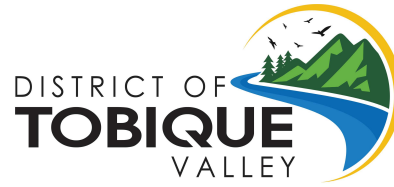


# Minutes



Regular Meeting

April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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## DATE OF MEETING

7:00 PM

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## TIME

Mayor Eagles

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## MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY

### IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Tom Eagles, Deputy Mayor Gary Harding, Councillor Joanne Michaud, Councillor William Eagles, Councillor Sharon DeWitt, Councillor Tony Wright, Councillor Laurie Barry-Kinney, Patty St. Peter, CAO/Clerk, Amanda Jenkins McAskill, ASO

Gallery attendance

Mayor Eagles stated, “We begin today by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoquey. These territories are covered by treaties of peace and friendship of the Wolastoquey people first signed with the British Crown in 1725.”

### OPENING PRAYER

Mayor Eagles lead the meeting in the Lord’s Prayer.

### DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councillor Michaud declared Conflict of Interest with an item in 12(a) Community Investment Program Application.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of agenda –

Moved by: Councillor Eagles

Seconded by: Councillor Wright

Motion Carried 202604-01

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Approval of Regular Meeting March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026 –  
Moved by: Deputy Mayor Harding  
Seconded by: Councillor Eagles**

**Motion Carried 202604-02**

**Approval of Regular Meeting March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026 – Councillor Barry-Kinney, Councillor  
Wright**

**Motion Carried 202604-03**

## **Presentations**

### **Carol Heather Marsh & Brian Vincent**

Carol Heather Marsh noted “We are here to raise two governance concerns inclusively with council proceedings and administrative responses.

The continued use of the Lord’s Prayer at the opening of council meetings creates a barrier for full and equal participation for some residents. Municipal Governments represent all members of communities, regardless of personal beliefs. In the case of *Mouvement laïque Québécois v Saguenay city*, decision of the Supreme Court of Canada affirms the expectation of neutrality in public institutions. We are therefore requesting that council replaces the prayer with a moment of reflection to include all members of the community.”

Brian Vincent noted “Second, we raised this concern with the CAO and did not receive a timely response. When a reply was received, the suggestion was made that we attend after the prayer concluded. This does not address the underlining issue of the inclusive acts to public meetings, and it is not a reasonable accommodation. We are asking that council to review both practices of opening meetings with the prayer and a standard of time appropriate administrative responses to the residents.”

### **Thomas Argue**

#### *Pride Flag Presentation*

Thomas noted “Here is a pride flag. I am 38 years old, born and raised in Plaster Rock, named after Dr. Thomas Crawford, if you remember him. I was born and raised in this village, and baptised Apostolic Pentecostal, I grew up in this town, but I grew up in private Christian School. I had no idea growing up that these six colors actually represented something singularly. I mean, I know what people always told me the flag represented but it became personal to me.

So I simply want to demonstrate what the six colors on this flag mean. The red of a pride flag it actually represents forgiveness, and the orange in a pride flag actually represents healing, and the yellow represents sunlight with consciousness, and the green represents the earth and grounding, and the blue represents spirit, and the purple represents serenity.

And I would ask that the Mayor of the District of Tobique Valley accept this flag as gift to our community from myself. And that is all I really want to say about this pride flag, it has never been flown and I would ask for consideration in the upcoming summer months that this flag be flown to represent my community in June.”

## **Committee Reports**

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### ***Mayor Eagles***

#### **Regional Service Commission**

Board meeting was held March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Western NB Service Commission Board Room. A new building inspector has been hired for Western New Brunswick, Daniel Johnston. Each municipality had to approve this hiring which we did last month by resolution. Fred Thompson Brown gave a detailed report on Public Safety; it was also mentioned that Tobique Valley will be holding an EMO tabletop exercise. Thank you to Amanda for doing a lot of work on this file; Tobique Valley is the envy of a lot of communities with the work that is being done.

