

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF LUNENBURG  
Minutes of a Meeting of  
**POLICY & STRATEGY COMMITTEE**  
Held in Council Chambers, 210 Aberdeen Road, Bridgewater, NS  
**Tuesday, May 21, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.**

**ATTENDANCE**

Deputy Mayor Cathy Moore, Chair, District 5  
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson (left meeting at 9:45 a.m. & returned at 11:20 a.m.)  
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 Michael Ernst, Vice-Chair, District 8  
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 Nauss made an apology to Council and staff for a statement that was made the previous week during discussions regarding the park in New Germany.

**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 Whynot that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Motion carried.**

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A change to Section 9.1 of the minutes of April 16, 2019, was suggested. Councillor Hustvedt suggested that in the last paragraph of that Section where it stated, "...where someone would be worse off by applying for both rebates" be replaced with "...where a senior in that position would not benefit from applying for both rebates".

**Moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the Minutes of the April 16, 2019 Policy & Strategy Committee meeting be approved as amended.**

**Motion carried.**

## **6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES - NIL**

Clarification was requested regarding a statement made by the Mayor at the last Policy and Strategy Committee meeting regarding the Litter Incentive Program, "...the MJSB was not prepared to administer a program because it is already doing a good job and incentives are not necessary." To clarify, Mayor Bolivar-Getson stated that there are a lot of litter cleanup groups in the area, therefore, the MJSB did not feel an incentive program was necessary as the groups are already doing a good job.

## **7. PRESENTATIONS**

### **7.1 Town of Bridgewater Public Transit System**

Ms. Jessica McDonald, Director of Community Development, and Ms. MacKenzie Childs, Planner, were present at the meeting to review the presentation on the Town of Bridgewater Public Transit System.

Ms. Childs provided an overview of the Bridgewater Public Transit System. She explained that it is a one bus, one loop, one hour service that runs six days a week. There are 25 scheduled stops but also includes a flag stop system along some areas of the route. As of March 2019, the daily ridership, on average, was 109 passengers a day.

Ms. McDonald reviewed both the pilot year budget and the 2018/19 budget. They were able to exceed the forecasted fare revenue for a total of \$45,000 and the advertising revenue finished out the fiscal year at \$13,500. A grant was just received from the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage which enabled them to purchase a new bus.

Ms. Childs reported that over the last few months, signage has been installed at all bus stops and a Transit Tracker was launched which uses real-time GPS technology to pinpoint the location of the bus and display it on a map.

Ms. McDonald explained that, for now, their future plans are to keep things as is, and only operate within the town limits. In order to provide service outside of their municipal boundary, they would become regulated by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB). They would then be required to ask the NSUARB if they wanted to make any changes, losing their present flexibility. Having the ability to adapt their transit system to the needs of the ridership is what has made it so successful.

Ms. McDonald advised that they have done some research on taxi bus service, which is similar to "first to the last mile" service. It is often used where there is a fixed-route service, and there is a deviation from that route. A taxi-bus could be subsidized and be on a fixed timeframe like a bus from a fixed stop. Ms. McDonald explained that they would share their research information with MODL.

It was discussed that not only is there a need for bus service to and from Exit 12 but also to Park View Education Centre (PVEC) which is located within the Town limits.

The Town advised they have considered including PVEC, but it would change their one hour loop schedule. They are interested in gaining more youth engagement though, so they continue to look at various ideas.

Ms. McDonald and Ms. Childs left the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

## **8. CONSIDERATION OF CORRESPONDENCE**

### **8.1 Summary of Bill 92: Power to Expend**

Mr. Dumaresq reviewed the Summary of Bill 92: Power to Expend (included in the agenda). He explained that there were recent changes to the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* which resulted in major change to the legislation that governs municipalities.

