



Date: July 29, 2026
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 regular meeting on July 21, 2026 in Council Chambers. The following motions are coming forward as a result of that meeting:

1. CARRY-FORWARDS REPORT

At the end of March 31, 2026 there were several amounts that had been approved in the 2025/2026 budget, that had not been entirely spent. Budget managers requested that some of these previous budget items be approved to be included in the 2026/2027 budget, so the work can be finalized.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends that *Council ratify the transfer to reserves and year-end carry forward amounts as presented in the 2025/2026 Budget Carryforwards Request Report dated July 15, 2026 and presented on July 21, 2026 be accepted and approved.*

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

2. HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND (HAF) ALLOCATIONS REPORT

The Municipality was approved to receive \$5.885 million through the federal Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) in February 2024. Following a review of spending and project timelines after the March 31, 2026 fiscal year-end, staff are recommending updates to current funding allocations to ensure all HAF funding is spent by the February 23, 2028 deadline.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends *that Council approve the reallocation of HAF funding, as noted in Table 1 of the July 21, 2026 report.*

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

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee also recommends *that Council direct staff to draft the next iteration of the HAF funding update consider funding 100% of the Mount Uniacke Streetlight project.*

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



3. POTABLE WATER OPTIONS - DURING DROUGHTS

At its June 24, 2026 meeting, Council directed staff to explore drought response options with community organizations and bulk water carriers and confirmed the Municipality would shift from bottled water distribution to education, conservation, and support programs. This report summarizes staff's findings, including limited bulk water capacity and a review of rain barrel programs.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends *that Council direct staff to have the Municipal Climate Change Action Plan include an initiative on Water Scarcity and Drought Resilience Planning as part of the plan update and to include a timeline and resources associated with the plan.*

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

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee also recommends *that Council direct staff to include a Water Conservation Assistance Program with a total program budget of \$50,000 to support the purchase of rain barrels or water storage totes for eligible residential properties in the 2027-2028 draft budget for further discussion.*

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

4. FIRE SERVICE REVIEW

At its March 2026 Regular Meeting, Council directed staff to report on options for a fire service review. Since then, provincial developments related to fire service governance have emerged. The July report proposed a Fire Services Master Planning framework, including a Community Risk Assessment and Fire Protection Service Review, to help Council proactively assess current service delivery, future needs, and long-term planning ahead of provincial timelines.

Based on subsequent discussion at the July 23rd Regular Meeting of Council (Policy & In-Camera) meeting and further clarification, the following updated wording is recommended:

That Council authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to undertake a Fire Protection Service Review and a Fire Services Master Plan, with a project budget of \$150,000 to be funded from GTR Contingency Reserve; and further, that engagement with Council be done after each stage of the process;

And, that we thank the East Hants Fire Service Association (EHFSA) for their June 2026 letter and respond with the following;

Council is supportive of funding a Fire Service Master Planning process in collaboration with the East Hants Fire Service Association;

And that, the EHFSA will be invited to participate in the full process - in a format to be determined by the Chiefs;



And that, The Municipality will utilize the results of the Community Risk Assessment to complete a Fire Protection Service Review as part of a Fire Service Master Plan in collaboration with the EHFSa;

And that due to the significant investment being made by Council and the anticipated participation of the EHFSa, the results of the Fire Service Master Plan will be binding.

I so move....

That until the Fire Service Review is complete, Council requires any projects using fire levies that relate to capital spending to be approved by Council.

I so move....

5. 2025/26 ANNUAL REPORT INCLUDING TREASURER'S REPORT

The CAO and Director of Finance presented the "2025/26 Annual Report including Treasurer's Report". Discussion ensued and questions were addressed by staff.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends *that Council accepts the 2025/2026 East Hants Annual Report including Treasurer's Report and that it be made available to the Public.*

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

6. DAR LAND MANAGEMENT - PROPOSED DAR CORRIDOR LEGACY ENCROACHMENTS POLICY AND THE MUNICIPAL FEE POLICY

During the July 23, 2026 Regular Meeting of Council (Policy & In-Camera) meeting, Council gave notice of intent to two policy updates and Council can now consider approving the updates to those policies following the required 7-day notice period:

That Council consider adoption of the DAR Corridor Legacy Encroachments Policy as presented and attached to the July 23, 2026 Regular Meeting of Council (Policy & In-Camera) agenda.

I so move....

That Council approve adding Encroachment Fees to the Municipal Fee Policy as attached to the Regular Meeting of Council (Policy & In-Camera) Agenda dated July 23, 2026.

I so move....

This concludes the report.