

APPROVED

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.
Thursday, February 3rd, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.

Attendance

Brian Keizer, District 1 & 2 Fire Commission, Chair
Deputy Chief Dean Schmeisser, Dayspring & District Volunteer Fire Department Chief Darren
Chief Darren Mulock, Northfield District Fire Department
Captain Emily Bowers, Hebbville Fire Department
Councillor Morgen Reinhardt, District 1, Vice Chair
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2
Councillor Pam Hubley, District 4
Councillor Alison Smith, District 6
Herbert Seymour, Member-At-Large
Brooke Gray, Member-At-Large

Regrets

Mayor Elspeth McLean-Wile, Ex-Officio

Staff

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy C.A.O. (via Teams)
Chris Kennedy, Fire Services Coordinator
Sandra Challis, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order

Mr. Keizer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Deputy Chief Schmeisser, seconded by Herbert Seymour that the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

3. Approval of Notes

The notes of January 8th, 2026, were approved as circulated.

4. Business Arising from the Notes

4.1 Policy 036 Fire and Emergency Services amendments – Code of Conduct

Mr. Kennedy presented the proposed amendments regarding the inclusion of a Code of Conduct to Policy 036, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. After the

document's circulation, Mr. Kennedy had received comments from the municipal clerk and municipal solicitor suggesting the following alterations to proposed amendments:

- Article 14 (b) The complaint is provided to a third-party investigator from the approved municipal code of conduct investigator list for code violations who will seek clarification as required to determine if a full investigation is warranted.
- Article 15 (2) The board must review the investigative findings, and may consult with the Municipal Solicitor, and make an in camera direction to council on whether there was a breach of the code and possible remedies if there is a breach.
- Article 16 (1) Council may require anyone, or any combination, of the following

Mr. Dumaresq explained that the policy mirrors the Code of Conduct policy for Council.

Moved by Councillor Hubley, seconded by Deputy Chief Schmeisser that the Fire and Emergency Services Committee recommend that Municipal Council approve amendments to Policy 036, Fire and Emergency Services, as presented, to include new Code of Conduct provisions. Motion Carried.

5. L.R.F.E.S. Report

Mr. Keizer reported that at the last LRFES meeting, the secretary resigned and the president indicated that he would not be reoffering for the position in May. The rest of the meeting focused on discussion around the provincial modernization proposals for fire service delivery in Nova Scotia.

6. New Business

6.1 Annual Registration Package (update)

Mr. Kennedy highlighted the recent changes to the Annual Registration Package which included the addition of areas to collect member-specific driving classification information in 5d) Fire Department Membership Information, and an extra line in 5e) Fire Department Contact Information for departments with more than one deputy chief.

6.2 Fire Services Modernization – Provincial Legislation

The Committee discussed significant upcoming changes to Nova Scotia's fire service structure based on a provincial modernization initiative. Recent consultant-led sessions revealed a proposed shift that would make municipalities fully responsible for providing fire services, replacing long-standing community-based structures such as commissions and independent fire societies.

Concerns centered on:

- Loss of local autonomy for volunteer departments and uncertainty about how volunteers fit into a municipal model.
- Lack of clear communication, with documents provided but not discussed, inconsistent answers from consultants, and poor participation from fire departments across the province.
- Unanswered governance questions, including what happens to assets owned by commissions and how new standards would be enforced.
- Financial impact, as municipalities may face substantial costs for equipment, staffing, and meeting standardized service requirements.
- Training gaps, including the absence of an interim plan after the province ended its relationship with the fire school, and fears existing volunteer-led training capacity could be lost.

Opportunities noted:

- Setting consistent training and service standards across the province.
- Improving response expectations and service equity.

Next steps:

- Fire departments and municipal representatives should voice concerns directly to consultants and MLAs.
- Committee members to be provided with the documents for review
- FESC to maintain open dialogue with MODL.
- Participation in upcoming consultation sessions is essential to ensure local input is captured.

7. Added Items – None**8. In Camera – None****9. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.