The Town of Fortune

P. O. BOX 159
Temple Street
Fortune, NL
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Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Fortune Town Council
at the Fortune Council Chambers
Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present:	Mayor	Rita Piercey
	Deputy Mayor	Kenneth Keeping
	Councillors	Dwayne Caines
		Deneka Follett
		Frazer Smith
Absent with Regrets:	Councillors:	Rodney Rose and Sherry Brady
	Town Clerk	Lacey Barter
Also Present:	CAO	Linda Collier

In the absence of Town Clerk Barter, Mayor Piercey indicated that CAO Collier should be designated as the Town Clerk for the purposes of taking Minutes at the meeting

Motion 2026-03-04-01: Deputy Mayor **KEEPING** / Councillor **SMITH**

Be it resolved that CAO Collier will assume the role of *temporary* Town Clerk for the purpose of taking Minutes for the meeting of Wednesday, March 4, 2026.

In favour: Mayor Piercey
Deputy Mayor Keeping
Councillors: Caines, Follett & Smith
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

Additions/Adoption to Agenda:
Mayor Piercey asked if there were any additions to the Agenda of March 4, 2026 with no additions revealed.

Motion 2026-03-04-02: Councillor **SMITH**/ Deputy Mayor **KEEPING**

Be it resolved that the Agenda of March 4, 2026 meeting be adopted as presented.

In favour: Mayor Piercey
Deputy Mayor Keeping
Councillors: Caines, Follett & Smith
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

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Adoption of Minutes:
Mayor Piercey asked if there were any errors or omissions to the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on February 17, 2026 as presented.

Motion 2026-03-04-03: Deputy Mayor **KEEPING** /Councillor **SMITH**

Be it resolved to adopt the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of February 17, 2026 be adopted as presented.

In favour: Mayor Piercey
Deputy Mayor Keeping
Councillors: Caines, Follett & Smith
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1. **Emergency Plan** - An update was provided to advise that Fortune United Church has approved for their Church basement to be designated as the Media Centre for the purposes of an emergency, and we've been advised by the designated government official that is has been backlogged for his review. Once the review is completed, the Plan will be tabled to be adopted.

2. **Municipal Plan** - Defer- awaiting Government approval.

3. **2026-2027 Fire Protection Vehicle and Equipment Funding Programs** - No update from the Fire Department regarding request for submission. Liaison Deputy Mayor Keeping will engage with an executive member of the Department to ensure sufficient notice is provided to CAO should an application want to be submitted for the Fortune Volunteer Fire Department.

4. **Travel Policy** – As per clarification from the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, and suggested by Councillor Smith at the previous meeting, CAO confirmed that a 2/3 vote of Council was required; therefore, Motion # **2026-02-17-04** as per Deputy Mayor **KEEPING** / Councillor **BRADY** has been rescinded.

   The newly established travel policy document that has been circulated through email and has per responses from Councillor Rose and Councillor Brady the newly established policy was approved and reflected as follows:

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BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (cont'd):

4. **Travel Policy (cont'd):**

Motion 2026-03-04-04: Deputy Mayor **KEEPING**/Councillor **FOLLETT**

Be it resolved to update the Travel Policy indicating an increase in meals from $60/day to $70/ day ($15.00 breakfast, $25.00 lunch & $30.00 supper) & an increase in mileage rate from $0.40/km to $0.50/km.

In favour: Mayor Piercey
Deputy Mayor Keeping
Councillors: Brady & Caines (absent but voted in email, Follett)
Opposed: Councillors: Smith (absent but voted by email, Rose). Motion carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. **Budget 2026 Revision** – CAO advised that a government official with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs reviewed our submission and has advised of adjustments that would alleviate including government funding for municipal capital works projects and adjustment to the Canada Community Building Fund; therefore, the adjustments were reflected in the newly revised Municipal Submission form that will require approval from Council.

Motion 2026-03-04-05: Councillor **SMITH** /Councillor **CAINES**

Be it resolved to adopt the revised Municipal Budget Submission form in the amount $1,992,311.17 for the Town of Fortune's operating budget for 2026.

