



**TOWN OF LOCKPORT
COUNCIL MEETING
FRIDAY DECEMBER 12, 2025
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Mayor Derek Amalfa, Deputy Mayor Craig Hillen, Councillor Anna Chetwynd, Councillor Candace Malik, Councillor Kevin Chetwynd, Town Clerk/Treasurer June Harding, and Recording Secretary Jill Cassibo.

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Amalfa at 1:00 p.m.

2. Silence Electronic Devices

All devices were silenced at this time.

3. Approval of Agenda, including additions or deletions

12-12-25-01

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the agenda for the December 12, 2025, meeting with the following additions: Under Other Business: The C & D site report and the proposed Silver Surfers Film Presentation at Crescent Beach Centre. Motion Passed

4. Conflict of Interest

There were no Conflicts of Interest declared.

5. Approval of Minutes

- Regular Council Meeting Minutes November 28, 2025

12-12-25-02

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of November 28, 2025. Motion Passed

6. Business arising from Previous Minutes

7. Community Forum (Open Mic)

- 20 Minutes Maximum
- Each resident is allowed a maximum of five minutes
- The resident is to speak directly to Council
- There will be no interaction by Council at this time
- If questions are posed by residents the question will be recorded to be researched

It was mentioned by Mayor Amalfa that Lockeport is the only Municipal Unit of the five in our South Shore Region that includes a Community Forum for their Council Meetings.

8. Presentations

There are no presentations scheduled for this meeting.

9. Finance

- List of invoices already paid in the amount of \$61,604.85.

There were no concerns regarding the invoices already paid.

- Recommendation from the Amalgamation Steering Committee Update

The first Meeting of the Amalgamation Steering Committee was held at the Municipality of the District of Shelburne offices on December 3, 2025. This Meeting was for the Committee Members to gain insight on how the amalgamation process works along with potential costs etc. Between 25-30 people were in attendance from all three units. There was a presentation from CAO, Brian Cullen, Pictou County, which had been unsuccessful in amalgamating at the time they were working on this initiative. Initially, two communities were totally against the process. Misinformation spread throughout the community which was not rectified and everything fell apart. Community engagement is key from the start. The next step is to hire an attorney for a presentation for more exploration.

Councillor Malik stated that she has been aware of this talk for amalgamation over the last few years and feels that it is necessary to pay this small amount to explore and be educated on the process to be able to bring it back to the residents. Councillor Malik says that the Town has a sense of community strength. Her questions included: In 10 years, what will the town look like? Will the teenagers come back to live here if there are no

jobs? Councillor Malik feels we need to be open minded and cautious so that we have a future going forward.

Councillor A. Chetwynd said that the cost is minimal and that all language discussed and presented is exploring and not definitive. Councillor Chetwynd was informed that the last Council only discussed consolidation briefly, but as it was coming up to an election, they did not want to start something that this Council would be forced into, now consolidation is off the table. Councillor Chetwynd says she will need a lot to convince her that it is the best thing for our community, she thinks we could have more shared services, although the Town Clerk pointed out that more shared services will be extra costs and we have a lot of shared services now. We have a low population and small boundaries. Councillor Chetwynd hopes with our aging population that the houses will be filled up with young families. The Town of Lockeport has a lot to offer like the Medical First Responders and the library, and Visitor Information Centre, she is wondering what we lose through this process. Councillor Chetwynd believes the Town has too many assets.

Mayor Amalfa stated that this is only exploration and that we are doing it slow and properly. There will be a lot of community engagement and there will be a significant cost to this process. The Town may be able to obtain grants up to 75% of the cost if the grant application were successful. Mayor Amalfa stated that we have under utilized assets and we need to echo our strengths in Lockeport. Many people that live outside of the boundaries consider themselves from Lockeport. Mayor Amalfa also stated that on a larger scale we would have additional resources to use in other communities and we could get larger grants for infrastructure upgrades.

Councillor K. Chetwynd asked about hidden fees and thinks that the Municipality of the District of Shelburne is determined to bankrupt the Town of Lockeport. He stated that the Municipality does lots of studies. Councillor Chetwynd is not in favour of amalgamation and thinks the Town should reduce spending.

