

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Council Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2025

2:00 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers

Council

Mayor Cecil P. Clarke

Councillor Gordon MacDonald

Councillor Earlene MacMullin

Councillor Esmond "Blue" Marshall (arrived at 2:04 p.m.)

Councillor Steve Gillespie

Councillor Glenn Paruch

Deputy Mayor Eldon MacDonald

Councillor Steve Parsons

Councillor Steven MacNeil

Councillor Dave MacKeigan

Councillor Paul Nickituk

Councillor Darren O'Quinn

Councillor Kim Sheppard-Campbell

Staff

Demetri Kachafanas, KC, Chief Administrative Officer

Christa Dicks, Municipal Clerk / Director of Corporate Information Services

Jennifer Campbell, Chief Financial Officer

Tyson Simms, Director of Planning and Development

Mark Bettens, Fire Chief and Director of Fire and Emergency Services

Bruce MacDonald, Emergency Management Office Manager

Sean Tobin, Chief of Staff

Matt Lever, Emergency Management Consultant

Toni Delorenzo, Principle Secretary, Mayor's Office

Christina Lamey, Manager of Communications

Karen Neville, Senior Planner

Cory Youden, Manager of Engineering Services

Jenna MacQueen, Communications Advisor

Spencer Merrill, Information Technology Technician

Alex MacAulay, Manager of 911

Kelly McDonald, Administrative Assistant, Clerk's Department

Yuecong Cao, Recording Secretary

The following does not represent a word for word record of the proceedings of this meeting. The agenda, reports, supporting documents, information items circulated, and video (if available) are online at www.cbrm.ns.ca.

Mayor Cecil P. Clarke called the meeting to order.

Land Acknowledgement

Roll Call

O' Canada

1. Approval of Agenda

Mayor mentioned representatives from the WellINS research team were unable to attend and students from Cape Breton University are in attendance to present on their trip to Poland.

Motion

Moved by Councillor Parsons, seconded by Councillor Paruch, to approve the April 8, 2025, council agenda and addendum as presented.

Motion Carried

2. Approval of Minutes

Mayor Clarke noted the council minutes from March 18, 2025, will be circulated for the next CBRM council meeting due to some edits required.

Motion

Moved by Councillor Gordon, seconded by Deputy Mayor Eldon MacDonald, to approve the CBRM minutes from:

- Special Council Stakeholder Session Minutes – March 5, 2025
- Council Budget Session Minutes – March 6, 2025

Motion Carried

3. Proclamations & Resolutions**3.1 National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week****Motion**

Moved by Councillor Gillespie, seconded by Councillor Paruch, that CBRM Mayor Clarke and Council hereby proclaim the week of April 13th to 19th 2025, as "National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week" in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality and recognize the vital work of 911 Operators as First Responders encouraging increased awareness and understanding of the indispensable role played by 911 Operators; and express its deepest gratitude and appreciation to all 911 Operators within our municipality for their unwavering dedication, professionalism, and commitment to public safety.

Motion Carried**3.2 Emergency Preparedness Week****Motion**

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor O'Quinn, that CBRM Mayor Cecil P. Clark and Council proclaim the week of May 4th - 10th, 2025, as "Emergency Preparedness Week" in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality to promote public understanding and awareness of emergency preparedness issues and to educate CBRM residents of emergency risks in their community and how to prepare their home and family for potential emergencies. **Motion Carried**

3.3 Gaelic Nova Scotia Month**Motion**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Eldon MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Gillespie, that CBRM Mayor Cecil P. Clarke and Council proclaim May 2025, as "Gaelic Nova Scotia Month" in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality and invite all residents to a flag-raising ceremony at City Hall on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

Motion Carried

3.4 World Lupus Day

Motion

Moved by Councillor Sheppard-Campbell, seconded by Councillor O'Quinn, that CBRM Mayor Cecil P. Clarke and Council proclaim May 10th, 2025, as "World Lupus Day" in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Motion Carried

3.5 Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Awareness Month

Motion

Moved by Councillor O'Quinn, seconded by Councillor Nickituk, that CBRM Mayor Cecil P. Clarke and Council proclaim May 2025, as "Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month" in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality, and all residents are invited to a flag-raising ceremony at City Hall on Friday, May 23rd, at 12:00 p.m. to show solidarity and support for those affected by multiple sclerosis.

