

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF LUNENBURG
Minutes of a Meeting of
POLICY & STRATEGY COMMITTEE
Held in Bridgewater NS
Tuesday, December 17, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Deputy Mayor Eric Hustvedt, District 1, Chair
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2
Councillor Lee Nauss, District 3 (left meeting at 9:39 a.m., returned 10:35 a.m.)
Councillor John Veinot, District 4
Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5
Councillor Claudette Garland, District 6, Vice-Chair
Councillor Wade Carver, District 7
Councillor Michael Ernst, District 8
Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9
Councillor Errol Knickle, District 10 (arrived 9:57 a.m.)

Staff: Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Sherry Conrad, Municipal Clerk
Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer
Sandra Challis, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Hustvedt called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and began by acknowledging that the meeting was held in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, RECOGNITION - Nil

3. PUBLIC INPUT

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

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the Minutes of the November 19, 2019 Policy & Strategy Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES – NIL

7. PRESENTATIONS - NIL

8. REFERRAL FROM COUNCIL

8.1 Working Draft Horses in Canada

Mr. Dumaresq referred to the memo on Working Draft Horses in Canada (circulated with agenda) and asked for direction from Council on how they wished to further this matter. It was noted that there were several museum properties in the Province which could be encouraged to observe this heritage and also that Exhibition organizations could come together to lobby government.

Moved by Councillor Ernst, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Municipality write letters to the Honourable Bernadette Jordon, Member of Parliament and Provincial MLAs, Suzanne Lohnes-Croft and Mark Furey, advising of Mr. Oickle's concerns and asking them to support an end to horse slaughtering in Canada and to recommend the promotion and use of draft horses at heritage sites in Nova Scotia. Motion carried unanimously.

9. STAFF REPORTS

Tissy Bolivar, Acting Director of Recreation Services, was in attendance at the meeting.

9.1 Recreation Department

9.1.1 Sponsorship Ad Request – Bridgewater Curling Club

Ms. Bolivar reviewed her memo Sponsorship Ad Grant: Bridgewater Curling Club (circulated with agenda) requesting a renewal of last year's Lead Level sponsorship.

Moved by Councillor Wynot, seconded by Mayor Bolivar-Getson that the Policy and Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council approve the sponsorship ad request of the Bridgewater Curling Club for \$125 plus tax for the "Lead" level sponsorship, for their annual promotional campaign; and further, that the funds be redirected from the Community Recreation Program account to cover the outstanding request. Motion carried unanimously.

9.1.2 Financial Support Request – Bridgewater Fire Department Band

Ms. Bolivar reviewed her memo Financial Assistance Request: Bridgewater Fire Department Band (circulated with agenda) which recommended assistance of \$1000.00 to support the Band to perform at The Last Post Ceremony at Ypres in August 2020. The trip is anticipated to cost \$66,000; The Band had already set aside \$35,000 and they would be fundraising to meet the shortfall. Ms. Bolivar explained that the request did not meet the criteria for any of the existing municipal grants, and suggested funds could be drawn from the Remembrance Day Grant and Community Event Grant. It was noted that there would be no further demand on the first grant in this fiscal year, and there would still be funds available to other organizations for the latter grant.

The Committee discussed the request for funding and the following points were highlighted:

- The Fire Department Band did not ask for a specific amount of money
- This is a unique honour being bestowed upon The Band and a significant achievement

- No financial statements had been provided as to sources for anticipated income and fund raising.
- Bridgewater is Canada's oldest Fire Department Bands and one of the few remaining marching bands in the Country.
- The Band consists of 40 members who are going to be making personal contributions to the trip.
- Flight tickets have already been purchased.
- The Band was previously approved \$2000.00 in 2011/12 for a trip to Ottawa
- Municipal contingency funds could be used

Direction was given to Staff to revise the report to include information of The Band's expected income and to request that the Bridgewater Fire Department Band make a presentation to Council.

9.2 Administration Department

9.2.1 Amending Terms of References for Advisory Committee

Ms. Conrad explained in her Request for Decision (circulated with agenda) that there is inconsistency in the terms of reference across Municipal advisory committees regarding the requirements for meetings. It was noted that some Advisory Committees are meeting purely to satisfy the terms of reference, and not for any real purpose. It was reported that members of these Advisory Committees are unpaid volunteers.

It was noted that Committee members may lose interest in participating without regular meetings, and it was important for Staff to call meetings when there were pertinent issues.

Moved by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Bell that the Policy and Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council amends the Terms of Reference for all MODL advisory committees to specify that committee meetings will be held on an as-needed basis at the call of the chair, or as directed by Council, and that any future Terms of References developed for advisory committees contain the same wording.

Motion carried unanimously.

9.2.2 Strategic Priorities 2020/21

Mr. Dumaresq presented the proposed Strategic Priorities for 2020/2021 (circulated with agenda). He explained this was an annual process, useful for establishing priority workplans for Staff and organizing finances to be in place through budget. It was also shown to be an important tool to communicate Council priorities to the residents.

