



Date: February 25, 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 Budget meetings on January 29, February 5, February 10, February 12, and February 19, 2026 and the regular monthly meeting was held on February 17, 2026 in Council Chambers. The following motions are coming forward as a result of those meetings:

1. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUND 2026/2027

Staff presented the “Community Partnership Fund 2026/2027” report during the Budget meeting held on February 5, 2026. The report provided the annual review of the program noting that the seven current recipients have applied to continue their funding and one new application was received from the East Hants Farmers Market, but it was redirected to the General Government Grant Program.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that Council approve the list of recommended Community Partnership Fund Organizations to be included in the draft 2026/2027 budget and grants to be disbursed following final budget approval:*

- *Corridor Community Options for Adults - \$15,000*
- *East Hants Community Rider - \$50,000*
- *East Hants Family Resource Centre - \$40,000*
- *East Hants Historical Society - \$20,000*
- *East Hants Sports Heritage Society *Based on operational expenses - up to \$5,000*
- *East Hants Youth Links - \$8,000*
- *Kids Action (Annapolis Valley-Hants Community Action Program) - \$20,000*

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

2. GENERAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS 2026/2027

Staff presented the “General Government Grants 2026/2027” report during the Budget meeting held on February 5, 2026. The report provided an overview of funding and the organizations currently included in the program and noted one new application from the East Hants Farmers Market that was redirected from the Community Partnership Fund.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that pending appropriate documentation is received, and the passing of the 2026/2027 budget, Council approve the following General Government Grants for disbursement in 2026/2027:*

<i>Remember Canada's Heroes</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
<i>Hants County Exhibition</i>	<i>\$500</i>
<i>Dr. Snow Bursaries</i>	<i>\$7,500</i>
<i>East Hants Foodbanks/Christmas Programs</i>	<i>\$14,000</i>
<i>COAT Association</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>
<i>Cst. Heidi Stevenson Memorial Golf Tournament, RCMP</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
<i>4H Sponsorship</i>	<i>\$200</i>
<i>Recycle Your Cycle (Rotary Club)</i>	<i>\$500</i>
<i>Safe Grad Activities (facility fees up to a max of)</i>	<i>\$7,000</i>
<i>EH Farmers Market (Facility fees up to a max of)</i>	<i>\$4,000</i>

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

3. [LETTER OF SUPPORT - SIPEKNE'KATIK](#)

Councillors expressed support to Sipekne'katik during their current State of Emergency and best wishes for a positive outcome.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends that Council *direct the CAO to send a letter of support to Sipekne'katik during their current State of Emergency indicating that Council is thinking of them and hoping that things turn out the best as possible.*

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

4. [CLIMATE ACTION PLAN](#)

The Sustainability Coordinator and Manager of Real Estate & Corporate Projects presented the report titled "What We Heard So Far". East Hants is updating its Municipal Climate Change Action Plan (MCCAP). This updated plan will help guide the Municipality in preparing for both long-term climate changes and sudden extreme weather events. A key part of this work is building open and ongoing dialogue with residents, municipal staff, and Council. To date, 416 people have participated in the engagement process.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends that Council *receive as information the What We Heard So Far report dated January 2026, which summarizes the results of engagement activities conducted in 2025 as part of the Municipal Climate Change Action Plan update.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

5. [BYLAW A-300, ENCROACHMENT ON MUNICIPAL REAL PROPERTY BYLAW](#)

The intent of Bylaw A-300 is to provide a clear, consistent and enforceable framework to help us manage encroachments on all municipal properties. Discussion was held on how this bylaw would impact property owners on the DAR line. First reading of this bylaw was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends that ***Council ask staff to bring back a report outlining how this bylaw would work around properties adjoining and adjacent to the DAR line.***

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

6. [BYLAW P-1000-2, AN AMEDEMMENT TO BYLAW P-1000, DOG BYLAW AND MUNICIPAL FEE POLICY](#)

The SPCA will no longer be providing dog control services for the municipality after March 31st making amendments to the dog bylaw and updates the Municipal Fee Policy necessary. These amendments include an update to the definitions of kennel and noise, defining neighborhood and persistently, replaced annual dog tags with lifetime tags, and added the option for a dog to be microchipped in lieu of a tag. Updates to the Fee Policy include the addition of impound and boarding fees. First reading of the bylaw was dealt with earlier in the meeting. The motion to give notice of intent to update the Municipal Fee Policy was tabled at the Council meeting held February 17, 2026.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends that Council ***direct staff after a year of kennel use to bring a report back on the number of usage and so on and so forth, in addition to a report on the options of going our own way with regard to kenneling.***

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

7. [SNOW REMOVAL - UNIACKE BUSINESS PARK](#)

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee received a staff report regarding adding the Mount Uniacke Business Park to the winter road maintenance contract list and aligning it to the same service standard as the Elmsdale Business Park.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends ***that Council direct staff to provide the Mount Uniacke Business Park winter road maintenance at a Priority 1 service level as established in the “East Hants Policy for Winter Clearing Standard for Roads & Sidewalks”, aligning it to the same priority level as the Elmsdale Business Park for fiscal year 2026-27, and to set the same service level of winter road maintenance for all Municipally developed Business Parks going forward, with adjustments to be made for no salt use areas as requested.***

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

8. [2026/2027 TO 2030/2031 CAPITAL BUDGET](#)

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee concluded the review of the 5-year capital budget.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends *to Council that the five-year Capital Budget for the fiscal years 2026/2027 to 2030/2031 as presented, be approved and adopted effective April 1st, 2026. Administration is given approval to proceed with the previously approved capital projects and those in the “Approval Sought” sections, subject to any conditions limiting such projects in previous motions of Council or in policies of Council. Should time permit, staff are authorized to embark on projects in this Capital Budget that require long-term pre-planning prior to April 1st, 2026. Projects “Approved for Further Study” are approved in principle only; amounts identified as “Approved for Further Study” cannot be expended prior to presentation of a full report to Council for consideration or approval through a future capital budget process. Where time permits, staff are given approval to proceed with “Approval Sought” projects from 2027/2028 prior to April 1st, 2027;*

And that, any projects approved in the 2025/2026 Capital Budget not reflected as carried forward to the 2026/2027 Capital Budget, but that are substantially committed at March 31st, 2026, shall be carried forward to 2026/2027, based on the remaining budget at March 31st, 2026;

And that, this five-year estimate of capital spending form the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) as required by the Federal and Provincial government funding agreements;

And that, the Water Utility sections of this budget are permitted to stand alone as the East Hants Water Utility Capital Budget as required by the Nova Scotia Regulatory and Appeals Board (NSRAB);

And that, staff be given authority to alter the source(s) of funding where necessary, but in no case shall the amounts to be debentured increase without prior approval of Council;

And that, Council seek Ministerial approval for a temporary borrowing resolution (TBR) for any amounts in this Capital Budget under the “Debenture/Debt” category of funding;

And that, pre-approval to borrow amounts in this Capital Budget under the “Debenture/Debt” category of funding for a term not to exceed twenty-five (25) years at a rate not to exceed 6.5%.

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

9. [2026/2027 OPERATING BUDGET](#)

Following a series of Budget meetings, the Corporate & Residential Services Committee completed the review of the 2026/2027 Operating Budget documents.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends *to Council approval of the 2026/2027 Operating Budget, as amended by the Committee during budget deliberations, with a final table of adjustments and rates to be prepared for Council’s consideration on February 25th, 2026.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

This concludes the report.