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The Regular Meeting of Town Council for the Town of Mahone Bay was held on Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 7:03 p.m. in Council Chambers and broadcast via YouTube live.

**Present:**

Mayor S. Lohnes-Croft  
Deputy Mayor J. Feeney  
Councillor K. Boon  
Councillor P. Carver  
Councillor K. McCarron  
Councillor K. Wilson  
CAO, D. Heide

**Absent:**

Councillor B. Palfreyman (with regrets)  
Town Clerk, K. Munroe (with regrets)

Online & in-person gallery

**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.

**Call to Order**

**Swearing in of New Council Members**

CAO Dylan Heide provided Council with the report of the 2026 Special Election.

Kevin Boon and Katherine McCarron swore an oath of allegiance of office to Mayor Lohnes-Croft.

**1. Agenda**

A motion by Councillor McCarron, seconded by Councillor Boon, **“THAT the agenda be approved as amended to add item 6.8 Paul LaFleche, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs – 2026/27 Provincial Budget, 9.4 Policy & Strategy Committee Draft Meeting Minutes – February 23, 2026, and 10.1 Provincial Budget and Fire Services.”**

**Motion carried.**

## **2. Minutes**

A motion by Deputy Mayor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Carver, **“THAT the minutes of the February 10, 2026 meeting of Council be approved as amended to correct the meeting end time.”** **Motion carried.**

## **3. Announcements by Council Members**

Deputy Mayor Feeney wished his wife Maryann a happy birthday.

Mayor Lohnes-Croft congratulated Barbara and Eric Miller on their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

## **4. Public Input Session**

No public input session.

## **5. Presentations**

No presentations.

## **6. Correspondence**

### 6.1 Rhiannon Visser

Council received correspondence from Rhiannon Visser with suggestions concerning the Town’s Temporary Vending Bylaw, specifically as it applies to food trucks.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor McCarron, **“THAT item 6.1 be referred to the Policy and Strategy Committee for consideration.”** **Motion carried.**

### 6.2 Marlene Dorey, Kidney Foundation of Canada, Atlantic Branch

Council received correspondence from Marlene Dorey requesting that the Kidney Foundation’s flag be flown on the Community Flagpole to mark Kidney Month and World Kidney Day, from March 12<sup>th</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Feeney, **“THAT Council permit the flying of the Kidney Foundation Flag on the Community Flagpole from March 12<sup>th</sup> until March 31<sup>st</sup>.”** **Motion carried.**

### 6.3 John Meisner, Chair, MICA

Council received correspondence from John Meisner, thanking them for the organizational grant provided to the association in 2025.

#### 6.4 Mahone Bay Founders Society

Council received correspondence from the Mahone Bay Founders Society to Deanne Chaulk, Regional Vice President of BMO Financial Group, with concerns about the future closing of the Mahone Bay Bank of Montreal branch.

#### 6.5 Tori Duffney

Council received correspondence from Tori Duffney requesting that the Town consider performing winter maintenance in Park Cemetery.

A motion by Deputy Mayor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Carver, **“THAT Council refer the request for winter maintenance in Park Cemetery to the Cemetery Committee for consideration.”** **Motion carried.**

#### 6.6 Honourable Kim Masland, Minister of Emergency Management

Council received correspondence and an associated Q&A document from Minister Masland concerning modernization of fire services in the province.

#### 6.7 Tim Merry, Mahone Bay United

Council received correspondence from Tim Merry requesting that Council provide a letter of support for the organization’s grant application to the Department of Community, Culture, Tourism and Heritage to install an irrigation system on the Mahone Bay Community Sports Field.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Boon, **“THAT Council direct staff to draft a letter of support for Mahone Bay United’s grant application to the Department of Community, Culture, Tourism and Heritage.”** **Motion carried.**

#### 6.8 Paul LaFleche, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs

Council received correspondence from Deputy Minister LaFleche with information about the province’s 2026/27 budget.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Feeney, **“THAT items 6.3, 6.4, 6.6 and 6.8 be received and filed.”** **Motion carried.**

### **7. Staff Reports**

#### 7.1 Staff Report to Council – February 26, 2026

Council received the February 26, 2026 Staff Report to Council.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor McCarron, **“THAT Council accept the February 26, 2026 Staff Report to Council for information.”** **Motion carried.**

## 7.2 Quarterly Statistics Report

Council received the 2025/26 third quarter statistics report.

