

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance Committee

Held in Council Chambers, Cookville, NS

Tuesday, December 7, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

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

Regrets

Councillor Leitha Haysom, District 1

Staff

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO
Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance
Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer
Byung Jun Kang, Planner
Darren Shupe, Senior Planner
Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning & Development Services
Stephen Pace, Director of Engineering & Public Works
Dave Waters, Director of Economic Development
Rachel Hiltz, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

1.1 Mi'kma'ki Territorial Acknowledgement

Ms. Wentzell 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. Nomination and Election by Ballot – Chair and Vice Chair [MDL-02 – Committee Policy, Section 3.5]

Ms. Wentzell called for nominations, by ballot, for the position of Chair. Those nominated were: Councillors Statton, Greek and Hubley. Councillors Statton and Hubley declined their nominations.

Councillor Greek was declared the Chair.

Chair Greek called for nominations, by ballot, for the position of Vice Chair. Those nominated were: Councillors Statton, Hubley, Oickle, Whynot, DeLong and Veinotte. Councillors Statton, Hubley, Whynot, DeLong and Veinotte declined their nominations.

On the first ballot, Councillor Oickle was elected as Vice Chair.

3. Announcements/Acknowledgements/Recognition

3.1 Acknowledgement of the Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women

3.2 Acknowledgement of the International Day of People with Disabilities

Mayor Bolivar-Getson acknowledged that December 6 was the Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women and that December 3 was the International Day of People With Disabilities.

Jeff Merrill introduced Graham Hopkins, the new Manager of Inspection Services and noted this position will help us transition to regional building services.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

5. Approval of Minutes – October 5, 2021

Moved by Councillor Hubley, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Minutes of the October 5, 2021 Finance Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

6. Business Arising from Minutes (Nil)

7. Presentations/Scheduled Times

7.1 Municipal Insurance Discussion – Ed Nix, BFL Canada

Ms. Wentzell introduced Ed Nix, Vice President, Senior Client Executive, BFL Canada.

Mr. Nix gave a presentation regarding the Municipal Insurance Policy for the upcoming year. He noted the following:

- Recent Market Cycle Timeline
- The current Hard Market versus a regular Soft Market
 - Impacts and Contributing Factors
- Municipal Risk Management

A discussion was held and it was noted that MODL's insurance premium has increased by approximately 20% this year and it is expected there will be an additional 8-12% increase in the

upcoming year. It is expected that these increases should continue to soften. Insurance negotiations included lowering deductibles to help reduce the increase in premiums.

Another consideration is to have a group-funded deductible, which would be higher than some individual deductibles, for Fire Departments to lessen the burden on individual Departments yet lower premiums overall.

8. Consideration of Correspondence

8.1 Seniors' Safety Program – Support for Provincial Funding Request

Ms. Wentzell reviewed the correspondence from the Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Partnership Society. The Society is requesting Council's support as they are requesting extra funding from the Province of Nova Scotia's Senior's and Long-Term Care Department.

The Municipality currently contributes \$14,480 to the Senior's Safety Program, based on uniform assessment. The Society is requesting an increase from the Province of Nova Scotia, which does not necessarily mean an increase for Municipal Units but it is likely they will be expected to match funds.

The Senior's Safety Program is an important program that provides many different types of support to the seniors in Lunenburg County. They require adequate staffing to provide effective service and their referrals continue to go up. This additional funding will be for staffing.

Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Statton that the Finance Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council write a letter to Hon. Barbara Adams, Minister of Seniors and Long-Term Care, to support the Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Partnership Society's request for increased provincial funding for Seniors' Safety Programs. Carried Unanimously.

9. Recommendations from Committees & Boards (Nil)

10. Staff Reports (Nil)

11. Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters (Nil)

12. Added Items (Nil)

13. In Camera (Nil)

14. Adjournment

There being no further business at 9:55 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Oickle that the meeting adjourn. Carried.