On Friday April 10<sup>th</sup>, the board met with Horizon Health CEO Margaret Melanson to get an update on the Upper River Valley Hospital; I have forwarded her presentation to you to review. We have requested that the next time we meet her, we want an update on Hotel-Dieu in Perth-Andover and the Tobique Valley Community Health Centre in Plaster Rock. The next Board meeting will be April 17<sup>th</sup> in Centreville. RCMP will be in attendance to discuss regional priorities.

#### **RSC – Public Safety**

Spoke to RCMP Sergeant Bobbi Dickinson last week to give me an update of the happenings around the District. Things seem to be going quite well, but the usual trouble spots are still active.

As mentioned in my Regional Service Commission report, Fred Thompson Brown mentioned the possibility of the high risk of forest fires this summer and municipalities need to prepare and our District is doing just that.

#### **UMNB**

On March 24, 2026, a Legal Procedures workshop was offered virtually by Basile Chiasson to explain the legislative and regulatory framework surrounding the Local Governance Act, the

Planning Act, and other relevant legislation, the possible legal procedures, and the options available to municipalities. The webinar was outstanding with a ton of information and greatly appreciated.

Everyone has been receiving the UMNb updates by e-mail and the main focus is the upcoming municipal elections, May 11<sup>th</sup>.

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### ***Deputy Mayor Gary Harding***

#### **Public Works**

- Updated service location maps to include civic addresses
- New passengers side mirror on cube van
- New cutting edges on plow for pickup
- Calcium in catch basins and culverts to thaw ice
- Dug and repaired sewer line on Bridge St
- Repaired water leak on Orange St
- Flushed sewer mains on Fraser St and First St
- WorkSafe training
- New lights/switches on Flush truck
- Repair backup alarm on backhoe
- New floor, paint & lights on dump trailer
- New 3-way valve on Flush truck
- Work on lockout procedures for equipment
- Cold patch. Main St, Hillcrest, Centennial & Ridgewell
- New master switch on Backhoe
- Plowed/salted 7 times this month
- Received 2 loads of salt
- 7 water samples...all acceptable results

#### **Tobique Forestry Advisory Committee**

- Next meeting is April 28<sup>th</sup>
- Road side clean coming up from government garage to Crombie

Summerfest this year will be July 2 – July 5<sup>th</sup> with most activity at the legion. Summerfest will be at the pavilion and the welcome center on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Cemetery Committee**

*No Report*

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***Councillor Laurie Barry-Kinney***

**Policy & By-Laws**

*No report*

**Pond Hockey**

*No report*

**Economic Development – Tourism**

First Draft will be presented from the Glenn Group on the 29<sup>th</sup> and then proposed to the new council.

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***Councillor Tony Wright***

**Community Development & Facility Maintenance**

**Community Development:**

- We hosted a Glow in the Dark Skate on March 4th, which saw a fantastic turnout of approximately 50 children. The event was a great success, and due to popular demand, we are planning to bring it back again during the Christmas season.
- For St. Patrick's Day, we held a fun pet photo contest. Congratulations to Becky McCutcheon, whose two adorable cats won a \$50.00 gift card to Lil Peppinos.
- Our 8-week Yoga Program with Kalli officially began on March 25th and has been off to a strong start.
- We were proud to host the Ronnie Warren Memorial Tournaments, where the canteen was open throughout and proved to be very successful.
- Additionally, we hosted the VTMHA U15 Provincial Tournaments during the last weekend of March. It was a fantastic tournament, and with the canteen operating all weekend, it was another great success.
- We have also received confirmation from ParticipACTION for \$750 in funding to support a Bush-craft Basics Course, which I am currently planning to offer in June.

**Facility**

- Regular ice maintenance
- Hosted Ronnie Warrant tournament
- Hosted U15 Provincial tournament
- Shut ice plant down

- Began removing ice
- Cleaned all dressing rooms, benches and arena
- Removed snowblower from tractor
- Completed health and safety courses online and in class
- Cleaned and put Zamboni away for next ice season
- Ordered paint for public pool
- Began writeup of policies for lock out tag procedures – specific to maintenance equipment
- Building inspections for March

### **Pond Hockey**

Volunteer appreciation night is May 9<sup>th</sup> at the Welcome Centre.

