



**TOWN OF LOCKPORT
COUNCIL MEETING
FRIDAY APRIL 24, 2026
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Mayor Derek Amalfa, Deputy Mayor Craig Hillen, Councillor Anna Chetwynd, Councillor Candace Malik, Councillor Kevin Chetwynd, Town Clerk/Treasurer June Harding, Public Works Supervisor Kevin Snow, and Recording Secretary Jill Cassibo.

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Amalfa at 1:00 pm

2. Silence Electronic Devices

All electronic devices were silenced at this time.

3. Approval of Agenda, including additions or deletions

04-24-26-01

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the agenda for the April 24, 2026, meeting with the following additions, under Correspondence, a letter written from a town resident and deletions, under Other Business, Webhosting (this will be added to the next Council agenda). Motion Passed

4. Conflict of Interest

There were no Conflicts of Interest declared for this meeting.

5. Approval of Minutes

- Regular Council Meeting Minutes April 10, 2026

04-24-26-02

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of April 10, 2026. Motion Passed

6. Business arising from Previous Minutes

Response to correspondence from Cory Nickerson regarding the proposed Mermaid Project

Response to correspondence from Sue Crosby regarding Amalgamation

7. Community Forum (Open Mic)

- 20 Minutes Maximum
- Each resident is allowed a maximum of five minutes
- The resident is to speak directly to Council
- There will be no interaction by Council at this time
- If questions are posed by residents the question will be recorded to be researched

A resident from the Town of Lockeport, Jane Jerrett, spoke about the high taxes in Lockeport. Ms. Jerrett became visibly upset when speaking about her recent tax bill that she has received and now she is being taxed out of her home. Ms. Jerrett expressed concern that she will now be forced to put her house for sale. Ms. Jerrett stated that the tax system is so imbalanced in Nova Scotia since her neighbours pay so much less than her and that Lockeport has the highest tax rate in Nova Scotia and one of the highest in Canada.

8. Presentations

There are no presentations scheduled for this meeting.

9. Finance

- List of invoices already paid for the month of March in the amount of \$19,935.89.
- List of invoices already paid for the month of April in the amount of \$49,514.52.

Councillor Malik asked what Townsuite was and was explained by Ms. Harding that it is our Municipal Tax accounting system we use in the office.

Mayor Amalfa explained the PIEVC report evaluates climate change risk to infrastructure. This report was funded through the Clean Foundation, and the results will be presented to Council.

Councillor A. Chetwynd mentioned that the Playpark Fundraising group paid for the rubber mats.

- Conclusion to request from citizen regarding vehicle damage.

The citizen with the damaged tire has provided a picture of the tire that was plugged after another incident with the grate, just as Council requested. Councillor K. Chetwynd stated that moving forward a photo of the damaged item needs to be provided.

04-24-26-03

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve, with the evidence provided, paying \$225.15 for the cost of one replacement tire. Motion Passed

10. Department Reports

- Administration Report

Ms. Harding reported that the Legion picture has now been ordered. The Town of Lockeport has received two grants from the Municipality of the District of Shelburne. One for \$3500.00 for the Visitor Information Centre and one for \$5000.00 for the Canada Day Celebrations.

Deputy Mayor Hillen questioned about the gear sheds that belong to someone who is deceased and asked if the Town can put a lien on his estate. Ms. Harding replied that the estate has been transferred to his wife who at present is unable to handle his affairs. The tax bills have been sent to both his bookkeeper and his son. Mayor Amalfa asked about the “2022 and before” in dealing with the sublease. Ms. Harding explained that she can start the Tax Sale process and issue letters after the end of May, which is the due date for taxes.

Mayor Amalfa asked that Ms. Harding provide Council information on how to move forward with this process for the next Council meeting.

Ms. Harding stated that she has a contact that she has been dealing with about the sublease and that she did have an inquiry this morning asking if someone were to pay all the back taxes, would they own the building? It is the Town Clerk’s understanding that the Harbour Authority owns one group of gear sheds, and the Town of Lockeport owns the other group.

Regarding Canada Summer Jobs, the Town Clerk/Treasurer has devised job descriptions and department heads and Committee Chairpersons will meet to discuss any changes that need to be implemented.

Councillor Malik stated that the inspection report has the park name wrong. The park is listed as Seaside Play Park and it should be Seacaps Playpark. Mayor Amalfa asked about the future inspections that will need to be completed. Councillor A. Chetwynd reported that it is on the agenda for the next Recreation Meeting, and they will decide when the inspections will take place, keeping in mind that this does not include the annual park inspection by a paid contractor.

