

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, July 2, 2024, 2024 – 9:11 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 Chasidy Veinotte, District 10

Regrets

Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9

Staff

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance

April Whynot-Lohnes, Acting Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Tina Robichaud-Bond, Acting Municipal Clerk

Joanne Powers, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order

Councillor Haysom called the meeting to order at 9:17 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

Councillor Moore thanked everyone who participated in the events at the New Germany Canada Day celebration.

Mayor Bolivar-Getson recognized all the volunteers involved in the various Canada Day events throughout the Municipality.

Councillor DeLong acknowledged the Indian Point Yacht Club, the Lunenburg Yacht Club, and the Mahone Islands Conservation Association in hosting a successful Canada Day race.

Councillor Haysom recognized the Petite Riviere Fire Department for hosting a successful Canada Day event.

3. Public Input – Nil

4. Changes/Approval of Agenda (as circulated)

Moved by Councillor Hubley, seconded by Councillor Greek that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes – March 5, 2024

Moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Moore that the Minutes of the March 5, 2024, Finance Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

6. Business Arising from Minutes – Nil

8. Consideration of Correspondence - Nil

9. Recommendations from Council – Nil

10. Staff Reports

10.1 Finance Department

10.1.1 4th Quarter Variance Report 2023/24

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance, reviewed her report titled, “4th Quarter Operating Budget Variance Report – March 31, 2024” (included in the agenda package), explaining that it was a draft report as the audit had not yet taken place.

Ms. Wentzell provided details on the variances of the budgeted revenue and expenditure items and reported that an operating surplus of \$3.413M was projected due to additional revenue from deed transfer tax and interest on deposits.

It was clarified that, historically, a 10% successful appeal rate on tax assessments was budgeted yearly, but that for the timeframe of this report, the appeal rate was lower which partly accounted for the increased revenue.

It was noted that tax exemption applications could be accepted after the deadline of August 1 if funds were available.

11. Added Items - Nil

12. In Camera

At 9:38 a.m., it was moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson seconded by Deputy Mayor Oickle that the Finance Committee go In Camera to discuss the following items:

- 12.1 Potential Litigation under Section 22(2)(f) of the MGA**
- 12.2 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA**

Carried unanimously.

Finance Committee In Camera in session.

At 10:26 a.m. it was moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor DeLong that Finance Committee come out of In Camera and return to open session. Carried unanimously.

Finance Committee in session.

12.2 Regional Services

Moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Moore that a joint meeting with the Town of Bridgewater Council be requested in July to discuss regional services.

The meeting recessed at 10:27 a.m. and resumed at 10:34 a.m.

7. Presentations/Scheduled Times

7.1 Weathering What's Ahead – Alex Cadel, CLIMAtlantic & Gavin Kenney, NS Environment & Climate Change

Gavin Kennedy, NS Environment & Climate Change, and Alex Cadel, CLIMAtlantic, were in attendance virtually, to give a presentation on, "Weathering What's Ahead: Nova Scotia's Changing Climate and Climate Change Risk Assessment". The topics covered in the presentation included:

- It's Getting Warmer
- Precipitation Patterns are Changing
- Sea Level Rise
- Provincial Climate Change Risk Assessment
- Approach to Risk Assessment
- Well-being at Risk Results: Top Climate Hazards Change Over Time
- Regional Adaptation Needed: Priority Regions
- Regional Analysis: Lunenburg County
- Sharing Results of the Risk Assessment
- Acting on Climate Change

There was discussion around how the lateness of the frost in the fall affects Christmas tree producers in the area, and whether discussion have taken place with Nova Scotia Power regarding an increase in grid capacity and what municipalities can do about these changes.

Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Cadel left the meeting.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.