



**Date:** March 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**

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The Committee held regular meeting on March 10, 2026 in Council Chambers. The following motions are coming forward as a result of that meeting:

1. [LANTZ VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT - MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING EXTENTION](#)

In 2024, Council entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Lantz Volunteer Fire Department (Lantz Fire). The MOU is to explore the former Lantz School site PID 45148111 for mixed use development opportunities that may include a future fire station. The MOU expired March 1, 2026. Because a larger municipal fire services review may be coming, it would make sense for Lantz Fire to hold off on investing funds into a needs assessment at this time, and instead extend the MOU with the Municipality.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends that Council ***direct the CAO to extend the existing Memorandum of Understanding with Lantz Volunteer Fire Department for two (2) years, with terms to be agreed upon by both parties.***

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

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends that Council ***direct staff to bring back a report on the level of study we could do at this time for risk and needs assessment (of the fire service) to move this thing along.***

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

2. [MUNICIPAL FEE POLICY - IMPOUND & BORDING FEES FOR DOGS](#)

There is a facility in Truro that has expressed interest in operating as our municipal kennel, and meets all of the requirements to impound a dog. The rate is \$80/dog/day plus HST, and includes housing, food, and exercise for the impounded dog. The fees recommended for this service are purposely higher than other jurisdictions to encourage dog owners to ensure their dogs do not roam and as a means of partial cost recovery for the service. Based on discussion by Council last month, a clause has been added to the draft policy to allow these fees to be waived at the discretion of the Compliance Officer.



The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends that Council ***approve updates to the Municipal Fee Policy as attached to the Executive Committee agenda dated March 10, 2026.***

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

### 3. BUSINESS CLIMATE SURVEY

The Manager of Economic & Business Development presented the results of the 2025 East Hants Business Climate Survey, a collaboration between East Hants Economic & Business Development Division and the East Hants Chamber of Commerce. This was a project identified through Council's Strategic Plan as part of growing economic prosperity and working to attract, retain, and support businesses; and was also identified in Council's Economic Development Plan. By gathering and analyzing information on the local business climate both organizations will be able to use this information to work towards improving factors and services that support business. The survey focused on gathering information on business characteristics, recent performance, future outlook, and key challenges. Participants were asked 41 questions across five categories: business characteristics, performance and outlook, trade and supply chain, labour market, and technology and connectivity.

### 4. 2026/2027 WATER UTILITY OPERATING BUDGET

The Manager of Finance presented the 3-year Water Utility budget. A copy of the report was attached to the agenda and available to all committee members.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends that Council ***approve the East Hants Water Utility Financial Estimates from 2026/2027 to 2028/2029 as presented on March 10, 2026.***

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

This concludes the report.