



Date: December 17, 2025
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**

The Committee held its regular meeting on December 9, 2025 in Council Chambers. The following motions are coming forward as a result of this meeting:

1. PRESENTATION - EAST HANTS FARMERS' MARKET COOPERATIVE LTD.

Ashley Copage, the founder of the East Hants Farmers Market Cooperative Ltd. made a presentation reviewing the 2025 pop-up farmers' markets, noting strong attendance and vendor participation - 755 visitors and 18 vendors in October, and 520 visitors and 22 vendors in November. A final pop-up is scheduled in December with 30 vendors and a waitlist of 12. Community feedback has been positive. The 2026 season will shift to a monthly indoor/outdoor market. Ms. Copage was thankful for municipal support and will work with staff on submission of a funding grant application.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends *that Council consider the request from the East Hants Farmers' Market Cooperative Ltd. during budget discussions.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

2. PROCUREMENT APPLICATION PILOT

The Online Procurement Application was developed in-house to streamline distribution of competition documents and accept electronic submissions. It has proven effective across nearly 200 competitions and offers a user-friendly alternative to complex, costly third-party platforms. Sharing it could strengthen procurement capacity in the municipal sector while posing little financial or operational risk to East Hants, and an agreement would ensure East Hants' priorities remain protected and allow withdrawal with reasonable notice.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends *that Council direct staff to negotiate an agreement with Valley Waste to provide the Online Procurement Application service based on an "as is" cost recovery model for the Municipality and provided that the agreement enables the Municipality to exit the agreement for any reason with a reasonable notice period.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

3. TRANSIT ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Staff presented a public engagement plan for the proposed fixed-route transit service. The plan includes in-person sessions, virtual sessions, an online survey, and a direct mailout to clearly communicate the service details, collect feedback, gauge public interest, and highlight social and environmental benefits.



The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends *to Council that staff proceed with the engagement plan for a fixed-route transit as presented in the December 1, 2025 staff report with a maximum of nine (9) public information meetings (one (1) in Mount Uniacke, four (4) in the rural areas and four (4) in the corridor area) and that Council review a preview of the survey and it very clearly explains to the public how to get and submit a paper copy if they want one and that the budget to be increased accordingly.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

4. COUNCIL PROCEDURAL POLICY UPDATE

Staff is recommending updating the Council Procedural Policy to comply with new provincial regulations that prohibit hybrid codes of conduct and require municipalities to use the legislated provincial version exclusively, promoting the restoration of previously removed content back into the Procedural Policy. The update also responds to Council Motion C25(313) by adding requirements for groups wishing to present to Council to demonstrate organizational support when speaking or requesting funding.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that Council approve updates to the Council Procedural Policy as attached to the Executive Committee Agenda dated December 9, 2025.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

5. COUNCIL RENUMERATION AND TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

As requested by Council, Staff prepared an update to the Council Remuneration and Travel Reimbursement Policy to add new wording in section 5 that provides Council members with a lunch meal allowance for Executive Committee meeting days. The change is expected to cost approximately \$2,541 annually.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends *that Council approve the amendment to the Council Remuneration and Travel Reimbursement Policy as attached the Executive Committee agenda dated December 9, 2025.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

6. DOG CONTROL PROGRAM

The NS SPCA has given notice that it will end its contract for dog control services on March 31, 2026, requiring the Municipality to resume full responsibility for enforcement, kenneling, after-hours response, and transportation. To prepare, the Municipality must secure an external kennel contract, purchase a purpose-built transport vehicle, acquire safety and operational equipment, and budget for staffing and after-hours coverage. Staff are recommending increasing the 2025/2026 operation budget by \$15,000 for supplies (from the GTR Contingency Reserve) and increasing capital project 23-019 to \$96,000 to purchase the required vehicle (funded from the Municipal Vehicles Reserve), with all remaining service details addressed by 2026/2027 budget discussions.



The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommend *that Council approve an increase of the 25/26 operating budget of \$15,000 for dog control supplies to be funded from the GTR Contingency Reserve.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommend *that Council approve an increase in capital project 23-019 to \$96,000 for the purpose of purchasing a vehicle and required upgrades, with funding to come from Municipal Vehicles Reserve (G006). And that this purchase be authorized for discal 2025-2026 to be ready for April 1, 2026 operational start.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

This concludes my report.