

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, May 6, 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 Pam Hubley, District 4
Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5
Councillor Alison Smith, District 6
Councillor Ben Brooks, District 9
Deputy Mayor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10

Regrets

Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8

Staff

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

1. Call to Order

Councillor Oickle 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 Proclamation – Lyme Disease Awareness Month

Mayor McLean-Wile proclaimed May 2025 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.

Mayor McLean-Wile acknowledged May 6th as International Firefighters' Day and recognized the many incredible volunteers of the fire service.

Mayor McLean-Wile acknowledged May 5th as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People, also known as Red Dress Day.

3. Public Input (15 Minutes) - Nil

4. Changes/Approval of Agenda

Moved by Deputy Mayor Veinotte, seconded by Mayor McLean-Wile that the May 6, 2025, Finance Committee Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes – April 1, 2025

The Minutes of April 1, 2025, Finance Committee meeting were approved as circulated.

6. Business Arising from Minutes - Nil

7. Presentations/Scheduled Times

7.1 Efficiency Nova Scotia – Energy Poverty and Equity

Josh McLean, EfficiencyOne, reviewed the presentation titled, “Energy Poverty and Equity” (included in the agenda package). It covered the following topics:

- Energy Poverty
- Energy Poverty in Nova Scotia
- Programs to Address Energy Poverty and Equity
- HomeWarming Program
- Affordable Multi-Family Housing Program
- Moderate-Income Top Ups and Oil-to-Heat Pump Programs
- Mi’kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project
- African Nova Scotian Community Pilot

Mr. McLean discussed the various programs available through Efficiency Nova Scotia. He explained that EfficiencyOne is a non-profit organization that administers programs and Efficiency Nova Scotia is a brand.

8. Referrals from Committees/Council - Nil

9. Staff Reports

9.1 Recreation Department

9.1.1 Pine Grove Park – What We Heard Report

Trudy Payne, Director of Recreation, Parks & Tourism, discussed the “What We Heard Report” (included in the agenda package). Council directed staff in January 2025 to hold a public information and engagement session to gather input from residents on the future use of the Pine Gove Park.

The main concerns raised were vandalism, the upkeep of the park, and safety. Staff were directed to bring back a report on video surveillance and safety options including any associated cost.

The meeting recessed at 10:09 a.m. and resumed at 10:20 a.m.

9.1.2 Additional Funding Request – Community Recreation Capital Grant

Trudy Payne, Director of Recreation, Parks & Tourism, reviewed the report titled, “Additional Funding Request – Community Recreation Capital Grant” (included in the agenda package), providing details on why the funds have been depleted so quickly. Staff indicated that if all the additional funds were not used, they would be returned to the general operating reserves at the end of the fiscal year.

Moved by Councillor Brooks, seconded by Councillor Burns that the Finance Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council provide up to \$20,000 in additional funding to the Community Recreation Capital Grant Program for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, and further that it come from the general operating reserves. Carried unanimously.

9.1.3 Annual Operating & Major Recreation Capital Grants

Trudy Payne, Director of Recreation, Parks & Tourism, reviewed the report titled, “Annual Operating & Major Recreation Capital Grants” (included in the agenda package) providing details on the number of applications received and the total funding requests. -Noting that there were more requests than available funds.

Ms. Payne explained the scoring process in allotting the grant allocations.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Moore that the Finance Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council approve the applications for the 2025-2026 Annual Operating Grant Program in the amount of \$99,701 as presented.

There was discussion regarding the grant deadlines and whether or not late applications should be considered for funding, and that staff should be able to make the decision on who receives grants and what amount as Council has set criteria in the policy and sets a budget amount annually.

Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Deputy Mayor Veinotte that the Finance Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council approve the applications for the 2025-2026 Major Recreation Capital Grant Program in the amount of \$52,359 as presented, and further that the South Shore Multi-Cultural Society application being contingent on securing storage space. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mayor McLean-Wile, seconded by Councillor Hubley that the Finance Committee direct staff to amend MODL Policy 043, Community Grants Program/Sponsorship Request by changing the approval authority from Council to staff for the Annual Operating, Major Events, and Major Recreation Capital grants and bring back proposed amendments for consideration to the Policy and Strategy Committee. Carried unanimously.

9.2 Planning & Development

9.2.1 Funding Support to Friends of Crescent Beach

Abhi Jain, Manager of Climate Change and Sustainability, discussed the report titled “Funding Support to Friends of Crescent Beach” (included in the agenda package) providing details on the funding request and purpose of the study.

Mr. Jain advised that since the agenda package was distributed, the group contacted him with an updated budget and their request from MODL was now \$20,000, drawn equally from the Open Space and Sustainability Reserves. They also confirmed that they will act as the project lead.

Moved by Councillor Reinhardt, seconded by Councillor Bell that the Finance Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council provide \$20,000, to support a feasibility and options study regarding climate risk mitigation to the Friends of Crescent Beach (FOCB), with the funds coming from the Open Space and Sustainability operating reserves; and further, that municipal funding is contingent on FOCB receiving a grant from the provincial Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund. Opposed: Councillor Brooks. Motion carried.

10. Consideration of Correspondence - Nil

11. Recommendations from Council – Nil

12. Added Items - Nil

13. In Camera

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.