

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, April 5, 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

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk
Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance
Angela Veinot, Accounting Manager
Dave Waters, Director of Economic Development
Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation, Parks & Tourism
Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning & Development Services
Byung Jun Kang, Planner
Stephen Pace, Director of Engineering 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

2.1 2022 World Autism Awareness Day

Mayor Bolivar-Getson recognized World Autism Awareness Day on Saturday, April 2, 2022 and noted that MODL held a flag raising ceremony on Friday, April 1 at noon.

Councillor Haysom acknowledged that the Bull Run Trail Association held their Annual General Meeting, where they appointed their Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer. Laura Barkhouse, Trails Coordinator, was also in attendance at the meeting. This group is very committed and does a lot of important volunteer work.

Mayor Bolivar-Getson acknowledged former Councillor Basil Oickle who is a recently published author of a children's book "Cindy is My Name, First Horse Ever". This book is based on a true story and he has provided one book for each Councillor. He has also been going to local elementary schools to provide books to students as well.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Statton that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes – March 1, 2022

Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Veinot that the Minutes of the March 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 (Nil)

8. Recommendations from Committees & Boards (Nil)

9. Staff Reports

9.1 Finance Committee

9.1.1 2022/2023 Draft Capital Budget

Ms. Wentzell reviewed the presentation titled "Draft Capital Budget & Canada Community – Building Fund Investment 2022/23" (circulated with Agenda). The following points were noted:

- Several of the parks and open spaces require general upgrades as well as accessibility upgrades. Funds for these upgrades and ongoing maintenance are coming from capital and operating. Some of these purchases have already been made.
- The Active Living Park is to be located in Osprey Village. In the fiscal 2022/2023 budget staff have allocated \$500,000. An additional \$100,000 per year for years 2-5 is also budgeted, for a total project fund of \$900,000.
- The Pickle Ball Court will be of high interest to residents, including those outside of MODL. Other units may be interested in providing funds towards the courts, and naming could reflect the Region. There is a local pickleball group that presented to this Council, Town of Bridgewater Council and the LCLC Board. However, any funding requests will not delay the project.

Moved by Councillor Statton, seconded by Councillor Bell that Municipal Council direct staff to write a letter to the neighboring municipal units to ask for a financial contribution to the Active Living Park. Carried unanimously.

- Council sent a request for cost sharing paving of J Class Roads to the Department of Public Works for several roads in MODL's district. Approval was given to the Lester Getson Road and Forest View Drive. The roads that were not approved will be moved to the top of the list for next year's budget.
- The Osprey Village Water Tower valuation was completed by Design Point. The valuation was presented to the Bridgewater Public Service Commission, and after review the BPSC has sent Design Point two pages of questions. Design Point will evaluate and answer these questions over the next two weeks.
- The Cookville Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades include purchasing equipment such as spare pumps. If these pumps were to fail, they need to be replaced immediately and there is currently a several month wait to receive them. Any other equipment purchases would take into consideration the possible expansion and upgrade of the whole plant. The plant was originally designed to be modular so expansion is possible. The press funds noted are a placeholder in the event the grant is not approved.
- The budgeted grants show grants that are approved and those waiting for approval. If a grant is denied, the project will be brought back to Council to decide if the project will proceed.
- The radio tower was originally budgeted as a removal of the tower at 210 Aberdeen and relocation to the new building. The work being done now is reinforcing for installation of the antenna and other radio equipment to the tower. This should be completed in the next couple months.
- The budget documents should include Council's declaration of a climate emergency. This declaration has guided many of Council's decisions in the recent past and for the future. The communications documents, supplementary to the budget, that are provided to residents will also include this information.

9.1.2 Capital Budget Pre-Approval – Recreation Tractor

Ms. Wentzell advised that recreation staff need a tractor to complete work on the trails and parks. A rental will be required for the month of April, but staff are looking to buy quickly to avoid additional rental fees and are asking for pre-budget approval.

Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Finance Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council give pre-budget approval for the purchase of a tractor for recreation in the amount of \$50,000, from the general operating reserves. Carried unanimously.

9.1.3 Tax Exemptions for Non-Profit Organizations Policy MDL-12

Ms. Wentzell reviewed the report titled "Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations Policy MDL-12" (circulated with Agenda).

Moved by Deputy Mayor Moore, seconded by Councillor Hubley that the Finance Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council approve tax exemptions for non-profit organizations as per Policy MDL-12 for a 3 year renewal term as presented on the attached list.

A question arose regarding the eligibility of organizations that are on the proposed list. Ms. Wentzell advised that the organizations are either non-profit or provide a service to the community. The Municipal Government Act regulates that Council can provide tax exemptions to non-profit, charitable, religious, cultural, and sporting organizations.

The organizations must be a registered through the Provincial Registry of Joint Stocks. Ms. Wentzell will confirm registration status of each organization upon renewal as Councillors want to ensure groups that are providing a service to the community are included and the exemptions are given in an appropriate manner.

It was noted that if any applications are received between the three-year renewal period, those applications are brought forward to Council for approval.

The motion on the floor was voted on and carried. Those opposed: Councillor Haysom.

9.1.4 Canada Infrastructure Program – Cookville Wastewater Treatment Plant

Mr. Dumaresq reviewed the report titled “Green Infrastructure Environmental Quality Sub Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Green Infrastructure Program – Priority Project (circulated with Agenda).

A question arose regarding the wording of the proposed motion. It was noted that a study is being completed to determine if an expansion of the plant is required, based on projected development in the area. MODL can put in the application for grant funding, and if it is determined we do not need to expand, we can withdraw the application or return the funds. The grant needs to be approved before any work is started, so the application needs to be made in advance. Having the application approved does not commit Council to completing the project.

Moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor DeLong that the Finance Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council endorse the design and construction of the expansion of the Cookville Wastewater Treatment Plant as the funding priority for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Green Infrastructure Environmental Quality Sub Stream. Carried unanimously.

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

11. Added Items

12. In Camera (Nil)

13. Adjournment

There being no further business at 10:13 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Haysom that the meeting adjourn. Carried.