

**Town of Long Harbour - Mount Arlington Heights  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
February 19, 2026**

**In Attendance**

Deputy Mayor Jamie Bruce

Councillor Kayla Squires

Councillor Lydia Burke

Councillor Linda Murphy

Councillor Loretta Keating

*Councillor Isadore Gambin-Absent*

*Mayor Walter Keating -Absent*

Also, in attendance: Juanita Gosse, Town Clerk/Manager

**CALL TO ORDER**

Deputy Mayor Jamie Bruce welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOTION 02-19-26-01 - Adopt the Agenda**

Moved by Councillor Kayla Squires, seconded by Councillor Lydia Burke.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Agenda be adopted as presented.

**In Favor:** Deputy Mayor Jamie Bruce  
**Councillors:** L. Burke, L. Keating, L. Murphy, K. Squires

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**MOTION 02-19-26-02 - Adopt the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held January 15, 2026**

Moved by Councillor Loretta Keating, seconded by Councillor Lydia Burke.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the minutes of January 15, 2026, Regular Meeting be adopted without errors or omissions.

**In Favor:** Deputy Mayor Jamie Bruce  
**Councillors:** L. Burke, L. Keating, K. Squires, L. Murphy

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BUSINESS FROM THE MINUTES**

**Emergency Intake Line** - We have not yet received the quote for this work.

**Streetlights around Big Head** – We have not yet received the quote for work.

**MANAGER’S REPORT**

**Generator for Municipal Complex** – The Generator is installed. It was tested and works perfectly.

**Sandboxes for Trail** – Two of the sandboxes are placed on the trail. Outside staff couldn’t place the others as the trail is not accessible at this time.

**Maturin Pond Trail Update**

Progress

The Brook Construction team are making great progress and the whole route for this phase has been cleared with the base material installed. The base material includes a mix of blast rock, geotextile, and class B gravel. The grades and route of the trail look great. The gentle curves and views that you catch along the way make for a pleasant walk.

Next Steps

Depending on the weather, Brook's team may be taking a break for a few weeks to allow the snow to melt before they can continue their work. Their next steps include installing the finished layer of gravel material and installing the benches at the rest areas. During the visit yesterday, we reviewed all the locations for the benches. One of the areas has a great view and I think that would be the good spot for the Vale plaque.

Boardwalk vs Granular Trail

The drawings called for granular walkway in some areas and boardwalk in others. As Brook’s team got into construction, they felt that they would be able to reduce the amounts of boardwalk in favor of additional culverts to address wet areas. I reviewed these areas with them on site yesterday and felt that the approach with additional culverts and ditching was looking successful. Removing the boardwalk areas does mean less maintenance for the Town in the future as well.

Since the granular trails require a little less material than the boardwalks, Brook is offering the Town a credit of \$12,500 to remove all the boardwalk from the scope and replace with granular trail. Please present this to Council for their review and approval.

**MOTION 02-19-26-03 – Approval to Remove Boardwalk from the Scope and Replace with Granular Trail**

Moved by Councillor Loretta Keating, seconded by Councillor Kayla Squires.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council approves replacing boardwalks with granular trail in the scope of work for the Maturin Pond Trail.

**In Favor:** Deputy Mayor Jamie Bruce  
**Councillors:** L. Burke, L. Keating, K. Squires, L. Murphy

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **DELEGATIONS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Review of Lobster Loss from 2023** - At the regular council meeting of January 15, 2026, council carried a motion to revisit Mr. Murphy's loss of his lobster catch in July of 2023.

Council held a privileged meeting on Friday, January 30, 2026, to review and discuss the matter. Ms. Jenny DeCoste joined the meeting to provide an expert opinion on the contents of the outfall to the ocean. Ms. DeCoste is an Environmental Scientist with the Community Water and Wastewater Section of the Water Resources Management Division, Department of Environment and Climate Change.

Ms. DeCoste started the conversation by explaining the town's water treatment process and how our water treatment plant works. She explained how the sludge byproduct is created, what the sludge contains, and how our treatment system handles and disposes of the sludge. Ms. DeCoste is well versed in our water treatment plant processes as she is the environmental scientist who inspects our plant to ensure it meets all government regulations; a requirement in obtaining our permit to operate.

