

Town of Burin – Town Hall Meeting- April 30, 2026

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A Town Hall meeting with the Town of Burin and Residents of the Town was held on the above date at the Burin Fire Hall.

Members Present:	Mayor	Kevin Lundrigan
	Councillor	Alison Kavanaugh
	Councillor	Rhonda Isaacs
	Councilor	Justin Noseworthy
	Councillor	Shane Foote

Also Present Were:	Town Manager	Leo Hartson
	Director of Public Works	Troy Hollett
	Town Clerk	Sheena Jones

Regrets:	Deputy Mayor	Howard Lundrigan
	Councillor	Karen Inkpen

Councillor Isaacs called the Town Hall meeting to order and welcomed members of Council and residents in attendance. Mayor Lundrigan then delivered the opening remarks, also welcoming residents present. He expressed appreciation to current and former councilors and Town Staff for their dedication and service in supporting the effective operation of the Town.

Mayor Lundrigan spoke on the Town's accomplishments, highlighting the following:

- **Water and Sewer Infrastructure:** Upgrades were completed at three water supply facilities, including Big Pond Chlorination, Long Pond Chlorination, and Port au Bras Chlorination. Waterline installation was completed on Route 220 (Main Street), from Pearce Junior High School to the former T.J. McDonald residence, and from Don Hollett's residence to Central Park. Upgrades were also completed to the Augustus Drive Booster Station. Sewer upgrades were carried out at the Salmonier Lift Station and in Long Cove.
- **Street Upgrades:** Asphalt and resurfacing work was completed in several areas, including Sheen's Hill, South Side Road, and the Municipal Centre parking lot, Greenhill Crescent, Evergreen Crescent, Juniper Lane, Hillview Heights, Berry Hill, Augustus Drive, Warrens Road, Junior Drive, and Southwest Crescent in Bridget Estates.
- **Advocacy Efforts:** The Town successfully lobbied the provincial government for upgrades to the area known as "The Scrape," as well as for improvements to the main road through Port au Bras.
- **Fire Department Investment:** The Town continues to invest annually in the Fire Department. A new 2026 pumper truck, at a cost of \$790,000, is expected to be received this spring. Acknowledgement was given to MHA Paul Pike, former Minister of Justice and Public Safety John Hogan, and Minister Siobhan Coady for their support in securing this asset.

- **Rescue Infrastructure:** A new rescue storage bay, constructed at a cost of \$380,000 to house the rescue unit, was completed in the previous year.
- **Financial Status:** The Town is currently in a strong financial position with no outstanding debt to financial institutions. This is largely attributed to the purchase of the former Highliner plant in Burin in 2014 for \$10, along with \$500,000 to cover demolition costs. In 2017, the property was sold to Oceanic for \$300,000. Additionally, the Town secured \$350,000 from the provincial government to offset lost tax revenue. These funds have been placed in a development fund to support future projects.
- **Recreation:** Significant investments have been made in Central Park, including the construction of a large deck and upgrades to the softball building (windows, doors, and siding), drainage improvements, and installation of high-quality dugouts. At the Alphonsus Warren Memorial Field, upgrades were completed to both the interior and exterior, accessibility improvements were made, and new dugouts were installed.
- **Tourism:** Burin continues to be recognized as a highlight destination on the Burin Peninsula. Investments in Heritage Square by municipal, provincial, and federal governments, along with private contributions, have enhanced the area. The Town continues efforts to promote and brand Burin as a tourism destination.

The following were topics for discussion:

1. Infrastructure Upgrades

Councillor Noseworthy provided an overview of the Town's investments in infrastructure upgrades.

- The Town's priority continues to be the safety and well-being of its residents.
- Waterline upgrades along Main Street have been completed, improving reliability for both businesses and residents in the area.
- Councillor Noseworthy outlined upgrades and enhancements at the Town's three water supply facilities: Big Pond, Long Pond, and Port au Bras.
- The Town will be receiving a \$25,000 Wildfire Prevention Grant to support community safety during wildfire season.
- Councillor Noseworthy emphasized the Town's ongoing commitment to modernization and to building a safer, more efficient community.

Public Questions and Responses:

- A resident raised concerns regarding the presence of a mud substance in their water supply from the Big Pond system. Questions were also raised about water usage distribution between Burin, Winterland Road, and Lewin's Cove, and potential risks of contamination. Councillor Noseworthy, along with Director of Public Works Troy Hollett, advised that an application has been submitted to government officials to conduct a comprehensive water study. It was noted that bi-weekly water testing is conducted and that water quality is monitored and rated for drinking standards. Residents were informed

that this information is available on the Newfoundland and Labrador Water Resources website. Costs associated with system maintenance and testing were also discussed.

