

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance Committee

Held in Council Chamber, 10 Allée Champlain Drive, Cookville, N.S.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.

Attendance

Councillor Morgen Reinhardt, District 1, Chair
Councillor Edgar Burns, District 7, Vice Chair (left meeting at 10:54 a.m.)
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
Deputy Mayor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10

Regrets

Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8 (regrets received at 9:49 a.m.)

Staff

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

1. Call to Order

Councillor Reinhardt called the meeting to order at 9:30 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

Deputy Mayor Veinotte congratulated the organizers of the Jennifer Collins Classic Hockey Tournament, held at the Lunenburg War Memorial Arena March 26-29, 2026. This tournament raises funds to alleviate the financial hardship facing members in our communities.

Councillor Smith acknowledged South Shore Regional Libraries for a very busy March Break – over 3200 people visited the Bridgewater location.

2.1 Proclamation – Autism Acceptance Month

Mayor McLean-Wile proclaimed April to be Autism Acceptance Month, encouraging all citizens to recognize people with Autism, their family members, caregivers, educators, and other professionals who strive to make Nova Scotia an inclusive and accessible place for all.

3. Public Input - Nil

4. Approval of Agenda

Tom MacEwan, CAO noted an additional item had been added to the In-Camera agenda.

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

5. Approval of Minutes – March 3, 2026

The Minutes of the March 3, 2026, Finance Committee meeting were approved as circulated.

6. Business Arising from Minutes - Nil

7. Presentations/Scheduled Times - Nil

8. Consideration of Correspondence - Nil

9. Recommendations from Committees & Boards - Nil

10. Staff Reports

10.1 Engineering, Project Management & Public Works Department

10.1.1 Cost Shared Program for Paving of J Class Roads for 2026-2027 – Darby’s Head Road

Steven Pace, Director of Engineering, Project Management & Public Works, reviewed the report, “Cost Shared Program for Paving of J Class Roads for 2026-2027 – Darby’s Head Road” (circulated with the agenda). whereby the Province will pave the road as part of their Cost Shared Program for Paving of J Class Roads and the Municipality will contribute \$100,000 (excluding HST) as their share. The Municipality has sufficient funds for this project, and the work is scheduled to be completed in 2026/2027.

Discussion highlights:

- It was noted that the project was provincially administered and direct contact with residents had not typically been done, but it would be explored.
- It was confirmed that if the tender comes in higher than 10% of the estimate, it will come back to Council for approval.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Veinotte and seconded by Councillor Bell that the Finance Committee recommends to Municipal Council to accept the cost sharing opportunity, as presented by Nova Scotia Department of Public Works (NSDPW), for the paving of Darbys Head Road, a J Class Road, in the amount of \$100,000.; and further, direct the Mayor to execute the Notice of Acceptance.

It was clarified that the Municipality has six J class roads on its current list, which stay on the list until completed, and additional roads can be added as needed. It was further noted that the selection of which roads are chosen is at the discretion of the Province.

The Motion was voted on and carried unanimously.

10.2 Administration Department

10.2.1 Accessibility Standards

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO, presented on “Accessibility Standards” (circulated with the agenda), emphasizing that the first set of standards and regulations under the Act are now in effect and are known as “built Environment Accessibility Standards”.

Presentation highlights:

- Accessibility standards are already built into municipal planning and upgrades meet current requirements.
- Municipalities must publish service standards online (snow clearing, accessible parking, building access).
- Snow and ice standard includes clearing sidewalks within 24 hours and maintaining accessible features.
- A complaint process allows issues to be raised with the municipality or escalated to the province.

It was noted that these standards will apply to all new sidewalks and contractors will be held to the same service standards. Also, noted was that the service standards would apply to any long-term leased space. Evaluations would be completed when leasing space short term.

11. Added Items – Nil

12. In Camera

At 9:53 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Hubley, seconded by Councillor Oickle that Finance Committee go In Camera to discuss the following items:

12.1 Land Negotiations under Section 22(2)(a) of the MGA

12.2 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA

12.3 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA

Carried unanimously.

Finance Committee In Camera in session.

At 11:21 a.m., Finance Committee came out of In Camera and returned to open session.

Finance Committee in open session

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.