



**TOWN OF LOCKPORT
COUNCIL MEETING
FRIDAY MAY 8, 2026
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Mayor Derek Amalfa, Deputy Mayor Craig Hillen, Councillor Anna Chetwynd, Councillor Candace Malik, Councillor Kevin Chetwynd, Town Clerk/Treasurer June Harding, and Recording Secretary Jill Cassibo.

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Amalfa at 1:00 p.m.

2. Silence Electronic Devices

All electronic devices were silenced at this time.

3. Approval of Agenda, including additions or deletions

05-08-26-01

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the agenda for the May 8, 2026, with the addition of a correction to the Heritage and Tourism Committee minutes. Motion Passed

4. Conflict of Interest

There were Conflicts of Interest declared by Councillor Anna Chetwynd and Councillor Kevin Chetwynd regarding public perception of the letter written to the Municipality of the District of Shelburne regarding the Medical First Responders.

5. Approval of Minutes

- Regular Council Meeting Minutes April 24, 2026

The minutes of Regular Council Meeting for April 24, 2026, were not approved as there were changes that need to be made regarding the community forum and resident Jane Jerrett. The wording will be corrected, and the Minutes will be brought to the meeting for May 22, 2026.

- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes April 17, 2026

It was noted that changes to assessments could affect the budget. It was decided that there will be a Finance Committee meeting held in June with a date to be determined.

05-06-26-02

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the Minutes from the Finance Committee Meeting of April 17, 2026. Motion Passed

6. Business arising from Previous Minutes

Letters to the Department of Education re: Allocation of Education Tax, Premier Tim Houston re: Power Rates, Department of Justice re: Policing costs and Services and the Municipality of the District of Shelburne re: Support for Lockeport & Area Medical First Responders

7. Community Forum (Open Mic)

- 20 Minutes Maximum
- Each resident is allowed a maximum of five minutes
- The resident is to speak directly to Council
- There will be no interaction by Council at this time
- If questions are posed by residents the question will be recorded to be researched

8. Presentations

There are no presentations scheduled for this meeting.

9. Finance

- List of invoices already paid for the month of May in the amount of \$27,992.93.

Ms. Harding was asked about the invoice from Eastern Fence whether it was for the Playpark and Ms. Harding stated that it was work that was done throughout the winter to the ball field through a previous grant. Ms. Harding was questioned about the invoice for Class A (foam) that was used to put out a fire on a boat. Ms. Harding explained that that money will be reimbursed to us by the boat owner's insurance company.

- Approval of Operating Budget for 2026/2027
 - o 2026/2027 Council Remuneration

05-08-26-03

It was duly moved and seconded that the 2026/2027 Council Remunerations remain the same: Mayor \$16,500, Deputy Mayor \$12,500, and Councillors \$11,500, unchanged for the last couple of years. Council acknowledged ongoing concerns regarding the Town's Tax rates and the financial pressures facing residents and Business owners, and the need to continue evaluating long-term financial stability. Motion Passed

- o 2026/2027 Residential Tax Rate

05-08-26-04

It was duly moved and seconded that the Residential Tax Rate for the 2026/2027 fiscal year remain at \$2.40 per \$100 of assessment, unchanged from last couple of years. Motion Passed

- o 2026/2027 Commercial Tax Rate

05-08-26-05

It was duly moved and seconded that the Commercial Tax Rate for the 2026/2027 fiscal year remain at \$5.41 per \$100 of assessment, unchanged for last couple of years. Motion Passed

- o 2026/2027 Interest Rate on Taxes

05-08-26-06

It was duly moved and seconded that the interest rate on outstanding taxes for the 2026/2027 fiscal year remain at 16% per annum, unchanged from last couple of years. Motion Passed

- Approval of 2026/2027 Operating Budget

05-08-26-07

It was duly moved and seconded that the Operating Budget for 2026/2027 be approved as presented. Motion Passed

- Digital Service & Communication Model

Myra is asking what level of service will be needed once the new website is up and running, until staff are trained on it, there is no way to tell. The Town is entitled to one month of support from them for any questions or concerns after the site goes live, and then there would be fees attached to any support requests. As to the question of what tech services are used by the Municipality of the District of Shelburne and the Town of Shelburne, they both use G23 out of Halifax for tech support.

05-08-26-08

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve staff to utilize one month of training on the new website and then report back to Council what level of service is needed. Motion Passed

05-08-26-09

It was duly moved and seconded that Council agree to change the domain name to lockeportns.ca for the website. Motion Passed.

10. Other Business

- Email received from Lockeport Residents at 83 South Street

A letter was received from the residents at 83 South Street regarding high taxes and a potential past agreement that previously existed between the resident's Father and the Town of Lockeport. Cabinets have been searched in the Town Office for any agreement as well as having a conversation with a former Town Clerk/treasurer to inquire if he has any knowledge of such an agreement, all to no avail.