When asked if the outfall to the ocean would harm aquatic life, Ms. DeCoste was confident it would not.

The council proceeded to review the documents and decisions made by past council. They started with Mr. Murphy's original letters to Council. They reviewed council's decision to send the claim to our insurance company and the insurance company's response to that claim.

Council went on to view the documents related to the tests taken of the outfall, including how the samples were gathered, who had custody of the samples, and the results of the tests. It was clear that past council had the samples taken and tested independent of council. The results from an accredited laboratory, AGAT, were sent to the Department of Environment for evaluation. Ms. DeCoste read the results and declared the outfall safe for aquatic life. Again, based on the test results, she is confident there was nothing in the outfall that would cause harm to aquatic life.

It is evident that the council conducted a thorough investigation. All councillors were very sorry for the misfortune, and they completely understood Mr. Murphy's devastation in losing his entire catch.

However, as much as they understand the loss, Council cannot accept responsibility for the loss. Therefore; based on their review council's decision is to uphold the direction of past council.

### **Fire Department Quotes**

The Fire Department submitted a quote for training in the amount of \$2,752.00. The Fire Department has adequate funds in their budget to cover this expense.

### **MOTION 02-19-26-04 – Approval of Training**

Moved by Councillor Lydia Burke, seconded by Councillor Linda Murphy.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council approves the training for firefighters as submitted.

**In Favor:** Deputy Mayor Jamie Bruce  
**Councillors:** L. Burke, L. Keating, K. Squires, L. Murphy

**MOTION CARRIED**

The Fire Department submitted two quotes for equipment. The first is for 16 Dicatca Low profile intrinsic helmets having a total cost of \$2,206.16. The second quote is for 16 coveralls at \$350.00 each for a total cost of \$ 5,600.00 plus HST. Again, the Fire Department has adequate funding in their budget to cover these expenditures.

**MOTION 02-19-26-05 – Approval Equipment Purchase**

Moved by Councillor Loretta Keating, seconded by Councillor Kayla Squires.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council approves purchasing the helmets and coveralls for firefighters.

**In Favor:** Deputy Mayor Jamie Bruce  
**Councillors:** L. Burke, L. Keating, K. Squires, L. Murphy

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Eastern Regional Service Board – Waste Collection Contract**

After April 30, 2026, the Eastern Regional Service Board will accept requests for proposals for waste services for a 60-month contract with 2 possible extensions. ERSB would like to confirm, via motion, whether our town will continue to participate in the regional waste service. If we don't participate, our regional waste service will end on April 30, 2026, and once the contract is awarded, we may not be able to opt back into the waste service until May 1, 2031.

The 2026 fee for waste services including garbage collection, recycling, and bulk collection, remains at \$225.00 per household.

**MOTION 02-19-26-06 – Approval to Participate in the Regional Waste Service**

Moved by Councillor Lydia Burke, seconded by Councillor Loretta Keating.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council approves of participating in the Regional Waste Service for the 60-month contract with the possibility of 2 extensions.

**In Favor:** Deputy Mayor Jamie Bruce  
**Councillors:** L. Burke, L. Keating, K. Squires, L. Murphy

**MOTION CARRIED**

**RCMP Meeting Invitation to the Placentia-Whitbourne District Policing Meeting**

The District Commander, Sgt. Patrick Dorman, invites you to the first quarterly in-person Placentia-Whitbourne District Policing Meeting scheduled for Wednesday March 25, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at the Placentia Detachment. Their plan is to provide you with a thorough report on policing initiatives and statistics.

You are requested to confirm your attendance, and an agenda will be sent as soon as your attendance is confirmed.

Sgt. Patrick Dornan is also available to attend a meeting in our community.

**MOTION 02-19-26-07 – Approval for Travel Expenses**

Moved by Councillor Kayla Squires, seconded by Councillor Lydia Burke.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council approves travel expenses for two councillors to attend the meeting.

**In Favor:** Deputy Mayor Jamie Bruce

Councillors: L. Burke, L. Keating, K. Squires, L. Murphy

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Lighting at Fitness Centre**

Councillor Kayla Squires added this to the agenda. She feels the lighting around the fitness centre is not adequate.

