COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2026

A Committee of the Whole meeting was held in Council Chambers in Baddeck, on January 5, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. with Deputy Warden MacLeod in the Chair.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

District #1- Donna Matheson-Lefort

District #2- Perla MacLeod, Deputy Warden

District #3- Jess Kerr

District #4- Rosella Born

District #5 – Fraser Patterson

District #6 – Tim Donovan

District #7- Jackie Organ, Warden

District #8 – Wanda Hennick

STAFF PRESENT

Leanne MacEachen, CAO

Alix Redden, CFO

Steff MacLeod, Municipal Clerk and Executive Assistant

Dan Coffin, Manager of Tourism and Recreation

Ursula Melski, Manager of Communications

Morgan MacInnis, Solid Waste Educator, Recorder

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Warden MacLeod called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval. Council introduced topics related to special dates, awareness months, and proclamations for further discussion and potential implementation. Council also added the CAO performance evaluation as an agenda item.

On Motion of Councillor Born seconded by Councillor Hennick that the Agenda for January 5, 2026, be approved with additions.

Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 1, 2025, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

On Motion of Councillor Kerr seconded by Councillor Hennick to approve the December 1, 2025, Minutes.

Motion Carried.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY PRESENTATION – STEFF MACLEOD

Municipal Clerk Steff MacLeod delivered a presentation outlining the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPOP), including its purpose, core principles, and implications for councillors.

Best practices and potential risk areas were reviewed, emphasizing professional communication, responsible record-keeping, and the importance of maintaining public trust.

PROCLAMATIONS, FLAG RAISINGS, AND AWARNESS INITIATIVES

Council proposed developing a structured annual calendar for proclamations, flag raisings, and awareness initiatives to improve planning, visibility, and consistency. Council directed that a proposed list developed by Councillor Born be reviewed, with the matter to be discussed further at the next Council meeting. Council also supported a three-month trial period, after which the initiative will be revisited to determine next steps.

CAO PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Council raised the topic of the CAO performance evaluation process. Discussion included the formation of a preliminary evaluation committee consisting of Warden Organ, Deputy Warden MacLeod, Councillor Patterson, and Councillor Donovan, with consideration given to representation from different districts and a range of experience levels.

The proposed committee composition and evaluation materials will be reviewed further, with final decisions to be made at a subsequent Council meeting.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PROCESS AND FUTURE TOPICS

Council discussed the role of Committee of the Whole meetings and future agenda planning.

Key Points:

- Councillors should bring forward topics for Committee of the Whole to allow thorough discussion prior to council decisions.
- Departments will provide updates to Council at future Committee of the Whole meetings, based on Council direction.
- Topics identified for future Committee of the Whole discussions include:
  - Economic Development / Economic Officer role
  - Housing initiatives and inter-municipal collaboration
  - Police Advisory Committee

    - Trails
- Council emphasized the importance of minimizing special Council meetings through improved agenda planning and utilization of Committee of the Whole meetings.
- The possibility of holding Committee of the Whole meetings in different districts was discussed, with consideration for technology requirements.
- Council stressed the importance of consistent, unified decision-making to avoid public confusion.

UPCOMING PRESENTATION

Council noted that MP Battiste will attend an upcoming Council meeting. Councillors were encouraged to forward any topics or questions to the Municipal Clerk in advance.

NEXT MEETING

February 9, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.