

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF LUNENBURG
Minutes of a Meeting of
FINANCE COMMITTEE
Held in Council Chamber, 210 Aberdeen Road, Bridgewater, NS
Tuesday, November 5, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Councillor Claudette Garland, District 6, Chair
Councillor Eric Hustvedt, District 1, Vice Chair
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Deputy Mayor Cathy Moore, District 5
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2
Councillor Lee Nauss, District 3
Councillor John Veinot, District 4
Councillor Wade Carver, District 7
Councillor Michael Ernst, District 8
Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9

Regrets: Councillor Errol Knickle, District 10

Staff: Tom MacEwan, CAO
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO
Sherry Conrad, Municipal Clerk
Elana Wentzell, Director of Financial Services
Angela Veinot, Manager of Accounting
Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer
Rachel Hiltz, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Garland called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/RECOGNITIONS:

Councillor Hustvedt congratulated the Broad Cove Community Association, under the leadership of Peter and Pat Silver for their twice-yearly garbage pickup along Highway 331 through the village. They completed the cleanup this past weekend and reported that they continue to find less garbage along the road each year.

Councillor Ernst noted that the Mahone Bay Legion has started a program where Remembrance Day wreaths and crosses will be recycled. A few days after they are placed at the cenotaph, they can be picked up and re-used the following year. A donation will then be given to the Legion each year, rather than purchasing another wreath, as this will result in more of the money going directly to the Legion.

3. PUBLIC INPUT: (Nil)

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 1, 2019:

Councillor Ernst requested that on Page 1, Section 2 “Announcements, Acknowledgements, Recognitions”, Paragraph 2, the section regarding the Oakland/Indian Point Residents Association be amended to state “they only had to pick up 10 bags of garbage this year”, so it does not sound like they stopped collection after 10 bags were picked up.

Moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Ernst that the Minutes of the October 1, 2019 Finance Committee meeting be approved as amended. Carried unanimously.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES: (Nil)**7. AWARDING OF TENDERS/RFPs: (Nil)****8. PRESENTATIONS/SCHEDULED TIMES:****9. CONSIDERATION OF CORRESPONDENCE (Nil)****10. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES & BOARDS: (Nil)****11. STAFF REPORTS:****11.1 Finance Department****11.1.1 2019/20 Operating Fund Variance and Capital Status Reports**

Ms. Wentzell reviewed the report titled “2019/20 Operating Fund Variance Report and Capital Project Status Update” (circulated with Agenda). She highlighted the variances noted on the operating and capital reports and answered questions posed by Committee members.

11.2 Recreation Department

Tissy Bolivar, Program Coordinator, was in attendance at this time.

11.2.1 Christmas on the LaHave – Town of Bridgewater

Ms. Bolivar reviewed the report titled “Christmas on the LaHave” (circulated with Agenda) which addressed the request for a \$2,000 grant for this year’s event. It was noted that last year the Mahone Bay Father Christmas Festival was awarded \$1,000, and to be fair to all events, the funding should be \$1,000.

Moved by Councillor Veinot, seconded by Councillor Ernst that the Finance Committee recommend to Council that Municipal Council provide the Christmas on the LaHave event with a grant of \$1,000 from the Municipal Celebrations account. Carried unanimously.

11.2.2 Pinegrove Outdoor Play Association – Funding Request – Splash Pad

Ms. Wentzell reviewed the report titled “Additional Funding – Splash Pad at Pinegrove” (circulated with Agenda). It was noted that the Pinegrove Outdoor Play Association (POPA) has worked very hard to raise funds to meet their \$75,000 goal, and they have raised most of these funds. They are requesting the Municipality to provide funding for the \$2,872.60 that is remaining to get them to their goal.

Moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Finance Committee recommend to Council that Municipal Council award \$2,872.60 to the Pinegrove Outdoor Play Association to cover the remaining costs associated with the Splash Pad project and that these funds come from the Recreation Department's operating budget.

It was commented that this is a large and expensive facility for a community group to run, and they should be made aware there may be benefit in them setting up a reserve fund for future costs. Staff advised that POPA is part of the Designated Community Project Fund.

The motion on the floor was voted on and Carried unanimously.

12. MAYOR'S/DEPUTY MAYOR'S/COUNCILLORS' MATTERS:

12.1 Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre (LCLC) Update

Councillor Hustvedt noted that there will be a one-month delay in the financial reporting, as staff have been focusing on the recommendations from the interim management team report.

Councillor Ernst added that the Washboard Union Concert had approximately 450 people in attendance. A financial breakdown from the concert has not yet been provided. The LCLC is also currently doing a survey to get feedback from the membership. They have received 370 responses to date.

12.2 Tax Exemption/Reduction Policy – West Dublin Hall (M. Bell)

Councillor Bell advised that the West Dublin Hall is requesting a tax exemption. The hall has been receiving a full tax exemption since 2007, and this year, due to personal circumstances, the person responsible for making the application was unable to file the forms by the required deadline. Staff did try to contact them by phone twice to advise of the deadline, but did not receive a response. The hall currently makes about \$2,000 per year with the events that are held, of which all funds go back into the hall and the community. They have a balance of about \$3,000 in the bank. If they have to pay the full taxes, they will not have funds left for their insurance, heating, repairs, etc. A request was made that Council give consideration to allowing the exemption, even though the request is past the deadline.

It was noted that the Policy states that new applications must be received prior to February 28 of each year and renewals have to be submitted every 3 years, but no deadline is specified on the renewal application.

Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the Finance Committee recommend to Council that Municipal Council approve the West Dublin Hall Property Exemption Renewal Application for full exemption under Policy MDL-12 for the fiscal year 2019-20. Carried unanimously.

Councillor Bell thanked staff for their support with this request.

13. IN CAMERA: (Nil)

14. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business at 9:40 a.m., it was moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Moore that the meeting adjourn. Carried.