

WEST HANTS MUNICIPALITY

Special Committee of the Whole – Budget Meeting Agenda Amended

April 9, 2026

April 8, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

Sanford Council Chambers 76 Morison Dr, Windsor, NS

(also held via virtual via Zoom and YouTube livestreamed)

Agenda is subject to changes up to and including during the meeting



West Hants
something inspiring awaits

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1. Call to Order
 2. Attendance
 3. Approval of the Agenda, including additions or deletions
 4. Declaration(s) of Conflict of Interest
 5. Announcements
 6. 5:00-5:45 Review Follow-Up Items of March 26 Meeting
 7. 5:45-7:00 Discussion & Direction from Council
 8. 7:00-8:00 Break
 9. Motions & Resolutions – Pending Council Discussions
 - a) Budget Approval Motion
 - ~~b) Taxing Resolution~~
 - ~~c) HMCC Resolution~~
 - ~~d) Tax Exemption List~~
 - ~~e) Property Owners Association Resolutions~~
 - ~~f) Funding Agreement Motions~~
 10. Next Meeting Date / Adjournment
 - a) Committee of the Whole Meeting (TBD)

WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
Special Committee of the Whole Budget Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2026 - 5:00 p.m.
In-person Sanford Council Chambers, 76 Morison Dr, Windsor, NS
Virtual via Zoom (also YouTube Livestream)



1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm

2. **Attendance**

Council

Abraham Zebian, Mayor

Rupert Jannasch, Councillor Dist. 1

Scott McLean, Councillor Dist. 2 (5:58 pm)

Chrystal Remme, Councillor Dist. 3

Paul Wheadon, Councillor Dist. 4

Bob Morton, Councillor Dist. 6 (5:06 pm)

Debbie Francis, Deputy Mayor, Dist. 5

Kayla Leary-Pinch, Councillor Dist. 7

Paul Morton, Councillor Dist. 8 (5:32 pm)

John Smith, Councillor, Dist. 9

Bonnie Smith, Councillor Dist. 10

Jim Ivey, Councillor Dist. 11

Staff

Mark Phillips, CAO

Todd Richard, Director of Public Works

Carlee Rochon, Director of Financial Services

Kari Fougere, Act Dir Planning & Development

Tim Bouter, Project Engineer

Katie Rose, Human Resources Manager

Deanna Snair, Exec. Asst/ Clerk

Tim Bouter, Project Engineer

Chelsea Woodman, Financial Services Admin

Kathy Kehoe, Director of Community Dev

Tim Leslie, Manager of Building & Fire Ins.

3. **Approval of the Agenda including additions or deletions**

As there were no additions, the agenda was accepted as presented.

4. **Declaration(s) of Conflict of Interest** - None

5. **Announcements**

Deputy Mayor Francis provided the Land Acknowledgement and Code of Conduct reminders.

A reminder was shared about the District 4 Town Hall scheduled for April 13th at 6 p.m. at the St. Croix Community Hall.

6. **Review and Follow-Up Items of March 26 Meeting**

A reminder was shared on what a penny was worth in Hantsport, Windsor and West Hants as well as what \$1 million dollars in borrowing looked like with respect to debt servicing. A brief overview of debt ratios from 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2024-25 and 2025-26 was presented.

Operating Budget following the direction provided at the March 26th meeting

Based on direction provided there was a \$150,000 increase in the Deed Transfer Tax, \$542,430 decrease in Tax Revenue, \$15,891 increase in Special Assessments, \$1,062 decrease in Grants in Lieu of Taxes, \$25,000 increase in Tipping Fees, \$25,000 increase in Return on Investments and a \$4,227 increase in Kings County funding. The total impact was a decrease of \$323,375.

Capital Budget adjustments following the direction provided at the March 26th meeting (decreases in expenses)

Total decrease in expenses amounted to \$482,648, and there was a \$159,273 increase in Transfer to Reserves.

Compared to the original budget, the largest changes were reductions in debt-servicing costs from removing certain projects and adjustments to transfers to and from reserves. Based on Council's direction, the new proposed operating budget totaled \$40.1 million.

