

## **Cape Breton Regional Municipality**

Special Council Stakeholder Session Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2025

6:02 p.m. via Videoconferencing

### **Council**

Mayor Cecil P. Clarke

Councillor Gordon MacDonald

Councillor Earlene MacMullin

Councillor Steve Gillespie

Deputy Mayor Eldon MacDonald

Councillor Glenn Paruch

Councillor Steven MacNeil

Councillor Dave MacKeigan

Councillor Paul Nickituk

Councillor Darren O'Quinn

### **Staff**

Demetri Kachafanas, KC, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

Christa Dicks, Director of Corporate Information Services / Municipal Clerk

Jennifer Campbell, Chief Financial Officer

Wayne MacDonald, Chief Engineer

Ray Boudreau, Director of Water and Wastewater

John Phalen, Director of Public Works

Stephen MacKinnon, Deputy Chief of Police

### **Absent**

Councillor Esmond "Blue" Marshall (regrets)

Councillor Steve Parsons (regrets)

Councillor Kim Sheppard-Campbell (regrets)

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](http://www.cbrm.ns.ca).

**Mayor Cecil P. Clarke called the meeting to order.**

**Roll Call**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**1. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion**

Moved by Councillor Gordon MacDonald, seconded by Deputy Mayor Eldon MacDonald, to approve the March 5, 2025, special council agenda as presented.

**Motion Carried**

**2. Presentations**

**2.1 Cleaner, Safer, and Happier Communities**

Meghan Richardson provided a presentation titled, "Cleaner, Safer, and Happier Communities". Topics of the presentation included goals, introduction and history, quick facts, psychology of littering, clean Europe strategy, and CBRM Community Action Team's role. Discussion took place regarding potential future projects and the importance of public engagement and education.

**2.2 2024 Service-Based Homelessness Count**

Catherine Leviten-Reid, Cape Breton University Associate Professor, provided a presentation titled, "2024 Service-Based Homelessness Count". Topics of the presentation included methods, results, homelessness by County, types of homelessness, who is experiencing homelessness, and barriers to accessing stable housing. Discussion took place regarding count results, survey questions, barriers that cause homelessness, and advocacy support.

**2.3 Washbrook Greenway Trail – Detailed Design and Construction**

Stephanie Johnstone-Laurette, Treasurer of Washbrook Greenway Coalition, and Stacy Muise, EXP Senior Engineer and Project Manager, provided a

presentation titled, "Washbrook Greenway Trail – Detailed Design and Construction". Topics of the presentation included who Washbrook Greenway Coalition is, key activities completed, project funding sources, design overview, and cost estimates. Discussion took place regarding reasons for hard surface trails, funding sources and statuses, storm data, and design criteria.

#### **2.4 Capital Budget Presentation**

Wayne MacDonald, Chief Engineer, provided the Capital Budget Plan for 2025-26. Topics of the presentation included prioritization framework, cash flow summary, project summary, linear assets, linear infrastructure projects, the Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development (GRID) program, housing infrastructure projects, wastewater and stormwater projects, parks and facilities projects, solid waste go forward plan, transit and fleet initiatives, and information technology projects. Chief Engineer MacDonald reviewed the final estimated financing sheet. Jennifer Campbell, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), reviewed the capital budget draft motions that will be recommended during the 2025-26 CBRM Special Council Budget Deliberations meeting.

#### **2.5 Operating Budget Presentation**

CFO Campbell provided the Proposed Operating Budget for 2025-26. Topics of the presentation included additional positions to improve public safety and service delivery, departmental realignment, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), equipment and software upgrades, tax rates, rate summary, tax revenues, grants in lieu of taxes, provincial grants, municipal services funding, fines and fees for service, administrative revenues, expenditures by department, and expenditures by type. CFO Campbell reviewed the capital budget draft motions that will be recommended during the 2025-26 CBRM Special Council Budget Deliberations meeting.

Ray Boudreau, Director of Water and Wastewater, provided the Water and Wastewater Department Budget Overview presentation. Topics of the presentation included water operations, water utility assets, the proposed water operating budget, water revenue sources, wastewater operations overview, wastewater asset summary, the proposed wastewater operating budget, wastewater revenue sources, highlights for water and wastewater proposed budgets, organizational structure, upcoming budget challenges, and the draft motion that will be recommended during the 2025-26 CBRM Special Council Budget Deliberations meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.**

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**Cecil P. Clarke**  
**Mayor**

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**Christa Dicks**  
**Municipal Clerk**  
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