Deputy Mayor Hillen wants to make sure that a new municipality with a population of under 15,000 people does not fall under the new RCMP costs of 90% under the new billing framework for the policing. He stated that the Utility Review Board may change boundaries, but if the three units provide the Board with as much detail as possible and have things worked out between them any transition will go smoother. The Town of Lockeport has the highest tax rate in the province, and this does not draw people or businesses in, we need to diversify. We are small but have an important fishing industry. Deputy Mayor Hillen is curious to see how we can benefit with this exploration process. The following motion was made:

12-12-25-03

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the recommendation brought forward from the Amalgamation Steering Committee, for the Town of Shelburne, the Municipality of the District of Shelburne and the Town of Lockeport to share in the expense of the cost of a presentation to the Amalgamation Committee, by Kevin Latimer, Attorney. The cost for Lockeport will be 6.33% of the fee. Motion Passed

- Yellow Fencing from Seacaps Park

There had been a request to purchase the yellow fencing that is currently owned by the Town of Lockeport. It was decided not to sell the fence as it is still used during festivals and will be used in the playpark until the completion of the project.

10. Other Business

- C & D site

There is a public engagement period where people can email their concerns to the Municipality of the District of Shelburne. The Town of Lockeport buys this service from the Municipality, so the Town has no say in what they do with the site. Currently we pay \$24,971 a year for the C&D site service.

Councillor K. Chetwynd thought they should be charging more at the C&D site, the prices do not reflect the ones in Queens County, which are almost double.

Councillor Malik says they have been running in the red for years and they use it as a business and not making money. There is a special council meeting being held on December 8th at 2 pm. at the Municipal building in Shelburne regarding this matter.

Deputy Mayor Hillen expressed the fear of illegal dumping.

Other concerns brought up were: To turn it into a dump is too costly, residents are upset that they will lose this site and it will cost more to travel to dispose of the C&D waste. This will also affect future homebuilders. With illegal dumping, comes environmental concerns.

- Silver Surfers Club

The Silver Surfers Club have won two awards for their 15-minute movie. They would like to offer a free viewing of the movie with a monetary or food donation to the Lockeport Food Bank on the day of the event. This will be held at the Crescent Beach Centre. The day is still to be determined in either January or February.

11. Council Reports

- Mayor Derek Amalfa

Mayor Amalfa talked about his meeting with Minister Armstrong on November 12, 2025, and how the RCMP want to modernize and become more visible. Minister Armstrong talked about the changes in crimes and that Nova Scotia has the highest rate of human trafficking in Canada. The RCMP is looking at a layered police module and changes to a unified records management so that they are all on one system. There will be a new billing framework that will be sent out to all municipalities before the budget is complete.

- Deputy Mayor Craig Hillen
 - o November 18, 2025, draft minutes for Heritage and Tourism Committee

Deputy Mayor Hillen said that the Little Mermaid of Lockeport will become a non-profit fund raiser in the new year so that anyone making donations to the project can get a tax receipt.

- Councillor Anna Chetwynd

Councillor A. Chetwynd wants to make sure the Playpark Committee is heavily involved in the grand opening of the park in the spring.

- Councillor Kevin Chetwynd
 - o Region 6 Budget Report

12-12-25-04

It was duly moved and seconded that the Town of Lockeport accept the Region 6, 2026/2027 budget, as presented. Motion Passed

- Councillor Candace Malik
 - o Student Advisory Council request

The Student Advisory Council is asking the Recreation Committee and Make Your Move Committee for up to \$2000 to help with the cost of a new volleyball referee stand, net stands, and poles for the High School. If not, SAC can cover it. Councillor Malik was asked if she could find out what the Town of Lockeport's monthly Education Tax is used for and if the province gives the High School money received from district 6 and 7 in the Municipality, whose students go to Lockeport Regional High School.

12. Correspondence

- Email from Chief Michelle Glasgow, Sipekne'katik First Nation to the Honourable John A. MacDonald, Minister of Municipal Affairs.

13. Information Only

There was nothing for Information Only

14. Date of next meeting

- January 9, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

15. "In Camera"

There was nothing for "In Camera."

16. Adjournment

12-12-25-05

There being no further business, it was duly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Time 3:16 pm. Motion Passed

Mayor Derek Amalfa

Town Clerk/Treasurer June Harding