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### ***Councillor HW Eagles***

#### **Fire Department**

Committee of the Whole held with the fire Department topics discussed were burning by-laws and medical assists.

#### **Cemetery**

Cemetery will be open once the snow is gone.

#### **Transportation**

*No Report*

#### **Long Term/Palliative Care**

*No Report*

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### ***Councillor Sharon DeWitt***

**For the month of March 2026**

<b>MONTHLY</b>	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>EXPENSE</b>
<b>GENERAL</b>	<b>\$278,978.60</b>	<b>\$312,121.61</b>
<b>WATER &amp; SEWER</b>	<b>\$154,802.00</b>	<b>\$173,976.38</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$433,780.60</b>	<b>\$486,097.99</b>

**EMO**

- March 25 – virtual meeting with the NBEMO on Wildfire & Riverwatch – it is noted that prevention of wildfire starts with education to the public. FireSmart Canada has resources for all levels. The District will be advertising Wildfire Community Preparedness Day is May 2, 2026. Useful links for everyone:
  - <http://weather.gc.ca>
  - [www.airhealth.ca](http://www.airhealth.ca)
  - <https://www.gnb.ca/en/emergency/river-watch.html>
  - River Watch 1-888-561-4048
  - All residents should have a 72 hour emergency kit – a great working document from NBEMO - [https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/emo-omu/PDF/nb-emo\\_booklet-e.pdf](https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/emo-omu/PDF/nb-emo_booklet-e.pdf)
- March 26 - virtual meeting with GNB on Flood Resilience –
  - In Canada – insurance paid out over 9 billion of insured losses in 2024 due to weather events
  - Flooded basement can cost up to \$54,000 for repairs
  - FCM (Federation of Canadian Municipalities) has grants and training on climate resiliency
  - Best prevention for flood is resident awareness
  - <https://www.intactcentreclimateadaptation.ca/climate-ready-infographics/> - has great resources for residents on:
    - Nature at Home Infographic (Working with Nature)
    - FireSmart Home & Wildfire-Ready Community
    - Home Heat Protection & Apartment & Condo Heat Protection
    - Home Flood Protection & Flood-Ready Community
- April 1 – Public Safety meeting
- Reviewed the Community Wildfire Resiliency plan from Transitional Solutions Inc.

**Library**

- Tara from Talk with Me continues the 4-week sessions of Songs & Rhymes for children under 5. The last session is Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

- The library hosted an Easter Egg Hunt for students during the school lunch break on Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Lego Club will be held after school on April 7th.
- The group from CVCVB will come on April 8th for their monthly craft session with Stephanie. This month's theme will be spring.
- The library board meeting & AGM will be held on April 14th.
- Due to the Easter holidays, the Spice Club's spice/seasoning pick up for April will be Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The library Book Club will be meeting on April 16th to discuss "The Last Thing he Told me" by Laura Dave. New members are always welcome.
- Rug Hooking meets this month on April 14 & 28.
- After a 2-week break, Story Time continues on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Free passes for the NB Aquarium in Shippigan are available from April 1-30<sup>th</sup>. Passes can be redeemed during their summer season (May 31- Sept. 26). One pass per library card.
- Community Income Tax Clinics continue on Monday & Thursday afternoons throughout April. Appointments can be made by calling the library.
- Our monthly Craft Night will be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The craft theme will be spring.

## **Education**

### **DFMS**

This year, the DFMS staff has focussed on improving student writing, increasing attendance, and teaching and reinforcing positive behaviours. Literacy, as always, continues to be a priority, and Family Literacy Night will be held on April 14. This will give families an opportunity to engage in literacy activities together and support learning at home. On April 17, the school will host a Spelling Bee for Grades 3, 4 and 5 students.

On April 29, 20 Grade 3-5 students will travel to Florenceville to participate in a Children's Parliament Leadership event.

