

**Town of Mulgrave
Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2025**

Present: Mayor Chisholm, Deputy Mayor Maas Latimer, Councillor Russell, Councillor Michel, Councillor Tate and CAO Gray.

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm by Mayor Chisholm.

2. Approval of Agenda / Addition of Agenda Items

Moved by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Tate that the Agenda be approved with the following additions:

Budget

Business arising is missing from the agenda

Superport

Motion Carried

3. Minutes – March 17, 2025

Deputy Mayor Maas Latimer advised the corrections were not made to the uploaded minutes from the previous 3 meetings. These are to be corrected. March 17th Minutes were approved.

4. Business Arising From Minutes

5. Presentations

Protect Guysborough / Green Nova Scotia First

Jason Hurst, a resident of Pictou County presented for Green Nova Scotia First. Green NS First is a collective voice of citizens from 11 NS counties who are concerned that the Federal & Provincial governments are prioritizing the use of wind energy for hydrogen and ammonia exports over the decarbonisation of our local energy grid. Their 6 main concerns are: 1. The hydrogen-for-export projects directly compete with Local Grid projects for prime wind field locations. 2. They may end up competing with Local Grid projects for labour and materials. 3. They potentially displace renewable energy projects directed to reducing Nova Scotia's coal & carbon emissions. 4. The proposed projects require massive taxpayer-dollar support to be economically viable. 5. The number of proposed wind turbines will put the quality of life, wildlife and ecosystems at risk. 6. Multiple environmental risks associated with hydrogen/ammonia including leaks and spills. Links: protectguysborough.info & greennovascotiafirst.ca

6. **New Business/Carry Forward Business**

a) Community Garden

Deputy Mayor Maas Latimer was looking to confirm if residents were interested in a community garden this year. She has started prepping the ground and adding soil as required. The general consensus throughout the town was that people enjoyed the flower gardens last year, they added some brightness to the community. Councillor Tate asked for something to be put on the Facebook page to ask residents what they would like to see in the vegetable garden and mentioned maybe we could focus more on root vegetables, i.e. potatoes, carrots, turnips, etc. as these are more sustainable and can be donated to the Food Pantry if not used by residents. Councillor Maas Latimer advised she would look into the pricing of signage to put in the community garden(s), with Councillor Michel stating she would prefer to have a central location (1 or 2) gardens, rather than spread all over Town.

b) Travel and Expense Policy

Several changes were recommended to the Mayor & Council Travel Policy and the Credit Card Policy.

c) Sale of Municipal Land Policy

Discussion regarding the Sale of Municipal Land Policy including:

- what determines if municipal land is for sale
- how residents are informed of land sales
- list of municipal land can be posted online; residents' requests will be reviewed
- any municipal land could be considered for sale upon request
- questions regarding use of the walking trail on private land
- review of land sales for growth possibilities within Town; e.g. housing opportunities
- sale of land to adjacent owners without tendering.

d) Microphone for Council Meetings

Research was done by Deputy CAO, some options are quite expensive. The high end is approximately \$15,000 to incorporate the current system we operate. We also have the option of purchasing individual microphones, each about \$100. We would also need to purchase a control panel that Mayor Chisholm would control, to mute or unmute microphones as required. A speaker would also need to be purchased for this option. Total estimate < \$2000. Final pricing to be obtained.

e) Business Cards for Councillors

Option 1: purchase templates and have these printed in the office. This price is approximately \$20/250 cards. Option 2: Local printing in the area, price is \$68/250 cards. Council approved the purchase of option 1 for Councillor Tate, Councillor Michel & Deputy Mayor Maas Latimer, with 250 cards each.

f) Wind Turbines on Town Roads

Concerns raised regarding the arrival of wind blades and cement trucks for future projects; potential damage to Highway 344 / Main Street. Mayor Chisholm advised he had more information on this included with the additions to the agenda items.

g) Town Hall Meeting Date

CAO Gray will discuss dates that the presenters are available and will confirm via email with the members of Council to determine a date that works for all parties.

h) SAERC Scholarship Request

Councillor Russell read the names of the 5 Mulgrave / Aulds Cove graduates for 2025.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Town of Mulgrave Council approve the contribution of \$500 to the SAERC Scholarship/Bursary Fund on behalf of a student of the graduating class of 2025 who is a resident of Mulgrave. The recipient will be selected by the SAERC Scholarship Committee

Moved by Councillor Michel, seconded by Deputy Mayor Maas Latimer

Motion Carried

i) Surety Bond

Concerns expressed regarding activity in the watershed and the impact on the Town's source water. Councillor Michel was unable to find specific information online; additional information was requested from the Department of Environment and Climate Change; no response to date; request to add the Source Water Protection Plan to the website.

