



A Special Meeting of Town Council for the Town of Mahone Bay was held on Friday, October 21, 2022 at 9:04 am. in council chambers and broadcast via YouTube live.

Present:

Mayor D. Devenne (virtual)  
Deputy Mayor F. Kangata (Chair)  
Councillor P. Carver  
Councillor J. Feeney  
Councillor R. Nowe (virtual)  
Councillor K. Wilson  
CAO, D. Heide

Absent:

Gallery: In-person gallery 2 & Online

### Land Acknowledgement

Let us begin by acknowledging that we are gathered today in Mi'kma'ki. The ancestral, present and future territory of the Mi'kmaw people. Today, we gather with the intent followed by the living Peace and Friendship Treaties - with respect, cooperation and coexistence.

### 1. Agenda

A motion by Councilor Feeney, seconded by Councilor Carver, "THAT the agenda be approved as submitted." Motion carried.

### 2. Reports

#### 2.1 Easement Valuation Report

Council received a presentation from Nigel Turner of Turner Drake and Partners Inc. regarding the third-party valuation report prepared for the easements for the solar garden distribution line.

## 2.2 Staff Report – Electrical Utility Rate Study and Application

Council received a presentation from Paula Zarnett and Trent Winstone of BDR International Inc to speak to the Electric Utility Rate study that their firm has recently completed, as well as their recommended application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) for a rate increase for the Mahone Bay Electric Utility based primarily on the global energy and fuel increases.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Wilson, “THAT Council accept the rate study as presented.” Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Carver, “THAT Council approve an application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board for an overall increase of 34.8% in electrical rates, applied uniformly to all users, effective on January 1, 2023 and direct the CAO to submit the application.” Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Carver, “THAT Council direct staff to develop a press release outlining the application to the NSUARB including the rationale for the proposed increase.” Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, Councillor Carver, “THAT Council direct staff to investigate the opportunity to leverage the Town’s existing HOME Program to assist residents who are experiencing increasing heating costs in converting away from fossil fuels.” Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Carver, “THAT Council direct staff to investigate financial options to assist those experiencing financial hardship due to the increased costs of electricity and home heating fuel.” Motion carried.

## 3. Plan Mahone Bay

Council discussed scheduling future meetings of the Plan Mahone Bay Steering Team to enable review of the latest round of draft documents before they are released to the public for the second round of public engagement.

Council adjourned upon motion at 10:46 am.

TOWN OF MAHONE BAY

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Mayor, David Devenne

CAO, Dylan Heide