

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF LUNENBURG
Minutes of a Meeting of
POLICY & STRATEGY COMMITTEE
Held in Council Chambers, 210 Aberdeen Road, Bridgewater, NS
Tuesday, January 15, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Deputy Mayor Cathy Moore, Chair, District 5
Councillor Michael Ernst, Vice-Chair, District 8
Councillor Eric Hustvedt, District 1
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2
Councillor Lee Nauss, District 3
Councillor John Veinot, District 4
Councillor Claudette Garland, District 6
Councillor Wade Carver, District 7
Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9
Councillor Errol Knickle, District 10

Regrets: Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Kevin Malloy, Chief Administrative Officer

Staff: Alex Dumaresq, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Sherry Conrad, Municipal Clerk
Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer
Joanne Powers, Executive Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Moore called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, RECOGNITION

Councillor Hustvedt suggested that a letter of congratulations be sent to Bernadette Jordan on her appointment to Federal Cabinet as Minister of Rural Economic Development.

Moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Bell that staff prepare a letter from the Mayor and Council congratulating Bernadette Jordan on her appointment to Federal Cabinet as Minister of Rural Economic Development. Carried unanimously.

3. PUBLIC INPUT – NIL

There were no members of the public in attendance to address the Committee.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Ernst, seconded by Councillor Carver that the Minutes of the November 20, 2018 Policy & Strategy Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES – NIL

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.2 Administration Department

8.2.1 GoRural Transportation Network

Mr. Dumaresq explained that following a presentation by GoRural Transportation Network to the Policy & Strategy Committee on October 16, 2018, Municipal Council agreed to give consideration in taking part in the GoRural Pilot Project pending provincial funding. He updated Councillors advising that the GoRural team met with provincial officials and learned of their ineligibility for provincial funding due to the for-profit structure of the business. Municipal staff suggested that they contact various non-profit transportation organizations to try and seek a partnership.

7. PRESENTATIONS

Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning & Development Services; Norma Schiefer, Development Officer; Melissa Deveau, Planning Technician; and John Somers, Nova Scotia Department of Environment, were in attendance.

7.1 Coastal Protection Legislation – John Somers, NS Environment

Mr. Somers reviewed the PowerPoint presentation, “Development Coastal Protection Legislation” (included in the agenda).

Mr. Somers explained that this initiative is a commitment of the Province to solve a common problem – allowing development in areas where it damages sensitive coastal ecosystems or puts properties at risk from inundation from flooding, storm surges and/or erosion. He noted that there are many stakeholders with interests in coastal areas: all levels of government; First Nations, businesses and private land owners.

The proposed legislation would consist of three key components:

- Provide authority to delineate a coastal protection zone
- Provide authority to regulate specific activities and practices with the protected zone
- Create provisions for administration, monitoring and compliance

Mr. Somers explained that when defining a coastal protection zone, it would straddle the high water mark. He stated there are 58,000+ properties that have frontage on salt water, including roads, municipal and crown land, residences and commercial properties. Within 50 metres of the high water mark, there are approximately 80,000 property identification numbers (PIDs) including 30,000 with civic addresses.

Examples of activity that could be restricted or prohibited within the coastal protection zone include: new residences, additions to existing structures and destruction of or damage to sensitive coastal ecosystems.

Mr. Somers stated that it could take one year to eighteen months to build the regulations but hoped that it would be completed sometime in 2019.

Mr. Merrill, Ms. Schiefer, Ms. Deveau and Mr. Somers left the meeting.

8.1 Finance Department

Elena Wentzell, Director of Finance, and Angela Veinot, Accounting Manager, were in attendance at the meeting.

8.1.1 MDL-49 Property Tax Rebate Policy – Proposed Amendments

Ms. Wentzell explained that at the December 4, 2018, Finance Committee meeting, staff was directed to update MDL-49 Property Tax Rebate Policy to include an additional income threshold (\$25,000 to \$29,999) and to provide information on what income levels are used by the Federal Government. She reviewed her memo which provided this information and options for consideration.

Ms. Wentzell provided two options:

- A straight 25% increase for all rebates
- A higher increase to those who need it the most – households with incomes under \$15,000

Moved by Councillor Knickle, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Policy and Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council approves the proposed amendments to Policy MDL-49 Property Tax Rebate as follows:

- 1. Section 2.4 of Policy MDL-49 be updated to include “any applicable area rates excluding property improvement charges” in definition of “Taxes”;**
- 2. Section 6.1 of Policy MDL-49 be updated to reflect Option 1 outlined in this memo;**

And hereby gives seven (7) days’ notice of its intention to approve the proposed amendments to Policy MDL-49 at the January 22, 2019 Council meeting.”

It was suggested that an amendment be made to the motion to consider option 2 as it was felt that people with a lower income level do not have as much opportunity for more income.

Moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Ernst, that the motion on the floor be amended to consider option 2. Opposed: Councillors Knickle, Whynot and Nauss. Motion carried.

