



**TOWN OF LOCKPORT  
COUNCIL MEETING  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026  
MINUTES**

**Present: Mayor Derek Amalfa, Deputy Mayor Craig Hillen, Councillor Anna Chetwynd, Councillor Candace Malik, Councillor Kevin Chetwynd, and Recording Secretary Jill Cassibo.**

**Regrets: Town Clerk/Treasurer June Harding and Public Works Foreman Kevin Snow.**

1. Call to order

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

2. Silence Electronic Devices

All electronic devices were silenced at that time

3. Approval of Agenda, including additions or deletions

**02-27-26-01**

**It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the agenda for the February 27, 2026, meeting as presented with the following additions/deletions. Deletion of Interpretive Signs under Other Business. Additions of Public Works report under Department Reports and Love Lockport recognition for March under Committee Reports. Motion Passed.**

4. Conflict of Interest

There were no Conflicts of Interest declared.

5. Approval of Minutes of February 13, 2026, Regular Council Meeting

**02-27-26-02**

**It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the February 13, 2026, meeting Minutes as circulated. Motion Passed**

6. Business arising from previous Minutes.

There was no business to be dealt with from the previous meeting.

7. Community Forum (Open Mic)

- 20 Minutes Maximum
- Each resident is allowed a maximum of five minutes.
- Each resident is to state their name and where they live.
- The resident is to speak directly to the 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.

Jeff Wood, resident of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne and member of the Lockeport Heritage and Tourism Committee spoke about Policy GG-026, Social Media Policy regarding the open letter submitted to Council by Cory Nickerson. Mr. Wood feels the post and the letter were a breach of the policy.

8. Presentations

There are no presentations scheduled for this meeting.

9. Department Reports

- Public Works Report

Mayor Amalfa thanked Kevin, Wayne, Travis and Mark Williams (Excavating) for the work they had done by removing snow and keeping the streets plowed. Deputy Mayor Hillen thanked them for removing the snow in a timely manner to make the Lockeport Lobster Sea Catch Festival a success, after receiving 30cm of snow throughout the night. Councillor A. Chetwynd received a complaint from a resident on Brighton Rd. Resident advised they had just paid to have their driveway plowed, and the backhoe filled it back in at the bottom of her driveway. She was concerned as she could not remove herself. Wayne removed it for her, with his personal vehicle.

- VIC recommendations

Deputy Hillen discussed the Cabana currently being used for storage. He feels that this building is prime real estate that could generate revenue for the Town and Visitor Information Centre upgrades. One suggestion presented was that it is well known that visitors and residents request to buy local seafood and it would be an ideal location for a private seasonal business to sell seafood products. It does not make sense to keep this site for storage when we have other alternative locations for town required storage use. He suggested we should avoid importing items for storage purposes from private organizations and events when we are struggling to find space for Town items.

Emily Swim, VIC manager, stated that the baby barn is full of boxes of paperwork, soapbox derby cars, old signage and artifacts. She would like to change the layout of the showers and fine tune the Cabana, getting rid of the cupboards and sinks to provide more space. The baby barn at the Town office could also be used for storage, once it is cleaned out.

Councillor Malik stated that council recognizes and supports the idea that the VIC Manager Ms. E. Swim has full authority and final decision making and direction of daily VIC operations including staff and gift shop, use of VIC Centre, grounds for events, programming and markets. Emily stated that she and Ms. Harding had a meeting with the Big Beach Market and asked them to not to block the showers this year, as people could not access them during that market. Councillor Malik asked about using the space that the daycare used FOR STORAGE and that space is currently in use during Indoor Walking. Councillor A. Chetwynd stated that the Recreation Department will be looking over the bikes to see if any are useable for the Beach Centre.

### **02-27-26-03**

**It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve Emily Swim, VIC Manager, to organize and declutter the Cabana and Baby Barn and source estimates and options for the future use of the Cabana. Motion Passed.**

### 10. Finance

- List of invoices already paid in the amount of \$14,992.95

There were a couple of questions asked in relation to the invoices already paid and the questions were answered. Councillor K. Chetwynd thought it was a lot of money paid out for the Amalgamation Workshop in Shelburne. Mayor Amalfa replied that all members of the three Council were invited, and the costs were split between the three units. Councillor Malik asked about the trophy for the Lockeport Lobster Sea Catch Festival and was informed that it was paid for by donations from local fisheries. Councillor Malik also asked about the Scotia Business Centre and Dan Vincent invoices.

- Make Your Move Budget for 2026 – 2027

Deputy Mayor Hillen asked if all the cuts the province is making to organizations will affect the Make Your Move position. Councillor A. Chetwynd replied, stating she had not heard anything. These MYM funds have already been committed to the Town, and we're deferred from last year.

