

A regular monthly meeting of the Committee of the Whole of Middleton Town Council was held in person and on YouTube Live on Monday, May 4, 2026.

PRESENT

Chairing the meeting, Mayor Gail Smith, Deputy Mayor Gary Marshall, Councillors John Bartlett, Dan Smith, Bernadette Knapp, and Jonathan Archibald; Chief Administrative Officer, Ashley Crocker, Director of Finance, Leah Profitt, and Recording Secretary, Sara Marceau.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

260504.01: It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda, as circulated. **Motion carried.**

3. **PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Smith proclaimed May 3-9, 2026, as Emergency Preparedness Week the Town of Middleton.

Mayor Smith proclaimed May 2026, as Lyme Disease Awareness Month in the Town of Middleton.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

4.1 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – April 7, 2026

No errors or omissions were noted, and the minutes were considered approved.

5. **ANYTHING BY CITIZENS**

Nothing to report.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 RFD 038-2026 Appointment List Update

CAO Crocker gave a brief overview of the Appointment List Update.

260504.02 It was moved and seconded that Council, on recommendation from the CAO, appoint Chris Dowell as a member of the Audit Committee. **Motion carried.**

260504.03 It was moved and seconded that Council, on recommendation from the CAO, appoint Brend Ford as a member of the Police Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

260504.04 It was moved and seconded that Council, on the recommendation from the CAO, appoint Cliff Drysdale as a member of the Source Water Protections Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

260504.05 It was moved and seconded that Council approve the 2026 Appointment List, as presented. **Motion carried.**

6.2 RFD 039-2026 Valley Waste Temporary Borrowing Resolution

DOF Profitt gave a brief overview of the Valley Waste Temporary Borrowing Resolution.

260504.06 It was moved and seconded that Council approve the included Town of Middleton's Loan guarantee resolution in the amount of up to, but not exceeding forty-five thousand eight hundred and sixty-five dollars (\$45, 865) representing one-point ninety-one percent (1.91%) of the total of two million, four hundred thousand dollars (\$2,400,000) to be borrowed by Valley Waste for their 2026/27 capital budget. **Motion carried.**

6.3 RFD 041-2026 EDI and Accessibility Committee Terms of Reference

CAO Crocker gave a brief overview of the EDI and Accessibility Committee Terms of Reference.

- Councillor Archibald asked whether the matter could wait until after the special election.
 - CAO Crocker confirmed that it could and noted it was not included in the updated appointment list.

260504.07 It was moved and seconded that Council approve splitting the joint Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) Committee into a Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee and a Joint Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee, and approve the draft terms of reference attached. **Motion carried.**

7. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Community Concerns/Complaints as of April 2026

CAO Crocker stated that the Community Concerns/Complaints as of April 2026 has been circulated to all members.

7.2 Town General and Water Utility Financial Report as end of March 2026

DOF Profitt gave a brief overview of the Town General and Water Utility Financial Report as end of March 2026.

7.3 2025-2026 Capital Projects Update

Director of Finance Profitt gave a brief overview of the 2025-2026 Capital Projects Update.

- Councillor Smith asked whether other levels of government should be invited to the Reservoir grand opening.
 - CAO Crocker confirmed that the provincial MLA will be invited.
- Councillor Bartlett inquired about the tariff fee and whether a refund has been received yet.
 - CAO Crocker noted that the tariff has not yet been received but continues to be a priority for staff, CBCL, and Roscoe, with support also being provided by MP Chris d'Entremont's office.

8. ANYTHING BY MEMBERS

- Councillor Archibald stated that a resident reported the biker club was revving their bikes over the weekend, and that some Rotary Club members are unhappy with the approval process for the sunshade structure at the pool.
- Council discussed highlights from the NSFPM conference, including updates on the provincial policing review, anticipated changes to the RCMP billing model, and growing concerns around drug-related crime and human trafficking in Nova Scotia. Members also reflected on safety issues for elected officials, noting increasing threats and harassment, including incidents requiring security measures. The discussion emphasized a broader shift in public behavior since 2020, with more hostility, particularly online, and reinforced that abuse toward elected officials is unacceptable.
- Councillor Knapp expressed satisfaction that the Town's Brush Dump will be open on Saturdays and Sundays for the month of May, and noted that a resident has requested a "Children at Play" sign at the intersection of Acadia and Duke Streets.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 6:59pm.


MAYOR


RECORDING SECRETARY