

\$23,309. Additionally, following a structural assessment for the project at the NSRC, it was determined the roof is unsuitable for solar PV and it is being proposed that the installation be switched from roof mounted to ground mounted panels, resulting in an increase to the project of \$125,527. Other potential rebates or tax credits that may reduce the overrun are being researched. Staff provided options for consideration and are recommending Council approve additional capital funding of \$148,836 in the 2025/26 budget for the Solar Energy for Municipal Building project, with source of funds being the Special Operating Reserve.

Discussion was held on provincial and federal funding received for the Solar PV Panel project and overall contributions; possible reduction in overrun if other rebate opportunities are available; status of the rink projects; benefits such as reduction in power costs; and, location of ground mounted panels at the NSRC and property impacts.

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Martell

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that an additional \$148,836 be approved in the 2025/26 capital budget for the Solar Energy for Municipal Buildings project.” Carried unanimously.

**PCAP Funding Application –
Tatamagouche Water Supply,
Hydrogeologic Study**

The Director of Public Works advised that staff is seeking a motion of Council to support an application to the Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) to assist with funding of a hydrogeological study for the Tatamagouche Water Supply. The PCAP program offers 50% funding for water, sewer, and solid waste projects. This project was included in Council’s five-year capital budget for fiscal 2025/26.

Moved by Councillor Martell, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff be authorized to make an application to the Provincial Capital Assistance Program for the completion of a hydrogeological study for Tatamagouche, with a total anticipated project cost of \$100,000.” Carried unanimously.

**Request for Waiving of Tip Fees
for the Meadow Drive
Encampment Clean-up**

Councillor Fletcher declared a conflict of interest and recused herself from this discussion.

The Director of Solid Waste reported that Nova Scotia Public Works has requested a waiver of tipping fees related to the recent cleanup of the homeless encampment on Meadow Drive in Lower Truro. A total of 18 dump truck loads, 79.57 tonnes, were delivered to the Balefill facility, resulting in tipping fees of \$8,991.41. Due to the mixed nature of the materials and the potential for unknown contaminants, all loads were directed straight to the landfill for disposal. Additional handling costs were incurred by the Balefill facility, as several loads could not be transported directly to the landfill due to the type of truck used and weather conditions.

Options for consideration include approving the request and provide full credit, deny the request to waive tipping fees or provide a partial credit for the request. Staff recommend waiving a portion of the request, as outlined in the Action Item, as this would acknowledge support while still recovering costs associated with landfill cell space.

During discussion, concern was raised as this is a provincially owned property and should be the responsibility of the province. Discussion was also held on the rationale for the recommendation to waive a portion of the tipping fees.

Moved by Mayor Blair, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that \$58/tonne of the \$113/tonne tip fee be waived for the Meadow Drive encampment clean-up to ensure compensation for landfill cell space costs of \$55/tonne, resulting in a credit of \$4,615.06 to the NSPW account.” Carried unanimously.

**Committee Appointments –
Nominating Committee
Recommendations**

Mayor Blair presented the report of the Nominating Committee meeting held on April 7, 2025.

Moved by Mayor Blair, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That Council appoint Councillor Johnson to serve on the Regional Tourism Society Committee.”

AND

“That Council appoint Matt Kenny as a citizen representative on the Tatamagouche Water Utility Committee.”

AND

“That Council appoint Jason Giffin to serve as a business representative and Christine Chalmers to serve as a citizen representative on the Debert Business Park Advisory Committee.” Carried unanimously.

**J Class Roads – Approval of
2025 Candidates**

For the benefit of the newer Council members, the Director of Public Works provided a background on J Class Roads including information on the provincial program and funding, and process for road submissions for provincial consideration. In 2023, Council opted to enter into the Provincial Three-year J Class Road Paving Agreement, however, did not submit any roads for the 2024/25 fiscal year. In September 2024, Council motioned to submit MacCallum Drive, Hillvale Drive, Burris Drive, Vernon Street and Ice Pond Drive for consideration for the 2025/26 fiscal year. Discussion on related costs was referred to the upcoming budget deliberations process, however, no specific source of funds was identified at the time.

The Province recently advised that MacCallum and Hillvale Drive were accepted under the J Class Paving Program for fiscal 2025/26 at an estimated cost of \$430K, split 50-50 between the Province and the County. Council is required to confirm if they wish to proceed by April 30th. The upcoming operating budget has \$250K included in the existing Street Paving Reserve, for consideration at Additions & Deletions, to accommodate paving costs under the J Class Road program. Staff is recommending that Council accept the Province’s offer to pave MacCallum and Hillvale Drive with source of funds being the Street Paving Reserve.

A number of concerns were raised including the matter not being properly before Council; street paving versus street repaving; the repaving reserve

being for County owned streets, not provincially owned; additional funding for roads other than County owned not going into the repaving reserve; revisiting the section of the Service Delivery Policy - Transportation-Street Paving section; process for advancing roads (prioritization versus petition); definition of paving under the provincial agreement; and funding responsibilities and fairness to residents.

Discussion took place on responsibilities for project management for paving of roads under the Provincial agreement; budget overages; which policies/by-laws take precedence; policies/by-laws being subject to Council discretion; 50% funding under the Provincial agreement; funding being referred to budget deliberations; J Class roads being provincial responsibility; roads being a major concern of residents and the need to step up; changing description of definitions in budget documents; establishing two separate reserves; and process for selection of roads being put forward to the Province.

Moved by Councillor Benoit, seconded by Councillor Patton

“That Council Committee recommends that Council approve the repaving of Hillvale Drive and MacCallum Drive under the J Class Road Paving Program, for a total Municipal commitment of \$215,000, with source of funds being the Street Paving Reserve.” Motion carried (*Councillor Cooper opposed*).

INFORMATION ITEMS

Director’s Report

A report from the Director of Community Development was circulated in the package for tonight’s meeting.

Brief discussion was held on the work of the Wildfire Resilience Working Group, renewed park signage, and the status of the forest management project. A query was made on the vandalism at the new building at Nelson Memorial Park and the cost of damages. The Director advised that he would follow up and get back to Council on this.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Fletcher

“That the meeting go into closed session at 7:21 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 8:48 pm.” Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councillor Martell, the meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary