**MIDDLETON TOWN COUNCIL**
**Town Hall – Council Chambers & YouTube Live**
**Monday, November 16, 2026**
**6:30pm**

# AGENDA

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

## 2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**Motion:**
That Council approve the agenda as circulated

## 3. PROCLAMATION

3.1 International Day of Persons with Disabilities - December 3, 2026

## 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Council Meeting Minutes – October 19, 2026

## 5. ANYTHING BY CITIZENS

*Procedure: A thirty-minute period will be provided for members of the public to address Council regarding questions, concerns and/or ideas. Each person will have a maximum of two minutes to address Council with a second two-minute period provided there is time remaining within the thirty-minute "Anything by Citizens" period.*

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

Nothing to report

## 7. REPORTS

7.1 Management Report
7.2 Middleton Fire Department Dispatch Report for October 2026
7.3 Valley Regional Services Board Oct 21/26 Meeting Minutes
7.4 Mayor's Report

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 November 3, 2026, Email to Mayor and Council re: Valley REN Information Briefing - Follow-up and Support for Lily Lake Initiative
8.2 November 9, 2026, Letter from Mayor to Premier Tim Houston re: Emergency Room closures

## 9. ANYTHING BY MEMBERS

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

Town of Middleton
Heart of the Valley

# Proclamation

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

### DECEMBER 3, 2026

**WHEREAS** the International Day of Persons with Disabilities has been commemorated since 1992 to promote action and raise awareness relating to the inclusion of persons with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS** the 2026 theme, “The CRPD at 20: Building on Progress, Advancing the Future.”, Marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which was adopted on December 13, 2006.

**WHEREAS** we all benefit from a society and an economy without barriers to inclusion. When persons with disabilities can participate in every aspect of political, social, economic, and cultural life, it enriches Canada and its economy. The observance of the Day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities.

**THEREFORE,** be it resolved that I, **Gail Smith, on behalf of the Town of Middleton**, do hereby proclaim, December 3, 2026, as "**International Day of Persons with Disabilities"** in Middleton and that as a municipality, we can promote the participation of individuals with disabilities in leadership positions.

Dated at Middleton, Nova Scotia
this 16 day of November 2026.

_____
Gail Smith, Mayor

A regular monthly meeting of Middleton Town Council was held in-person at the Town Hall, via YouTube Live, on Monday, October 19, 2026, starting at 6:30pm.

**PRESENT**

Chairing the meeting, Mayor Gail Smith; Deputy Mayor Gary Marshall, Councillors, Darren Boates, Jonathan Archibald, John Bartlett, Bernadette Knapp, and Dan Smith; Director of Finance, Leah Profitt, Communications Coordinator, Gina Pearson, Chief Administrative Officer, Waye Mason; and Recording Secretary, Sara Marceau.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**261019.01** It was moved and seconded that Council approve the agenda as amended. **Motion carried.**

3. PROCLAMATION

3.1 Fall Prevention Awareness Month – November 2026

Mayor Smith proclaimed November 2026 as Fall Prevention Awareness Month in Middleton.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

2026.10.19 – Council Meeting Minutes

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

5. ANYTHING BY CITIZENS

Nothing to report.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Committee of the Whole Recommendations

a. RFD 058-2026 Draft Waiving Fees for Affordable Housing Policy

Chief Administrative Officer Mason gave a brief overview of RFD 058-2026 Draft Waiving Fees for Affordable Housing Policy.

DRAFT

The discussion focused on concerns about waiving fees, the limited financial contribution toward the overall project, potential property tax relief, and concerns about development on Magee Drive. Questions were raised about how assistance would affect the project and the application process. Councillor Bartlett clarified that Council would retain the authority to vote on affordable housing applications.

**261019.02** It was moved and seconded that Council approve the Waiving Fees for Affordable Housing Policy as presented. **Motion carried.**

b. RFD 067-2026 Flag Policy

Chief Administrative Officer Mason gave a brief overview of the Flag Policy.

**261019.03** It was moved and seconded that Council approve the Town of Middleton Municipal Flag Policy as presented. **Motion carried.**

c. RFD 068-2026 Street Banner Policy

Chief Administrative Officer Mason gave a brief overview of RFD 060-2026 Building and Fire Inspection Agreement.

Councillor Smith asked whether the Town owns all the street brackets in Middleton, noting that the Legion has installed the Remembrance Day banners.

Councillor Boates recalled that the brackets, approximately 10–15 feet high, belonged to the Town. The way the banners are currently being installed requires follow-up action.

Deputy Mayor Marshall stated that the poles are owned by Nova Scotia Power or Bell Aliant.

Councillor Boates expressed concern that the current method of installing the banners poses a liability and emphasized that safety concerns need to be addressed.

Councillor Smith suggested tabling the motion and have a conversation with public works.

ACTION: Staff to clarify if we own or we don't own

**261019.05** It was moved and seconded to clarification of ownership and safety standards. **Motion carried.**

DRAFT

7. REPORTS

7.1 Management Report
7.2 Middleton Fire Department Dispatch Report for September 2026
7.3 Police Advisory Board DRAFT Meeting Minutes – September 29/26
7.4 Planning Advisory Committee DRAT Meeting Minutes – September 23/26
7.5 Mayor's Report

Mayor Smith noted that the above reports were circulated to Council members with the agenda package and called for questions/discussion.

Councillor Smith commented that Public Works' second line of the Management Report, augers, and the …

8. ANYTHING BY MEMBERS

Councillor Knapp expressed appreciation for the clearing of trees obstructing the stop signs.

Councillor Smith noted that the Haunted House will take place this Friday and Saturday from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., with the Witch Walk scheduled for Saturday at 4:00 p.m. Councillor Smith also pointed out an issue with a parking sign on School Street. The sign does not have a "No Parking" arrow, and the pole is positioned to the south, making it appear as though the area is an additional parking lot.

Councillor Bartlett stated that the Municipality has a great relationship with the Base and continues to stand with Wainwright. Councillor Bartlett also noted that Valley REN had arranged a meeting with the owners of Free Form Co-Packing, formerly Valley Flax Flour. The business focuses on producing products for individuals with allergies and has significant plans for future expansion.

Mayor Smith was invited to attend the event at Soldiers' Memorial Hospital on Saturday regarding staff retention.

Councillor Knapp welcomed Waye as the Municipality's new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:03pm.

Mayor Recording Secretary



DRAFT

# Management Report

November 16, 2026

## COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

| # | STRATEGIC INITIATIVE | UPDATE |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **Perform an assessment of policing services within the Town of Middleton** | • Staff to investigate options for the assessment, considering the new policing standards just announced by the province<br>• Staff met with the Minister of Justice and staff and Council attended Police Advisory Board (PAB) training which gave some insights on how to improve community safety in Middleton<br>• Request to dissolve Joint PAB with Annapolis County was approved by the Minister of Justice<br>• New Town PAB is established and met on May 7th, the PAB also set policing priorities for 2026. Further Meetings July 14th and September 29th.<br>• New PPSA Billing Framework requires extensive planning through PAB and Council.<br>• **PPSA draft contract is being reviewed by AMANS and CAO for comment** |
| 2 | **Explore the construction of a multi-faceted facility for municipal services** | • Staff have explored three different grant programs to help fund the new Community Centre Fill Hall<br>• The CCFHC instructed staff to explore a phased approach with JOST and the low bidder.<br>• Received phased approach. Exploring funding options.<br>• Staff to compile information for design/build RFP<br>• **CAO is preparing a report and recommendations for the new year.** |
| 3 | **Create a plan for replacing road and sidewalk infrastructure in priority areas** | • Staff have compiled information on roads and assessed and prioritized each road and sidewalk.<br>• Staff have completed a preliminary list of roads and road condition rating. Other indicators for consideration of road priority need to be assessed before a report comes to Council. Consultants may be required for some of this work.<br>• **Staff will bring a road classification and standards report to Council in the new year** |
| 4 | **Create a plan for upgrading water infrastructure in priority areas** | • Staff to compile information on water infrastructure |
| 5 | | • UARB approved the project on Aug 2/24 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Finish the new reservoir including the decommissioning of the old reservoir** | • Contract was publicly tendered and awarded to Roscoe Construction on Aug 6/24<br>• Reservoir tank generated ~$155K in tariffs at the border – staff working on getting an exemption<br>• **Tender has been awarded for old reservoir decommissioning and work has been completed.**<br>• **Reservoir is online.** |
| **#** | **STRATEGIC INITIATIVE** | **UPDATE** |
| **6** | **Create a growth plan that promotes housing and population growth, as well as economic development** | • Draft Secondary Plan was completed but not yet approved by Council (in addition to the corresponding MPS/LUB amendments)<br>• Apr 15/25 – PAC held a public hearing<br>• PAC Meeting held on Jan 12/26 with Council recommendation<br>• Jan 19/26 Council meeting, staff directed to work with developer on a different approach<br>• BCP working on increasing density in the Northlands of Town by proposing amendments to the Town's Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw – this involves a review of the draft Secondary Plan, conducting additional public engagement, and working with Parsons Investments<br>• Developer has submitted a high-level plan and met with planning staff on Apr 13/26<br>• Developer to submit a Development Agreement application, as suggested by staff<br>• **CAO is evaluating the need for a comprehensive town plan review and will bring a proposal forward in the next 3 monthsd** |
| **7** | **Create a communications strategy that enhances public communication and transparency** | • External Communications Strategy was approved by Council on May 4, 2026<br>• Workplan presented to Council on May 19th<br>• Communications Strategy snapshot completed May 19th<br>• Cross-training on website maintenance is complete<br>• Review of policies to be updated is underway<br>• Crisis Communication Plan approved by Council<br>• **CAO has secured middleton.ca and is working to delivery an improved website before xmas using internal resources** |
| **8** | **Increase recreational programming and social events to the public** | • New Shad Derby (May 2025 and 2026) |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | • New summer events for families and children (July – August 2025)<br>• New Titan Training started in 2025 and continues over the winter at AEES<br>• New Drop-in Open Gym and Judo for AEES students and their families starting in January 2026<br>• Staff applied for a grant to put on an event called "Seasoned Together" - an intergenerational, nutrition-focused initiative designed to bring older adults and youth together through the joy of cooking, creativity, and shared food.<br>• **New SLO-Pitch games happening at Rotary Park** |

## OPERATIONAL UPDATES

| **ADMINISTRATION** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Completed** | **In Progress** | **Issues** |
| **Staffing:**<br>• CAO is onboarded. | **Staffing:**<br>• Gearing up for next quarterly staff reviews.<br>• Training for Nonviolent intervention, Trauma Informed and Engagement being lined up for staff. | **Staffing:**<br>• CUPE contract is up for renewal. |
| **Project Work:**<br>• The Beat Newsletter is completed for this quarter and was be mailed with bills, sent out on MailChimp and shared on socials.<br>• Website and communications upgrade is underway, communications implementation plan to come to Council in the new year.<br>• Attended IMWG, joint council, met with all of Council, management, CAOS of MOCA and TAR. | **Project Work:**<br>• Options for Town Hall – received a draft report from Palmer and Doherty – still under review, will be rolled into facilities plan review.<br>• Continue to explore training for staff and Council on Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility | **Project Work:** |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Other Items:** | **Other Items:**<br>• Management team reviewing priorities and policies<br>• Review Brooklyn Road draft agreement (deferred)<br>• Other MOUs with MOCA identified for review. | **Other Items:**<br>• Affordability Study of keeping certain assets and services should be completed |

## FINANCE

| Completed | In Progress | Issues |
|---|---|---|
| • All preliminary year end work has been provided to auditors<br>• Water bills were issued October 20, 2026<br>• Process for collecting deposits for new water accounts has been going well<br>• Reserve Bank accounts reconciled up to October 31, 2026 | • Working with auditors to get 2025–2026-year end completed<br>• August, September and October 2026 Town General and Water Operating Bank Reconciliations<br>• Working on updating Finance policies for Tax Sale and Tax Collection Procedures<br>• Review of Finance-related policies to determine which ones require updating or complete removal<br>• Fine-tuning job descriptions for finance staff | • The Finance Department experienced staff absences due to illness during the reporting period |

## RECREATION and EVENTS

| Completed | In Progress | Issues |
|---|---|---|
| • SLO Pitch is done for the season.<br>• Washer Toss was a good try but not successful. We will try again in the Spring.<br>• Canoe and Kayak Loans wrapped up this week total loans were 117 loans and 28 participated in guided paddles. Stats are available for who rented.<br>• Splash Pad is done for the season.<br>• The Truth and Reconciliation Flag Rasing and Ceremony was a success with good attendance from the two schools and community. | • Community Board Game Night has had two sessions with slow uptake but growing.<br>• Seasoned Together is scheduled for October 17th.<br>• Learn 2 Run has started again.<br>• Senior Walking with CORAH has begun on Thursday mornings again<br>• Regular fitness programs continue – Titan Training will move inside on October 20th<br>• Halloween events are in full swing with Haunted House, Witch Walk, Business Costume Contest, House Decorating Contest.<br>• We have two CoOp students from MRHS working with us weekly.<br>• There is a fall photo challenge happening<br>• Our second Plein Air painting t Riverside is scheduled for the 13th.<br>• We have 3 surveys out currently for feedback on programs and events. Info coming soon. | • Vandalism and theft continue to be a problem. The parks continue to be a target.<br>• We are working out the kinks in program attendance and registration, trying some new ideas to reach community members.<br>• There continue to be issues with off road vehicles riding through Rotary Park despite having conversations with certain individuals.<br>• We are still trying to find appropriate resources for our unhoused and vulnerable population. Current resources are not meeting the needs for the most part. |

## PLANNING

| Completed | In Progress | Issues |
|---|---|---|
| • 14 Building Permits issued for 2026-2027 YTD | • 25 properties left to conduct Fire Inspections from 2025 | |
| **Magee Drive**<br>• All necessary steps have been taken to reach the desired outcome. | • Development Agreement (DA) was with the province for signature.<br>• Province sent the DA to the Land Registry Office (LRO) on Friday, September 4, 2026.<br>• Waiting for the DA to be registered | |
| • PAC met Jan 12/26 to discuss the Northlands Secondary Planning Strategy. The road network raised concerns from both the PAC and the developer.<br>• PAC and Council discussed options for next steps<br>• Plan submitted by developer & meeting held with staff on Apr 13th | • Staff are working to increase density in the Northlands of Town by proposing amendments to the Town's Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw<br>• Staff recommends that Parsons Investments Ltd. submit an application for a Development Agreement | |

# PUBLIC WORKS and PARKS

| Completed | In Progress | Issues |
|---|---|---|
| **General Public Works:**<br>• Multiple Garbage cans and Picnic tables painted<br>• Transitioned small kid fields into full size soccer field for school teams to use | **General Public Works:**<br>• Mowing ongoing<br>• Sanding/painting garbage cans<br>• Repairs to railing at pavilion<br>• Closing washrooms and winterizing | **General Public Works:** |
| **Public Works Equipment:**<br>• Service completed on Silverado, 2500 and 2001 Dodge<br>• Safety Inspection on GMC<br>• New Blade and Guard installed on Cut off | **Public Works Equipment:**<br>• Ordered new gears and Augers for the<br>• Ordered new belts for flail mower | **Public Works Equipment:**<br>• Transmission still leaking waiting on quote from NORS |
| **Roads, Streets, Sidewalks:**<br>• Line painting<br>• Church street renewal<br>• All town patching | **Roads, Streets, Sidewalks:**<br>• Sidewalk Capitol Project along Gates<br>• Repairs to driveway ends that are becoming troublesome | **Roads, Streets, Sidewalks:** |
| **Water & Equipment**<br>• Reservoir complete<br>• Old reservoir decommissioned | **Water & Equipment**<br>• Deficiency list for new reservoir still in progress<br>• Water Meter reads<br>• Continuing water flow install at the old reservoir site for chlorine residuals<br>• Repairing broken meters<br>• Well cleaning parts ordered | **Water & Equipment**<br>• Tariff relief not yet received |
| **Wastewater & Equipment**<br>• Cleaned out turtle weeds from the lagoon<br>• Had Grit chamber and MH cleaned | **Wastewater & Equipment** | **Wastewater & Equipment** |

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

| Completed | In Progress | Issues |
|---|---|---|
| • 4 members attended an ICS 200 course in Bridgetown<br>• Members attended the Burn Trailer in Kingston for hot zone firefighting<br>• 3 members completed the vehicle extrication course at the Kingston fire hall.<br>• Semi Annual service on the air breathing compressor is complete.<br>• Annual servicing and testing of air packs is complete.<br>• Monthly truck inspections<br>• Basic personal protective equipment training, including an overview of proper donning and doffing.<br>• Monthly Society Meeting<br>• Caterpillar backup generator service completed.<br>• Assisted with the Town of Middleton Witch Walk. | • Level 1 Training is coming to an end, live fire training is to be completed November 14 and 15, with graduation for students in December.<br>• On November 16, another 10 members will be doing live fire training with the Nova Scotia Burn Trailer; the unit is in the area for local departments to use. | • We are working on general maintenance and repairs for our 2005 Rescue Truck. |

# Valley Communications Inc.

**217 Belcher St. Kentville NS B4N 1E2**
**PH : 902-678-4962 FAX : 902-678-0162**



## Incident Summary
## From Oct 1 26 to Oct 31 26

| Date/No. | | Address/Type | Minutes | Responders | Injuries | Fatalities |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oct 3 26 | 13:10:56 | 357 Ward Rd, GREENWOOD SQUARE | 72 | 0 | | |
| 26-08752a | | **Stand by at another station** | | | Assistance to 26-08752 | |
| Oct 5 26 | 08:28:00 | 49 Sunset Cres, MIDDLETON | 3 | 0 | | |
| 26-08811 | | **Medical** | | | | |
| Oct 6 26 | 16:44:49 | 374 Victoria Rd, SPA SPRINGS | 38 | 0 | | |
| 26-08854 | | **Investigation** | | | | |
| Oct 6 26 | 18:55:39 | 10629 Highway 201, MEADOWVALE | 100 | 0 | | |
| 26-08858a | | **Mutual Aid to the Scene** | | | Assistance to 26-08858 | |
| Oct 8 26 | 11:32:03 | 787 Brooklyn Rd, BROOKLYN | 167 | 0 | | |
| 26-08906 | | **Trash/ Garbage bin fire** | | | | |
| Oct 12 26 | 01:16:35 | 18 Station Rd, LAWRENCETOWN | 28 | 0 | | |
| 26-09033b | | **Mutual Aid to the Scene** | | | Assistance to 26-09033 | |
| Oct 14 26 | 16:24:42 | 21-13 Gates Ave, MIDDLETON | 24 | 0 | | |
| 26-09119 | | **Commercial Fire Alarm** | | | | |
| Oct 19 26 | 12:50:43 | 708 Ruggles Rd, SPA SPRINGS | 24 | 0 | | |
| 26-09299 | | **Investigation** | | | | |
| Oct 25 26 | 10:20:16 | 1036 Brooklyn Rd, BROOKLYN | 24 | 0 | | |
| 26-09477 | | **MVA - Confirmed Entrapment / Unknown** | | | | |
| Oct 25 26 | 15:18:38 | 12827 Highway 1, BRICKTON | 6 | 0 | | |
| 26-09485 | | **Commercial Fire Alarm** | | | | |
| Oct 28 26 | 15:55:14 | 18 Gates Ave, MIDDLETON | 4 | 0 | | |
| 26-09591 | | **Commercial Fire Alarm** | | | | |
| Oct 30 26 | 03:33:01 | 187 Douglas Rd, PORT GEORGE | 25 | 0 | | |
| 26-09646 | | **Medical** | | | | |
| Oct 31 26 | 12:06:42 | 1239 Torbrook Rd, TORBROOK MINES | 0 | 0 | | |
| 26-09692a | | **Mutual Aid to the Scene** | | | Assistance to 26-09692 | |
| 13 incidents for | | Middleton | 8 hrs 35 mins | 0 | | |
| | | | 8 hrs 35 mins | 0 | | |

# VALLEY REGIONAL SERVICES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Summary based on the October 21, 2026, Valley Regional Services Board Meeting at 10:00 am in the Valley Waste-Resource Management Board room with virtual attendance option

## TIDAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Under the leadership of General Manager Meg Hodges, the following items are underway:

**Buses & Fuel:**

- Diesel prices remain 76% above this time last year, reflecting ongoing geopolitical uncertainty.
- Three of the five used NOVA buses purchased from GRT are in service with a fourth bus is expected to enter service by December 2026. Bus 67 is undergoing additional refurbishment through Baseline Funding.

**Ridership:**

- September ridership totaled 21,576, compared with 24,186 in September 2025.
- Staff expect continued ridership growth with the new schedule, tracking technology, and route signage increases.

**Operations:**

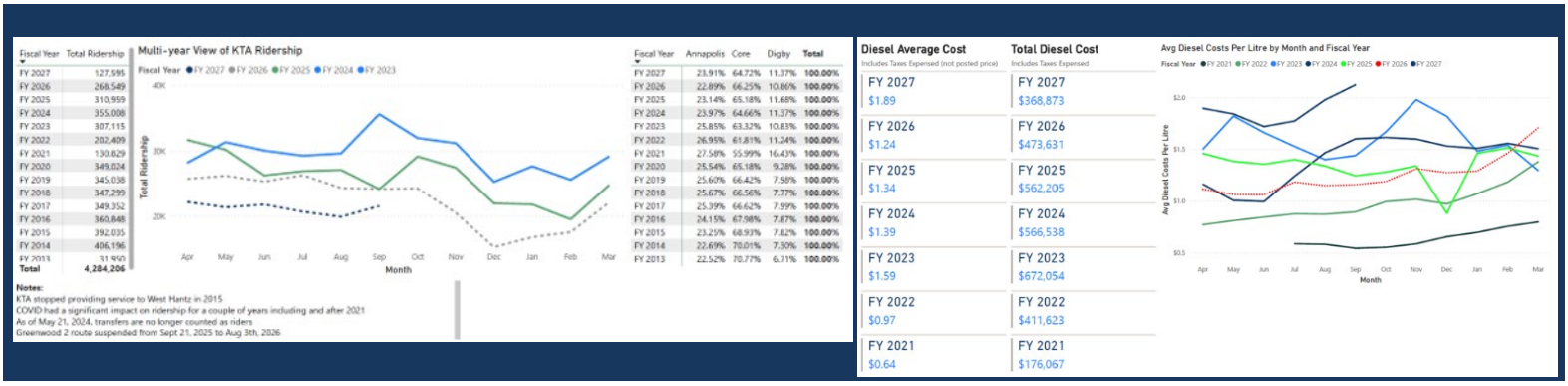
- Driver recruitment continues through job fairs, online advertising, and development of an internal driver licensing progression program.
- Tidal Transit will participate in the New Minas Truck or Treat event on October 23.

**ICIP Project Update:**

- The scope change reducing the hybrid bus purchase from seven vehicles to six was approved on September 23.
- Staff are awaiting ministerial approval of the Temporary Borrowing Resolution (TBR) submission.

**Monthly Activities:**

- The GM joined the County of Kings delegation to the INMC conference in Cuneo, Italy, from October 5–9. The conference provided a valuable opportunity to learn about Italian public transit systems and collaboration.
- The TripSpark contract and implementation is underway and expected to be fully operational by January 2027.
- Provincial Transit Collaboration: TTA continues to work with the LinkNS fixed-route transit working group to support joint ventures, procurement, long-term funding, and shared technology platforms.
- Work continues with Sunset Tides Development toward opening the new transfer station in Cornwallis Park.
- Final approval for Baseline funding has been received, and the contribution agreement has been submitted.



## VALLEY WASTE - RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Under the leadership of General Manager Andrew Garrett, the following items are underway:

**Administration & Regional Coordination**

- The Policy Review Project is progressing. ATN consultants led a meeting with staff, and CAOs to discuss key governance, human resources, and finance matters. Draft policies are being prepared for review.
- Two new employees have been hired to fill vacant Education and Inspection positions. Increased emphasis will be placed on transfer station and curbside inspections to improve compliance with solid waste regulations and enhance screening for hazardous materials.
- An Open House at the Eastern Management Centre will be held on October 24, 12:00-2:00pm for Waste Reduction Week and will include facility site tours and public information sessions.
- Illegal dumping reports remain consistent with 2025 levels, while other bylaw complaints have declined by approximately 30% year to date.

**Capital Projects & Operations**

- Staff continue to work with insurance adjustors on the damaged Western Management Centre in Lawrencetown and are reviewing temporary service alternatives.
- Demand for green carts remains high, with approximately 1,300 carts issued or replaced this year. Inventory has been depleted and more than 200 requests are awaiting delivery.
- The Eastern Management Centre transfer facility expansion remains on schedule, with the concrete floor planned for October 30. Exterior painting at the Eastern Management Centre is nearing completion.
- The Western Management Centre warehouse and Household Hazardous Waste Facility projects remain on hold pending a new development agreement.

**Q2 Tonnage Report**

Waste volumes remain above previous year's levels across most operational areas.

- Curbside collection tonnages remained elevated through the summer months.
- Customer-delivered material increased by nearly 1,000 tonnes, driven largely by garbage and mixed construction and demolition debris.
- Outgoing tonnages increased due to higher volumes received and the removal of 1,200 tonnes of ground wood.

## BOARD DECISIONS

The Valley Regional Services Board of Directors made the following decisions:

**Tidal Transit Authority**

- **Approved the purchase of one (1) Heavy-Duty Tire Balancer and one (1) Heavy-Duty Tire Changer for $60,559 (plus non-refundable HST) with 40% funding through CPTF Baseline Funding and 60% through Tidal Transit Authority capital reserves as outlined in this report.**

**Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority**

- **Approved the Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority Safety Policy, AAP-08, as presented, and authorizes the Chair and General Manager to execute the Policy for and on behalf of the Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority.**

# MAYOR'S REPORT
# October 2026

Over the past few weeks, I have had the opportunity to attend several meetings, events, and municipal functions on behalf of the Municipality. These engagements provided valuable opportunities to connect with community members, neighboring municipalities, provincial representatives, and other municipal leaders.

**October 17**
I attended an event where I had the opportunity to meet and welcome new doctors to our area, as well as meet with the Commander of CFB Greenwood. It was a pleasure to connect with these individuals and recognize the important contributions they make to our community. Having new medical professionals join our region is especially encouraging, and our relationship with CFB Greenwood remains an important part of our broader community.

**October 20**
I attended the Northlands Public Participation Meeting, which provided an opportunity to hear community perspectives, gather input, and learn more about matters affecting residents. Public participation is an important part of ensuring that community voices are heard throughout the decision-making process.

**October 26**
I attended a Regional Emergency Management Organization (REMO) meeting in Annapolis Royal. These meetings provide an important opportunity for municipalities and emergency management partners to discuss preparedness, coordination, and regional response planning. Continued collaboration is essential to ensuring our communities are prepared to respond effectively to emergencies.

**October 28**
I participated in a telephone meeting with the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) regarding a proposed bylaw information session. This discussion focused on the value of providing information and resources to help municipalities better understand bylaw matters and their responsibilities.

**October 29**
I attended an Inter-Municipal Service Agreement meeting in Annapolis Royal. Regional cooperation and communication between municipalities are important as we continue to explore opportunities to deliver services efficiently and work together on matters of shared interest.

**November 3–6**
I attended the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Conference held at the Westin from November 3 to 6. The conference provided an excellent opportunity to connect with municipal leaders from across Nova Scotia, participate in discussions on issues affecting municipalities, and hear updates on provincial matters and initiatives.
These conferences are valuable opportunities to share experiences, learn from other municipalities, discuss common challenges, and bring back information that can benefit our municipality and residents.

**November 11**
I participated in the local Remembrance Day observance by laying a wreath in honor of the men and women who have served and sacrificed for our country. It is important that we continue to remember and recognize the courage, dedication, and sacrifices of those who served, as well as those who continue to serve today.

It has been a busy and productive period, with many opportunities to represent our municipality, strengthen regional relationships, and stay informed on matters that affect our residents.

I would like to thank everyone involved in organizing these meetings and events, and those who continue to contribute their time and effort toward making our communities stronger.

| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | Emily Boucher |
| **To:** | Gail Smith; Bernadette Knapp; John Bartlett; Jonathan Archibald; Gary Marshall; Dan Smith; Darren Boates; Waye Mason |
| **Cc:** | Sara Marceau |
| **Subject:** | Valley REN Information Briefing - Follow-up and Support for Lily Lake Initiative |
| **Date:** | Tuesday, November 3, 2026 5:11:21 PM |
| **Attachments:** | image.png |

**Caution**
This email comes from an outside sender. Verify the sender and use caution with any requests, links or attachments.

Good afternoon, Mayor Smith, Council Members, and CAO Mason.

I just wanted to extend my thanks once again for the opportunity to provide yesterday evening's information briefing on our restructuring process and next steps. Should there be added interest in a Middleton-specific roundtable session for further discussion, please do let me know. I'd be happy to facilitate one.

I also wanted to reach out as I really appreciated Clifford's presentation last night and wanted to offer support, if needed, in relation to his proposal for Lily Lake. As you know, we developed and continue to maintain our region's award-winning land and asset database on our online Site Selector tool (which also actively promotes commercial properties, etc. in our funded catchment in partnership with the Nova Scotia Association of Realtors). There are literally millions of datasets that can support decision-making processes tied to development sites through this tool, so if there's a specific dataset that would support the development of protected land at Lily Lake or anything tied to flood zones (for example), we can look at possible map-based datasets for you. We can also create reports using this tool if you're applying for grant funding as well and require supporting data. If there's not a dataset available that you're looking for, we have worked with NSCC COGS on developing hyper-local sets that can be placed on the platform (for example, we recently worked with them for specialized datasets for fire services and food security in our region). Happy to provide support for this kind of initiative at any time — this is one of our service offerings to help our region be investment-ready.