The motion as amended:

That the Policy and Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council approves the proposed amendments to Policy MDL-49 Property Tax Rebate as follows:

1. **Section 2.4 of Policy MDL-49 be updated to include “any applicable area rates excluding property improvement charges” in definition of “Taxes”;**
2. **Section 6.1 of Policy MDL-49 be updated to reflect Option 2 outlined in this memo;**

And hereby gives seven (7) days’ notice of its intention to approve the proposed amendments to Policy MDL-49 at the January 22, 2019 Council meeting.”

Opposed: Councillor Nauss. Motion carried.

8.2.2 Draft In Camera Meetings Policy

Ms. Conrad noted that at the December 18, 2018, meeting of the Policy & Strategy Committee, a draft In Camera Meeting Policy was reviewed and a number of points were raised that required a decisions by Councillors.

Discussion took place around the discussion items in Ms. Conrad’s report. A roundtable survey was done regarding whether the Committee would continue with taking notes for In Camera sessions only or if minutes would be required. The general consensus was that the Committee would stay with the present procedure, rather than creating an In Camera Meetings Policy.

Moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Knickle that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council approve that Councillors who did not attend an In Camera Meeting of Council, Finance Committee or Policy & Strategy Committee be permitted to view the notes from the meeting by appointment with the Municipal Clerk. Opposed: Deputy Mayor Moore and Councillors Whynot, Ernst, Carver, Garland, Veinot, Nauss and Bell. Motion defeated.

Moved by Councillor Garland, seconded by Councillor Veinot that we keep the current practice of In Camera procedures as status quo. Opposed: Councillor Ernst. Motion carried.

8.2.3 Request for Street Lights – Exit 12

Ms. Conrad explained that a request was received from a business owner with regard to the Municipality installing and maintaining street lights along the Municipality’s sidewalk on Highway 10.

Ms. Conrad reviewed the Municipality’s three policies relating to street lights but advised that none of the policies accommodate a request for the Municipality to pay the installation and usage charges for street lighting on a provincial or municipal road.

The Committee discussed that it should be considered from a safety point of view due to the fact that the sidewalk is often used by students from the French School and the possible construction of a new administration building. The Committee decided not to proceed until Nathan Cirrilo Drive has been constructed to see what was needed for street lights at that time.

8.2.4 20/19 Strategic Priorities

Mr. Dumaresq provided a PowerPoint presentation, "Strategic Priorities 2019/20" (attached to the original minutes).

Mr. Dumaresq reviewed Council's Vision Statement and provided some highlights from the 2018/19 Strategic Priorities, including: rural internet, roads, the LaHave River Straight Pipe Project, and recreation assets. He also talked about the change in the management structure of the Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre (LCLC), the work being done with Lyme disease, the progress of the new administration building and the various efforts towards public engagement.

Mr. Dumaresq discussed a notable trend in Council's Strategic Priorities, that being the inclusion of a number of multi-year projects, and pointed out that this lessens the potential for the addition of new projects.

Mr. Dumaresq identified a number of existing projects and potential priorities that are competing for municipal resources: Garden Lots water and sewer; Osprey Village development; unified Building Services; transit; Village of Hebbville flooding concerns; combination of planning districts; sewer rates; and district projects (litter clean-up and developing a wayside park in Indian Point).

Moved by Councillor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Hustvedt that the Policy and Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council approves the Strategic Priorities Chart as presented. Carried unanimously.

9. MAYOR'S/DEPUTY MAYOR'S/COUNCILLORS' MATTERS

9.1 Update on Waste Issues (M. Ernst)

Councillor Ernst provided an update on a conference offered by the Waste Reduction Association of Nova Scotia (WRANS) regarding litter reduction.

The Two Bags Free Program offered through the Lunenburg Regional Community Recycling Centre (LRCRC) was discussed. There was some question as to the intent of the program and it was suggested that it be forwarded to the Municipal Joint Service Board (MJSB) for clarification.

Clarification was provided on agricultural wrap. It goes to landfill as it is considered too contaminated to recycle.

Councillor Ernst brought to the Committee's attention that Halifax Regional Municipality, Town of Lunenburg, Town of Mahone Bay and Town of Bridgewater are all discussing the ban of single-use plastics.

9.2 Notification to Local Residents & Landowners When MODL is Developing a Park or Other Project (M. Ernst)

Councillor Ernst requested to know what steps are taken to notify the landowners in the immediate area when a park or other piece of infrastructure is developed within MODL.

It was explained that MODL's Recreation Department is very much involved in the development of parks throughout the Municipality and that involvement includes many opportunities for public engagement, and the establishment of Management Committees.

11. ADDED ITEMS - NIL

12. **IN CAMERA - NIL**

13. **NEXT MEETING** – February 19, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business at 11:43 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Hustvedt that the meeting adjourn. Carried.