In favour: Mayor Piercey
Deputy Mayor Keeping
Councillors: Caines, Follett & Smith
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

2. **CCBF Previous Projects** – CAO advised that with respect to funding previously approved under the old Gas Tax (now Canada Community Building Fund), and as there are some balances remaining from projects that are concluded, these funds could be re-allocated; however, motions are required to advise on the specific budgets and the amounts to be reallocated for use on future projects.

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GENERAL BUSINESS (cont'd):

2. **CCBF Previous Projects:**

Motion 2026-03-04-06: Deputy Mayor **KEEPING** /Councillor **SMITH**

RESOLVED that the Town of Fortune close/cancel CCBF project #83-2019-6971 "Asset Management" with a remaining balance of $1,351 for use on future projects.

In favour: Mayor Piercey
Deputy Mayor Keeping
Councillors: Caines, Follett & Smith
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

Motion 2026-03-04-07: Deputy Mayor **KEEPING** /Councillor **SMITH**

RESOLVED that the Town of Fortune close/cancel CCBF project #83-2020-7179 "Road Upgrades" with a remaining balance of $208.76 for use on future projects.

In favour: Mayor Piercey
Deputy Mayor Keeping
Councillors: Caines, Follett & Smith
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

Motion 2026-03-04-08: Deputy Mayor **KEEPING** /Councillor **SMITH**

RESOLVED that the Town of Fortune close/cancel CCBF project #83-2021-7423 "Road Upgrades 2021" with a remaining balance of $842.20 for use on future projects.

In favour: Mayor Piercey
Deputy Mayor Keeping
Councillors: Caines, Follett & Smith
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

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GENERAL BUSINESS (cont'd):

2. **CCBF Previous Projects:**

Motion 2026-03-04-09: Deputy Mayor **KEEPING** /Councillor **SMITH**

RESOLVED that the Town of Fortune close/cancel CCBF project #83-2019-6971 "Road Upgrades 2023" with a remaining balance of $2,619 for use on future projects.

In favour: Mayor Piercey
Deputy Mayor Keeping
Councillors: Caines, Follett & Smith
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

3. **Pollution Extension Insurance** – As per the recommendation from Cal Legrow the additional cost in the amount of $1,250 to have this extended coverage is thought to be beneficial.

Motion 2026-03-04-10: Councillor **SMITH** /Councillor **CAINES**

Be it resolved to purchased the pollution extension insurance coverage in the amount of $1,250 through Cal Legrow.

In favour: Mayor Piercey
Deputy Mayor Keeping
Councillors: Caines, Follett & Smith
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

4. **Arrears Sales By-Law** – As a result of the new Towns and Local Service Districts Act, there are various changes from regulations to by-laws with "Arrears Sales" being mandatory.

Motion 2026-03-04-11: Councillor **SMITH** /Deputy Mayor **KEEPING**

Be it resolved to approve the Arrears Sales By-Law for the Town of Fortune.

In favour: Mayor Piercey
Deputy Mayor Keeping
Councillors: Caines, Follett & Smith
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

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GENERAL BUSINESS (cont'd):

5. **Snow Clearing By-Law** – As a result of the new Towns and Local Service Districts Act, there are various changes from regulations to by-laws; therefore the revisions were provided for approval.

Motion 2026-03-04-12: Councillor **SMITH** / Councillor **CAINES**

Be it resolved to approve the Snow Clearing By-Law for the Town of Fortune.

In favour: Mayor Piercey
Deputy Mayor Keeping
Councillors: Caines, Follett & Smith
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS: Payables: February 13, 2026 – February 27, 2026

Motion 2026-03-04-13: Councillor **SMITH** / Deputy Mayor **KEEPING**

Be it resolved to approve to approve the financial transactions as presented.

In favour: Mayor Piercey
Deputy Mayor Keeping
Councillors: Caines, Follett & Smith
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

EXEMPTIONS/ADJUSTMENTS: NIL

CORRESPONDENCE:

- MNL Municipal Symposium 2026 May 7th- 9th 2026 – No one expressed an interest to attend.
- Carl Slaney (Fortune Head Ecological Reserve / Old Dump Site) – CAO to correspond to local MHA's in efforts of acquiring an in-person meeting to table concerns.