7. **Reports**

a) Council Committee Reports

i. Police Advisory

Next meeting in June.

ii. Library

Next meeting within a few weeks.

iii. MARA

Next meeting May 12, 2025.

iv. Recreation / Culture

To be announced.

v. Guysborough County Home Support Agency (GCHSA)

Next meeting in June.

vi. Eastern Region Solid Waste Management (ERSWM)

Next meeting April 25, 2025.

vii. Tourism Guysborough County

April 14, 2025, to familiarize Councillor Michel with key issues in TGC.

b) Staff Reports

i. CAO

- Secured funding of approximately \$258,000 for the Waterfront Development at McNairs Cove Project through the Municipal Capital Growth Program (MCGP) and awarded Project Manager role –Strait Engineering
- Secured funding of approximately \$169,000 from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) for designated comfort centre upgrades at the Legion, Fire Hall and Mulgrave Memorial Centre
- Ian Crosson was hired in early March as the new Overall Direct Responsible Charge (ODRC)

ii. Recreation & Physical Activity

N/A

iii. Public Works

- Water & Wastewater plant meetings and meeting with Superport regarding windmill / bridge project.
- Water breaks near Front Porch area & near MMC (Tower Rd) repair
- Sewer repairs on Mill St

iv. Water / Wastewater

- Lift stations' parts review for upgrades
- Completing Annual Reports for WTP and WWTP
- Ongoing meetings with Engineering re: WTP Upgrade

8. Approved Additions to the Agenda

Budget: 2025 / 2026 Draft Budget in progress for presentation to Council.

Superport: Mayor Chisholm was contacted by Superport and advised that a meeting with key players (including the Province) in wind farm construction and transportation will be scheduled to discuss a number of items including responsibility for the condition of Town roads; after this meeting, Mayor Chisholm will bring the results of the meeting back to Council; prior to moving any components, arrangements and pre and post surveys of the highway will be identified; Superport also expressed an interest in the Industrial Park, as there may be a need for more area for component repair / laydown.

9. Date of Next Meeting: April 22, 2025

10. Gallery

Questions regarding the sale of municipal land, public vs in camera discussions, alterations to the walking trail, liability for injury on the trail, warning signs and/or barriers; letter to landowner at end of trail to request signage / barriers.

Question whether Town would be doing any ditching; CAO to ask Public Works.

11. In-Camera

- i. Personnel Matters – MGA 22(2)(c)

Moved by Councillor Russell, seconded by Deputy Mayor Maas Latimer to move in camera at 8:31 pm.

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Russell, seconded by Deputy Mayor Maas Latimer to move out of in camera at 9:00 pm.

Motion Carried

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Town of Mulgrave Council receive an increase of 3% in honorariums effective April 1, 2025

Moved by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Tate

Motion Carried

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Non-Unionized staff members of the Town of Mulgrave receive an increase of 3% in salary effective April 1, 2025

Moved by Councillor Tate, seconded by Councillor Russell

Motion Carried

12. Adjournment

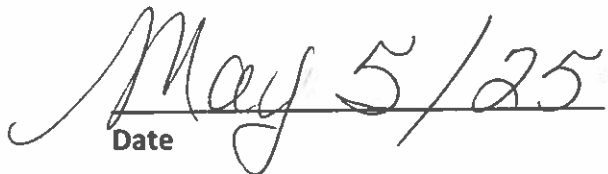
There being no further business it was moved by Councillor Russell to adjourn at 9:02 pm.



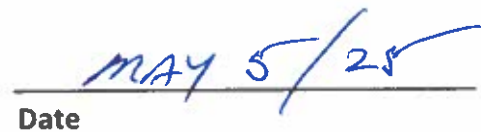
Mayor



CAO



Date



Date