Reserves

Based on a \$159,273 increase to reserves, the draw from the Operating Reserve on the General Rate was increased by \$143,000, while \$550,000 was removed from the General Rate for the RCMP contribution and redistributed 70/30 between Windsor and West Hants. Consolidation reserve funding was adjusted, with \$228,057 used to cover expiring West Hants debt. Contributions were increased to Windsor Operating Reserves (\$98,000) for debt servicing, Windsor Infrastructure Reserves (\$464,500), and Hantsport Infrastructure Reserves (\$83,000), along with an increased Hantsport contribution to the Regional Operating Reserve for debt servicing.

Payroll

Included overtime and the breakout of the health and dental as well as the pension and other mandatory benefits (CPP, EI, WCB). There was a decrease in Administration associated with the changes within the EMO world. Within the Financial Services department there was an increase in overtime based on actuals. The increase in Planning and Development was associated with overtime. Community Development overtime total was not broken out; it represented fulltime staff; seasonal and casual staff, as well as overtime for summer students. In public works the overtime included the on call pay and extras.

The overall variance from year to year was \$438,140.63, this included all adjustments, merits, pensions, benefits, etc.

Moving onto staff numbers each department was highlighting including full time, part time seasonal, casual and term staff for a total of 101. This did not include summer student numbers. Public Works at 38, Planning and Development at 18, Finance at 14, Community Development at 24 and Administration at 7 (includes 2 term positions).

Discussion Points:

- Council and Mayor salaries were not included in the breakdown.
- Eight (8) employees were dedicated, cross-trained, and shared across the three water treatment and three wastewater treatment plants. In addition to plant operations, they assisted with distribution-related work, including sampling, quality assurance, and quality corrections, and they provide support during emergencies by assisting with valve shut-offs when required.
- Within Community Development, unionized positions included Sports Complex attendants, Arena attendants, Field House attendants, and Community Centre attendants. In Public Works, unionized staff consisted of the 18 operators, labourers, and trade workers, as well as the 8 water and wastewater operators.

Capital Budget Updates

The Capital Budget was updated with the removal of projects totaling \$1,120,265, including the Parks and Grounds vehicle and two half-ton pickup trucks for Public Works; multiple Brooklyn Fire Department items such as a compact tractor, elevator rescue equipment, seven swift water rescue suits, painting and repairs to the Civic Centre and station, an ice rescue equipment package, and a siren and air horn for Tanker 10; the Hantsport Fire Department's Unit 52 brush truck wildland lift kit; and several Windsor Fire Department projects, including the hose tower roof and perimeter replacement, replacement of the Safety Officer vehicle (V7), Utility 9 truck, and truck bay door window replacements, as well as the heat pump for the gym and the proposed increase to Causeway Trail paving. Based on the proposed changes the adjusted Capital budget for 2026/27 was \$39,630,511.

Tax Impacts based on budget adjustments

A proposed General Residential tax rate of \$0.1380 was presented for all communities, reflecting a \$0.0200 increase for West Hants, and a flat rate was proposed for both Windsor and Hantsport following the removal of the previously discussed \$0.0900 reduction. There were no changes to the proposed commercial tax rate of \$0.98. A brief overview comparing the impact on an average household in each community was shared, which highlighted that, based on the current tax spread, it costs approximately 59% more to operate and live in Windsor and 31% more in Hantsport compared to West Hants. With the proposed changes, West Hants would remain at its pre-consolidation rate, while the base rate, unchanged since 2020 has gradually increased as more services and costs have been transferred to the general rate. As historic debt continues to be paid off, area rates in the former towns were expected to decrease, narrowing the tax rate gap over time. There was value in examining the difference in taxation between residents living in fully serviced areas versus those in more rural areas, as serviced properties benefit more directly and regularly from municipal services.

Discussion Points:

- Hantsport debt was paid off.
- Municipal debt can be paid off early; however, the municipality was fully committed to both the principal and the interest at the time of issuance, meaning there was no financial advantage to early repayment.
- Deed transfer tax – Based on projections and current housing market conditions, it was felt the deed transfer tax estimate was conservative.

Further Direction Based on Staff Review

Council directed staff to further review expenses and identify opportunities to apply reductions toward reserves. As a result, additional budget adjustments were made based on improved accuracy, newly available information, and the benefit of additional time to analyze data since the March 26 meeting.

Reviewed Operating Budget Revenue

Operating revenue adjustments included an increase of \$95,000 in circular materials, an increase of \$129,773 in sewer and tax-related revenues, a \$10,000 increase in Sports Complex ice rentals, and a \$10,000 increase in Field House rentals. These were partially offset by a \$483 decrease in

tax revenue, a \$1,213 decrease in revenue from own sources, and a \$21 decrease in grants in lieu of taxes.