## 7.3 Staff Report – Website & Public Alert System

Council received a staff report updating them on the current issues with the Town's website and public alert system and seeking Council's direction.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Carver, **“THAT Council direct staff to issue a request for proposals for the development of a new Town of Mahone Bay website.”** Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Wilson, **“THAT Council award the public notification system contract for 2026-27 to PEASI for their Alertable platform at a cost of \$1,000 for activation, plus \$3,950 annually.”** Motion carried.

## 7.4 Request for Decision – Plan Mahone Bay Housekeeping Amendments

Council received a request to allow for a variety of housekeeping amendments identified by staff within the living document of the Land Use Bylaw. Such a request requires amendments to the Land Use Bylaw (LUB) & Municipal Planning Strategy.

A motion by Deputy Mayor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Wilson, **“THAT Town Council direct staff to prepare a schedule of draft Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw amendments and related staff report for the Planning Advisory Committee.”** Motion carried.

## 7.5 Report of the Clerk – Public Hearing

Council received the Report of the Clerk for the Public Hearing held on February 24, 2026 concerning the new Seasonal Sales Area Bylaw and amendments to the Streets and Sidewalks Bylaw, Temporary Vending Bylaw and Special Events Bylaw

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Feeney, **“THAT Council give second reading to the Seasonal Sales Area Bylaw as presented, the amended Streets and Sidewalks Bylaw as amended, the amended Temporary Vending Bylaw as presented, and the Special Events Bylaw as amended.”** Motion carried.

## **8. Council Items**

### 8.1 Councillor Carver

Councillor Carver provided Council with the Lunenburg County Regional Accessibility budget for 2026/27.

A motion by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Boon, **“THAT Council approve the Lunenburg County Regional Accessibility budget for 2026/27 in the amount of \$156,237, with the Town of Mahone Bay's contribution being \$12,221.”** Motion carried.

## 8.2 Councillor Wilson

Councillor Wilson brought three items to Council for discussion, solar garden operations, changes to Planning & Development Services and arrangements between the Town's Electrical Utility and the Riverport Electric Light Commission

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Boon, **“THAT Council direct staff to produce a report on the solar garden operations detailing production and cost of production and provide to Council as soon as it is available and with all quarterly financial updates going forward.”** Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Carver, **“THAT Council direct staff to prepare a report analyzing the various alternatives for planning/development service delivery including pros and cons of each, cost implications for budget and implementation timing.”** Motion carried.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Feeney, **“THAT Council direct staff to review the arrangements in place between the Town's Electrical Utility and the Riverport Electric Light Commission and report to Council on the current status of these contractual arrangements and recommendations going forward.”** Motion carried.

## 8.3 Deputy Mayor Feeney

Deputy Mayor Feeney requested that Council officially appoint Councillor Carver as Council's Liaison to the Mahone Bay Communities in Bloom group.

A motion by Deputy Mayor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Wilson, **“THAT Council appoint Councillor Carver as Mahone Bay Town Council's Liaison to Mahone Bay – Communities in Bloom for 2026.”** Motion carried.

## **9. Committee Reports**

### 9.1 Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee

Council received the minutes of the October 1, 2025 meeting of the Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee.

### 9.2 South Shore Open Doors Association

Council received the December 2025 monthly report of the South Shore Open Doors Association.

### 9.3 South Shore Open Doors Association

Council received the January 2026 monthly report of the South Shore Open Doors Association.

A motion by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Boon, **"THAT items 9.1 – 9.3 be received for information."** **Motion carried.**

9.4 Policy and Strategy Committee

Council received the draft minutes from the February 23, 2026 meeting of the Policy and Strategy Committee.

A motion by Deputy Mayor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Carver, **"THAT Council give first reading to the bylaw to repeal the Town of Mahone Bay's Taxi Bylaw."** **Motion carried.**

**10. New Business**

10.1 Provincial Budget and Fire Services

Council discussed the 2026/27 provincial budget as well as fire services. (sorry Dylan! Don't really understand what this conversation was about)

Councillor Feeney gave a notice of motion concerning reaching out the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg's Fire Services. This item will appear on Council's March 10, 2026 agenda.

**11. Questions/Comments**

**12. Closed Session**

A motion by Deputy Mayor Feeney, at 8:57 p.m., seconded by Councillor Wilson, "THAT Council go into Closed Session to discuss Personnel Matters as permitted by the Municipal Government Act section 22(2)(c)." **Motion carried.**

**Council arose from Closed Session at 9:57 p.m.**

**Council adjourned at 9:58 p.m. on conclusion of business.**

**TOWN OF MAHONE BAY**

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Mayor, Suzanne Lohnes-Croft

Town Clerk, Kelly Munroe