

PUBLIC MEETING OF COUNCIL

April 17, 2025

Present: Tom Rose Mayor, Chairperson
Susan Fowlow Deputy Mayor
Laura Aylward Councillor
Maurice Hynes Councillor
Tom O'Brien Councillor
Myra White Councillor

Regrets: Darren Roberts Councillor

Staff: Bill Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
Candace Simon, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jennifer Brake, Town Clerk
Ira Barter, Director of Public Works, Engineering and Asset Management.
Marilee Joy-Castillo, Communication Manager
Matt Simms, Planning and Development Manager

Call to Order

The Meeting was called by Mayor Rose at 4:011 pm.

Land Acknowledgment

We respectfully acknowledge the Town of Stephenville as the ancestral homeland of different populations of Indigenous people. We also acknowledge with respect, the rich histories and cultures of the Beothuk, Mi'kmaq, Innu and Inuit of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

25-88 Moved by Councillor Hynes, Seconded by Councillor Aylward
Be it Resolved to approve the Agenda for April 17, 2025 as presented.
In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

25-89 Moved by Deputy Mayor Fowlow, Seconded by Councillor O'Brien
Be it Resolved that the minutes for April 3, 2025 Public meeting of council be approved
In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Mayor Rose due to conflict of interest left the council table, Deputy Mayor assumed the role as Chair.

During the discussion of Resolution No. 25-86 concerning Conflict of Interest, the motion was presented using language provided by legal counsel; however, the language was incorrect and led to confusion. Due to this error, the resolution must be rescinded and brought forward again with correct wording.

Approval to Rescind

25-90 Moved by Councillor Hynes, Seconded by Councillor O'Brien

Be it Resolved to rescind Resolution No. 25-86.

In Favor: 5 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, O'Brien, White

Opposed: 0 Carried

Mayor Rose returned to the council table and resumed as chair.

PROCLAMATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

Mayor Rose signed the proclamation declaring April 27 to May 3, 2025 as National Volunteer Week

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Accounts Payable

25-91 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Hynes

Be it Resolved to approve accounts payable for April 17, 2025 in the amount of \$64,086.72 as presented.

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Rose, O'Brien, White

Opposed: 0 Carried

Property Tax

25-92 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Aylward

Be it Resolved to approve Property Tax Write offs in the amount of \$512.80

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Rose, O'Brien, White

Opposed: 0 Carried

Remission of Tax

25-93 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Fowlow

Be it Resolved to approve Property Tax Write offs in the amount of \$3,853.94

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

Business Tax

25-94 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Hynes

Be it Resolved to approve Business Tax Adjustments in the amount of \$3,418.00

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

Request for Sponsorship – Stephen Awards

Councillor White declared conflict of interest and left the council table.

25-95 Moved by Councillor O'Brien, Seconded by Councillor Hynes

Be it Resolved to approve sponsoring the Stephen Awards in the amount of \$2500.00

In Favor: 5 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Rose, O'Brien
Opposed: 0 Carried

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**Harmon Hustle Race Event**

25-96 Moved by Councillor Aylward, Seconded by Councillor O'Brien

Be it Resolved to approve road closure from YMCA Building on Massachusetts Drive to Tennessee Drive from 8:00 am to 1:00pm on June 8th to accommodate Harmon Hustle Road race.

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Roberts, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

BY-LAWS, REGULATIONS, POLICYS**Community Grant Program Policy**

25-97 Moved by Mayor Rose, Seconded by Councillor Hynes

Be it Resolved to approve Community Grant Program Policy and to dissolve the previously program effectively immediately.

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

Sponsorship Program Policy

25-98 Moved by Mayor Rose, Seconded by Councillor White

Be it Resolved to approve Sponsorship Program Policy as presented

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

Occupancy Permit Policy

25-98 Moved by Mayor Rose, Seconded by Councillor Hynes

Be it Resolved to approve Occupancy Permit Policy as presented

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Rose, O'Brien, White
Opposed: 0 Carried

CODE OF CONDUCT

Mayor Rose declared conflict of Interest and left the council table. Deputy Mayor Fowlow assumed the role as chair.

25-99 Moved by Councillor White, Seconded by Councillor Hynes

With respect to a complaint of a conflict of interest against Mayor Tom Rose made pursuant to the *Municipal Conduct Act*, SNL 2021, c M-20.01

WHEREAS:

- A. The Town of Stephenville received a formal complaint from a member of the public (the "Complaint") alleging that Mayor Tom Rose had engaged in actions while in a conflict of interest, in violation of the *Municipal Conduct Act*;
- B. Council engaged an external investigator to investigate the Complaint;
- C. The external investigator prepared an Investigation Report dated March 6,

2025. The Investigation Report clarified the scope of the Complaint as being in respect of an alleged conflict of interest in violation of section 6 of the *Municipal Conduct Act*.