Motion Carried

3.6 Internal Audit Awareness Month

Motion

Moved by Councillor MacMullin, seconded by Councillor Gordon MacDonald, that CBRM Mayor Cecil P. Clarke and Council proclaim May 2025, as "Internal Audit Awareness Month" in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Motion Carried

3.7 Melanoma and Skin Care Awareness Month

Motion

Moved by Councillor Nickituk, seconded by Councillor Paruch, that CBRM Mayor Cecil P. Clarke and Council proclaim May 2025, as "Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month" in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Motion Carried

3.8 Lyme Disease Awareness Month

Motion

Moved by Councillor Gordon MacDonald, seconded by Deputy Mayor Eldon MacDonald, that CBRM Mayor Cecil P. Clarke and Council proclaim May 2025, as "Lyme Disease Awareness Month" in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Motion Carried

3.9 Recognizing Captain Jeff MacKinnon and "Death Coast"

Motion

Moved by Councillor Gillespie, seconded by Councillor Gordon MacDonald, that CBRM Mayor Cecil P. Clarke, on behalf of Council and the residents of CBRM, does hereby recognize and commend Captain Jeff MacKinnon and his elite dive team for their exemplary contributions to historical preservation, maritime research, and community pride in showcasing the legacy of the "Death Coast."

Motion Carried

4. Presentations

4.1 CBU Presentation: Student's Trip to Poland

Cape Breton University representatives and students presented about their trip to Bucha, Poland. Discussion took place regarding the Polish Municipal Government System, educational initiatives, economic initiatives, and social development initiatives. A student read a letter from Mayor Roman Szełemej of Wałbrzych to express gratitude for the partnership and collaboration between Wałbrzych and CBRM.

For information only.

5. Business Arising**5.1 First Reading:****i) Annual Amendments to CBRM's Land Use By-law**

Senior Planner Karen Neville presented the Cape Breton Regional Municipality's Land Use By-law and recommendation to Council. The following motion was put forward:

Motion

Moved by Councillor MacMullin, seconded by Councillor Paruch, to approve the proposed amendments to the CBRM Forward Land Use By-Law, as set out in Attachment A, which is included in the April 8, 2025, council meeting agenda, and to direct staff to schedule a public hearing.

Motion Carried**5.2 Land Expropriation – PID 15006901, New Waterford**

Cory Youden, Manager of Engineering Services, reviewed the report and recommendation to Council. The following motion was put forward:

Motion

Moved by Councillor O'Quinn, seconded by Deputy Mayor Eldon MacDonald, to approve to proceed with the expropriation of PID 15006901 to advance the construction of the collector sewer project and ensure uninterrupted service delivery.

Discussion:

- Property value and appraisal
- Proximity to short line

Motion Carried

Councillor Gillespie was not present to vote for the above motion.

**5.3 Boundary Review for Reinstalment of French Road Area
in CBRM District 7**

Councillor Parsons reviewed the council agenda request and recommendation to Council. The following motion was put forward:

Motion

Moved by Councillor Parsons, seconded by Deputy Mayor Eldon MacDonald, to direct staff to open discussion regarding the area of French Road that was recently realigned before the last municipal election be reviewed by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board for reinstatement back into CBRM District 7.

Motion Carried

Councillor Gillespie was not present to vote for the above motion.

5.4 Snow Clearing of Provincial Roadways in Suburban Areas

Councillor Parsons reviewed the council agenda request and recommendation to Council. The following motion was put forward:

Motion

Moved by Councillor Parsons, seconded by Councillor Gordon MacDonald, to direct staff when the time arrives that open the discussion surrounding a new Service Agreement with the Province, that standards of snow clearing and maintenance be enforced as they are for all provincial roads regardless who is awarded the contract by Provincial Public Works Department.

Motion Carried

Councillor Gillespie was not present to vote for the above motion.

5.5 Improved Cellular Service

Mayor Clarke reviewed the council agenda request and recommendation to Council. The following motion was put forward:

Motion

Moved by Deputy Mayor Eldon Macdonald, seconded by Councillor MacMullin, to direct staff to request Build Nova Scotia to improve cellular service connectivity and capacity within the Municipality (Cape Breton County), including the three highest traffic volume roadways with unreliable service:

- Sydney – Glace Bay Highway – Reserve Mines / Sydney Airport; and
- Route 4 – the Meadows / Kings Road; and
- Highway 125 – Campbell's Hill / Balls Creek / Leitches Creek

Motion Carried

5.6 Traffic Safety Act Consultation Process

Mayor Clarke reviewed the council agenda request and recommendation to Council. The following motion was put forward:

Motion

Moved by Councillor Gillespie, seconded by Councillor Paruch, to direct staff to register the Municipality's interest in participating in the Government of Nova Scotia's Traffic Safety Act consultation process, and to report back to Council with any relevant findings or recommendations arising from these discussions.

Discussion:

- Offer of support by Council Parsons

Motion Carried

6. CORPORATE SERVICES

6.1 Contract Approval

Municipal Clerk Christa Dicks reviewed the council agenda request and recommendation to Council. Discussion took place regarding a licensing contract with Microsoft.

Motion

Moved by Deputy Mayor Eldon MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Sheppard-Campbell, to direct staff to enter into a three-year licensing contract with Microsoft.

Discussion:

- Contract value
- Multi-year approval / approval in previous budget

Motion Carried

7. Financial Statements

7.1 CBRM Financial Statements to February 28, 2025

For information only.

Meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Cecil P. Clarke

Mayor

Christa Dicks

Municipal Clerk

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