

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF LUNENBURG
Minutes of a Meeting of
POLICY & STRATEGY COMMITTEE
Held in Council Chambers, 210 Aberdeen Road, Bridgewater, NS
Tuesday, February 19, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Deputy Mayor Cathy Moore, Chair, District 5
Councillor Michael Ernst, Vice-Chair, District 8
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
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 (arrived at 10:15 a.m.)
Councillor Wade Carver, District 7
Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9
Councillor Errol Knickle, District 10

Staff: Kevin Malloy, Chief Administrative Officer
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 thanked Council members for their donation to ProKids in memory of his late mother.

Councillor Ernst congratulated Colin Ward of Indian Point who is representing Nova Scotia for the third time in cross-country skiing at the Canada Winter Games in Red Deer, Alberta.

Councillor Nauss congratulated Vincent d'Entremont from Hebbville who was on the men's gymnastic team that won a bronze medal, Nova Scotia's first medal of the 2019 Canada Winter Games in Red Deer, Alberta.

3. PUBLIC INPUT – NIL

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

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Ernst that the Minutes of the January 15, 2019 Policy & Strategy Committee meeting be approved as circulated.

It was pointed out that at the January 15, 2019 Policy & Strategy Committee meeting, a motion for Item 8.2.2 – Draft In Camera Meetings Policy was defeated but was referred to the January 22, 2019 Council meeting for approval. It was explained that it was an error to take it to Council as it was originally defeated. An item to deal with the motion will be included on the February 26, 2019 Council agenda.

Motion carried.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES - NIL

7. PRESENTATIONS - NIL

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.1 Finance Department

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance; Britt Vegsund, Active Living Coordinator; and Dave Waters, Director of Business Development, Tourism and Infrastructure were in attendance at the meeting.

8.1.1 Request from Minister of Municipal Affairs re Recurring Water Issues

Mr. Dumaresq reported that correspondence was received from the Minister of Municipal Affairs requesting that municipalities share their ideas or options on how to address recurring water shortages.

Mayor Bolivar-Getson advised that she was requested to attend a meeting with Minister Porter during the last Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) Conference to discuss the drought conditions in recent years along Southwestern Nova Scotia. The conversation centered around the availability of public water systems where individuals could fill water jugs if their wells were dry. The Province is attempting to find community-based solutions and Minister Porter indicated that money could be available to Municipalities.

Mr. Malloy noted that he took part in a conference call with the Officers of the Regional Emergency Management Organization (REMO) who also are looking for common solutions to water issues in the area. Ms. MacKenzie-Carey, the local REMO Coordinator, does not recommend putting any responsibility on local fire departments as it would cause issues around water testing and water availability. It was noted that providing water coupons and making the Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre (LCLC) available for showers has worked well for MODL.

A discussion of the issue was held but no comments were put forth to send to the Province.

8.2 Administration Department

8.2.1 Community Council Meetings

Ms. Kucharski discussed the possibility of reducing the number of Your Government, Your Ideas meetings to four a year, and holding two Community Council meetings annually.

The Community Council meetings would be based on the time of year and the agenda would concentrate on what was happening at that time. A better portable sound system would be purchased for use at these meetings.

Concern was raised that the meetings be centrally located throughout the Municipality to make access easy for residents and equal representation. Ms. Kucharski advised that she would bring back a proposed calendar of the meetings

Moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Ernst that the Policy and Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council approves holding two Community Council meetings annually and reduce the number of Your Government, Your Ideas Meetings to four annually. Carried unanimously.

8.2.2 Libraries Proposed Formula Funding Model

Councillor Hustvedt reported that he attended a Provincial meeting to review the proposed new Library Funding Model. He stated that some regions of the Province are experiencing declining population, therefore, the existing funding model, which is based on 2009 population numbers, is no longer valid.

With the new funding model being proposed, the Municipality would be looking at an increase of \$41,566 per year. The question was raised where the increase came from and Councillor Hustvedt committed to getting an answer to the question.

Chair Deputy Mayor Moore stepped down from the table and left the meeting at 9:55 a.m. Vice-Chair Councillor Ernst chaired the meeting.

8.3 Recreation Department

8.3.1 NS Health Authority Strategic Plan Renewal

Ms. Vegsund reviewed the PowerPoint presentation, "Healthier Together Renewing Our Plan 2019-22" (included in the agenda package).

Ms. Vegsund reported that the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) is renewing its strategic plan and is seeking community input on its third strategic direction, "to focus less on the means of engaging, and more on the end results, healthier Nova Scotians".

Ms. Vegsund reviewed examples of MODL's programs, strategies and partnerships that contribute to achieving a healthier future for residents (page 24 of agenda).

Deputy Mayor Moore returned to the Council Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

It was suggested that the Province look at a badge or crest that can be given out under a program such as a log book where an individual gets it signed for designated activities; and, after so many activities, the participant gets a badge.

Ms. Vegsund was directed to write a letter to the NSHA outlining the Municipality's examples and discussion.

Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Municipality write a letter to the NS Health Authority outlining the Municipality's comments on the third strategic direction as discussed. Carried unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Moore returned to the Chair position.

Councillor Garland arrived at 10:15 a.m.

8.4 Economic Development

8.4.1 Internet Update

Ms. Kucharski noted that even though access to the internet is not a municipal responsibility, MODL has been very active in advocating for improved internet for municipal residents. She advised that the Province of Nova Scotia in July 2018, made Develop Nova Scotia, a Crown Corporation, responsible for developing and implementing a strategy to improve internet access across the Province.

Through meetings with Develop Nova Scotia, it was made clear that Develop Nova Scotia is responsible for solving the internet problems in Nova Scotia. MODL will continue to move forward with the three projects that are currently underway and will work with Develop Nova Scotia on their selected projects, but staff are recommending that the Municipality take a pause on leading any new projects until more direction comes forward from Develop Nova Scotia.

Mr. Waters left the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

9. COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

9.1 Recommendation from Nominating Committee re Provincial Volunteer

Moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Carver that the Policy and Strategy Committee approves the recommendation of the Nominating Committee to award the 2019 Provincial Volunteer Representative for the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg to Greg Selig of New Germany. Carried unanimously.

Councillor Hustvedt outlined his volunteer activities.

10. MAYOR'S/DEPUTY MAYOR'S/COUNCILLORS' MATTERS - NIL

11. ADDED ITEMS - NIL

12. IN CAMERA

12.1 Personnel Matter under Section 22(2)(c) of the MGA

At 10:55 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Carver that the Policy & Strategy Committee go In Camera to discuss the following item:

12.1 Personnel Matter under Section 22(2)(c) of the MGA

Carried unanimously.

Policy & Strategy Committee In Camera in session.

At 11:02 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Mayor Bolivar-Getson that the Policy & Strategy Committee come out of In Camera and return to open session. Carried unanimously.

Policy & Strategy Committee in session.

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

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at 11:02 a.m., it was moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Hustvedt that the meeting adjourn. Carried.