

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 3, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

Councillor Morgen Reinhardt, District 1, Chair
Councillor Edgar Burns, District 7, Vice Chair
Mayor Elspeth McLean-Wile
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2
Councillor Wendy Oickle, District 3
Councillor Pam Hubley, District 4
Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5
Councillor Alison Smith, District 6
Councillor Ben Brooks, District 9
Councillor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10

Regrets

Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8

Staff

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

1. Call to Order

Councillor Reinhardt 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

Mayor McLean-Wile acknowledged February as African Heritage Month, highlighting the 2026 theme of **Strength and Unity: Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power, and Progress**. The Mayor noted the historical and cultural contributions of African Nova Scotians and encouraged residents to access resources and activities, including those available through local libraries.

Councillor Burns acknowledged the passing of Lawrence Broome, noting his significant contributions to the community through his service with the school bus system, church, and as Deputy Chief of the local fire department.

3. Public Input - Nil

4. Approval of Agenda

Tom MacEwan, CAO, requested the addition of correspondence from the Town of Lunenburg, (Funding Request dated January 28, 2026) as Item 11.1 for Council discussion related to the budget process.

Moved by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Brooks that the Agenda be approved as amended with the addition of Item 11.1 Correspondence from Town of Lunenburg. Carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes – December 2, 2025

The Minutes of the December 2, 2025 Finance Committee meeting were approved as circulated.

6. Business arising from Minutes - Nil

7. Presentations/Scheduled Times

7.1 Region 6 2026-2027 Budget

Christine McClare, Regional Coordinator for Region 6, presented the 2026–2027 Region 6 budget (circulated with the agenda).

Key Highlights:

- Anticipated revenue from contracts and coordination: \$210,998
- Municipal contributions: \$147,885
- District of Lunenburg share: \$40,929.62
- Estimated return to municipality: Approximately \$6.03 per person
- Net estimated return: \$4.43 per person
- Dairy stewardship funding is ending due to implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

Discussion occurred regarding EPR education, communications, and sorting requirements for recyclable materials.

Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Bell that the Finance Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the 2026-2027 Region 6 budget with the Municipality's share of the budget being \$40,929.62. Carried unanimously.

8. Consideration of Correspondence - Nil

9. Recommendations from Committees & Boards – Nil

10. Staff Reports

10.1 Finance Department

10.1.1 Presentation - Operating Variance Report & Capital Status Update Q3

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance, presented the Operating Variance Report & Capital Status Update Quarter 3 to December 31, 2025. (circulated with the agenda).

Key Highlights:

- Budgeted surplus: \$120,600
- Forecasted surplus: \$1.8 million
- Variance: \$1.7 million (3.69%)
- Increased Deed Transfer Tax revenue is the primary driver of the variance.
- EPR implementation projected to save approximately \$104,000 in recycling costs during the fiscal year.

Ms. Wentzell reviewed capital projects categorized as not proceeding, delayed, completed, and on schedule.

Key Updates:

- Three projects not proceeding, including Community Solar Garden, and Summer Road upgrades (deferred due to residents' request).
- Eleven projects delayed, including public transit initiatives, demolition and remediation at Centre School, and pickleball court construction (delayed due to wildfire restrictions and contractor scheduling).
- Eight projects completed.
- Fourteen projects proceeding on schedule.

Additional updates were provided regarding:

- Water tower planning and approval progress.
- Solar garden project application submitted by PowerBank.
- Economic development enhancement plan (to be presented at a future Policy and Strategy Committee meeting).

10.1.2 Streetlight & Hydrant Proposed Area Rates 2026-2027

Angela Veinot, Accounting Manager, reviewed the report, "2026-27 Proposed Area Rates: Streetlight & Hydrant" (circulated with the agenda).

It was clarified that streetlight rates vary based on property assessments, number of users, and Nova Scotia Power costs.

Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Hubley that the Finance Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve:

- **The 2026-2027 Fire hydrant rate of \$0.0898/\$100 of assessment; and**
- **The 2026-2027 Streetlight rates, as presented.**

Carried unanimously.

10.2 Administration Department

10.2.1 Bridgewater & Area Inter-Church Foodbank Request for Funding

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO, reviewed the report, “Funding request for Bridgewater Foodbank” (circulated with the agenda), and noted that the food bank was requesting \$20,000 in operating funding in 2026.