The school is working with the district to build an additional kitchen space that will enhance the breakfast program and prepare for the return of Chartwells catering, who will provide a lunch program beginning in the fall of 2026. This program will be subsidized by the provincial government per their recent announcement.

NB Nature will be visiting on May 27 with hands-on workshops for each class. Also, a team from UNB will be working with students on STEM activities.

Finally, the playground greenspace plan is continuing with the goal of having it completed this summer. The school is working with the district and valued community volunteers towards this end.

### **TVMHS**

## Councillor Joanne Michaud

### Health

Met with Jen Eagan, Health Centre Facility Manager, on April 15th:

- Dr. Zaki has resigned but will continue to do his virtual visits every Wednesday until the end of June.

- Kiersten Nissen, NP, is now on maternity leave for 18 months.

- Dr. Davilmar is coming for two weeks on May 19<sup>th</sup>

- Jen has been able to recruit a part-time Physician Assistant. Her name is Cecilia Pinter. She is currently working in Maine but will start here in July. Physician Assistants cannot roster patients, so she will be working in the clinic two days a week to start, probably Wednesdays and Thursdays. Jen requests approval to offer her the \$7500 incentive, even though she is not a Nurse Practitioner.

- Same-day access will be changing. It will be a combination of appointments and available walk-in slots to help better serve the community. This will begin when Cecilia starts in July.

- Discussions are on-going for a part-time Nurse Practitioner who, if successful, will also work in the clinic, working Mondays & Tuesdays. She has been told of the \$7500 incentive. She has not accepted yet, but Jen is hopeful.

- Horizon has hired a new Physician recruiter just for the Upper River Valley. Jen was to give him a tour of our facility last Friday, the 17th, and to explain our programs and everything we have to offer a new physician if they choose us.

- Jen also secured a Diabetic Educator nursing position for Perth, but that nurse will be shared with us, coming once or twice a week to see patients with diabetes.

Once the new Council is settled in, Jen would be happy to come to a council meeting to give an update on things in the works and the services they offer.

Some examples of new programming:

- o Cooking club with the school – how to cook making healthy substitutes
- o Pulmonary Rehab starting in September
- o Girl Guides air fryer session (done)
- o Possible CPR classes for the public
- o Healthy Aging clinic
- o Concussion management clinic
- o Diabetes clinic

**MOTION:** Councillor Michaud put a motion on the floor to approve a \$7500 per year incentive for 3 years for Cecilia Pinter, Physician Assistant.

**RESOLUTION:** To approve a \$7500 per year incentive for three years for Cecilia Pinter, a Physician Assistant

**Moved by: Councillor Eagles**  
**Seconded by: Councillor Wright**

**Motion Carried 202604-04**

### **Policy & By Laws**

*No Report*

### **Christmas**

*No report*

**Reports be accepted as submitted and accounts payable**

**Moved by: Councillor Eagles**  
**Seconded by: Councillor Michaud**

**Motion Carried 202604-05**

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## **Chief Administrative Officer**

### **Community & Administration**

- Letter forwarded to Sharon Davidson on MacWright Street for tenants.
- Lagoon Update April 16/2026 – The tender will be posted on NBON and will be advertised on our website. Closing date is April 30<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am. The opening will be at the district office upon closure of tenders.
- COW Protective Services & Fire Rescue meeting working on a new Burning by Law
- Swearing In Ceremony for new council will be scheduled once candidates have been declared elected and there are no indications of any recounts.
- Coffee Break with Staff

Upcoming Orientations for newly elected council

- June 8<sup>th</sup> Barbara Quigley for newly elected officials and supervisors. The session will be approximately 3 hrs. This orientation will start at approximately 4:30 p.m. with supper provided. Barbara Quigley has provided several sessions at the University of Moncton and Management training. Her background comes with numerous years in the public sector working in Moncton as City Clerk.
- Department of Environment and Local Government will be hosting a Local Governance Orientation program following the municipal elections. The orientation program is open to all new and returning elected officials and administration staff, providing a valuable opportunity to gain essential knowledge and connect with peers. There is no fee and each participant will receive a certificate upon completion. This Orientation will be held at the Saint John Trade and Convention Centre on June 12 & 13. More information to come.