**MOTION 02-19-26-08 – Add Lighting around the Fitness Centre**

Moved by Councillor Linda Murphy, seconded by Councillor Kayla Squires.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council approves adding lighting as necessary around the fitness centre.

**In Favor:** Deputy Mayor Jamie Bruce

Councillors: L. Burke, L. Keating, K. Squires, L. Murphy

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Schedule Strategic Planning Meeting**

Councillor Kayla Squires added this to the agenda. Requesting Council schedule a strategic planning meeting.

- Deferred to next meeting.

**Crime Prevention Association of NL**

The Citizens Crime Prevention Association of NL has helped make NL Communities safer for over 35 years. They are working on a Seniors Abuse Awareness Guide to help educate and promote the public's role in identifying and reporting senior abuse.

Council is invited to purchase an ad in support of the Seniors Abuse Awareness Guide. In the past Council has purchased a 1/8 page, which is a business card size for \$235.00.

**MOTION 02-19-26-09 – Purchase Ad**

Moved by Councillor Kayla Squires, seconded by Councillor Linda Murphy.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council approves purchasing a 1/8-page ad in the guide.

**In Favor:** Deputy Mayor Jamie Bruce  
**Councillors:** L. Burke, L. Keating, K. Squires, L. Murphy

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Placentia Chamber of Commerce – Sponsor International Women’s Day**

The Placentia Chamber of Commerce is hosting International Women’s Day – “Give to Gain” on March 8, 2026, from 1:30 – 3:30, at the Star of the Sea Hall, Placentia. They are requesting the Town sponsor this event. Sponsorship keeps this event free and inclusive. It supports women’s leadership and well-being, promotes inclusion and community connectivity and makes a positive local impact.

- Gold Sponsor - \$500.00
- Silver Sponsor - \$300.00
- Bronze Sponsor - \$200.00
- In-Kind Sponsor – Donation of gift cards or services with event and post-event recognition
- Other – Contribution Amount

**MOTION 02-19-26-10 – Sponsor International Women’s Day**

Moved by Councillor Linda Murphy, seconded by Councillor Lydia Burke.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council approves sponsoring the Placentia Chamber of Commerce International Women’s Day in the amount of \$200.00.

**In Favor:** Deputy Mayor Jamie Bruce  
**Councillors:** L. Burke, L. Keating, K. Squires, L. Murphy

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Wind/Hydrogen Project Supplier Session**

As a chamber member you are invited to attend an exclusive Wind/Hydrogen Project Supplier Session in partnership with North Atlantic and Energy NL.

The session will take place on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Sunnyside Recreation and Wellness Centre.

The session will provide chamber members with an opportunity to learn more about the Wind/Hydrogen project, supplies engagement, and upcoming opportunities.

**Rules of Procedure – Town of Long Harbour-Mount Arlington Heights Town Council Meetings Rules and Regulations By-Law**

Councillor Loretta Keating added this to the agenda and is requesting a meeting to review the current policy and make changes if necessary.

- Council will schedule a Special Meeting to review the policy.

**Vale Layoffs**

Councillor Linda Murphy added this to the agenda.

- Defer to next meeting. Mayor and Deputy Mayor will schedule a meeting with Vale to discuss the issue. Mayor Keating has begun work on this issue and will follow-up with the contractors.

**Community Building Fund Expenditure Report for 2025**

Commonly referred to as the Gas Tax Audit, the document was copied to all councillor for review.

**MOTION 02-19-26-11 – Community Building Fund Expenditure Report for 2025**

Moved by Councillor Kayla Squires, seconded by Councillor Loretta Keating.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council has reviewed and approves the 2025 Community Building Fund Expenditure Report.

**In Favor:** Deputy Mayor Jamie Bruce

**Councillors:** L. Burke, L. Keating, K. Squires, L. Murphy

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Letter from Resident – Water Fee on Vacant Land**

Resident requests that Council remove the water tax from his vacant land under section 131(2) of the Towns and Local Service Districts Act.

