

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg**Notes of a Fire & Emergency Services Committee Meeting**

Held in Council Chamber, 10 Allée Champlain Drive, Cookville, N.S.

Wednesday, May 07, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.

Attendance

Brian Keizer, District 1 & 2 Fire Commission - Chair
Chief Darren Mulock, Northfield District Fire Department
Emily Bowers, Hebbville Fire Department – Vice Chair
Councillor Morgen Reinhardt, District 1
Councillor Pam Hubley, District 4
Councillor Alison Smith, District 6
Herbert Seymour, Member-At-Large

Regrets

Deputy Chief Dean Schmeisser, Dayspring & District Volunteer Fire Department
Brooke Gray, Member-At-Large
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2
Mayor Elspeth McLean-Wile, Ex-Officio
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy C.A.O.

Staff

Chris Kennedy, Fire Services Coordinator
Sandra Challis, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order

Mr. Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and explained the FESC's nomination and elections procedure.

2. Election of Officers**2.1 Chair**

Mr. Kennedy called for nominations for the position of Chair. Those nominated by ballot for the position were Brain Keizer, Emily Bowers and Deputy Chief Dean Schmeisser. Ms. Bowers declined the nomination, and as Deputy Chief Schmeisser was not present his name was removed from the ballot. Mr. Keizer was acclaimed as Chair.

2.2 Vice Chair

Mr. Keizer called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Those nominated by ballot for the position were Councillor Hubley, Councillor Reinhardt, Councillor Smith, Chief Mulock and

Ms. Bowers. All nominees, except Ms. Bowers, declined the nomination. Ms. Bowers was declared vice chair by acclamation.

**Moved by Councillor Hubley, seconded by Emily Bowers that the ballots be destroyed.
Carried Unanimously.**

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Mr. Seymour, seconded by Emily Bowers that the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

4. Approval of Notes

The notes of February 3rd 2026, were approved as circulated.

5. Business Arising from the Notes

5.1 Approval – Amendments to Policy 036

Motion 2026-024, included in the agenda package, confirmed that Council approved the amendments to Policy 036 which related to the Code of Conduct changes.

6. L.R.F.E.S. Report

Mr. Kaizer reported that at the previous LRFES meeting the committee had discussed the provincial changes to fire services and FSANS was also discussed.

7. New Business

7.1 Fire Services Representative to FESC

Motion 2026-071, included in the agenda package, confirmed that Council approved the appointments to the FESC.

7.2 Training Initiative Review

Mr. Kennedy reviewed his presentation (circulated with the agenda) outlining the changes to date on the Firefighter Training Strategy. His presentation included:

- Level 1 now being offered through IFSTA platform
- Officers' Training (not certified) was put on in 2025/26 and is planned again for 2026/27.
- Province is considering assisting with driver training problems by providing certified examiners locally.

- Province is providing four mobile live-fire training units for use around the province.
- MODL approved \$40,000 for Level 1 fire fighter training in the 2026/27 budget.
- MODL will continue to provide soft-skills training to departments.
- A 2-day strategy and tactics course was provided targeting officers and experienced firefighters
- HazMat awareness course being held this weekend for the current Level 1 enrollment.

The Regional Training Facility was discussed, and the Province has been made aware of MODL's reserve fund. It was suggested that, rather than constructing a new facility, existing training props and regional training opportunities be expanded and upgraded.

This approach was viewed as more beneficial, as it would allow more departments to access training resources in multiple locations while remaining local to the region.

Questions were raised regarding the future use of the reserves and whether they would be allocated for this purpose. It was reported that the mayor had expressed a willingness to discuss the matter with the province; however, any proposal would need to be brought back to FESC and Council for consideration.

7.3 Registration Package KPI Data Collection

Mr. Kennedy explained that the registration document now collects a significant amount of data and asked the Committee whether they felt any key performance indicators (KPIs) were missing.

It was discussed that one of the first provincial changes will involve risk assessments and training records. The Committee agreed to include related questions in next year's registration process, and Mr. Kennedy will send a notice, or a survey to departments to advise them accordingly.

7.4 Fire Services Modernization

Mr. Keizer lead the committee's discussion on Fire Services Modernization.

Provincial changes affecting fire services are expected this fall, although many details remain unclear. It was noted that both the Fire Marshal and Assistant Fire Marshal

positions have recently changed, and there is uncertainty regarding future regulations, standards, and data collection requirements.

Discussion took place regarding risk assessments, with departments expected to receive both a tool and training to complete their own assessments. Concerns were raised about the possibility of new standards being introduced before departments are fully prepared. Administrative structures are expected to remain largely unchanged during the transition.

The Deputy Minister recently spoke at the Fire Services Conference and outlined plans for a new, more user-friendly fire call reporting system that will also track training and certification information. Training on the system will be provided, although timelines have not yet been confirmed.

A Department of Emergency Management conference for Fire Services Coordinators and Emergency Management Coordinators is scheduled for June and is expected to provide further information and opportunities for feedback. It was also noted that there does not appear to be an expectation of immediate compliance once new regulations are introduced, and the overall impression is that changes will be phased in gradually.

Members were reassured that there continues to be a place for everyone within fire departments despite concerns regarding future training standards, and that the Province's overall intent is to strengthen and improve fire services in Nova Scotia.

Discussion also included this summer's wildfire outlook, with forecasts indicating dry and hot conditions and approximately 24% of the province already classified as experiencing drought conditions. The woods ban tool may be used again, with an emphasis on appropriate application.

8. Added Items – None

9. In Camera – None

10. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.