

Pugwash Village Commission

Regular Meeting #481

March 9th, 2026, at 6 pm

Board Room, Pugwash Village Hall

Minutes

1. Call to Order

1.1 Chair Brent Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

1.2 An in-camera meeting was held before this meeting.

In-camera Per Section 408B (2) of the Municipal Government Act, the Commission moves into the in-camera as per Section 408B (2) of the Municipal Government Act to discuss the following: [specific topics addressed in the in-camera meeting.

(a) Village property acquisition, sale, lease, and security.

(e) Contract Negotiations

1.3 Return to Public Meeting at 6:30 pm

1.4 Territorial Acknowledgement- read by Chair Wilson.

“We acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.”

2. Roll Call of Commissioners. - All Present

Commissioner Brent Wilson, Chair,
Commissioner Sue Duncan, Vice Chair
Commissioner Dave MacEwan
Commissioner Matthew Parker
Commissioner Margaret Anderson
Clerk-Treasurer Christie Blackie

3. Approval of Agenda

3.1 The agenda was approved as presented.

3.2 Call for Declaration of Conflict of Interest.

Approved by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner MacEwan

Motion Carried

4. Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Anderson moved, and Commissioner Duncan seconded, that the minutes of Regular Meeting #480, held February 17th, 2026, be approved.

Motion Carried

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Active Transportation (AT) Task Force

Motioned by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Duncan, that the Village of Pugwash decline participation in the community-initiated Core Active Transportation

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Network, and that the Clerk-Treasurer continue communication with Cycle Nova Scotia as per the 2025 agreement.

Discussion included confirmation that:

- The Village has an existing agreement with Cycle Nova Scotia.
- The study period is still ongoing.
- Consultants (WSP) are actively working within the community.

Motion Carried.

6. Correspondence

- 6.1** Engage Nova Scotia, please remember that the end of the submission time is the end of March.
- 6.2** Fire Service Modernization changes are coming from the province, and the reports that say the fire service needs better governance, safe training, and standard services.
- 6.3** Community visitor Information Centres will continue to operate and receive administrative and financial support from the Truro Chamber of Commerce.

7. Presentation – TEDxPugwash Presentation – Gordon (Chair of Committee)

Gordon presented plans for the upcoming TEDxPugwash event scheduled for 2026. Key points included:

- Transition to a **biennial event** (every two years).
- Event to be held at **Pugwash District High School** to accommodate better infrastructure and recording quality.
- Theme: **Peace**, focusing on ideas that can create meaningful change.
- Inclusion of both **youth and adult speakers**, with expanded participation from Oxford High School.
- Strict adherence to TEDx guidelines, including vetting of speakers and a maximum audience size of 100 attendees.
- Talks will be professionally recorded and shared globally via TEDx platforms.
- Fundraising efforts are ongoing to support production costs.
- The Commission expressed support and appreciation for the initiative and its positive impact on youth and community engagement.

8. Reports

8.1 Clerk-Treasurer's Report

The Clerk-Treasurer reported the following:

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- **Easter Egg Hunt** – April 3rd at 11 am, registration at 10:00 – looking for a few volunteers
- **Joint Community Position (JCP)**, funded through Employment Nova Scotia. The position would focus on tourism and social media, in partnership with Thinkers' Lodge, the Village of Pugwash, and Wallace Area Development Association. We are applying now. This position will support digital marketing and tourism, which will, in the end, support economic growth for the community
- **Public Works employees will begin on March 30 and April 6th**
- We have a meeting with the AMANS associates to have the new website go live. We will ask that when it does, you take a look and let us know of any updates or changes you would like to see.
- Core Active Transportation – WSP will be in Pugwash on Monday and set up traffic monitors to support their report

8.2 Financials

- General Account balance approximately 104000.00
- Gathering of the Clans Account balance approximately 39000.00
- Pugwash Harbourfest presented the Village Clerk with the official purchase receipt of \$1.00 for the purchase of the “docks” for the use by the community and visitors.

8.3 Standing Committees

8.3.1 Accessibility – No report at this time.

8.3.2 Audit - A meeting will be scheduled to confirm the 2025/2026 financials.

8.4 Community Committees

8.4.1 Communities in Bloom (CIB) – Met with the CIB committee to discuss possible projects for the year after discussing the judges' report. The next meeting will be on March 19 at 1 pm.

8.4.2 Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV) – On March 19th, 2026, there is a virtual quarterly meeting.

8.5 Advisory Committees

8.5.1 Policies – Nothing currently

9. New or Other Business

9.1 Village Tax Rates

It was motioned by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner MacEwan that the Village Commission of Pugwash approve an increase to the Village tax rates for the upcoming fiscal year as follows:

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The **Residential Tax Rate** is to be increased from **\$0.37 per \$100 of assessment** to **\$.38 per \$100 of assessment**, an increase of \$ 0.01.

The **Commercial Tax Rate** is to be increased from **\$0.44 per \$100 of assessment** to **\$.45 per \$100 of assessment**, an increase of \$0.01.

Furthermore, the revised rates take effect beginning **April 1, 2026**, and will be reflected in the Village’s operating budget and tax billing for the 2026–2027 fiscal year.

Motion Carried

10. Adjournments

Motion by **Commissioner Parker** to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at **7:33 pm**.

Motion Carried

The next regular Village meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on April 13th, 2026.

Submitted by,
Christie Blackie
Clerk-Treasurer

Chair _____

Clerk Treasurer _____