

**Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
Minutes of a Meeting of Finance Committee
02, March, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.**

Attendance:

Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5, Chair
Councillor Sandra Statton, District 6, Vice Chair
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Councillor Leitha Haysom, District 1
Deputy Mayor Martin Bell, District 2
Councillor Wendy Oickle, District 3
Councillor Pam Hublely, District 4
Councillor Michelle Greek, District 7
Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8
Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9
Councillor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10

Staff

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Sherry Conrad, Municipal Clerk
Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer
Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance
Angela Veinot, Accounting Manager
Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning & Development Services
Dave Waters, Director Business Development, Tourism & Infrastructure
Stephen Pace, Director of Engineering
Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation Services
Rachel Hiltz, Executive Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

1.1 Mi'kma'ki Territorial Acknowledgement

Councillor Moore acknowledged that the meeting was held in Mi'Kma'ki, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/RECOGNITION (Nil)

3. PUBLIC INPUT (Nil)

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Greek, seconded by Councillor DeLong that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 2, 2021

Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that the Minutes of the February 2, 2021 Finance Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

A question arose regarding a follow up presentation on the Region 6 Extended Producer Responsibility Program and the Riverport School provincial funding extension.

It was reported that a presentation on the Extended Producer Responsibility Program is coming to the March 16, 2021 Policy & Strategy Committee meeting and that the Riverport School well testing supplementary documentation has been sent and staff have begun the process of an extension but have not finalized the formal request.

7. AWARDING OF TENDERS/RFPs (Nil)**9. CONSIDERATION OF CORRESPONDENCE (Nil)****11. STAFF REPORTS****11.1 Finance Department****11.1.1 Tax Relief – Damaged Property – Dublin Shore**

Ms. Wentzell reviewed the report titled “Tax Relief – Damaged Property” (circulated with Agenda). An application was received for fire damage to a property located at 3839 Highway 331, Dublin Shore. Staff reviewed the application and it met the requirements of the Policy. These applications reduce taxes owing after a property was destroyed by fire based on a revised property assessment provided by Property Valuation Services Corporation.

Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Finance Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council approve tax relief in the amount of \$531.71 as per the submitted application for the property located at 3839 Highway 331, Dublin Shore, Assessment Account Number 08217769 and as per the Municipality’s Damaged Property Relief Policy. Carried unanimously.

11.2 Recreation Department**11.2.1 Sponsorship Ad Grant – NS Crime Stoppers**

Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation, was in attendance at this time and reviewed the report titled “Sponsorship Ad Grant: NS Crime Stoppers” (circulated with Agenda). He noted that a request was made to Crime Stoppers to determine what percentage of the ad sales goes back to Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers but this information was not received. Crime Stoppers use a third party campaigning organization to seek these sponsorships.

Moved by Councillor Delong, seconded by Councillor Hubley that the Finance Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council not approve the Sponsorship Ad request of the Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers for their annual Crime Stoppers Awareness Guide.

Question arose regarding not approving the sponsorship because the money may not come back locally. It was noted that if criminals are caught anywhere in Nova Scotia, this can help reduce crime locally. However, it is unknown how much of the money goes to the Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers organization.

MODL has supported Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers in the past through an annual operating grant, and Council can continue to do so going forward.

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 Hubley provided the following update:

- The Board Meeting was held February 18, 2021.
- The final draft strategic priorities report was reviewed. An amendment will be made to the Board Governance manual to reflect these priorities.
- The Wi-Fi project is nearly complete.
- The energy project is slightly behind but is moving ahead quickly. Grant approval is required before going to tender, so the completion date may be pushed out.
- The aged receivables report and financial statements to January 31, 2021 were reviewed.
- The 2021/22 budget was reviewed. The special events reserves were discussed as they can be used to secure large venue events or offset potential loss.
- The arena is being impacted by ever-changing COVID restrictions which continue to impact user satisfaction and income. The General Manager is confident they will be booked up during march break, even without hockey tournaments. The arena already has private bookings, skates and adult hockey bookings.
- Applications have been made for:
 - Wage subsidies for 5 positions for camp and aquatics and a communication and marketing position.
 - A \$150,000 recreation facility grant for upgrades related to hosting the Canadian Tire Para Cup and the dehumidification project
 - An \$8,000 Credit Union Grant for bikes to lend
 - A \$5,000 COVID relief grant through Sport NS
- 4 concrete barriers were purchased to close the lower parking lot. No winter maintenance signs were installed. This will make a great space for summer camp use.
- A request was made for contact information for connections to Nova Scotia Health that can help move forward the doctor prescriptions for 3 free visits to the LCLC for patients.
- A flag flying policy was created and the Mi'kmaq flag will be flown above the ice.

8. PRESENTATIONS/SCHEDULED TIMES

8.1 Lun. County Senior Safety Program – Chris Acomb, Sr. Safety Coordinator

Chris Acomb, Seniors' Safety Coordinator; Carole Hipwell, Seniors' Safety Coordinator (part time); Councillor Penny Carver, Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Partnership Society (Chair); and Paul Coughlin, Staff Sergeant, Lunenburg County RCMP, were in attendance virtually.

Staff Sgt. Coughlin spoke to the working relationship between the RCMP and the Senior Safety Program. RCMP officers are not equipped to make assessments on senior vulnerability and the Program has been beneficial for this. The Program has allowed the RCMP to save time and get back to their primary roles providing service to the community.

Ms. Acomb, Ms. Hipwell and Ms. Carver gave a presentation on the Lunenburg County Senior Safety Program (circulated with Agenda). The following points were noted:

- There is no increase in the financial request, but it is expected there will be an increase next year. Lunenburg County is one of the largest counties in both geographic size and population, and this Senior Safety Program covers the entire county.
- Councillors have seen first hand how the Senior Safety Program helps seniors, and how pleased the seniors are to have this efficient service.
- The meal delivery program varies by municipality. MODL had a program where the United Way and VON worked together to provide five frozen favourites with isolation gifts to seniors. There is a brown bag lunch program with Souls Harbour. Several grocery stores, Earth Angels and Everything Nice Café provided meals by delivery. The YMCA also offers a free grocery delivery program throughout Lunenburg County.
- Vial of Life Kits are available through the Senior Safety Program as well as some local pharmacies, and are available for all ages.
- Art Kits were provided in collaboration with the South Shore Multicultural Association, through the New Horizons Grant. There were several painting and colouring kits provided. There are no more kits left, but more can be made. Mindfulness kits were also provided, and there are more available to be distributed.

Ms. Acomb, Ms. Hipwell and Councillor Carver were thanked for their presentation. It was acknowledged that the Senior Safety Program provides a vital service that supports seniors in Lunenburg County.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES & BOARDS

10.1 Lun. County Sr. Safety Program – 2021/22 Budget Request

Ms. Wentzell noted that the funding request for the Lunenburg County Senior Safety Program is \$14,480, which is the same amount as last year and has been included in the draft budget.

13. ADDED ITEMS (Nil)

14. IN CAMERA

At 9:40 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Finance Committee go In Camera to discuss item 14.1 “Land Negotiations under Section 22(2)(a) of the *Municipal Government Act*”. Carried unanimously.

Finance Committee In Camera In Session

At 10:05 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Delong that the Finance Committee come out of In Camera and return to open session. Carried unanimously.

Finance Committee in session.

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at 10:06 a.m., it was moved by Deputy Mayor Martin Bell, seconded by Councillor Haysom that the meeting adjourn. Carried.