- A resident inquired about the Town's process for prioritizing infrastructure upgrades and how complaints are managed. Director of Public Works Troy Hollett and Town Manager Leo Hartson outlined the evaluation process, noting that multiple factors are considered when determining priorities. It was further explained that scheduling may change as needed, and that community needs are taken into consideration in all decision-making.

2. Zoning Changes

Councillor Kavanaugh provided an update on zoning changes within the Town.

- An application was submitted to the provincial government regarding a parcel of land in the Hollett's Farm area, where residents had previously been unable to obtain approval to purchase land adjacent to their properties. The Town received approval for Development Regulations Amendment No. 8, which now allows residents to apply for Crown land in that area.

Public Questions and Responses:

- A resident inquired whether the rezoning would expand the Town's boundaries and result in increased taxes for residents. Councillor Kavanaugh and Town Manager Leo Hartson advised that there would be no overall tax increase for residents; however, individual property taxes may increase if additional land is acquired.
- A resident asked whether the rezoning was initiated by the Town or by an individual resident. Town Manager Leo Hartson advised that the Town initiated the process following requests from several residents. While rezoning applications are typically the responsibility of individual property owners, the Town proceeded on behalf of the group due to the size of the area and number of residents involved, allowing for a single application.

3. Destination Burin

Councillor Kavanaugh provided an update on Destination Burin and tourism initiatives.

- Destination Burin is a committee comprised of five individuals including Mike Brennan, Cynthia Ferrie, Betty Francis, Mary Mayo and Leo Hartson.

- The committee’s goal is to position the Town of Burin as a leader in tourism on the Burin Peninsula and within the province.
- Tourism was noted as having positive economic impacts on communities.
- Key attractions highlighted included the heritage grounds, boardwalks, café, museum, Mina Swim, and the Tidal Wave Memorial.
- Updates to Heritage Square were discussed, including funding support from ACOA and the provincial government.
- An application has been submitted for a \$50,000 grant to hire a consultant to assist in developing a plan to better tell the Town’s story and enhance tourism efforts.

Public Questions and Responses:

- Residents expressed positive feedback regarding recent efforts to highlight local heritage and promote tourism.
- Discussion took place regarding additional areas that could be further developed or highlighted, including Jorgensen’s Road and local cemeteries.
- Discussion also included the need to explore solutions for RV parking and to further promote the uniqueness of the Town’s history.
- A resident inquired about a building located on the Heritage grounds that have not been included in recent upgrades, expressing concern about its condition and safety. Town Manager Leo Hartson as well as Mayor Kevin Lundrigan advised that the building is privately owned. It was further noted that the Town is not in a position to assume responsibility for the maintenance of additional properties at this time.

4. Civic Address Identification

Councillor Isaacs discussed the importance of civic address identification.

- Residents were reminded of the importance of clearly displaying their civic address on their property. Visible civic addressing is a critical component of public safety and supports timely emergency response.

5. Alphonsus Warren Memorial Soccer Field Parking

Councillor Isaacs addressed parking concerns at the Alphonsus Warren Memorial Soccer Field during the soccer season.

- It was noted that the nearby Aylward's building is currently occupied, resulting in limited use of its parking area.
- Aylward's has agreed to provide the Town with a portion of land located behind the field for the potential development of additional parking.
- The Town has engaged an engineering firm to assess the site, including feasibility, estimated costs, and overall possibility of the project.
- Consideration is being given to the limited seasonal use (approximately six weeks per year) and the availability of existing parking in surrounding areas.

6. General Discussion

The meeting was then opened to questions and general discussion.

- A resident acknowledged the Public Works Department for their efforts in maintaining community roads during both summer and winter seasons.
- A resident inquired about community clean-up initiatives, noting concerns regarding litter within the Town. Previous clean-up efforts and low participation were discussed. The resident requested that the matter be brought forward to Council for further consideration, including ways to improve community engagement.
- Discussion took place regarding resident participation on Town committees and how individuals can become involved.
- A resident inquired about the possibility of a senior property tax discount. Town Manager Leo Hartson and Mayor Kevin Lundrigan discussed the financial implications of such a measure, including the potential impact on Town revenue and other taxpayers.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned following general discussion.