Operating expenditures were reviewed, resulting in an increase of \$243,056 in net transfers to and from reserves, resulting in a net change of \$0 to the operating budget.

The overall adjusted budget was originally \$40,131,522 as of March 26 and based on direction for staff cuts, it was revised to a proposed total of \$40,374,578. The variance between March 26 and the current proposal reflects staff-initiated adjustments totaling \$243,056.

Transfers to and from Reserves

Reduced the draw from the Operating Reserve on the General Rate by \$203,000, reduced the draw from the Carryover reserve by \$8,000 and increased the transfer to the Windsor Infrastructure Reserve by \$4,783, resulting in a \$215,783 increase in transfers to the regional reserve.

Capital Budget Updates

Following further review and based on the direction of Council, staff were able to reduce the overall Capital Budget by \$890,741. As part of this review, items eligible for debt servicing were clearly identified, as previously requested by Council. Projects not supported through debt servicing were instead proposed to be funded through reserves or self-funding, ensuring alignment with Council direction and long-term financial sustainability.

Project Engineer Bouter spoke to the request for reconsideration of the WFD Hose Tower Roof Replacement and Perimeter. The project was already out to tender, with submissions closing tomorrow, and costs expected to be in the \$85,000 range and funded through debt servicing. Completing this work will significantly reduce the risk of leaks and prevent further damage associated with a failing roof. Given the relatively small scale of the project and the considerable long-term benefits, it was felt that retaining it in the capital budget was appropriate. The project consisted of two components: the hose bay roof and a rear addition to the building. These two areas have never been replaced to date and together accounted for less than 20% of the total roof area. Consensus was to put the project back in the budget.

Discussion Points:

- Falmouth Sewer Treatment reduction was attributable to the design budget initially being based on an estimate. More accurate and detailed cost estimates from the consultant have since been received.

Based on the direction of Council and subsequent staff adjustments, the five-year Capital Budget was revised and is now proposed at \$38,739,771, representing a reduction of \$890,741 from the previously presented total.

Budget Adjustments including water utility

Staff reviewed the Water Utility expenses and revenues and made adjustments based on updated and more accurate information. Metered consumption revenue was increased by \$400,000, power costs were reduced to reflect improved accuracy, and long-term debt principal and interest were decreased by \$83,000 due to updated figures and recent changes. Prior to these

adjustments, the utility was projecting an operating deficit of \$454,350; however, with the proposed changes, the Water Utility was now forecasting an operating surplus of \$310,008.

Water Utility

The Water Utility expenses and revenues were reviewed, with several adjustments made based on updated and more accurate information. Metered consumption revenue increased by \$400,000, power costs were reduced to better reflect actual usage, and long-term debt principal and interest were decreased by \$83,000 as a result of recent changes and updated figures. These adjustments resulted in a net positive change of \$310,008. Prior to these changes, the Water Utility was projecting an operating deficit of \$454,350; with the proposed adjustments, the utility was now forecasting an operating surplus of \$310,008.

Concern was raised the current forecast was lower than it should be, it was felt it should be more like \$3.8 or \$3.9 million. To get the forecasted number the last 2 years of actuals for consumption were used and averaged out and times by the new rates and 5% was used for the base rate. This conservative approach reflected current trends and available data. Based on these projections, water rates appear sufficient to support the utility; however, it was noted that sewer services were not currently self-funding and have experienced operating deficits over the last few years. Sewer deficit was caused by high maintenance and repair costs for aging infrastructure. Many of the municipality's 34 lift stations and pump stations were past their expected lifespan, making repairs and rebuilds expensive due to specialized equipment. While large projects, such as street and sewer renewals, were still outstanding. \$12.5 million was allocated in the five-year Capital Plan to address these needs. Staff are increasing in-house maintenance to help defer capital projects where possible, but continued repairs, system upgrades, and increased depreciation as assets come online continue to put pressure on the sewer utility.

It was suggested that water and sewer revenues were both coming in lower than expected, by about \$500,000 each, with sewer continuing to run a deficit the past few years. Sewer rates were controlled by Council, so Council could choose to adjust those rates. Doing a study to better understand the gap and determine what rate change might be needed to close it may be beneficial.