## Financial

- Approval for 8 students under the Canada Summer Jobs Program
  - 2025 Audit is ongoing and is to be presented to existing council by months end.
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## By-Law Enforcement

- Looking into other options of providing this service.
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## Training/Meetings

- April 16th Amanda & I participated in a Virtual Asset Management Fundamental Course.
- Climate Change meeting with ELG and Dillion Consulting
- Virtual March 18 – Roles and Responsibilities

## Upcoming Training & Meetings

- Wildfire Tabletop
- April 30<sup>th</sup> in Moncton Building a Culture of Respect project funded by DELG.

## The Chief Administrative Officer report be accepted

**Moved by: Councillor Wright**

**Seconded by: Councillor Barry-Kinney**

**Motion Carried 202604-06**

**MOTION:** Councillor Wright put motion on the floor to add two new members for the recreation committee, Janice Beaudoin and Tracey Sisson.

**RESOLUTION:** To add Janice Beaudoin & Tracey Sisson to the Recreation Committee.

**Moved by: Councillor Wright**

**Seconded by: Councillor Barry-Kinney**

**Motion Carried 202604-07**

## Business Arising from the Minutes

- a) **Residential Rental Housing Grant** – to be reviewed at a later date

**b) Third Reading and Enactment of By-Law 2026-09 – A Code of Conduct By-Law for the Council of District of Tobique Valley**

This by-law is an established a Code of Conduct for elected members by the District of Tobique Valley is required by the Local Governance Act. Its purpose is to ensure councillors act with integrity, accountability, transparency, and in the best interest of the community.

Key points:

Standards of Conduct: Councillors must act in public interest, exercise care and diligence, remain impartial, and support transparent decision making.

Communication: The Mayor or Deputy Mayor is the official spokesperson. Councillors must not share false, misleading or defamatory information.

Respect and Professionalism: All council members are expected to treat colleagues, staff and the public with respect and avoid harassment, discrimination or inappropriate behaviour including social media.

Confidentiality: Councillors must protect confidential information and not disclose it unless authorized or legally required.

Conflict of Interest: Members must avoid using their position for personal gain and comply with all conflict of interest provisions under the act.

Role Boundaries: Councillors must not direct staff except through the CAO and must respect the separation between council and administration.

Use of Municipal Resources: Municipal assets and services can not be used for personal, political, or unauthorized purposes.

Training: Councillors are required to attend orientation and encouraged to participate in on going training.

Complaint Process: Complaints must be written, signed and submitted within 30 days. Anonymous complaints are not accepted. A fair process is required including notice to Councillor, an opportunity to respond and an investigation. Council must decide in an open session whether a breach occurred and what action to take.

Corrective actions: Council may impose measures such as: reprimand or apology; training or counseling; suspension of duties or committee roles; loss of privileges or compensation within legal limits.

**To accept the Third Reading and Enactment of By-Law 2026-09 – Code of Conduct By-Law for the Council of District of Tobique Valley**

**Moved by: Councillor DeWitt**

**Seconded by: Councillor Wright**

**Motion Carried 202604-08**

**New Business**

- a) Community Investment Program Applications:
  - a. Fiddlehead Players Community Theatre – Request \$1,000
  - b. Victoria County SPCA – Request \$1,000
  - c. Royal Canadian Legion Branch #85 Arthurette – Request \$1,000