- Public Works Report

Mr. Snow, Public Works Supervisor reported the potholes are deeper than they look and therefore require a lot of coldpatch. Mr. Snow stated that the area in front of White Gull may need to be cutout and replaced, and he feels that the trucks coming and going to Clearwater are hard on the streets. Deputy Mayor Hillen asked if Mr. Snow knew when the roads were resurfaced and he was not sure, but that they are fixed in sections, a little bit at a time due to the cost. Mr. Snow also stated that he has spoken to Rob Harlow and was told that Lindsay Construction will begin to correct the discharge from the sewer plant in June. At this time, they will investigate fixing the washroom at the sewer plant.

11. Other Business

- Request from “Friends of the Library”

Councillor Malik stated that with the with the Provincial cuts to funding this year, she would recommend the money be used for other things in the library. For now, the Western County Regional Library board has no plans to close any locations, however, with cuts to library funding, the future of such services is uncertain, and new signage may not be the best way to spend their money. Mrs. Meagher stated that every time they ask to do something in the library it takes so long for a decision to be made. Councillor Malik has no issue with how the Friends of the Library choose to spend their own money, rather wanted to remind them of the province’s current lack of support.

04-24-26-04

It was duly moved and seconded that Council approve the proposal of a new sign for the library should the Friends of the Library, choose to proceed. Council will need to view the design before it goes to print. There will be no cost to the taxpayers or the library for this project. Motion Passed

12. Council Reports

13. Correspondence

- Letter from Ryan Chetwynd re: Amalgamation

Deputy Mayor Hillen stated that Mr. Chetwynd had some good points in his letter Deputy Mayor Hillen will bring up one specific point at the next Amalgamation Steering Committee, to hold some meetings in the Town of Lockeport to make it more accessible for our residents to attend. The Steering Committee is still in the exploratory stage. Deputy Mayor Hillen also pointed out that the residents need to be educated on the difference between amalgamation and dissolution. Councillor Malik suggested that language is important and that the Committee should maybe have been called the Amalgamation Exploratory Committee, as the word Steering implies decision making. Councillor Malik also stated that during campaigning Consolidation appeared to be a more viable option vs Amalgamation as it would offer the TOL more autonomy. However, the Province has since done away with Consolidation as an option. She stated that community input is important and the purpose of the Steering Committee is to bring back accurate information to its residents.

Councillor A. Chetwynd stated that the reason the government got rid of consolidation is because it is costly and time consuming as they must have special legislation for the process. Mayor Amalfa reminded Council that the Department of Municipal Affairs representatives are coming to speak with the Amalgamation Steering Committee regarding funding of the requested reports. The information provided in these reports aim to answer many of the specific questions requested.

- Letter from Emily Swim re: Peace Hut

Councillor A. Chetwynd explained why the Peace Hut was boarded up. Kids were climbing on it, so for liability reasons, the Peace Hut was boarded up. The Recreation Committee does not want to discard the Peace Hut. One suggestion was a lending library for the Beach Centre with sand toys, surf boards etc. The Recreation committee will bring recommendations to Council for review.

Councillor Malik liked the idea of a lending library but has a concern with the planning of moving the Peace Hut from the current location to the Beach Centre.

- Letter from Nicole Stephens

Deputy Mayor Hillen read the letter that Nicole Stephens wrote about what it means to be a Lockeporter. Mrs. Stephens is a resident of the Town of Lockeport, has been here all her life and is also a member of the Heritage and Tourism Committee.

14. Information Only

- Policing Service recipient Update

Mayor Amalfa suggested that the Council still write the letter to the Department of Justice, asking clarification for money we pay for RCMP services, but also ask for the RCMP contact, Danielle Desjardins, to do a presentation to Council.

Deputy Mayor Hillen stated that there are no Human Resource elements to the update. The report does not specify how many RCMP staff are off on Worker's Compensation, sick leave, extended sick leave. This could be a huge cost.

- Letter from Shaun Hatfield, Warden of the Municipality of Barrington, to Tim Houston re: NSP rates

04-24-26-05

It was duly moved and seconded that Council agreed to send a letter to Premier Tim Houston reiterating the same concerns that Warden Shaun Hatfield wrote about the Nova Scotia Power rates. Motion Passed.

- Notice from NSFM re: Spring 2026 Legislative Sitting Summary
- Notice from NSFM re: 2026 Provincial Budget Update

15. Date of next meeting

- May 8, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

16. "In Camera"

17. Adjournment

04-24-26-06

There being no further business, **it was duly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Time 2:01 pm. Motion Passed**

Mayor Derek Amalfa

Town Clerk/Treasurer June Harding