- D. The Investigation Report was considered by Council at a closed meeting held on March 18, 2025;
- E. The Respondent, Mayor Tom Rose, was heard before Council in response to the Investigation Report on March 18, 2025;
- F. Mayor Tom Rose has requested that his written response, which was provided to Council in response to the Investigation Report, should be tabled at a public meeting of Council;

COUNCIL HAS DETERMINED THAT:

- 1. The Investigation Report dated March 6, 2025, including the recommendations of the Investigator, is accepted by Council.
- 2. The Town Council finds that Mayor Tom Rose acted in a conflict of interest with respect to the matters described in the Investigation Report dated March 6, 2025, pursuant to section 8(10)(b) of the *Municipal Conduct Act*.
- 3. The Town Council finds that the Mayor has acted in a conflict of interest through inadvertence or a genuine error in judgment within the meaning of section 9(2) of the Act. Mayor Rose's seat on Council is therefore not vacated.
- 4. Council has discretion to determine the appropriate sanction within the meaning of section 9(2) of the *Municipal Conduct Act*. Council has determined that no sanction against Mayor Rose will be imposed in connection with the Complaint.
- 5. The Investigation Report dated March 6, 2025 is hereby tabled at a public meeting in keeping with section 8(11) of the *Municipal Conduct Act*.

NOW on this 17th day of April 2025, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town Council of the Town of Stephenville hereby finds Mayor Rose in a conflict of interest; declines to vacate his seat on Council, and imposes no sanction against him.

In Favor:	5	Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, O'Brien, White
Opposed:	0	Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS

Housing Infrastructure Vision Session

Councillor Hynes

He stated he attended the housing infrastructure vision session and noted it was a successful event; it provided an opportunity to meet with individuals that can support future projects.

Mayor Rose

He gave recognition to the management team for the successful housing infrastructure event. He stated the event was well attended by community members, and provincial representatives were also present. The event gave an opportunity for the participants to share their visions for housing development, and it was interesting to see the different styles.

Chief Administrator Officer

There was representation from Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador, as they are participating in and supporting the town through couple initiatives. First with housing needs analysis, this assessment is underway with Memorial University, and they are also seeking input from our local community members. Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador (MNL) initiative with housing support officers are supporting municipalities to utilize unused government programs. About \$100 million was available but was left untapped due to various reasons, approximately \$38 million has been now approved. The housing needs assessment once completed will be utilized to apply for funding through Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Canadian Home Infrastructure Fund, and applicable provincial funds. He commended staff on the successful event and recognized local sponsors and MNL who contributed to the event. Sponsors will be acknowledged and posted on the town's website.

He addressed concerns raised about the use of asphalt millings from the downtown Main Street construction project. The town, within the tender specification, requested the first opportunity to use the milling for community projects. The milling is the property of the contractor and it's their disposal if the town doesn't use it. The milling will be used to benefit the community by improving the gravel roads and walking/biking trails and future projects. Additionally, the milling has not been placed in watershed areas, this has been investigated and confirmed. The Director of Public Works, Engineering and Asset Management stated the milling will be used on gravel roads, behind Acadian Village on Minnesota Drive, Newtown Road, Hillier Ave, Burtons Place and Ridgeview Ave.

Councillor O'Brien confirmed the milling is not being placed on the mayor's property, but rather on a nearby property and water resources were consulted and raised no concerns.

Mayor Rose

He acknowledged he attended the College of the North Atlantic Scholarship ceremony, where tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships were awarded; the town provided a \$500 scholarship, while World Energy GH2 provided three \$ 2500.00 scholarships to the top three academic performers for the wind technician program. It was also great to see the strong presence of international students.

GDP

He made a comparison for GDP - 60% of the GDP of Canada comes from Ontario. Alberta- 15%. Newfoundland Labrador per capita produces more GDP for our country in any province in Canada.

Cultural space – we are working on the placement of four wigwams to represent four directions and we are working collaboratively with the cultural foundation to enhance the space with storyboards and focusing on accessibility.

Community Event – Easter Egg Hunt

Century 21 will be hosting easter egg hunt at Blanche Brook Park on April 19 between 2:00-4:00 pm

NOTICE OF MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

25-100 Moved by Councillor O'Brien, Seconded by Councillor Aylward

Resolved that since there is no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:56pm

In Favor: 6 Aylward, Fowlow, Hynes, Rose, O'Brien, White

Opposed: 0 Carried