Mr. Dumaresq explained the main purpose of the *MGA* is to give broad authority to councils and respect their right to govern municipalities in whatever ways they consider appropriate; and to provide services, facilities and other things that, in the opinion of the council, are necessary or desirable for all or part of the municipality. Section 65 – Power to Expend, which specifically listed where municipalities could spend money, has been removed from the Act. Municipalities now have greater powers and responsibility to pursue community interests. Although this will enhance local decision-making authority, it also could increase spending pressure from residents and pressure to fund provincial responsibilities (i.e. health care, etc).

Mayor Bolivar-Getson left the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

## **9. STAFF REPORTS**

### **9.1 Administration Department**

Sherry Darling, Payroll and Benefits Administrator, was present at meeting.

#### **9.1.1 Repeal & Replace – Policy MDL-45 “Salary Administration”**

Mr. Malloy explained that, with the approval of revised Salary Scales in October 2018, a new Salary Administration Policy was required. He highlighted the changes to the new Policy MDL-45 “Salary Administration”.

Mr. Malloy noted that the appropriate starting point for any proper evaluation of a position is the position description itself. A process is now in place to ensure all position descriptions are kept up-to-date and consistent. He explained that cost of living adjustments, based on the National Consumer Price Index (CPI) as determined by Statistics Canada as of December 31 of each year, will be paid to employees on April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Step increases, through the salary bands, will be considered on an annual basis on October 1<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year, dependent on a satisfactory Performance Review.

**Moved by Councillor Garland, seconded by Councillor Bell that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council repeal the existing Policy MDL-45 “Salary Administration” that was approved on October 16, 2008 and amended on November 10, 2009 and June 14, 2011 and replace it with the new attached Policy MDL-45; and, hereby gives notice that Council will be considering approving the repeal of and the replacement of the Policy at the June 11, 2019 Council meeting. Carried unanimously.**

Ms. Darling left the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

## **9.2 Economic Development**

Dave Waters, Director of Business Development, Tourism and Infrastructure was in attendance at the meeting.

### **9.2.1 Regional Economic Development Overview**

Mr. Waters provided a Regional Economic Development Overview. The following topics were discussed:

- South Shore Regional Enterprise Network – Lessons Learned
- What Economic Development Looks Like Today
- Who is Doing What?
- Capacity Building
- Economic Think Tanks
- Navigation
- People Attraction/Placemaking
- Invest Attraction
- Tourism Attraction
- Tourism Information Services
- Tourism Capacity Building
- Tourism Product Development
- Potential Gaps
- Existing and Previous Regional Based Projects
- Possible Future Projects

Mr. Waters reported that future projects include a land/asset review and plan; regional collaboration and marketing; client point of contact; and business advisory services. He explained that he receives a number of requests for places to establish new businesses or to renovate and MODL does not presently have a good inventory of what is available. The Municipality of East Hants has a very good system that he would like to see implemented in Lunenburg County.

Mr. Waters was requested to provide Committee members with an updated copy of appraised MODL properties located in Osprey Village.

Mr. Waters is working closely with representatives from the other local municipal units on a proposed plan moving forward. The group consists of Erin Lowe, Municipality of Chester; Patrick Hirtle, Town of Bridgewater; Maureen Hughes, Town of Mahone Bay; Bea Renton, Town of Lunenburg; and himself. The plan is to also hold regional working group meetings which would include Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), Nova Scotia Business Inc. (NSBI), and South Shore Opportunities, to discuss regional-based projects.

### **9.3 NOW Lunenburg County Doctor Recruitment, Tina Hennigar**

Tina Hennigar, Growth Coordinator with NOW Lunenburg County, was present at the meeting and reviewed her presentation (included in the agenda).

Ms. Hennigar reported that NOW Lunenburg County is working on population growth and, in the forefront of their work, is doctor recruitment and attraction. She pointed out that all communities across Nova Scotia are working towards the same goal. NOW Lunenburg County has been partnering with Nova Scotia Health Authority by attending doctor recruitment conferences and talking about the area to medical students.

