



Naturally Yours

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**SPECIAL SESSION OF THE 52nd COUNCIL
OF THE
MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF SHELBURNE
April 9, 2024 | 2:00 PM
AGENDA**

- | | <u>TIME</u> |
|--|----------------|
| 1. <u>Call to Order</u> | 2:00 pm |
| 2. <u>Approval of Agenda</u> | |
| a. April 9, 2024 | |
| 3. <u>Finance</u> | |
| a. 2024/2025 Budget - Warren MacLeod – to be presented | |
| 4. <u>Correspondence</u> | |
| a. Shelburne & Area Chamber of Commerce Letter – Request for Consideration | |
| 5. <u>Adjournment</u> | |

Carolann Atwood

From: Erin Hartley
Sent: April 2, 2024 10:59 AM
To: Carolann Atwood
Subject: Special Budget Meeting Agenda Item - April 9th - Correspondence: Shelburne and Area Chamber of Commerce - Request for Consideration

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mayors and Councils of the Towns of Lockeport and Shelburne, and Warden and Council of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne,

As you are fully aware, the property values in east Shelburne County, as well as the rest of Nova Scotia, have continued to increase steadily for the past few years with the influx of investments on improvements as well as limited property availability compared to the demand. We understand that at least in the Town of Shelburne, a number of businesses owners have stepped forward to ask their local municipality to consider reducing the commercial tax rates as the increased value has a direct impact on their upcoming taxes. We more than understand that local governments are not responsible for the value changes however, they are responsible for setting the tax rates. We are also fully aware of the comparative rates to other Towns and Districts in Nova Scotia however, we care deeply (as do you) about the impact to OUR community.

We are writing on behalf of all organizations and business owners in eastern Shelburne County to the three local Councils to consider during their budget deliberations to either allowing a one-time break to the commercial tax rate for this year or better yet, a reduction that is more aligned to the cost of living increase. Our local businesses continue to struggle to rebound from the pandemic, exacerbated by the impact of the 2023 wildfires. As you know, 2023 was an incredibly tough year for them and this impending increase to their tax bills will be obviously detrimental to one and all! This struggle has a direct impact on local employment and businesses' ability to grow (versus potentially not being able to stay in business) and we need our local governments to step up and directly help these businesses and the residual impact to the local economy.

Thank you for your consideration. The SACC looks forward to hearing what you will be doing to help your taxpayers.

Regards, Charlene Harris



Charlene Harris

she/her

President

902.637.0183

Shelburne & Area Chamber of Commerce

shelburnechamber.com

The Shelburne and Area Chamber of Commerce is located on the ancestral and unceded territories of the Mi'kmaq people, in the District of Wasoqopa'q.

We also acknowledge the history, contributions and legacies of the African Nova Scotian people and communities.