The MNP Report highlighted the value of establishing a water commission or advisory committee to provide enhanced oversight of the water and sewer utilities. It was suggested that these utilities would benefit from more focused time and attention from Council through such committees, allowing members to gain a deeper understanding of day-to-day operations.

7. Discussion and Direction from Council

Waste collection and disposal

In the original budget, the \$40,000 allocation for waste collection was included; however, it has since been taken out following further review and clarification.

Hantsport Fire Department

The 25 pagers remain included in the budget. Additional identified needs included the wildland brush truck lift kit (\$50,000), with the cost shared equally between the Municipality and Kings County. The thermal imaging cameras (\$15,018) can be delayed a year, and the SCBA bottles (\$10,000) can be removed until next year. The Engine 12 compartment upgrades (\$25,000) were already completed but were still showing in the capital budget and should be removed. A

reminder was shared that all capital projects for the Hantsport Fire Department continue to be jointly funded with Kings County.

Brooklyn Fire Department

Questions were raised about if the items removed from the budget were needed or expired. It was noted that other departments within the regional fire service have that equipment and if needed it could be shared amongst departments through mutual aid until the new Fire Services Director was in place. Equipment purchased by one department was considered a shared regional asset. Removed items could be reconsidered in the future, especially where funding was available through the fire reserve.

West Hants Middle School

Funding was proposed to support rural children's participation in after-school programs by helping to remove barriers such as program availability and transportation. The intent was to provide both programming and bussing so more children across the region was able to participate. A trial operating grant of \$20,000 was being proposed to support the initial delivery of these programs.

MOVED BY MAYOR ZEBIAN AND COUNCILLOR MCLEAN THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS COUNCIL ENTERS INTO A 1-YEAR GRANT FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000 TO WEST HANTS MIDDLE SCHOOL, TO SUPPORT AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM TRANSPORTATION AND OPERATIONS.

The recommendation was to allow staff to prepare a motion, after which Council could determine the overall budget impact, consistent with how similar funding agreements have been handled in the past. Discussion followed, and it was agreed that a motion would be prepared and brought forward after the break for Council's consideration. While the program was generally viewed as a good idea, questions were raised about whether the \$20,000 funding would support transportation, programming, or both, and whether that amount would be enough, particularly if transportation costs were included. The school has advised that \$20,000 would be adequate to pilot the program. Concerns were also noted about whether this type of funding should be pursued municipally, given that external grants and organizations already support similar initiatives. The consensus was to include the funding in the budget as a trial and evaluate the impacts moving forward.

Grants and Contributions Policy

In 2022, an increase to the Grants and Contributions Policy was approved. In response to significant growth in operating costs over recent years, there may be value in reviewing the policy again to determine whether further adjustments were needed. Based on the revised operating budget, grants and contributions totalled \$291,714, representing 1.4% of tax revenue. In addition to this allocation, other motions and budget decisions have provided additional community supports, resulting in approximately \$1.4 million in funding directed toward not-for-profit organizations and residents across the municipality within the current operating budget.

Waste collection for Destination Way, Cozy Crescent and Eagle view Drive in the Forrest Lakes Development

A discussion occurred regarding adding \$40,000 to the budget to support waste collection for Destination Way, Cozy Crescent, and Eagle view Drive in the Forest Lakes development. The issue was viewed as addressing a specific problem for these roads, rather than expanding municipal service; however, concerns were raised about proceeding without a clear policy and setting a precedent for other private roads. While some support existed for a one-year trial as policy work continued, Council was evenly split (6–6), and the funding was not added to the budget. The matter may be revisited in the future, or a policy specific to these roads could be developed.

General Rate

All properties pay the general rate, and as more costs were added, that rate increases. The gap between the West Hants rate and the base rate was 19 cents, which funds the West Hants historic debt, 76 Morison Drive, and the CAO pension. Windsor and Hantsport have a larger gap, providing more of a buffer to absorb costs and contribute more to reserves. Transportation costs rose 7.6% due to factors such as provincial transportation charges, snow removal, and contracted plowing, including some West Hants streets. Overall expenses increased 5.6%, while revenues rose 8.6%, allowing the general rate to remain supported; however, West Hants feels impacts more as it does not have as large of a gap compared to Windsor and Hantsport.

