

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, December 3, 2024, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

Councillor Wendy Oickle, District 3, Chair
Councillor Edgar Burns, District 7, Vice Chair
Mayor Elspeth McLean-Wile
Councillor Morgen Reinhardt, District 1
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2
Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5
Councillor Alison Smith, District 6
Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8
Councillor Ben Brooks, District 9
Deputy Mayor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10

Regrets

Councillor Pam Hubley, District 4

Staff

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

1. Call to Order

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance, 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. Nominations and Election by Ballot for Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Wentzell, called for nominations, by ballot, for the position of Chair. Those nominated were: Councillors Hubley, DeLong, Oickle, and Burns. Councillor Hubley was not in attendance at the meeting therefore her name was removed from the ballot. Councillor Burns withdrew his name from the ballot. Councillors DeLong and Oickle's names remained, and Councillor Oickle was elected Chair on the first ballot.

Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Deputy Mayor Veinotte that the ballots be destroyed. Carried unanimously.

Councillor Oickle, called for nominations, by ballot, for the position of Vice Chair. Those nominated were: Councillors DeLong, Burns, Hubley, and Deputy Mayor Veinotte. Councillor

Hubley was not present at the meeting therefore her name was removed from the ballot. Councillors DeLong, Burns, and Deputy Mayor Veinotte's names remained. On the first ballot Deputy Mayor Veinotte's name was dropped. On the second ballot Councillor Burns was elected as Vice Chair.

Moved by Mayor McLean-Wile, seconded by Councillor Smith that the ballots be destroyed. Carried unanimously.

3. Announcements/Acknowledgements/Recognition

Mayor McLean-Wile read a Proclamation proclaiming December 3, 2024, as International Day for Persons with Disabilities. Canada is a signatory to the United Nations convention on the Rights of People with Disability, and two out of five Nova Scotians live with a disability.

Alex introduced Gem Roberts, Regional Anti-Racism Coordinator. Working out of the District of Chester along side the Regional Accessibility Coordinator, Ellen Johnson, she will be working to support the Regional Anti-Racism Committee and assisting the five Lunenburg County municipalities implement their inclusion plans.

Councillor Oickle read an updated Statement of Public Input.

4. Public Input – Nil

5. Changes/Approval of Agenda (as circulated)

Moved by Mayor McLean-Wile, seconded by Councillor Moore that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

6. Approval of Minutes – September 3, 2024

Moved by Deputy Mayor Veinotte, seconded by Mayor McLean-Wile that the Minutes of the September 3, 2024, Finance Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

7. Business Arising from Minutes – Nil

8. Presentations/Scheduled Times

8.1 The Future is Bright – NS Community Solar Program MODL Solar Project

Ina Lina, Director of Business Development, and Mila Simon, Project Coordinator, SolarBank Corporation gave their presentation entitled, "The Future is Bright – Nova Scotia Community

Solar Program Solar Project” (included in the agenda package). The presentation included the following:

- Nova Scotia Needs Renewable Energy
- Community Benefits
- The Proponent – AI Renewable, SolarBank/Trimac Engineering
- Full Vertical Integration
- NS-Crouses Settlement – Site Location – PID 60296605 and 60699972
- Municipal Support Letter or Resolution
- Community Engagement Plan

The Committee had a number of questions regarding the proposed project such as the number of structures located immediately adjacent to the property, how would they engage with the surrounding households with the postal strike in effect, and would funds be set aside for cleanup and removal at the end of the project.

Ms. Lina and Simon left the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

9. Consideration of Correspondence – Nil

10. Recommendations from Council - Nil

11. Staff Reports

11.1 Finance Department

11.1.1 Operating Variance Report 2nd Quarter (to September 30, 2024)

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance, reviewed her report titled, “Operating Variance Report 2nd Quarter (to September 30, 2024” (included in the agenda package) providing details of the operating budget accounts where variances to the budget have occurred. She reported that staff are projecting an operating surplus of \$749,790 which represents a 1.68% budget variance. The revenue variance shows \$620,350 in additional revenue expected to be received compared to budget mostly due to the forecast for deed transfer tax revenue.

The Committee recessed at 10:05 a.m. and resumed at 10:15 a.m.

11.1.2 Capital Status & CCBF Investment Report 2nd Quarter

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance, reviewed her report titled, “Capital Status & CCBF Investment Report 2nd Quarter”, providing details on the status of the projects approved in the fiscal year (included in the agenda package). She advised that of the \$11.5M approved budget, project costs in the amount of \$1,592,137 have been paid at the end of the second quarter with a forecast of \$10.1M to be completely by year end.

11.2 Administration Department

11.2.1 Municipal Capital Growth Program

Amy Wamboldt, Grant Coordinator, reviewed the report entitled, “Municipal Capital Growth Program” (included in the agenda package).

Ms. Wamboldt discussed the procedure for applying for provincial and federal grants and explained that the Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program (GRID) supports investment in priority municipal infrastructure projects that address critical capacity issues, build more accessible and adaptable communities and enable the preservation and expansion of services to support housing.

The Cookville Wastewater Treatment Facility provides wastewater treatment for the Osprey Village area and due to the high level of upcoming development for the area, the plant is expected to exceed its operational capacity. The total cost of the Cookville Wastewater Plant Phase 3 upgrade is \$24,570,820 and the Municipality has reached 43.9% funding for the project. To meet the funding target of 50%, a funding request of \$1,500,000 to the GRID program is recommended.

Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Burns that the Finance Committee recommend to Council that Municipal Council endorse the Cookville Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades – Phase 3 project as the funding priority for the Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program (GRID). Carried unanimously.

The Committee recessed at 10:42 a.m. and resumed at 10:47 a.m.

12. Added Items - Nil

13. In Camera

At 10:48 a.m., it was moved by Deputy Mayor Veinotte seconded by Councillor DeLong that the Finance Committee go In Camera to discuss 13.1 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA. Carried unanimously.

Finance Committee In Camera in session.

At 11:59 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Smith that Finance Committee come out of In Camera and return to open session. Carried unanimously.

Finance Committee in session.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.