#### **02-27-26-04**

**It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the budget for the final phase of Make Your Move for 2026 – 2027. Motion Passed.**

- Canada Day Budget for 2026

Mayor Amalfa asked where the revenue comes from for Canada Day celebrations? Emily Swim, chair of the committee, replied that some of it comes from Celebrate Canada (a Federal grant), day pass sales and the Municipality of the District of Shelburne. The grant does not get approval until May. Mayor Amalfa asked if there were no grants from the Province of the Municipality, would the Town be responsible for the money needed for this event and Emily replied no, they would have to readjust the schedule and events would be eliminated. Emily stated that there was \$14,000.00 from last year still in the account and deferred from last year and the Canada Day Committee will return to council once revenue/grant amounts are confirmed. Councillor K. Chetwynd asked about the lifeguards, as they were late last year and the Medical First Responders are always there, do we need them? Emily stated that due to liability and Harbour Authority rules, they are needed. Councillor Malik will reach out to Senior Services to see if they can help with funding for the Senior Social, they do pay for the Senior Picnic.

#### **02-27-26-05**

**It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the tentative budget for the Canada Day Committee for 2026 based upon funding. Motion Passed.**

- Development of Municipal Video Surveillance Policy

**02-27-26-06**

**It was duly moved and seconded that Council direct staff to prepare a draft Video Surveillance Policy for the Town of Lockeport, informed by the Video Surveillance Guidelines and Policy Template issued by the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nova Scotia, for review and consideration by Council; and that the draft policy be presented to Council at a future meeting for discussion and potential adoption. Motion Passed.**

## 11. Other Business

- Letter from George Harding regarding Trestle Trail

Mr. Harding has a group together that is willing to put up a Canadian flag on both trestles as well as adding solar string lights along the chain-link fencing facing the Back Harbour.

Councillor A. Chetwynd stated that a resident on Brighton Rd. already puts up a Canadian Flag and she will speak to Mr. Harding about this person, they may want to join his group of citizens to enhance the trails.

**02-27-26-07**

**It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve Mr. Harding and his group of citizens to put up Canadian flags and solar string lights along the trestles. Motion Passed.**

- Property Valuation Services concern

Deputy Mayor Hillen is still concerned about assessments and running the rate of over inflating these assessments and that it will affect taxes. Councillor A. Chetwynd stated that she knew two of the properties sold had been capped for a long time and that may be the reason the assessments were so high. Deputy Mayor Hillen will check with Ms. Harding when she returns.

- Letter from Cory Nickerson regarding Mermaid Story

Deputy Mayor Hillen shared his appreciation for the Heritage & Tourism Committee, Event organizers and all people who attended the 1st Lockeport Lobster Sea Catch Festival. It was a tremendous success enjoyed by all.

Deputy Mayor Hillen then said that the Town had been in receipt of a letter from resident/former Mayor Cory Nickerson. The Deputy Mayor said he would like to speak to this correspondence and provide some content to the background to the project that was referenced in it.

Deputy Mayor Hillen acknowledged that although the tone and structure of the letter from Mr. Nickerson was critical and unsupportive. He did support that Mr. Nickerson has a right to his opinion even though he himself does not share Mr. Nickerson's position. It was shared with council that to date, Mr. Nickerson has never attended a Heritage and Tourism Committee meeting or requested to make a presentation, he has made no attempt to share his concerns or have a meaningful, respectful discussion with the Deputy or individual members of the committee that anyone is aware of and prior to him posting this letter on social media.

Mr. Nickerson's motives for taking that immediately to social media are only known to him. Deputy Mayor Hillen indicated that social media is a facet of our daily life. It can be used for good and is an excellent tool to support communication. Unfortunately, at times, it can also be used negatively as a tool to spread misinformation, inflammatory commentary that at times is biased, polarizing, divisive and offensive to a community and its residents. As it pertains to the Little Mermaid site and story it was the idea initiated by the Heritage and Tourism Committee. Half the committee consists of great people born and raised in Lockeport who work as local fishermen/fisherwomen who had input into this project and story. The idea is to develop a unique site that is not found anywhere else in Nova Scotia. The story was an afterthought with the belief that story would be fictional, fun, whimsical with a mythical sea creature that is connected to the ocean which surrounds our community and gives a backdrop to the sculpture. Mermaids have been maritime fictitious folklore for thousands of years. It has no historical reality to Lockeport at all but as an attractive site it is not meant to take away from our rich and colourful history. It is a concept of providing something different that may have some economic benefit for our local businesses. As Deputy Mayor Hillen pointed out, it is not much different than what a cartoonist in Florida drew a fictitious character and story about a mouse who could walk and talk. Many people hated it, believed it was crazy, stupid but that Mouse started a multi-billion-dollar industry, or another example was put forth asking how many people put up a Christmas tree and hang stockings for a bearded jolly man in a red suit who comes down the chimney each Dec 24th. Is that stupid because it's not true? Of course it is not, but it gives something fun for people to enjoy and pretend even for a short time to be a child once again and dream. Deputy Mayor Hillen did note that there was a lot of support for and equally noted that some were against the project and idea. He said he agrees that the history of Lockeport and area is