RCMP Costs

During consolidation, the same formula as before was used to area-rate RCMP costs between Windsor and West Hants, based on call volume data, heat maps, and where policing activity occurred. This approach was chosen to prevent rate shock, as RCMP costs were the largest increase when the policing agreement changed. While some costs could be spread more evenly through the general rate, there was logic in maintaining area rating tied to activity levels. It was noted that \$1.05 million from the RCMP reserve was being used to help offset some RCMP area-rated costs, and support both West Hants and Windsor rates. Further exploring of RCMP calls by community was suggested to get a better sense of where call volumes were.

Roads

Discussions about whether the roads budget could be reduced occurred, it was noted that some costs, such as provincial Department of Transportation fees, insurance increases (up 150%), and mandated requirements were outside municipal control. Other costs related to service levels, including snow removal and road maintenance, which Council can choose to increase or reduce could be considered. Road budgets have generally held steady, but overall expenses have risen due to inflation, insurance, and provincial charges and any meaningful reductions would require lowering service levels rather than eliminating unavoidable costs.

A suggestion was made to reduce both the Hantsport and Windsor tax rates by 9 cents by lowering their infrastructure reserve contributions, while also keeping the West Hants rate flat by using some of the Hantsport and Windsor infrastructure reserve funds to offset the general rating for roads and sidewalks. Even with these adjustments, substantial contributions would still be made to reserves, maintaining funding capacity for future infrastructure projects, including potential debt-financed projects.

The meter read technician position focused on reducing non-revenue water by replacing aging, inaccurate water meters and detecting leaks. As meters age, accuracy declines, increasing water loss. With a dedicated, experienced technician, this role would improve revenue and ultimately

pay for itself. The position was funded 80% by the water utility and 20% by user fees, resulting in no impact on the tax rate.

Clover Lane streetlights were budgeted separately because residents petitioned under the former West Hants Street Betterment By-Law to install decorative streetlights. As a result, the 21 properties on that street were billed annually for the power and maintenance costs, adjusted each year based on actual expenses. The general street lighting budget under Roads covers all other street and traffic lighting, including crosswalk flashers, intersection traffic lights, standard streetlights, and the electricity and maintenance costs for municipally owned infrastructure.

Concern was raised that overtime costs increased significantly for Public Works (over \$100,000); the major drivers for this included on-call pay, a renegotiated collective agreement and service expectations (particularly for roads). The rise in recreation program overtime was due to employee benefits.

Consensus was to adjust the water utility revenue forecast to \$3.9 million, consistent with this year's expected revenue, and sewer revenue to \$2.9 million, and to reconsider adding back the water meter technician position.

Consensus was to pause additions for Brooklyn Station 1 until a Regional Fire Services Director was in place to advise Council. In the interim, PPE-related purchases could be funded through regional fire reserves if needed. The Elevator Rescue was debt serviced; however, similar equipment was available within other regional fire departments and could be shared.

Direction was to explore ways to offset the general rating for roads and sidewalks implemented a few years ago to keep the West Hants rate flat, while also considering a 9-cent reduction to the Hantsport and Windsor rates and using part of those funds to support the West Hants rate.

8. Break (8:15 p.m.)

A break occurred at 8:15 pm. The regular meeting resumed at 9:27 p.m.

9. Motions & Resolutions - Pending Council Discussion (9:27 pm)

The adjusted budget including the proposed changes was presented. Based on the direction provided, a reduction of \$411,153.00 was made to the General Operating Budget, resulting in an adjusted 2026/27 Operating Budget of \$39,963,425.

The biggest impact on revenue was a reduction in tax rates, which resulted in a revenue decrease of \$410,584.79, partially offset by an increase in sewer revenue. As tax rates were reduced, Grants in Lieu of Taxes was also reduced for impacted properties.

Under expenditures, there was an increase of \$276,828.75, which reduced the operating deficit due to increased revenues, along with the addition of 20% funding for the new Meter Technician position. Within Recreation and Cultural Services, \$20,000 was included to support the addition of West Hants Middle School funding.

Debenture and long-term borrowing increased by \$5,533.05, related to the Woodland Truck Lift Kit for the Hantsport Fire Department, and partially offset by reductions associated with the Thermal Imaging Cameras and SCBA bottles.

Under Net Transfers, the biggest change was a reduction in transfers to reserves totaling \$713,515.00.

Within the Water Utility, there was an increase in revenue of \$451,978 and an increase in expenses of \$58,800, reflecting 80% funding for the Meter Technician position. The net result was an increase of \$393,178 in the operating surplus.