As incorrectly indicated in this letter, Clearwater did not get a tax break, they followed protocol and appealed their taxes within the timeframe that is allotted annually.

Commercial tax appeals have been successful in the past few years. The assessed value rose on this property for two reasons. The purchase price of the property and permits issued for improvements.

There was a suggestion that putting a convex mirror up for better exposure of cars and people could help enormously on this corner. Some Councillors think that the mirrors would not help. This needs to be discussed further. Ms. Harding will investigate to find

out who the rock wall on the East side of South Street belongs to and ask for it to be either maintained appropriately or removed.

It is felt that real estate agents should be telling potential new homeowners how the tax system works in Nova Scotia.

The Town of Lockeport has already requested more of a police presence in Town.

11. Council Reports

- Mayor Derek Amalfa

Mayor Amalfa reported that MacLeod Group has gone to the Labour Relations Board for clarity regarding a reduction of well being of residents at Roseway Manor due to the strike. Labour relations ruled that Continuing Care Assistants hours will go from 19.6 hours/week to 25.19 hours/week and that additional services will come in to assist. The Clean Foundation will be attending some of the Big Beach Markets and Canada Day with an EV vehicle for people to test drive. Mayor Amalfa feels really supported by Clean Foundation and they are assisting the Town to accomplish many great projects.

- Deputy Mayor Craig Hillen
 - o Heritage and Tourism draft minutes – April 14, 2026

Chesley MacKenzie was the gentleman behind the Seaman's Memorial in 1968.

05-08-26-10

It was duly moved and seconded that as recommended by the Heritage & Tourism Committee, Council approve Businesses of the month for May to be Surf Lodge Nursing Home and Giggles and Grins Daycare. Motion Passed

Water Test for Crescent Beach Centre

05-08-26-11

It was duly moved and seconded that as recommended by the Heritage & Tourism Committee, staff proceed with having a complete water test done for the Crescent Beach Centre. Motion Passed

- o Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Draft Minutes April 28, 2026

Deputy Mayor Hillen stated that they will be getting a report card in July in accordance with the Accessibility Advisory Committee but said that Lockeport is in decent shape as far as accessibility goes. There is still a vacant position for this committee as a community member from Lockeport.

- Red petticoat Sign located at Widow's Walk

05-08-26-12

It was duly moved and seconded that as recommended by the Heritage & Tourism Committee, Council approve having Public Works move the Red Petticoat sign forward, so it is made more accessible. Motion Passed

- Councillor Anna Chetwynd

Councillor A. Chetwynd expressed the fact that she takes exception to the wording of the Heritage & Tourism Committee minutes regarding the annual Beach Bash and explained how the date was set. She also stated that all Committees should be working together for the betterment of the Town. In response, Deputy Mayor Hillen reiterated that this section of the Heritage & Tourism Committee minutes was to confirm discussions previously had between the respective chairs and Council. Although he has a differing opinion than Councillor Chetwynd, her sentiments are acknowledged and duly noted.

Councillor A. Chetwynd gave an update on the park, the Wellnify app and the grand walk is on May 13th.

05-08-26-13

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the purchase of a slab cake for the grand walk with Make Your Move budget money. Motion Passed

- Councillor Candace Malik
 - Canada Day Committee Minutes – April 10 & April 29, 2026

SAC now has enough members for a quorum and Councillor K. Chetwynd's resignation from the Canada Day Committee has been accepted with regrets.

Canada Day Terms of Reference

05-08-26-14

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approved the Canada Day Celebrations Committee Terms of Reference, as presented. Motion Passed

- Equity & Anti-Racism Recommendation

05-08-26-15

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the appointments of Louise Delilse, Davie Hartley, Cat Hartley and Cory Lavendar as Community Representatives for the Equity & Anti-Racism Committee, based on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee. Motion Passed

- Councillor Kevin Chetwynd

Councillor K. Chetwynd had nothing to report today.

12. Correspondence

- Email from Stephanie Smith, Nova Scotia Communities Culture, Heritage, and Tourism
- Letter from the Honourable John A. MacDonald, Minister of Municipal Affairs

It was suggested that mandating training for new Councillors was an exceptionally good idea.

- Letter from Warden James Fuller, Municipality of the District of St. Mary's to the Honourable Tim Houston regarding Antigonish Coalition to end Poverty.
- 12 Month Notification of Provincial Legislation changes to NSFM, from Minister John A. MacDonald

13. Information Only

Letter from the Municipality of the District of Shelburne to Premier Tim Houston

14. Date of next meeting

May 22, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

15. "In Camera"

There was nothing for "In Camera."

16. Adjournment

05-08-26-16

There being no further business, it was duly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Time 2:45 p.m. Motion Passed

Mayor Derek Amalfa

Town Clerk/Treasurer June Harding

Regular Council Meeting 05082026.min