- 131(1) A town served by a water system, sewer system or a water and sewer system shall impose upon the owner of real property a water and sewer fee for services received or deemed to be received.
- 131(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), unless a town council by, by-law, provides otherwise, where a sewer or water main runs along the land of any person, that person is deemed to receive those services notwithstanding that the sewer or water mains are not physically connected by lateral lines to any resident, building or other structures located on the land of that person.
- Council noted that section 131(2) supports invoicing vacant land the water fee.

- It was also noted that Council cannot remove the water fee on vacant land without a by-law. They plan to adopt the by-law before the 2027 budget.

### **Resource Centre**

This item was added by Councillor Loretta Keating.

- Deferred for more information.

### **DEVELOPMENT**

**DELEGATIONS** - None

### **FINANCE**

#### **Cheque List and Visa Approval**

The Cheque List from January 16, 2026, to February 19, 2026, was provided to all councillors to review along with the Visa Statement for January 2025.

#### **MOTION 02-19-26-12 Approve Cheque List and Visa Statement**

Moved by Councillor Linda Murphy; seconded by Councillor Loretta Keating.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the cheque list for the period of January 16, 2025, to February 19, 2026, in the amount of \$79,249.62 be approved for payment as well as the Visa Statement for January in the amount of \$4,607.42.

**In Favor:** Deputy Mayor Jamie Bruce  
Councillors: L. Keating, L. Burke, L. Murphy, K. Squires

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **Letter of Response from Eastern Regional Service Board (ERSB)**

The letter thanks Council for sharing the concerns of residents. ERSB says the overall waste collection service in Long Harbour-Mount Arlington Heights is strong. They received 12 reports of missed collections. They report that 10 of those were related to access issues on Barhaven and Paradise. Regarding the bulk, waste collection, they recognize that the collection did not meet residents' expectations. They will review the bulk collection process.

The ERSB listed several reasons for delays in collection including, weather events, holidays, mechanical problems etc.

Regarding Respectful Conduct the ERSB expect all collection staff to treat residents with courtesy and respect. In turn collection staff expect the same.

Garbage Box Lids – Collection staff are not required to close garbage box lids. Residents are responsible for maintaining and securing their own garbage boxes. The ERSB reports that contractors have reported issues with the condition of some boxes, including protruding screws or nails, falling lids, wasp nests, and unpleasant or unsanitary conditions such as maggot or rodent infestations.

Regarding road safety – Contractors are required to follow all provincial and federal laws in the course of their operations. Any concerns related to the Highway Traffic Act should be reported directly to the RCMP.

Clear communication is important to the ERSB. They share updates as soon as information becomes available from our contractor, through their website, Voyent Alert and via email to the town. Timely reporting of missed collection is essential as it helps resolve issues quickly and track performance accurately. Residents can sign up for Voyent Alerts to receive real time alerts.

The ERSB values the Town's continued partnership in delivering safe, reliable, and environmentally responsible waste collection. They would be delighted to meet with Council if you feel it would be helpful.

- Council doesn't think a meeting with ERSB is necessary at this time.
- Council would like to ask if the collection contractor will advise the homeowner about rodents, wasp nests etc. found in the garbage box or will they forward the report to the council office.
- Council would also like the contractor to advise residents of why items are not taken.

### **Gov. of NL - Emergency Management Plan**

The correspondence is an official reminder of Council's obligation to have an Emergency Management Plan. Those towns that have a plan are encouraged to revisit it to ensure it covers all potential hazards, risks as well as vulnerability analysis. Exercising the Emergency Management Plan through tabletop exercises and other scenarios is also a great way to enhance your town's capabilities. Emergency Service Division would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with Council and other stakeholders for such initiatives.

Councillors who are involved in the Emergency Management Plan should have a minimum of Basic Emergency Management and Emergency Operations Centre Management training.

- It was agreed to schedule a meeting to review the town's Emergency Management Plan.

### **NOTICE OF MOTION**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**DATE FOR NEXT MEETING** – March 19, 2026

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION 02-19-26-13 Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Kayla Squires; seconded by Councillor Lydia Burke.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council adjourns the Regular Meeting at 7:50 p.m.

**In Favor:** Deputy Mayor Jamie Bruce

Councillors: L. Keating, K. Squires, L. Burke, L. Murphy

**MOTION CARRIED**

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Jamie Bruce  
Deputy Mayor

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Juanita Gosse  
Town Clerk/Manager