

# **Municipality of the District of Lunenburg**

## **Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance Committee**

Held in Council Chambers, Cookville, NS

**Tuesday, October 5, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.**

### **Attendance**

Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5, Chair  
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson  
Councillor Leitha Haysom, District 1  
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2  
Councillor Wendy Oickle, District 3  
Councillor Pam Hubley, District 4  
Councillor Sandra Statton, District 6  
Councillor Michelle Greek, District 7  
Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8 (Teams)  
Councillor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10

### **Regrets**

Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9

### **Staff**

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO  
Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance  
Angela Veinot, Accounting Manager  
Tina Robichaud-Bond, Acting Municipal Clerk  
Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer  
Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation Services  
Byung Jun Kang, Planner  
Darren Shupe, Senior Planner  
Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning and Development Services  
Rachel Hiltz, Recording Secretary

## **1. Call to Order**

### **1.1 Mi'kma'ki Territorial Acknowledgement**

Councillor Moore called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and acknowledged that the meeting was held in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

## **2. Announcements/Acknowledgements/Recognition**

Councillor Greek thanked the Parkdale/Maplewood Community Museum for another successful but challenging season.

## **2.1 Proclamation: Energy Efficiency Day – October 6, 2021**

Mayor Bolivar-Getson declared October 6, 2021 as Energy Efficiency Day to support MODL's clean energy goals and move toward more energy efficiency now and in the future.

## **3. Approval of Agenda**

**Moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Haysom that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.**

## **4. Approval of Minutes – September 7, 2021**

**Moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Hubley that the Minutes of the September 7, 2021 Finance Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.**

## **5. Business Arising from Minutes (Nil)**

## **6. Presentations/Scheduled Times(Nil)**

## **7. Consideration of Correspondence (Nil)**

## **8. Recommendations from Committees & Boards (Nil)**

## **9. Staff Reports**

### **9.1 Finance Department**

#### **9.1.1 Operating & Capital Variance Report**

Ms. Wentzell reviewed the report titled, "2021/22 Operating Fund Variance Report & Capital Project Status & Gas Tax Investment Update" (circulated with Agenda). The following points were noted:

- Operating Variance Report
  - The tax revenue variance includes the Final Tax Billing for 2021 and was based on tax billing to date.
  - The HST offset increased due to higher capital spending in the prior year.
  - Deed transfer tax increased due to the housing market. Requests for tax certificates slowed down in August which may impact deed transfer tax revenue in the future.
  - Other tax revenue increased due to change of use for properties.
  - Other revenue was reduced due to interest relief given to residents for the Interim Tax Bill.
  - The LaHave sewer maintenance charges were applied to the final tax bills. The actuals were more than budgeted as this was a newer aspect of the project.
- Capital and Gas Tax Status
  - Climate change mitigation – this section should read that the scope of work for phase 2 was completed and phase 3 was with the consultant.

- The New Germany Bridge project was expected to begin within the next two weeks.
- All projects were expected to be completed this fiscal year unless otherwise stated in the notes.

### **9.1.2 Request for Decision: Nova Scotia Power LED Street Light Conversion Costs**

Ms. Wentzell reviewed the report titled “NSPI LED Street Light Conversion Costs” (circulated with Agenda). The following points were noted:

- The conversion to LED street lights was mandated by the Province of Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia Power requested, through the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB), the ability to recover the undepreciated value of the street lights that were replaced before the end of their useful life. The NSUARB approved the request and Nova Scotia Power was billing municipal units to recover the costs.
- MODL’s bill was \$12,418 plus HST for the conversion of 745 street lights. Of these, 61 were on municipally owned properties. The remaining will need to be paid by the ratepayers.
- There will be no interest charged to MODL or ratepayers.

**Moved by Councillor Statton, seconded by Councillor Hubley that the Finance Committee recommend to Council that Municipal Council direct staff to contact Nova Scotia Power Incorporated (NSPI) to request that the LED street light conversion bill be spread over the next three (3) years and further, that these costs be included in upcoming municipal budgets and recovered through the street light districts’ area rates. Carried unanimously.**

### **9.1.3 Tax Relief: Damaged Property, Dublin Shore**

Ms. Wentzell reviewed the report titled “Tax Relief – Damaged Property” (circulated with Agenda).

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Bell, seconded by Councillor Haysom that the Finance Committee recommend to Council that Municipal Council approve tax relief in the amount of \$1,915.65, as per the submitted application for the property located at 3839 Highway 331, Dublin Shore, Assessment Account Number 08217769, and as per section 2.0(b) of MODL Policy 012 Tax Exemption/Reduction Policy. Carried unanimously.**

**10. Mayor’s/Deputy Mayor’s/Councillors’ Matters (Nil)**

**11. Added Items (Nil)**

**12. In Camera (Nil)**

**13. Adjournment**

**There being no further business at 9:30 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Deputy Mayor Bell that the meeting adjourn. Carried.**