Some feedback from residents was that the Bingo night on Thursday coincides with darts. May change the day to Sunday. The lobster shanty dinner will also go ahead again this year with adding in a boat ride.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Rate Review of Maturing Loans

Sheri provided Council with information on the four existing loans coming up for renewal in February. Changing amortization periods would re-write the loan and may cause issues with higher monthly payments. Unfortunately three of the loans were from when rates were very low and now will go from 2.37% to 4.84% interest.

It was moved by Councillor David LeClair and seconded by Councillor Margaret Goulding that the following four loans be renewed for 5 years at 4.84% and further approve the CAO and Mayor complete contracts required to fulfill this resolution.

Loan	Current Balance	Current Rate	Monthly Payment
Arena	\$666,541.19	4.85% (1-yr)	\$3,914.90
Sewer	\$1,014,439.14	2.37% (5-yr)	\$5,572.98
Water	\$359,836.02	2.37% (5-yr)	\$2,242.79
Town	\$92,858.24	2.36% (5-yr)	\$624.39

**(5-0) MOTION CARRIED
(2026-01-003)**

8.2 Council Additional Meetings Budget

The CAO reviewed the budget lines for Council attending meetings and trainings held outside the municipality. The budget has been increased each year but as Council interest in learning grows, the budget is being used up quickly. Municipal Affairs suggested creating a policy for a specific number of meetings per council member per year. It is a difficult balance as no one wants to stifle learning but staying on budget is a concern. It was also asked whether the mileage rate also included travel time. Council to think about this and advise. CAO will draft a policy regarding number of hours per councillor.

8.3 Park Wooden Boardwalk Replacement

The Council discussed a proposal from CBCL for the engineering portion for renewing the pathways inside Seawalk Park. As there was additional ACOA funding this is being treated as an extension or phase 2 of the Boardwalk project. CBCL has suggested to keep costs low, to use the same contractor to complete phase 2 by extending their contract and reducing engineering costs by not having to create a whole new contract. Council agreed with this approach and CBCL will contact the contractor to see if they are available for an extension.

8.4 Council Remuneration Review

Council has chosen to table this review until after the 2026 census is completed.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Fireworks Letter

Council reviewed the letter and requested that the events committee and staff ensure that the fireworks are well advertised so people can prepare and staff to put out messaging about the harms of non licensed fireworks displays.

9.2 Pumpkin Lane Letter

Council reviewed the thank you letter from the Gulf Shore Community Health Corporation. It was a lovely community event that was greatly enjoyed.

10. NEXT MEETING—Monday February 3, 2026, at 6:30PM

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Councillor Donna Coll and seconded by Councillor Lana Penman that the meeting be adjourned at 7:45PM.

(6-0) MOTION CARRIED
(2026-01-004)

Mayor Heather McKenna

Date

CAO Stephanie Moase

Date