Ms. Hennigar advised there is an upcoming conference being held in St. John, New Brunswick that she hopes to attend. NOW Lunenburg County would like to create an engaging backdrop showing images from all over Lunenburg County that could then be used by all municipalities as well as other organizations. They also hope to hold a second community engagement event where doctors are invited to attend, and in turn, they receive hours towards their required professional development. These events offer doctors an opportunity to share suggestions including how to make new doctors feel welcome. They are in dire need of locums which are doctors that come to the area for a week or a few days to give local doctors a break. One of the problems was that there was no place for locums to stay when they come to the area. So, NOW Lunenburg County now has an apartment available for locums to use when in the area.

NOW Lunenburg County asked MODL for a contribution of \$5,000 which would go towards their fundraising efforts in creating a backdrop for events and in hosting another doctor engagement event.

#### **9.2.2 NOW Lunenburg County Decision re Funding for Doctor Recruitment**

**Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council award \$5,000 to the Lunenburg County Community Fund / Community Foundation of Nova Scotia for NOW Lunenburg County's Doctor Recruitment Initiative.**

**Moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the motion on the floor be amended to include the wording "to be used for a conference backdrop and a doctor engagement session" at the end of the motion.**

**Opposed – Deputy Mayor Moore, Councillors Bell, Nauss, Veinot, Garland, Carver, Ernst, Whynot and Knickle. Amendment defeated.**

**The motion on the floor was voted on and carried unanimously.**

Ms. Hennigar left the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

## **10. MAYOR'S/DEPUTY MAYOR'S/COUNCILLORS' MATTERS**

### **10.1 Signage Blockhouse – Councillor Ernst**

Councillor Ernst reported that the Blockhouse and Area Ratepayers' Kinship (BARK) wishes to install signs at four entry points into the community:

1. On the Cornwall Road
2. On the Northwest Road
3. On the Maitland side of Highway 325
4. On the Mahone Bay side of Highway 325

BARK took their request to Glen Strang, Area Manager, Lunenburg/Queens Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, and they were told the request for signage must come from the area Municipal Councillor.

**Moved by Councillor Ernst, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg contact Mr. Strang at the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal advising of their support for signage in the Blockhouse area by the Blockhouse and Area Ratepayers' Kinship. Carried unanimously.**

### **10.2 Report from NSFM Spring Conference – Councillor Hustvedt**

Councillor Hustvedt provided a report on the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) Spring Conference which was recently held in Truro. He advised that he felt the spring conference was the best he had attended since becoming a Councillor. As an overview item from the conference, he reported that NSFM is transitioning from a lobby group to an advocacy group similar to that of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). Other topics of interest that were reported on included doctor recruitment, and amalgamation of Windsor and West Hants Municipalities.

Mayor Bolivar-Getson returned to the meeting at 11:20 am.

Other Committee members who attended the NSFM Conference mentioned that the guest speaker, Rick Hanson, who spoke on accessibility, was an extraordinary speaker. Networking with other municipalities was considered an important part of the conference as well.

In order for all Council members to review the proceedings of the conference, staff was directed to look into providing NSFM website passwords to everyone.

### **10.3 Report of CPT's Consultation in Lunenburg re County Transit System – Councillor Hustvedt**

Byung Jun Kang, Planner, was present at the meeting.

Councillor Hustvedt provided a report on consultations with the Citizens for Public Transit (CPT). They are putting together a feasibility study to try and determine if there is sufficient interest for a public transit system and they held the first of three planned community meetings. It was advised that surveys will be available at the MODL office.

Mr. Kang left the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

## **11. ADDED ITEMS - NIL**

**12. IN CAMERA**

**12.1 Indian Point Firehall Possible Insurance Claim under Section 22(2)(g) of the MGA**

**At 11:40 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the Policy & Strategy Committee go *In Camera* to discuss the Indian Point Firehall Possible Insurance Claim under Section 22(2)(g) of the *Municipal Government Act*. Carried.**

Policy & Strategy Committee *In Camera* in session.

**At 12:00 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Carver that the Policy & Strategy Committee come out of *In Camera* and return to open session. Carried.**

Policy & Strategy Committee in session.

**13. NEXT MEETING – June 18, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.**

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business at 12:01 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Carver that the meeting adjourn. Carried.**