Mr. Dumaresq report offered the following 3 options for Council’s consideration on how to proceed.

1. Direct application through the existing Operating Grant Fund.
2. Provide funding through the municipal budget.
3. Establish a dedicated food bank operating grant program with proportional funding distribution.

Council expressed support for Option 3, noting increased food insecurity and the need for stable operational funding.

Staff was directed to return with funding options and formula recommendations for consideration in the 2026–2027 budget.

Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Moore that the Finance Committee direct staff to pursue Option 3 for the 2026-2027 budget, in response to the request for funding from the Bridgewater and Area Inter-Church Food Bank. Carried unanimously.

11. Added Items

11.1.1 Correspondence from TOL re funding support

Council reviewed correspondence from the Town of Lunenburg dated January 28, 2026 (attached to Minutes), requesting both operational and capital funding support for their recreation services, more specifically, the Lunenburg War Memorial Arena and the Community Centre.

It was noted that the Municipality has historically supported the arena through operating and capital contributions totaling \$300,000 since 2020, and that residents utilize recreation facilities across municipal boundaries.

Discussion highlighted the importance of long-term regional planning for recreation infrastructure and asset management.

The Finance Committee recessed at 10:10 a.m. and resumed at resumed 10:21 a.m.

12. In Camera

At 10:21 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Moore that Finance Committee go In Camera to discuss Item 12.1 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA. Carried.

Finance Committee In Camera in session.

At 11:03 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Brooks that Finance Committee come out of In Camera and return to open session. Carried.

Finance Committee in session.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.



January 28, 2026

To: Tom MacEwan, CAO
Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
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Cookville, NS.
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ELECTRIC UTILITY
902-634-4410

FIRE DEPARTMENT
902-634-8343

PUBLIC WORKS
902-634-8992

RECREATION
902-634-4006

FACSIMILIE
902-634-4416

Re: Town of Lunenburg Request for Operational and Capital Budget Support for Recreation Services

Dear Mr. MacEwan and Council of MODL,

As part of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg's and the Town of Lunenburg's partnership for recreation services, please accept this letter as a request for support for the ongoing Operating and Capital costs for the 2026/2027 fiscal year. Funds requested will help offset the Operating deficit at the Lunenburg War Memorial Arena and the Community Centre. Additionally, we are also requesting support for upgrades to the ice plant system in the Arena.

Both the Lunenburg War Memorial Arena and the Community Centre play vital roles for residents of MODL and TOL for recreation services. As an organization, we strive to offer quality recreation services and facility rental opportunities to our residents and those of MODL. Through a collaborative partnership meeting between the Mayors and Deputy Mayors of our respected communities, this was reaffirmed and to seek a continued relationship that is mutually beneficial to all.

The Arena welcomes over 16,000 users per season, who reside all over the South Shore. During ice season the Arena hosts the South Shore Minor Hockey Association, high school teams, public skates, adult hockey, tournaments and private bookings. During the summer months, the Arena hosts several large crowd events including the weekly Farmers' Market, dog shows, summer craft festival and folk-art festival.

The Community Centre offers a variety of programs and services, including weekly Lunenburg Farmers' Market (during winter months), drop-in sports programs, fitness programs, and rentals for birthdays, weddings, parties, dances, sports, and more.

For the 2026/2027 fiscal year, the TOL is requesting:

- Operational Expense: \$60,000.00 for the Lunenburg War Memorial Arena and Community Centre.
- Capital Expense: TOL needs to upgrade the ice plant system at the Arena. This cost is estimated at \$270,000.00 + HST. TOL is budgeting the full amount for replacement and seeking a grant through the

Province under the Rink Revitalization Fund. Here are two scenarios to consider:

- **Scenario 1:**
 - TOL is requesting from the province \$150,000 in funding. It is anticipated, through discussion with provincial representatives, that we could acquire funding between \$100,000 - \$150,000.
 - Proposing that TOL and MODL share the remaining funding at a 50% split. This could be up to \$75,000 per municipal unit.

- **Scenario 2:**
 - TOL is unsuccessful with grant funding from the province.
 - TOL and MODL split the cost of the project. The request would be to a maximum of \$150,000 from MODL.

If you require any additional information, please reach out at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Paul Nopper, CAO

Town of Lunenburg