In addition, we can also add Lily Lake to our regional asset dashboard (this was a living dashboard developed as part of our regional tourism infrastructure and services gaps analysis). One of the recommendations from our analysis is to build on our Bay of Fundy tourism experiences (which then feeds into municipalities like Middleton as part of those experiences around food, dining, recreation, and events). We continue to work with the new Tourism Society we've helped form (as a future Destination Management and Marketing Organization) to tackle some of these tourism sector capacity-building

opportunities. Further development of the Harvest Moon Trail was also highlighted within this report. I asked Clifford for his card, so will connect him directly to the Dashboard/Report as well and loop him into our network of tourism operators in the area (there is significant interest in boosting cycling tourism across the Valley — highlighted in one of our Best Practice Mission Reports). These reports are available on our website: https://valleyren.ca/industry-sectors/tourism/

I should also note that we've just finalized our semi-annual provincial report last Friday (covering the last 6-months), so I'll be forwarding that to LOC and Councils for review later this week. While we do highlight the importance of our regional statistics and metrics in alignment with our role, I can break-down municipal numbers in specific service areas to provide insight into more recent Q1-Q2 numbers (the last formal data update would have been tied to our Annual Report, which was released on June 30th). I'll aim to send those with the regional report.

As always, please do reach out should you have any questions. I'm always happy to coordinate one-on-one meetings as well.

Last, but not least, just a quick reminder that we've also launched a new economic development column with the Valley Register. Our latest column can be viewed here.

Many thanks,

Emily

the valley REGIONAL ENTERPRISE NETWORK
Emily Boucher
*Chief Executive Officer*
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Town of Middleton
Heart of the Valley

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The Honourable Tim Houston
Premier of Nova Scotia
PO Box 726
Halifax, NS B3J 2T3

November 9, 2026

**Re: Restoration of Regular Emergency Department Operations at Soldiers Memorial Hospital**

Dear Premier Houston:

On behalf of the Council of the Town of Middleton, I am writing regarding recurring closures and reduced hours at the Emergency Department at Soldiers Memorial Hospital.

Over the past five years serious concerns about access to emergency care led to substantial collaboration among the Town of Middleton, neighbouring municipal units, Nova Scotia Health, the Department of Health and Wellness, elected representatives, health-care workers, and residents. This work recognized the importance of maintaining reliable emergency medical care in Middleton and the surrounding region.

Three years later, Council is concerned that much of the progress achieved through that collaborative effort appears to have been lost. Recent Emergency Department closures and reduced operating hours have again created uncertainty for residents who need urgent, in-person emergency care outside regular daytime hours.

Soldiers Memorial Hospital serves a regional population of over 20,000 people. When the Emergency Department is unavailable, patients must travel to other facilities, including Valley Regional Hospital in Kentville. Council has received consistent reports from residents, health-care workers, and community members that Valley Regional's Emergency Department is operating over capacity. This adds pressure to patients, families, medical first responders, paramedics, police, and the receiving hospital.

The issue extends beyond Middleton. Emergency Department closures in Middleton, Digby, and Windsor can require patients to travel significant distances for emergency care and further increase demand at Valley Regional Hospital. These impacts are particularly concerning for patients experiencing time-sensitive medical emergencies.

Council recognizes that physician availability and staffing remain central challenges. However, the Town and its regional partners undertook extensive work in 2023 precisely because dependable emergency services are essential to the health and well-being of residents throughout the area.

Council respectfully requests that the Province advise what specific steps are being taken to restore regular and dependable Emergency Department operations at Soldiers Memorial Hospital. We also request a clear

timeline for action, including plans to address physician coverage and other staffing requirements needed to sustain service.

The Town of Middleton remains ready to work with the Province, Nova Scotia Health, neighbouring municipal units, and local elected representatives on practical solutions.

Sincerely,



Mayor Gail Smith
Mayor, Town of Middleton
On behalf of Middleton Town Council

cc:

The Honourable Michelle Thompson, Minister of Health and Wellness
David Bowlby, MLA for Annapolis
Chris Palmer, MLA for Kings West