With the changes made, the general rate increased, which required an additional \$26,387 withdrawal from reserves to even out the general rate. To offset this increase, the Hantsport Infrastructure transfer to reserves was reduced by \$64,365. In Windsor, the transfer to reserves was reduced by \$253,233, resulting in a nine-cent decrease for both Hantsport and Windsor. In order to maintain a flat tax rate for West Hants, an increase (\$369,530.00.) was needed on the withdrawal from the West Hants Operating Reserve.

Discussion Points:

- Concern was raised regarding the \$369,530 withdrawal from the West Hants Operating Reserve as it would deplete reserve balances. In order to maintain a flat West Hants tax rate, this amount was required to be withdrawn and would need to come from a reserve.
- The reductions to the Hantsport and Windsor Infrastructure Reserve allowed a nine-cent rate reduction for both areas.
- The intent of the direction provided prior to the break was to reduce West Hants' reliance on the general rate for funding roads and to shift it more to Windsor to absorb more of the costs associated with roads.
- The reductions to the Hantsport and Windsor Infrastructure reserves (\$253,233 and \$64,365) were transferred to the West Hants Regional Reserve, so it could be used to offset the West Hants rate.
- The current projection amount of \$2.9 million was used for sewer and \$3.9 million was used for the water utility.

Capital Changes

Based on the direction provided, the net variance was \$18.00 as a result of changes made within Hantsport (adding the Unit 52 Brush Truck Wildland Lift Kit back in the budget, deferring the purchase of Thermal Imaging Cameras and SCBA Scott Bottles to the following year, and removing the carryover for upgrades to Engine 12 compartments, as those upgrades were completed in the prior year).

Based on these changes, there was no increase to the West Hants rate and a nine-cent reduction to the rate for both Hantsport and Windsor. Overall, the changes resulted in a slight increase to the General Rate of 0.8361. The proposed West Hants rate remains below the pre-consolidation West Hants rate, while Hantsport and Windsor each achieved a nine-cent reduction. The proposed general rates were as follows: Hantsport: 1.5564, Windsor: 1.2637 and West Hants: 1.0323.

a) Budget Approval Motion

MOVED BY MAYOR ZEBIAN AND COUNCILLOR B. SMITH THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS COUNCIL APPROVE THE 2026-27 OPERATING BUDGET AS PRESENTED TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON APRIL 8, 2026, OUTLINING TOTAL GENERAL RATED EXPENSES AND TRANSFERS OF \$19,447,327; TOTAL AREA RATED EXPENSES AND TRANSFERS FOR THE COMMUNITY OF WEST

HANTS OF \$4,044,923; TOTAL AREA RATED EXPENSES AND TRANSFERS FROM THE COMMUNITY OF HANTSPORT OF \$456,033; AND TOTAL AREA RATED EXPENSES AND TRANSFERS FOR THE COMMUNITY OF WINDSOR OF \$3,980,062. MOTION CARRIED

MOVED BY MAYOR ZEBIAN AND COUNCILLOR JANNASCH THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS COUNCIL APPROVE THE 2026-27 WEST HANTS REGIONAL WATER UTILITY BUDGET AS PRESENTED TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON APRIL 8, 2026. MOTION CARRIED

MOVED BY MAYOR ZEBIAN AND COUNCILLOR JANNASCH THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS COUNCIL APPROVE THE 2026-27 CAPITAL BUDGET AS PRESENTED TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON APRIL 8, 2026. MOTION CARRIED

The tax exemption list changes were reviewed. One society was removed (Windsor Masonic Society) and the Windsor Curling Club exemption changed from 82% to 96%. The Windsor Curling Club was not eligible for 100% exemption as the area associated with the bar was not eligible for exemption.

MOVED BY MAYOR ZEBIAN AND COUNCILLOR B. SMITH THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS COUNCIL APPROVES ENTERING INTO A 1-TEAR GRANT FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000 TO THE WEST HANTS MIDDLE SCHOOL, TO SUPPORT AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM TRANSPORTATION AND OPERATIONS. MOTION CARRIED

A Special Council meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday April 14, 2026 at 5 p.m. (prior to the regularly scheduled Committee of the Whole meeting to finalize the 2026/27 budget.

- 10. Next Meeting Date / Adjournment** – April 14, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting. With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:27 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Debbie Francis, Chair

Deanna Snair, Municipal Clerk