



**Date:** November 20, 2024  
**To:** Municipal Council  
**cc:** Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer  
**From:** Councillor Garden-Cole, Corporate and Residential Services Committee Chairperson  
**RE:** Corporate & Residential Services Committee Report

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The Committee held its regular meeting on November 12, 2024, in Council Chambers. The following motions are coming forward as a result of that meeting.

### 1. SELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

Councillor Garden-Cole was appointed Chairperson of the Corporate & Residential Services Committee.

Councillor Perry was appointed Vice Chairperson of the Corporate & Residential Services Committee.

### 2. LETTER TO PROVINCE - MGA CHANGE REQUEST

The Halifax Regional Municipality Charter (Charter) includes a section outlining when Halifax Council is permitted to go “in-camera” for confidential discussions in closed sessions similar to the NS Municipal Government Act (NSMGA). One difference in the Charter allows in-camera discussion regarding Federal and Provincial government topics, which the NSMGA does not permit. There is interest in seeking support for changes to the NSMGA to also include this allowance.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that Council direct Staff to write a letter to the Province seeking changes to the NS Municipal Government Act to allow for in-camera discussions related to Federal and Provincial government topics, similar to the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter Section 19(i), copied to the NSFM, AMANS and MLA’s.*

*As Chair of the Committee, I so move.*

### 3. CODE OF CONDUCT - COUNCIL PROCEDURAL POLICY UPDATE

Following consultation with municipalities on the code of conduct framework, the Elected Officials Code of Conduct was legislated into effect in the Fall of 2024. The regulation requires municipalities and villages to adopt a code of conduct consisting of the model code of conduct as outlined in the regulations. The municipal code of conduct is an important tool for promoting integrity and accountability within local government in Nova Scotia. This code provides clear guidelines for elected members of council, supporting them in upholding the high standards expected by their communities. By strengthening good governance, the code will bring lasting benefits to municipalities and villages across the province, furthering our shared commitment to

serve the public with transparency and excellence. The Code of Conduct recommended in this report has all of the elements of the new legislated Code along with elements from the existing Municipality of East Hants Code of Conduct.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council ***that Council approve the Council Procedural Policy as attached to the Executive Committee agenda dated November 12, 2024; and, that the Council Procedural Policy be amended to remove Code of Conduct content (as posted to the Council agenda); and, that an independent investigator be chosen by the CAO from the AMANS call for qualifications.***

***As Chair of the Committee, I so move.***

#### **4. APPROVAL OF THE 2025 COUNCIL CALENDAR**

A calendar for all regularly scheduled committee and council meetings for 2025 was presented for approval.

The Corporate and Residential Services Committee recommend to Council ***that Council approve the 2025 Council Calendar.***

***As Chair of the Committee, I so move.***

#### **5. ASSET MANAGEMENT - ROADS STATE OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE**

This information report follows up the May 2024 Corporate Asset Management (AM) Program update, to provide an overview of the current state of East Hants' roads infrastructure. The amended report was posted as directed by Committee.

The Corporate and Residential Services Committee recommend to Council ***that Council receive and file the East Hants Roads Assets - State of the Infrastructure Update report dated September 11, 2024 as amended with table changes before publication.***

***As Chair of the Committee, I so move.***

#### **6. SUSTAINABLE SERVICES GROWTH FUND PROJECTS (SSGF)**

The Municipality of East Hants received a letter from the NS Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing dated March 31, 2023, indicating the Province of Nova Scotia approved a grant of \$1,123,778 to support infrastructure investment under the new Sustainable Services Growth Fund (SSGF). Council approved a list of projects to apply these funds to at the July 26, 2023, Council meeting. Important criteria required to receive this funding was that projects were to be complete by March 31, 2025. Council has since approved two changes in project funding allocations. Those

projects are all now complete with the exception of one. In May of 2024 Council approved \$454,651 of this SSGF funding be allocated to the Medical Centre Lift Station. Work has not progressed as quickly as originally thought on this project and it will not be complete by March 31, 2025. Therefore, a change in project allocation is required.

Move that Corporate and Residential Services Committee recommend to Council ***that Council approve a revised allocation of \$454,651 SSGF Grant from the Medical Centre Lift Station, toward the following three projects:***

- ***Active Transportation - Hwy 214 \$273,248***
- ***Water Tower Renewal - Elmsdale \$151,100***
- ***Water Tower Renewal - Lantz \$30,303***

***As Chair of the Committee, I so move.***

## **7. GROWTH AND RENEWAL FOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (GRID)**

The Municipality of East Hants received an email from the NS Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing dated October 18, 2024, calling for applications for funding from the GRID Program. The GRID program supports investments in priority infrastructure projects that address critical capacity issues, build more accessible and adaptable communities and enable the preservation and expansion of services for new housing development.

Eligible projects include:

1. Water, wastewater and Stormwater
2. Climate Change Adaptation
3. Accessibility

The total funding available is \$15 million. They will fund up to 50% of the total cost of an eligible project. The deadline for applications is December 13, 2024. Projects must be “shovel ready” and be complete by March 31, 2026.

The Corporate and Residential Services Committee recommend to Council that ***Council approve GRID applications for the following two projects:***

- ***Medical Centre Lift Station (Priority 1) total \$950,000, Amount \$475,000***
- ***Backwash Storage - Shubie Water Treatment Plan (Priority 2) Total Cost \$300,000 Amount \$150,000***

***As Chair of the Committee, I so move.***

## 8. HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND PROJECTS (HAF)

On March 17, 2023, the Government of Canada announced \$4 billion in new funding to create a Housing Accelerator Fund. The Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) provides incentive funding to local governments to encourage local initiatives that remove barriers to housing supply, accelerate the growth of supply and support the development of complete, low-carbon and climate-resilient communities which are affordable, inclusive, equitable and diverse. The federal government expects that the HAF will result in permits being issued for 100,000 more housing units across Canada. Council received staff reports on July 18, 2023, and July 26, 2023, outlining the application requirements and potential funding. An application was filed with CMHC in August of 2023 and confirmation was received in February of 2024 that the municipality was eligible to receive \$5.885 million over a four-year period. Planning department staff meet regularly with CMHC staff to review the status of agreed upon HAF action plan initiatives, as well how the funds are being spent on capital projects.

The Corporate and Residential Services Committee recommends *that Council approve the allocation of a portion (\$4,542,216.00) of the expected \$5.885 million HAF funding, toward the following projects:*

Project Name	Total Project Cost (Estimated)	Total HAF Funding (Estimated)
Lantz Secondary Planning Strategy	\$133,116	\$133,116
Traffic Signaling (Elmwood & White)	\$500,000	\$500,000
<u>Uniacke</u> Ground Water Study	\$21,000	\$21,000
Traffic Calming - Speed Table	\$165,000	\$117,000
Traffic Calming - Digital Speed Signs	\$235,000	\$203,400
East <u>Uniacke</u> Playground	\$150,000	\$90,000
Shubenacadie Parking Lot	\$300,000	\$296,000
Transit Implementation	\$800,000	\$800,000
Kiln Creek Central Park	\$800,000	\$250,000
Mount <u>Uniacke</u> Streetlights	\$420,000	\$300,000
Crosswalk - Highway 2	\$196,000	\$196,000
Lift Station Upgrade - Highway 277	\$1,135,700	\$1,135,700
Water Utility Studies	\$500,000	\$500,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$5,352,816</b>	<b>\$4,542,216</b>

*As Chair of the Committee, I so move.*

*As Chair of the Committee, I move the adoption of this report.*