



Date: January 28, 2026
To: Municipal Council
cc: Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
From: Councillor Garden-Cole, Corporate and Residential Services Committee Chairperson
RE: **Corporate & Residential Services**

The Committee held its regular meeting on January 20, 2026 in Council Chambers. The following motions are coming forward as a result of this meeting:

1. PRESENTATION FROM THE ENFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Representatives of the Enfield Volunteer Fire Department made a presentation requesting the Municipality take ownership of their property to help facilitate grant access for a new station.

2. FIRE SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA (FSANS) FIRE GOVERNANCE REVIEW

In 2025, the Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia (FSANS) completed a provincially funded Fire Services Governance Study with 40 recommendations aimed at modernizing fire services, presented to government in September 2025 and currently under review through provincial engagement sessions. The report addresses governance, dispatch and communications, training standards, firefighter health and safety, sustainable funding and volunteer recruitment and retention. The report does not assign costs to its recommendations, underscoring the importance of municipal involvement before legislative changes, and aligns with East Hants' Council's strategic goal of supporting long-term fire service planning.

No motion coming forward.

3. WELL AND SEPTIC LOAN PROGRAM UPDATE

Staff presented a report providing an update on East Hants' Water Supply and On-Site Sewage Disposal System Upgrade Lending Program, launched as a \$200,000 pilot in September 2024 and expanded to \$400,000 in February 2025 due to strong demand. Over 14 months, 16 applications have been approved, one is in progress and most funds are now allocated, prompting staff to recommend adding \$100,000, transitioning the program to a permanent fund capped at \$500,000 with loan repayments reinvested. The report also proposes minor amendments to Bylaw A-200 to clarify household income requirements, adjust income limits for inflation and allow limited flexibility for applicants in default under exceptional circumstances.

The motion related to the Bylaw update was dealt with earlier in the meeting tonight.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends that *once the cap of \$500,000 has been reached, a report with the number of waiting applicants and costs be brought back to Council for decision based on our financial situation at that time* (East Hants Water Supply and On-Site Sewage Disposal Upgrade Lending Program).



4. DAR LINE LAND MANAGEMENT & ENCROACHMENT BYLAW UPDATE

Staff presented a report responding to Council's direction to advance long-term management of the DAR Line including a proposed long-term agreement with the East Hants Multi-Use Trail Association (EHMUTA). The report recommends authorizing a 10-year agreement with EHMUTA to manage and maintain a portion of the DAR Line for multi-modal trail use, while retaining municipal control and addressing liability, safety, and operational risks.

The Corporate and Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that Council authorize the CAO to enter into a ten-year renewal term, with the East Hants Multi-Use Trail Association for the management and maintenance of the DAR Line between King Road in Kennetcook and the East Hants/West Hants Boundary in Stanley that permits multi-modal recreational trail use, consistent with the terms and conditions outlined in the January 8, 2026 dated staff report, with the intent to move toward a future agreement for the entire DAR Line.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

This concludes the report.