COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, November 24, 2025, 6:00 PM

Members Present:	Mayor Rob Campbell Councillor Jason Gallant Councillor Phyllis Bannister Councillor John-Wiebe Dykstra Deputy Mayor Nathan O'Blenis Councillor Stephanie Thorne
Members Absent:	Councillor Sarah Colwell
Staff Present:	Austin Henderson, CAO Dianne Ayles, Clerk/Treasurer Massimo Caracristi, Director of Recreation and Wellness Kate Doucette, Coordinator of Events and Strategic Projects Scott Landry, Assistant Clerk

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by: Councillor Gallant
Seconded by: Councillor Thorne

THAT the Agenda be adopted with the removal of Item 4.3, which was put on the agenda in error and is actually scheduled for the December 8 Regular Council Meeting.

Motion Carried

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

Mayor Campbell noted that Conflict of Interest Declaration forms are on the Council Table should any councillor need to fill one out to submit to the Clerk.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Under New Business, with the removal of Item 4.3 during the Adoption of the Agenda, there were five items.

1. Presentation – Proposed Cultural Policy

Cultural Policy Development Committee (CPDC) Chair Caroline Humar-Barrett presented the proposed Town of Salisbury Cultural Policy to Council.

This policy was created through an application to the Union of the Municipalities of New Brunswick's Cultural Policy Pilot Program, in which Salisbury was the only Anglophone community in the pilot. The local CPDC was made up of artists, seniors, business owners, and community members. Chair Humar-Barrett explained to Council that the purpose of the policy they are submitting is to ensure that Salisbury has a process and vision for how the Town engages with arts and culture. Guiding principles are: Inclusion, Identity, Accessibility, Forward-Focused, and Integrity. Its key pillars will be: Community and Belonging, Heritage, Partnership and Building an Ecosystem, and Visibility of the Arts.

Salisbury Director of Recreation and Wellness Massimo Caracristi joined the presentation to speak to the policy's budgetary aspects, asking that they please be seen as investments rather than costs, also stressing that grant funding will be sought. He said no municipal funding is earmarked for Cultural Policy programming in 2026.

Moved by: Councillor Bannister
Seconded by: Councillor Thorne

THAT Salisbury Town Council approve the Cultural Policy for future ratification at the upcoming Regular Council Meeting.

On the Question, Councillor Thorne said she hopes the Town will serve as an inspiration to other communities.

Councillor Dykstra asked if specific funding will be sought, to which the Director of Recreation and Wellness responded that, no, not at this point, explaining that this next visioning phase will be about identifying specific ideas and projects.

Mayor Campbell likened the policy to a foundation upon which the arts and culture community in Salisbury can be developed.

Motion Carried

2. Presentation – Crime Stoppers re: Neighbourhood Watch - Sgt. Julie Goulet, RCMP J Div. Crime Stoppers Coordinator

Crime Stoppers Coordinator Sgt. Julie Goulet of the Community Engagement Unit, J Division RCMP, joined the meeting to make a presentation to Council about Crime Stoppers. She explained the history of the volunteer-driven program, which started in 1985, and how it works; that is, via the Crime Stoppers website, phone line, or Mobile App, called P3. She explained the app has become far more popular to use than the traditional phone method.

Council thanked Sgt. Goulet for meeting with them.

3. Public Presentation – Rezoning Application, Homestead Road PID # 01052695 - Southeast Regional Service Commission (SERSC)/Plan360

Item 4.3 was removed from the agenda, as it was placed on this agenda in error and is actually scheduled for the Regular Council Meeting of December 8, 2025.

4. Presentation – The Fox in the Park 2025 Pilot Project - Sussex Ale Works

Representing The Fox in the Park for a presentation to Council was Alaina Lockhart of Woodland Ventures.

Reflecting on the pilot program during the Summer of 2025, she credited the strong collaboration with the Town and a successful partnership with The Pizza Mill restaurant. She also noted that the customer base was respectful, and there were no incidents requiring police involvement.

By the numbers: there were approximately 1,350 unique customers, 671 of whom were returning customers. The average sale was $39. There were over 100 pizzas sold to customers of The Fox in the Park, over 300 snacks, and over 430 non-alcoholic beverages. The highest traffic times were Friday and Saturday evenings, plus special event nights.

Challenges faced were limited access to local staff, a lack of effective directional signage for Highland Park, light weekday traffic, and a short first season.

They would like to return to Highland Park in 2026 and asked Council if they could keep their container in place.

Council thanked Alaina Lockhart for her presentation.

Moved by: Councillor Thorne
Seconded by: Councillor Gallant

THAT following the pilot project between the Town of Salisbury and the Fox in the Park in the Summer of 2025, Council direct Administration to undertake text amendments to applicable municipal planning documents to permit the operations once again in 2026, and direct Administration to

inform the proponent that the Container can remain in-place until the new season.

On the Question, Council discussion touched on the positive experience of The Fox in the Park and the possibility of having other container operations in Highland Park with different offerings; coffee or hot chocolate, for example. CAO responded that Highland Park consultations are presently taking place. Council also discussed expanding park seating, expanding the size of the licenced area for special events, and improving park wayfinding signage, to which the CAO commented that such signage is on the Town's proverbial radar.

Motion Carried

5. New Brunswick Transportation and Infrastructure (NBDTI) – Road Prioritization

Item 4.5 concerned NBDTI requests that do not fall under the Provincial Municipal Highway Program (PMHP). PMHP covers Provincial Routes 112 and 106 where they run through the former village Ward as Fredericton Road, River Road, and Main Street.

Eligible requests concerning this area outside the former village, an area that is still under NBDTI management, are re-directed to the transportation department, but are still tracked at Town Hall. It was pointed out that NBDTI has done a good job to date responding to these requests submitted by phone and email, also noting that calls tend to spike just after Winter ends. Regarding the complaints received by the Town about these NBDTI roads, discussion touched on compiling the calls into groups concerning certain roads and areas. As for the impact that planned developments would have on NBDTI routes, CAO explained that these talks already take place.

Town staff will reach out to the regional head of NBDTI to see what information is gleaned from NBDTI's request-ticketing system.

6. Regional Service Commission – Verbal Update

Providing a Regional Service Commission (RSC) update to Council, Mayor Campbell touched on workshops focused on infrastructure cost-sharing and transportation. He added the Province is continuing with its review of RSCs.

5. CLOSED SESSION

No Closed Session held this meeting.

6. MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS' STATEMENTS/INQUIRIES

There were no statements or inquiries.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Deputy Mayor O'Blenis
Seconded by: Councillor Thorne

THAT the meeting be adjourned. (7:08 PM)

Motion Carried

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Chair

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Clerk