

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance Committee

Held in Council Chambers, 10 Allee Champlain Drive, Cookville, NS

And Via Video/Audio Teleconferencing

Tuesday, March 1, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

Councillor Michelle Greek, District 7, Chair

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson

Councillor Leitha Haysom, District 1

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

Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9

Councillor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10

Staff

April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance

Angela Veinot, Accounting Manager

Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer

Byung Jun Kang, Planner

Dave Waters, Director of Economic Development

Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation, Parks & Tourism

Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning & Development Services

Rachel Hiltz, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

1.1 Mi'kma'ki Territorial Acknowledgement

Councillor Greek 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, Recognitions

Mayor Bolivar-Getson recognized the current situation in the Ukraine and noted that Council and staff stand in solidarity with all Ukrainians. Later in the meeting Council would be discussing making a donation to the Canadian Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal.

3. Approval of Agenda

It was requested that Item 11.1 Proposed Donation to the Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal be added to the Agenda.

Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Haysom that the Agenda be approved as amended by adding Item 11.1 Proposed Donation to the Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal. Carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes – February 1, 2022

Moved by Councillor Hubley, seconded by Councillor DeLong that the Minutes of the February 1, 2022 Finance Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

5. Business Arising from Minutes (Nil)

6. Presentations/Scheduled Times (Nil)

7. Consideration of Correspondence

7.1 Town of Lunenburg Operating Grant Request

Ms. Wentzell advised that the Town of Lunenburg is requesting \$40,000 in funding for the 2022/2023 fiscal year. This includes the normal grant amount of \$30,000 plus \$10,000 for roof repairs, which Council previously agreed to provide \$10,000 per year for four years. This will be the final year for the extra \$10,000 and next year the funding will return to \$30,000.

Moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Hubley that the Finance Committee refers the Town of Lunenburg Operational Grant Request in the amount of \$40,000 to the 2022/2023 budget deliberation process. Those opposed: Councillor Bell. Motion Carried.

7.2 Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Program Funding Request

Ms. Wentzell advised that Council previously received a presentation from the Senior Safety Program and wrote a letter to the Province of Nova Scotia recommending an increase in funding from the Province so the Program can keep their staffing complement. At this time, the Province has not approved additional funding, so the Program is requesting an increase in funding from all municipal units. If increased funding is approved, MODL's grant would increase from \$14,480 to \$25,340.

The following points were noted:

- Councillors agreed that the Seniors' Safety Program is essential to Lunenburg County, and they supported the request for an increase in funding. It is important that they keep their current complement of staff, as this Program has been integral in helping people in need.
- This additional funding can be absorbed in the operating budget surplus.
- There was consideration for giving pre-budget approval to provide the funding on April 1 to allow the part-time coordinator to be hired back quickly. At present, no new clients can be taken, due to staffing shortages.
 - The Provincial budget has not been approved, so there is a possibility they could receive the required extra funding that was requested.

- It is unknown if other units will provide the additional funding, and if there will be enough funding to hire the part time coordinator back or what capacity the program can continue at.
- It was determined pre-budget approval is not required.
- Any funding that is received above the initial request can be used for increasing the part-time coordinator to full time and/or expanding program options.

Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Deputy Mayor Moore that the Finance Committee recommends that the annual grant for the Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Program be increased to \$25,340 and referred to the 2022/2023 budget deliberation process. Carried unanimously.

8. Recommendations from Committees & Boards (Nil)

9. Staff Reports (Nil)

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

11. Added Items

11.1 Proposed Donation to the Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal

Mayor Bolivar-Getson advised that there is currently a Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal campaign taking place. In the past, Council has donated to other relief efforts through registered charities, such as the Fort McMurray wildfires. It was suggested Council donate \$10,000 and the funds for this proposed donation will come from the Councillor Contingency Fund.

Moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Hubley that the Finance Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council provide a donation in the amount of \$10,000 to the Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal, and that these funds be taken from the Council Contingency Fund. Carried unanimously.

12. In Camera (Nil)

13. Adjournment

There being no further business at 9:25 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor DeLong that the meeting adjourn. Carried.