rich, colourful and has great stories to tell. He made note of the beautiful interpretive sign that Councillor Mary Meagher and former Mayor George Harding, talented local artist Layla Crouse initiated and created the story of the Scarlet Petticoat defense of Lockeport as a wonderful example. Deputy Mayor Hillen encourages all community members who are interested in the history, culture of Lockeport and area who have ideas for future projects or want to make a presentation to reach out or attend the Heritage and Tourism Committee meetings that are open to the public. As for the Little Mermaid project, Deputy Mayor Hillen said that for these reasons (refocus on local history and culture) that he would table the project for further discussion among the Heritage and Tourism Committee at the next meeting.

Mayor Amalfa added that the interpretive signs and website will showcase the Town and that even with Amalgamation talks going on, the main priority is to protect the Town's identity. Mayor Amalfa is looking forward to the project. The Heritage Committee has been hard at work developing nine interpretive signs that will show case Lockeport history, and culture. The new town website will also showcase our landscape, history, amenities for both residents and visitors. Both projects are nearing completion. As Council, we have identified the preservation of Lockeport's heritage and identity as a key priority in any amalgamation discussions, and we will continue to keep this at the forefront moving forward. Councillor A Chetwynd stated that, based on community feedback, it appears that residents are less concerned about the statue and more upset with a fictional story, since this is coming from Heritage and Tourism. Councillor A. Chetwynd stated, although the story is cute, it is wise to avoid being too much like Disney and suggested edits could fix that. Councillor A Chetwynd also cautioned the committee to ensure it met all requirements and approvals from such agencies as Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Department of Natural Resources, and Department of Environment as this proposal creates a potential navigation issue, introduction of an epoxy structure to the ocean, and may need to cross a beach to erect. She was also concerned about the safety and liability arising from the installation of a large piece in or near the ocean. If the proposed site is not within the Town of Lockeport, does that mean it's in the Municipality of the District of Shelburne and if so, have they been contacted or involved? Councillor A Chetwynd also reminded the committee that HTC Committee is a committee of the Town and unless the individual committee members are assuming personal liability then these steps cannot be overlooked. Councillor Malik thinks it is a great initiative.

## 12. Committee Reports

- Councillor Anna Chetwynd
  - o Recreation/MYM Committee Draft Minutes

All motions included in the report were made at the previous Council meeting on February 13, 2026, due to time constraints.

- Councillor Candace Malik
  - o Canada Day Draft Minutes

Councillor Malik suggested using Firefighters for traffic control. Councillor K. Chetwynd stated that not all Firefighters have the same training and some may not be trained. Mayor Amalfa stated that the Town of Shelburne uses their Public Works department that have been trained for traffic control and maybe they could be contacted. Councillor Malik will reach out to both Fire Departments and The Town of Shelburne. Councillor A. Chetwynd asked that Senior Social be moved to Tuesday and that was agreed upon.

- Heritage and Tourism Committee

The Heritage and Tourism Committee recommended South Shore Construction and C. Stephens Construction as the March Love Lockeport award recipients.

**02-27-26-08**

**It was duly moved and seconded Council approve, as recommended by the Heritage and Tourism Committee, South Shore Construction and C. Stephens Construction as the March Love Lockeport award recipients. Motion Passed.**

### 13. Correspondence

There was nothing for correspondence.

#### 14. Information Only

- Email from the Honourable Kim Masland, Minister of Emergency Management regarding Q & A Fire Services Modernization

This legislation is aimed at modernizing how fire protection services are governed and delivered. It introduces provincial standards for training, equipment, and service planning, along with provincial oversight, through the Office of The Fire Commissioner. For communities like Lockeport - where fire services are not currently operated directly by the Town, we will likely see more change as the legislation is implemented. There are no immediate decisions required of Council, at this time but over the next three years we will be required to review how fire protection services are delivered to ensure they meet provincial standards. We will need to gain a better understanding of our current model and work collaboratively with our fire service, administration, and regional partners to make sure we are prepared for what is coming.

**02-27-26-09**

**It was duly moved and seconded that Council agree to have Fire Chief Wayne Chetwynd and Jennifer Bell do a presentation to Council regarding this report. Motion Passed.**

- Email from Brenden Zwicker, Government Relations Advisor, Nova Scotia Power and an email from Warren MacLeod, CAO Municipality of the District of Shelburne

#### 15. Date of next meeting

- Friday March 13, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

#### 16. "In Camera"

There was nothing for "In Camera"

#### 17. Adjournment

**02-26-27-10**

**Being as there was no further business, it was duly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Time 2:20 p.m.**

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**Mayor, Derek Amalfa**

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**Town Clerk/Treasurer, June Harding**