

## **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, October 7, 2025 – 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**

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance  
Tina Robichaud-Bond, 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**

Councillor Hubley recognized all the volunteers who dedicated their time and effort to the Hemford Fire Department Family Safety Fun Day, the Run for the Cure, and the Tri-District Open House, and thanked all volunteers. She also recognized two junior fire fighters, Jake Massey and Liam Murphy, and the volunteers training them for the life saving skills learned through their training.

Councillor Smith recognized a 6-year-old resident, Raymond Dearing, who asked rather to receive birthday gifts, ask for food donations for the Community Cupboard in New Germany.

Councillor Moore complimented MODL's front counter staff for their commitment in ensuring good customer service to residents during the postal strike.

Councillor Moore also acknowledged her attendance at Tollermania IV.

Councillor Reinhardt acknowledged fellow councillors and staff who participated in the Canadian Cancer Society Run for the Cure event.

Councillor Oickle recognized the Hebbs Cross Fire Department for their 1<sup>st</sup> Fun Day event and those who organized the Truth & Reconciliation Day in Liverpool.

**3. Public Input - Nil**

**4. Changes/Approval of Agenda**

**Moved by Mayor McLean-Wile, seconded by Councillor Bell that the October 7, 2025, Finance Committee Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.**

**5. Approval of Minutes – September 2, 2025**

**The Minutes of September 2, 2025 Finance Committee meeting were approved as circulated.**

**6. Business Arising from Minutes - Nil**

**7. Presentations/Scheduled Times**

**7.1 Riverport & District Community Park**

Greg Amos, Treasurer, and Natalie O'Mara, Chair, of the Riverport & District Community Centre (RCC) Park Initiative gave a presentation on the Riverport & District Community Park (circulated with the agenda), providing details on the following. Ms. O'Mara made mention of a handout with additional information (attached to Minutes):

- Vision
- RCC Park Initiative Committee Members
- Location of Park - Former Riverport & District Consolidated Elementary
- Community Consultation
- Community Engagement
- Fundraising
- Partners
- Aerial View of Park
- Next Steps – work with MODL for property development and financial

Ms. O'Mara asked that Council commit to contributing \$200,000 towards capital expenses over a three to four period and an annual funding of \$7500 towards operating costs. She noted that with a commitment from Council, the RCC could apply for federal and provincial funding.

Mr. MacEwan explained the budgeting process for this type of ask.

It was noted that the community park would be designed with accessibility in mind, such as gentle elevations, wide pathways, wheelchair accessible tables, and an inclusive playground.

**8. Referrals from Committees/Council - Nil**

**9. Staff Reports**

**9.1 Finance Department**

**9.1.1 Proposed Amendments to Policy 012 – Tax Exemption/Reduction**

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance, reviewed the report titled, “Proposed Amendments to Policy 012 – Tax Exemption/Reduction” (circulated with the agenda package), providing details on the amendments to the policy to permit the Municipal Treasurer to approve qualifying applications.

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Hubley that the Finance Committee recommends to Municipal Council that Council approve the amendments to Policy 012 as presented, and hereby gives seven (7) days’ notice that the proposed amendments will be considered at the October 14, 2025 Council meeting. Carried unanimously.**

**9.1.2 Postal Strike and Interest Charged on Final Tax Bills**

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance, reviewed the report titled, “Postal Strike and Interest Charged on Final Tax Bills” (circulated with the agenda package) explaining that due to the postal strike residents were unable to receive the final tax bills through the mail, potentially causing pressure on taxpayers to pay their bills on time.

It was noted that the decision to provide interest relief would be communicated to taxpayers through various methods.

**Moved by Councillor Brooks, seconded by Councillor Bell that the Finance Committee recommends to Municipal Council that Council approve the temporary reduction of the interest rate charged on overdue property taxes to 0%, until 30 days after the end of the nation-wide strike of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, at which time the 10% interest rate, as per Policy 009, would resume on overdue amounts. Carried unanimously.**

**9.2 Recreation, Parks & Tourism**

**9.2.1 Designated Community Fund Request – Friends of Cherry Hill Old Community Cemetery**

Trudy Payne, Director of Recreation, Parks & Tourism, reviewed the report, “Designated Community Fund Project Friends of Cherry Hill Old Community Cemetery” (circulated with the

agenda), explaining that the Designated Community Fund was established to enable community groups to issue official tax-deductible donation receipts for fundraising contributions.

**Moved by Councillor Reinhardt, seconded by Councillor Moore that the Finance Committee recommends to Municipal Council that Council grant the Friends of Cherry Hill Old Community Cemetery \$95.00 as per the Designated Community Project Fund Policy 048. Carried unanimously.**

- 10. Consideration of Correspondence - Nil**
- 11. Recommendations from Council – Nil**
- 12. Added Items - Nil**
- 13. In Camera**

**At 10:14 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Burns seconded by Councillor Brooks that the Finance Committee go In Camera to discuss the following items:**

- 13.1 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA**
- 13.2 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA**

**Carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee In Camera in session.

**At 11:48 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Hubley, seconded by Councillor Moore 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 11:48 a.m.**