

**WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**  
**Special Council Meeting Agenda**  
**August 8, 2025 - 5:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual via Zoom (also YouTube Livestreamed)**



- 
1. Call to Order
  2. Attendance
  3. Announcements
  4. Approval of the Agenda
  5. Declaration(s) of Conflict of Interest
  6. Safety concerns relating to current fire bans and prolonged drought conditions affecting the community
    - a) Mayor's Update on Water Conservation
    - b) Restrictions/Fire Bans
  7. Next Meeting Date / Adjournment

1. As Call to Order – The virtual meeting was called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.
2. Attendance – Quorum was achieved.  
Council:

Abraham Zebian, Mayor	Debbie Francis, Deputy Mayor, Dist. 5
Rupert Jannasch, Councillor, District 1	Kayla Learey-Pinch, Councillor, District 7
Scott McLean, Councillor, District 2 (5:03 p.m.)	Paul Morton, Councillor, District 8
Chrystal Remme, Councillor, District 3	John Smith, Councillor, District 9
Paul Wheadon, Councillor, District 4	Bonnie Smith, Councillor, District 10
Bob Morton, Councillor, District 6	Jim Ivey, Councillor, District 11

  
Staff:

Deanna Snair, Municipal Clerk	Carlee Rochon, Director of Financial Services
-------------------------------	---

  
Regrets:

Kari Fougere, Acting Director Planning & Dev.	Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer
Kathy Kehoe, Director Community Dev.	Todd Richard, Director Public Works
3. Announcements – A reminder was shared that a Provincial Fire Ban remains in effect for all of Nova Scotia. It was important that everyone was aware of and adheres to this restriction. Violating the fire ban can result in a fine of up to \$25,000.
4. Approval of the Agenda, including additions or deletions – The agenda was approved as presented.
5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest - None
6. Safety concerns related to current fire bans and prolonged drought conditions affecting the community.
  - a) Mayor’s Update on Water Conservation  
Mayor Zebian shared a brief update on the status of the watersheds and shared some conservation tips. To help preserve water for essential residential use and fire suppression, all residents were being asked to voluntarily conserve water and help avoid the need for a mandatory water use order. This included actions like avoiding lawn watering and car washing, taking shorter showers, turning off taps when brushing teeth, fixing leaks promptly, and reusing water when possible.  
WHRM has also taken active steps to help conserve water. Staff have been directed not to wash the municipal fleet, and potted plants are now being watered using surface water. Reassurances were also provided to residents with gardens to continue watering their vegetable plants and not allow them to die, despite the ongoing conservation efforts.

b) Restrictins/Fire Bans

The province continues to experience extremely dry conditions, with little to no rain in the forecast causing a great deal of anxiety for many. West Hants has been fortunate as many residents are taking the fire ban seriously. However, there are some individuals who are underhoused and in need of support from service providers to be safely relocated. As stewards of the land within the municipality, WHRM has a responsibility to comply with the provincial fire ban and assist with enforcement. A suggestion was made that Council may wish to consider directing staff effective immediately to work with local service providers, Department of Natural Resources, the RCMP and the Provincial Opportunities and Social Development Department to relocate any individuals and tent encampments off municipal lands that are now subject to the provincial fire ban directive. This measure was seen as another proactive step to act responsibly; both to protect individuals experiencing homelessness and to safeguard the broader community.

Discussion Points:

- POSSE has information related to the locations of individuals currently experiencing homelessness. Overall, the plan being developed by the Department of Opportunities and Social Developments included identifying site locations and conducting their own assessments. Based on these assessments, they may determine that previously identified sites are not suitable and may proceed with relocating individuals to more appropriate areas.
- It was important that public were well informed of what was occurring and the reasoning behind these actions and the role WHRM was playing.
- Having a communication mechanism in place that provided contact information for anyone wishing to share concerns was important. It was important that people were aware of everyone's role and who they could contact if needed.
- As other departments were primary leaders, WHRM staff would liaise with them to relocate individuals.

**MOVED BY DEPUTY MAYOR FRANCIS AND COUNCILLOR B. SMITH THAT COUNCIL DIRECT STAFF TO WORK WITH LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDERS, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, THE RCMP, AND THE PROVINCIAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO RELOCATE ANY INDIVIDUALS OFF MUNICIPAL LANDS THAT ARE UNDER THE PROVINCIAL FIRE BAN DIRECTIVE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Voting occurred by a show of hands.

7. Next Meeting Date / Adjournment – September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting 6 pm  
The meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

---

Mayor Zebian (Chair)

---

Deanna Snair, Municipal Clerk