

# **Finance Committee Meeting Agenda**

**Tuesday, March 01, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.**

**MODL Council Chambers, 10 Allee Champlain Drive, Cookville, NS  
And Via Video/Audio Teleconferencing**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 1.1. Mi'kma'ki Territorial Acknowledgement
- 2. Announcements, Acknowledgements, Recognitions**
- 3. Approval of Agenda** (as circulated)
- 4. Approval of Minutes – February 1, 2022**
- 5. Business Arising from Minutes**
- 6. Presentations/Scheduled Times - Nil**
- 7. Consideration of Correspondence**
- 7.1. Town of Lunenburg Operating Grant Request ..... 1
- 7.2. Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Program Funding Request ..... 2-5
- 8. Recommendations from Committees & Boards - Nil**
- 9. Staff Reports - Nil**
- 10. Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters**
- 11. Added Items**
- 12. In Camera**
- 13. Adjournment**



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P.O. Box 129  
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia  
Canada B0J 2C0

[www.townoflunenburg.ca](http://www.townoflunenburg.ca)

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TOWN OFFICE  
902-634-4410

ELECTRIC UTILITY  
902-634-4410

FIRE DEPARTMENT  
902-634-8343

PUBLIC WORKS  
902-634-8992

RECREATION  
902-634-4006

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FACSIMILIE  
902-634-4416

February 15, 2022

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson  
Municipality of the District of Lunenburg  
10 Allée Champlain Drive  
Cookville, NS, B4V 9E4

Finance Committee  
March 1, 2022  
Item: 7.1  
Authorization: E. Wentzell

Dear Mayor Bolivar-Getson:

Please accept this letter as a request from the Town of Lunenburg to the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (MODL) to help offset the operating deficit for the Lunenburg War Memorial Arena and Community Centre. Both of these facilities are owned and operated by the Town of Lunenburg for the enjoyment of our citizens and those of MODL. We are appreciative to MODL for cost sharing in previous years to assist in the operation of our recreation facilities. The financial assistance has been significant in the delivery of services and programs for our communities.

The Lunenburg Community Centre and Arena are currently open and operational throughout the pandemic; however, the Provincial restrictions on recreation facilities have impacted our rentals and revenues. Since March 2020, our facilities have faced and overcome several challenges such as Provincial mandated temporary closures, operating at 50 per cent capacity, and gathering limits of 10 participants per rental. These challenges have had a significant impact on our rental revenue since the beginning of the pandemic.

The Town strives to offer quality recreational services and facility rental opportunities for residents of the Town and for our friends and neighbours living in the Municipality. The Lunenburg Community Centre and Arena plays a significant role in helping all community members to live happy, healthy lives.

The Lunenburg Town Council is seeking a financial contribution in the amount of \$40,000 for the upcoming fiscal year of 2022-23. Please find enclosed the Town's Financial Statements year ended on March 31, 2021 with the recreation references on pages "B-6" and "B-11".

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Mayor Matt Risser

cc: Councillor Chasidy Veinotte, MODL  
Tom MacEwan, CAO, MODL  
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO, MODL  
Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation, MODL

Encl .1

**UNESCO** *World Heritage Site*



Municipality of the District of Lunenburg,  
210 Aberdeen Road,  
Bridgewater, NS B4V 4G8

February 21, 2022

Dear Mayor Bolivar-Getson and Council;

Re: \$25340 Grant Request - Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Program

We are profoundly grateful that municipalities have written to the Minister and to local MLA's expressing support for increased provincial funding to the Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Program. We are aware that the municipal advocacy has been heard throughout the department and that Seniors' Safety Programs are held in high regard.

However, we are also aware that the new government is holding tight on budget numbers for FY 22/23 with no increases anticipated for consideration until NS FY 23/24. Until then our provincial allocation will continue at \$25,000 per year. Without additional financial resources, we are at risk of continued staffing reductions at a time when demand is at an all-time high.

Shortage of funds has already forced us to lay off our part-time Coordinator for Q4 of 2021/22 thereby leaving Chris Acomb, our FT Coordinator, to deal alone with ever-increasing referrals. We know that this situation is untenable but it is our reality - and yours - unless our funding picture changes. For it to change, we need your help.

Our only confirmed funding for FY 2022/23 is the annual \$25K from the Dept. of Seniors and Long-term Care (DoS&LTC) plus a guaranteed contribution of \$5000 from the United Way with a conditional increase tied to any municipal increase (see attached letter). The combined municipal contributions currently are \$27,169.00 and we are asking you to increase that total in your budget considerations for FY 2022/23.

In the meantime, there is one other avenue available to us via the DoS&LTC to support our core functions - we will apply immediately for surplus funds from NS FY 2021/22. The problem is that there is no certainty that this application will succeed and the timing of a response to this request would likely come after municipal budget deliberations. There are also opportunities to apply for project funding from a variety of sources - for example the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia and the South Shore Health Services Foundation - but they do not address our need for ongoing operational funding that would support the minimum 1.5 staffing complement required.

While awaiting a response from the province regarding our pending application, and with recognition that this is a substantial request, we are asking that you include the amount of \$25340 in your budget planning as a pledge of your municipality's contribution to the Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Program for FY 2022/23. We are asking all five municipalities to budget a proportionately similar increase.

We are writing now in advance of an in-person presentation to your council so that you have our proposed figures available early for your budget discussions. We would be pleased to answer any questions you may have by phone, email or at a presentation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Murdoch", is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

David Murdoch

Chair, Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Partnership Society

Phone: 902 277 0766

Attachment: Letter from United Way of Lunenburg County

January 31, 2022

Dear Mayors, Warden and Councillors,

**Re: The Lunenburg County Senior Safety Program**

I am sure that you are all very aware of the importance of the Lunenburg County Senior Safety Program and the benefits it provides to our senior population. Based on 2015 census data, 21.4 % of seniors in Lunenburg County live in poverty. To put it another way, there are more Lunenburg County seniors living in poverty than there are residents in the Town of Lunenburg.

As you know from the monthly reports many of the issues facing our seniors are serious, complicated and heart-wrenching. The number of seniors needing help on a monthly basis is large and growing. The issues range from elder abuse, precarious housing, personal safety concerns, scams/fraud, food insecurity, financial hardship and so many more.

Recently the Lunenburg County Senior Safety Program laid off its part-time coordinator due to budget constraints. This leaves a gap in the ability for the existing senior safety coordinator to serve the complex needs of these vulnerable citizens.

Revenue for this program comes from the Provincial Government, the five Lunenburg County Municipal units, and the United Way. There is also the potential for grants, but these grants must be used to meet certain grant requirements. These grants do not help core operations.

Thanks to the generosity of our local donors the United Way of Lunenburg County has invested \$52,180 since 2014 to help support the operations of this important community program. Currently our contribution is \$5,000 per year.

We are concerned that with the loss of a part-time coordinator vulnerable seniors will fall through the cracks. Obviously, this would be unacceptable.

The United Way of Lunenburg County is proposing the following. We will increase our annual operating grant from \$5,000 to \$8,750 per year for the next 3 years. That is a 75% increase in operational funding provided that the 5 participating municipal units commit to the same funding increase over the same 3-year time. This additional funding will allow for the reinstatement of the part time coordinator and will allow for greater protection of our senior community.

The United Way commitment would then represent 11% of the Senior Safety Program operating budget.

I hope as elected officials that you can see the value in this offer.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Graves', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Graves  
Coordinator  
The United Way of Lunenburg County