

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, May 3, 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
Sarah Kucharski, Manager Corporate Services & Communications
Dave Waters, Director of Economic Development
Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation, Parks & Tourism
Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning & Development Services
Stephen Pace, Director of Engineering Services
Tissy Bolivar, Program Coordinator
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

Mr. Merrill introduced planning co-op students: Michael Bohdanowicz, Renita Kralik and Chloe Simpson. Mr. Pace introduced Moriom Akhter, Engineering co-op student. Ms. Kucharski introduced Ariane Huot, Communications Coordinator.

2.1 Proclamation – No Mow May

Mayor Bolivar-Getson proclaimed the month of May as “No Mow May”.

3. Approval of Agenda

It was requested that item 12.2 “Personnel Matter under Section 22(2)(c) of the MGA” be added to the Agenda.

Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Oickle that the Agenda be approved as amended by adding item 12.2 Personnel Matter under Section 22(2)(c) of the MGA. Carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes – April 5, 2022

Moved by Councillor Hubley, seconded by Councillor Haysom that the Minutes of the April 5, 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 Region 6 Operating Grant Budget Amendment

Ms. Wentzell reviewed the report titled “Region 6 Operating Grant Budget Amendment” (circulated with Agenda). She noted that since Council approved the original budget, Region 6 received updated population data, which results in an increase of \$248.99 for MODL’s cost share. Staff are recommending Council make a new motion to reflect this new amount.

Moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Haysom that the Finance Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council approve the revised allocation of the Region 6 2022/2023 Budget with the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg’s share of the budget being \$36,028.07.

A concern was raised regarding the potential precedence this could create.

Motion Carried. Those opposed: Mayor Bolivar-Getson.

8. Recommendations from Committees & Boards (Nil)

9. Staff Reports

9.1 Finance Department

9.1.1 2022/2023 Draft Capital & Operating Budget Update

Ms. Wentzell reviewed the presentation titled “2022/23 Budget Update” (circulated with Agenda). It was noted that the Sawpit Park Trail carry over is required due to delays in the project being completed, due to weather. This work will be completed after March 31.

9.1.2 2022/2023 Budget Highlights

Ms. Kucharski reviewed the budget highlight documents (circulated with Agenda). The main topics of the budget highlights include: Protecting the Environment, Making Life Affordable, Investing in Our Community, and Building the Local Economy. These pages are distributed as part of the budget presentation. The following points were noted:

- Discussion was held regarding how capital projects are funded, and that the budget documentation should reflect that those projects are often funded by grants. The public should be aware that MODL does seek ways to offset costs. The speaking notes for the budget presentation will clarify this.
- Garden Lots sewer solutions have been discussed in the past. This potential project, along with other private septic waste solutions, will be looked at once the Lahave River Straight Pipe Replacement Program is complete. There are no commitments at this time, and Council will need to consider what type of program could be offered, the geography of a program, and there would not be Federal and Provincial Funding as there is with the Lahave Program.
- A note should be made that the Clean Energy Financing Program was previously known as the “PACE Program” for continuity.
- MODL is currently debt free, which is a major achievement. Councillors wanted to include that there is no plan to incur any debt within the 5 year financial strategy. It was noted it is difficult to determine exactly how many units are currently debt free, as the information available is two years old.
- There is no current Active Transportation funding in the budget, however, there are plans for a pedestrian bridge and MODL will be putting funding toward that.

Ms. Kucharski left the meeting at 9:24 a.m.

9.2 Recreation Department

9.2.1 Sponsorship Ad Grant: First Responder Wellness Symposium

Ms. Bolivar reviewed the report titled “Sponsorship Ad Grant: First Responders’ Wellness Symposium” (circulated with Agenda).

Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor DeLong that the Finance Committee recommend to Council that Municipal Council approve the Sponsorship Ad request for the First Responders’ Wellness Symposium as a Gold Level Sponsor for \$500, taking place September 24, 2022, at the NSCC Lunenburg Campus. Carried Unanimously.

9.2.2 Sponsorship Ad Grant: South Shore Lightning Basketball Association

Ms. Bolivar reviewed the report titled “Sponsorship Ad Grant: South Shore Lightning Basketball Association” (circulated with Agenda).

Moved by Councillor Hubley, seconded by Mayor Bolivar-Getson that the Finance Committee recommend to Council that Municipal Council approve the Sponsorship Ad request for the South Shore Lightning Basketball Association as a Bronze Level Sponsor for \$200.

A question arose regarding how staff determine the recommendation for the level of sponsorship. Ms. Bolivar advised the recommendation is based on other grants the organization has applied for, the best return on investment, and where the funds are best spent.

This sponsorship is for the 2022 spring & summer basketball season. The funds go toward the South Shore Lightning Basketball Association's club teams and helps subsidize costs for the players.

The motion on the floor was voted on and carried unanimously.

9.2.3 Canada Day Grants

Deputy Mayor Moore declared a Conflict of Interest as she sits on the New Germany Canada Day Committee and removed herself from the discussion.

Ms. Bolivar reviewed the report titled "Canada Day Grants" (circulated with Agenda).

Moved by Councillor DeLong, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that the Finance Committee recommend to Council that Municipal Council award \$1,875 in Canada Day Grants to support community Canada Day Events on July 1, 2022, as follows:

- **New Germany Canada Day Committee – \$1,200**
- **Tancook Island Recreational Centre Association – \$675.**

It was noted that in previous years more Canada Day Grants were received. The budget for these grants is \$5,000 so there are funds left for any community organizations that may apply after the deadline. Late applications will be brought forward to Council for consideration. The maximum grant funding is 75% of the organization's ask up to \$1,200.00

The motion on the floor was voted on and carried unanimously.

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

11. Added Items

12. In Camera

At 9:33 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Finance Committee go In Camera to discuss the following:

- 12.1 Contract Negotiations re Sale of Land under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA**
- 12.2 Personnel Matter under Section 22(2)(c) of the MGA**

Carried.

Finance Committee In Camera In Session.

At 10:08 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Haysom that the Finance Committee come out of In Camera and return to open session. Carried unanimously.

Finance Committee in session.

13. Adjournment

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