

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance Committee

Held in Council Chamber, 10 Allée Champlain Drive, Cookville, NS
Tuesday, February 6, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

Councillor Leitha Haysom, District 1, Chair
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2, Vice Chair
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Deputy Mayor Wendy Oickle, District 3
Councillor Pam Hubley, District 4
Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5
Councillor Sandra Statton, District 6 (via Teams)
Councillor Michelle Greek, District 7
Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8
Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9
Councillor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10

Staff

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO
Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance
April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk
Joanne Powers, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order

1.1 Councillor Haysom called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and began by acknowledging that the meeting was held in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

2. Announcements/Acknowledgements/Recognition

2.1 African Heritage Month – Mayor Bolivar-Getson acknowledged that February is recognized internationally as African Heritage Month and is a time to recognize and salute the many contributions and ongoing achievements of people of African Descent all over the world and here in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.

2.2 Heart Month – Mayor Bolivar-Getson acknowledged that February marks Heart Month, stating that heart disease is currently one of the leading causes of death in Canada, second only to cancer.

Mayor Bolivar-Getson highlighted the recent article in the Progress Bulletin regarding the EV Charging Stations Project, and pointed out that the article did not fully or clearly explain the change in the scope of work that led to the increase in costs for the expanded project. The article did not point out that the EV Charging Project expanded well beyond its original scope

(of 3 charge stations) to also include: transformer pad, electrical enclosures and services; and installation of conduits, bollards and charger bases for nine future charging stations (18 spots). An amendment to the article has been requested.

3. Public Input – Nil

4. Changes/Approval of Agenda (as circulated)

Councillor Greek requested to add Councillor Security, to the agenda under Added Items.

Moved by Councillor Greek, seconded by Mayor Bolivar-Getson that Councillor Security be added to the agenda as item 11.1. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Deputy Mayor Oickle that the Agenda be approved as amended. Carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes – December 5, 2023

Moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Hubley that the Minutes of the December 5, 2023, Finance Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

6. Business Arising from Minutes – Nil

7. Presentations/Scheduled Times

7.1 South Shore Open Doors Association (SODA), Kristi Tibbo, CEO

Kristi Tibbo, CEO, South Shore Open Doors Association (SODA), reviewed the presentation entitled, “MODL Council” (included in the agenda package). It covered the following items:

- Mission
- What is Coordinated Access & the By-Name List?
- Services Offered
- Winter Shelter
- Current Situation of Homelessness
- Rural Homelessness
- Housed

Ms. Tibbo provided an overview of the services offered by the South Shore Open Doors Association (SODA). They are a non-profit organization that serves Lunenburg and Queens Counties. She also talked about the services offered by partnering agencies such as Roof 25 Homeless Shelter at the Lutheran Church in Bridgewater and Souls Harbour Rescue Mission in Bridgewater.

Ms. Tibbo was asked if she could provide a breakdown of what communities in MODL individuals were from that were using the services and she advised that she would look into getting that information. Ms. Tibbo's email is kristitibbo@ssoda.org if anyone would like to contact her.

Ms. Tibbo left the meeting at 9:38 a.m.

10. Staff Reports

10.1 Finance Department

10.1.1 2024-25 Proposed Area Rates: Streetlights, Hydrants, & Sewer

Angela Veinot, Accounting Manager, reviewed the report entitled, "2024-25 Proposed Area Rates: Streetlights, Hydrants, & Sewer" (included in the agenda package). She explained that the streetlight and hydrant rates are calculated based on prior years' revenues collected minus the actual costs. Sewer rates were set in December 2019, and will be reassessed in 2025.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Bell that the Finance Committee recommend to Council that Municipal Council approve:

- **the 2024/25 Fire Hydrant rate at \$0.1334/\$100 of assessment;**
- **the 2024/25 Streetlight rates as presented;**
- **the 2024/25 Sewer rates at \$0.43/\$100 of assessment for global rate and \$0.25/\$100 of assessment for Hebbville rate"**

Carried unanimously.

10.1.2 Operating Variance Report 3rd Quarter (to December 31, 2023)

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance, reviewed the report entitled, "Operating Variance Report 3rd Quarter (to December 31, 2023)" (included in the agenda package).

The revenue variance shows \$2,077,497 in additional revenue expected to be received compared to budget. The expenditure variance shows a forecasted budget savings of \$921,146.

10.1.3 Capital Status & CCBF Investment Report 3rd Quarter (to December 31, 2023)

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance, reviewed the report entitled, "Capital Status & CCBF Investment Report 3rd Quarter (to December 31, 2023)" (included in the agenda package).

Of the \$9.4M approved budget, project costs in the amount of \$1.9M have been paid to date with a forecast of \$6.7M to be completed by year end.

The Committee recessed at 10:01 a.m., and resumed at 10:09 a.m.

7.2 Seahawks Minor Football Club

James Dickens, President, Seahawks Minor Football Club, reviewed the presentation entitled, “Pinegrove Park Proposal” (included in the agenda package). It included the following:

- About Us
- Goals and Values
- Out Player Base
- Current Projects
- The Current Park
- The Park Proposal
- Park Maintenance
- Letter of Support from Football Nova Scotia

Mr. Dickens advised that the Seahawks Minor Football Club would like to take over the Pinegrove Park under a Management Agreement with MODL. The Club’s player base is made up of 89% from MODL alone. The proposed use of the park would include two practice fields, and a small drill field with portable lighting, and possibly remove the old ice rink to create parking with a storage shed for equipment.

Mr. Dickens left the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

8. Consideration of Correspondence - Nil

9. Recommendations from Council – Nil

10.2 Recreation Department

10.2.1 Updated Active Transportation Plan, Round 1 Engagement Summary – Jamie Hilland & Devon Jennings-Lander, Urban Systems

Jamie Hilland, Transportation Planner (via Teams), and Devon Jennings-Lander, with Urban Systems, were present to review the report entitled “Updated Active Transportation Plan, Round 1 Engagement Summary” (included in the agenda package). The report included:

- Introduction
- Raising Awareness
- What We Heard
- Next Steps

There was discussion including the immediate need for a safe path between the two New Germany schools, and the mapping included in the report.

Mr. Hilland and Ms. Jennings-Lander left the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

11. Added Items

11.1 Councillor Security

It was determined that this item would be moved to the In Camera agenda as item 12.3, under Section 22(2)(h) of the MGA.

12. In Camera

At 11:06 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Deputy Mayor Oickle that Municipal Council go In Camera to discuss the following items:

12.1 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA

12.2 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA

12.3 Public Security under Section 22(2)(h) of the MGA

Carried unanimously.

Municipal Council In Camera in session.

At 12:31 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Mayor Bolivar-Getson that Municipal Council come out of In Camera and return to open session. Carried unanimously.

Municipal Council in session.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.