d. Project Linus Canada – Plaster Rock Chapter – Request \$700

**MOTION:** Councillor Eagles put a motion on the floor to approve all organizations

**RESOLUTION: To approve all organizations with a total of \$3,700 for the Community Investment Program**

**Moved by: Councillor Eagles**

**Seconded by: Councillor Wright**

**Motion Carried 202604 - 09**

- b) Complaint from Jeff & Alicia Urquhart advising that recently an individual in town appears to be experiencing homelessness and possible substance use issues. Asking that the town take appropriate action to address the concern of public safety surrounding inappropriate public behavior such as indecent exposure and wandering in a way that is distressing to both adults and children.
- c) James Parish regretfully submits his notice terminating his contract with the District of Tobique Valley regarding bylaw enforcement services, effective April 30, 2026. He notes that due to significant growth within one of his companies, his time and attention have increasingly been required elsewhere. As a result, he feels he is no longer able to provide the level of service and commitment that the district deserves.
- d) Victoria County SPCA requests the booking of the arena space starting April 27<sup>th</sup> through to the date for the fall Summerfest Event, for the Flea Market 2026 summer season. Anticipate their first sale date to be May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

**MOTION:** Councillor Michaud motioned to rent half the arena floor to the SPCA

**RESOLUTION: To rent half the arena floor to the SPCA at \$100/week plus HST for the summer months except for Summerfest weekend July 2-5<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

**Moved by: Councillor Michaud**

**Seconded by: Councillor Wright**

**Motion Carried 202604-10**

e) Centennial Court Park

Mayor Eagles noted we have two lots in Centennial Court Park that is available for lease or purchase.

Council noted they would like the zone known to see if a tiny home can be on the lot.

**Correspondence:**

a) Thank You from the Carleton-Victoria Outstanding Citizen Award Committee

for the district continue support of their annual celebration.

- b) Hon. Aaron Kennedy, Minister of Local Government and Hon. Pat Finnigan, Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries advising of the importance of farming/food self-sufficiency in New Brunswick. Memo is to highlight the importance of NB agriculture and outline some of the tools available to support the sector. Existing provincial legislation along with By law enacted by local governments can help achieve food self-sufficiency and economic growth in our province.
- c) Mr. Cade Libby, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources – Subject Fire Season. The department advised that while the winter months have given a reprieve from active fire management, drought conditions have persisted due to a lack of precipitation over the winter months. In consultation with our subject matter experts, we have made the decision to commence the Fire Season on April 2, 2026. This will allow the Wildfire Management Branch to have the authority to initiate the provincial daily burns status system and signal to the public that we are entering a state of elevated readiness. This will allow the Provincial Wildlife Coordination Center to restrict burning if necessary and allow JPS conservation officers to enforce the Forest Fire Act.
- d) Marci Gould, P. Eng, Director of Capital Planning is please to advise that under the 2028 Provincial – Municipal Highway Partnership, the department is prepared to partner with the municipality on the following project estimated at \$252,000 plus non-recoverable HST. Project - Main Street, Orange Street to Church Street, paving over approximately 0.655 km. The department is prepared to contribute up to a maximum of \$232,000 for its 92% share of the eligible items on this project and the municipal contribution for its 8% share of eligible items is \$20,000 plus HST.

### **Next Meeting Date**

May regular meeting will not run on schedule due to elections on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026, however there will be a special meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

### **Closed Session – Land**

**To move the meeting into closed session at 8:04 p.m.**

**Moved by: Councillor DeWitt**

**Seconded by: Councillor Barry-Kinney**

**Motion Carried 202604-11**

**To move the meeting to open session at 8:18 p.m.**

**Moved by: Councillor Michaud**

**Seconded by: Councillor Eagles**

**Motion Carried 202604 -12**

### **Residential Housing Grant**

**MOTION:** Councillor Barry-Kinney motioned to rescind the Residential Housing Grant.

**RESOLUTION:** To rescind motion 2026-08 – the new Residential Rental Housing Grant is accessible for 5 years and will offer new residential buildings \$2,000/unit per year for a 3-year term

**Moved by: Councillor Barry-Kinney**

**Seconded by: Councillor Michaud**

**Motion Carried 202604 – 13**

### **Adjournment**

**The meeting adjourned @ 8:24 p.m.**

**Moved by: Councillor DeWitt**

**Seconded by: Councillor Barry-Kinney**

**Motion Carried 202604 - 14**

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**Aaron Jones, Mayor**

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**Patty St. Peter, CAO/Clerk**