PERMITS: NIL

CAO REPORT – CAO advised Council of the on-site visit by Mario Walsh and the need to engage an Engineer as to structural implications and to best estimate cost for follow-up to funding applications on the Accessible washrooms for the Arena and Brookside shed. These required services will be available at a cost and CAO has already began discussing with Edwards and Associates.

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CAO REPORT (cont'd):

Cost Estimates Accessible Washrooms:
Motion 2026-03-04-14: Councillor **SMITH** / Deputy Mayor **KEEPING**

Be it resolved to approve to proceed with Engineering services to best position a cost estimate and future structural implications to the Arena washrooms and to re-evaluate cost to the Brookside washrooms as per code requirements.

In favour:	Mayor Piercey
	Deputy Mayor Keeping
	Councillors: Caines, Follett & Smith
Opposed:	0 Motion carried.

MCW Bunkerhill 1 & 2 – Most recently the permit to construct has been provided by government and our project management company Edwards and Associates have provided additional documents to initiate tender. CAO suggested that the cost estimates were to be reviewed again to avoid any cost overrun that was expected due to an oversight in the initial costs paid out to previous project management company.

Arena work – CAO advised on water filtration system and water line repairs that have been initiated and costs were initially submitted in Budget 2026.

Fortune Lions Club – An inquiry pertaining to Council's ability to provide salting/sanding, *on occasion*, was discussed with no issues revealed. The snow clearing for the Lions Club's parking lot has been arranged by a member providing the service with no access to salt and sand. The request is just in situations where it's extremely slipper. CAO advised that this will require communication from someone from the Lions Club to the Town's public works staff.

CAO discussed the proposed warming station at the Lions Club to which President Stacey revealed no official response has yet been received.

Funding application – CAO sought out Council's opinion with respect to submitting a funding application (i.e. CEEP or JCP to establish a temporary position of a Special Events Coordinator and Labourer that could assist with the Cancer Survivor's Day and the events of the Fortune Recreation Commission including the Fortune Day Weeks' celebrations. All were favourable, yet to bring back which funding amounts, etc. have been calculated.

Duck Complaint – A complaint was received by CAO by resident expressing issue with bird/duck feces on vehicle and home due to ducks flying overhead. All agreed this was not something the Town could address only to advise to not feed the ducks to avoid visiting property.

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CAO REPORT (cont'd):

80th year of Town's incorporation – Councillors suggested to defer to give some thoughts and consideration that could be incorporated in an event, etc. during Fortune Week festivities.

Clothing – a list of items from a supplier was provided with everyone acceptable to the Jackets with purchases being made personally. CAO will suggest to Town Clerk Symes to explore more shirt options.

COUNCILLORS FORUM /COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councillor Caines – Councillor Caines was seeking clarification of next court appearance to which CAO advised it would be April 14th at Grand Bank – a time will be later provided.

Councillor Smith – Councillor Smith was inquiring about any response from correspondence issued for property cleanups. CAO advise no response or follow-up has been initiated.

Deputy Mayor Keeping – Deputy Mayor Keeping advised that upon his consultation with the Fortune Volunteer Fire Department, he has been advised that once the snow is removed from the doors at the Brookside Shed, the donated items would be transported to the fire training grounds.

Mayor Piercey – Mayor Piercey summarized information obtained from her recent meeting with the Wind Energy Board that was also circulated by email. Mayor Piercey also advised that she will attend the next meeting of the Burin Peninsula Joint Council. In addition, Mayor Piercey reminded CAO that the plaques and most recent picture of Council are to be updated and placed in Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT / Next Meeting:

Motion 2026-03-15-: Deputy Mayor **KEEPING**/ Councillor **CAINES**

Be it resolved that the Regular Meeting of Council adjourn at 7:26 p.m. with the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

In favour: Mayor Piercey
Deputy Mayor Keeping
Councillors: Follett, Caines & Smith
Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

Rita Piercey
MAYOR

Linda Collier
Acting Town Clerk / CAO