The chart presented reflected many of the ideas brought forward during the recent *Your Government Your Ideas* public engagement and the five key themes were:

- Access to High Speed Internet – Remains one of the most discussed issues and is firmly set as a strategic priority with projects ongoing and in the pipeline
- Roads – mostly a Provincial matter, but the Municipality does have the ability to directly and indirectly influence where improvements occur, this is included as a priority.

- Climate Change – Council has declared a Climate Emergency and is working to include it as a priority.
- Lyme Disease – Currently in the middle of a 3-year project and educational campaign and already identified as a priority
- Healthcare/Doctor Recruitment – clearly a Provincial responsibility, but the Municipality does support groups which are trying to recruit Doctors to the area.

A discussion was held regarding the title “Climate Emergency Response” on the chart; this had changed from the 2019/20 priorities chart when it was “Flood Mitigation”. It was noted that by changing the title it could be perceived that Flood Mitigation is no longer a priority of Council. Mr. Dumaresq explained the outcome of “...including continued study of flood risk in the Petite Riviere Watershed” could highlight to residents that flood mitigation was not going to be lost. It was agreed that changing the title of the chart to incorporate both issues would not change the work plan but would be clearer to the residents where Council’s priorities lie.

It was noted that the following projects were not included in the Strategic Priorities and a status update was provided:

- Point of Sale Legislation for Septic Systems – priority has been on completing inspections and there has not been time yet to develop advocate-strategy. It is hoped that this will be looked at later in 2020/21
- Shared Building Services – Participating units have done some work to harmonise databases and there will be some software testing over the winter. The plan is to begin testing joint inspection scheduling, the biggest improvement to service provision, to be ready for next summer’s busy building season.
- Transference into Provincial Pension Plan – The heavy work has already been completed; it is currently with legal to complete the transfers.
- Development of Indian Point Rest Stop and Sherbrooke Lake – should time and finances allow, these projects *could* be included in the year’s workplan. The purpose of the chart is to prioritize projects and focus efforts, and should Council wish to change their priorities this will need to be reflected.

It was also requested that an updated map of internet coverage be provided. Staff noted that an updated map would be distributed with the presentation of a potential project in the works.

Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Carver that the Policy and Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council approves the 2020/21 Strategic Priorities Chart as amended to include the change to the presentation chart including Flood Mitigation with Climate Emergency Response.

Opposed by Councillor Ernst. Motion Carried.

10. MAYOR’S/DEPUTY MAYOR’S/COUNCILLORS’ MATTERS

10.1 Report of NSFM Conference, November 5 to 8, 2019 (Deputy Mayor Hustvedt)

Deputy Mayor Hustvedt gave a verbal report of the recent NSFM Conference which was attended by 250 delegates from Nova Scotia. Key points reported were:

- Councillor Moore was recognized for 15 years service

- Councillor Veinot was recognized for 25 years service
- Priorities endorsed by NSFM: CAP, EPR, Roads, Municipal Funding and Municipal Modernization. Should any of these priorities be completed, the next priorities in line were Sustainability, Infrastructure Funding, Climate Change, Policing, Municipal Response to Canada and Surplus Schools.
- Valuable keynote address on the relationship between elected officials and the residents they represent.
- Interesting session by Amaresco – Are your Municipal Facilities climate ready?
- Networking with other officials and Staff worthwhile

Councillor Bell reported on a presentation about Emergency Hubs and how the software could be an efficient communication tool for EMO coordination during “events”. It was suggested that EMO should investigate the matter further.

It was suggested that attendees to future conferences could report back to the Committee on five useful ideas in a summary report.

10.2 Cermaq Canada (Councillor Ernst)

Councillor Ernst brought forward an article from the Progress Bulletin (circulated with agenda). Cermaq Canada have secured licenses for fish farming in Mahone Bay, but there is little information available publicly. Councillor Garland reported that Cermaq have recently presented to Town of Lunenburg’s Council and Town of Mahone Bay’s Council. They are intending to hold public information sessions in 2020, once they have gathered data on the region; they are currently concentrating on Guysborough County.

Moved by Councillor Ernst, seconded by Councillor Knickle that Council approach Cermaq Canada to make a public presentation to Council on their plans for development on this side of Canada. Motion carried unanimously.

10.3 Region 6 Update (Councillor Ernst)

Councillor Ernst reviewed summary notes from the Regional Chairs Workshop he had attended in October. The summary (circulated with agenda) provided a map showing how each region’s waste was moved in order to be dealt with and pointed towards inefficiencies that may have been historically politically generated. The Regional Chairs were proposing that Waste Management is always included on the agenda for NSFM conferences as it is a large line item for municipalities and officials should be aware of how waste is handled and perhaps to discuss how regions could coordinate better.

11. ADDED ITEMS - NIL

12. IN CAMERA

At 10:25 am., it was moved by Mayor Bolivar Getson, seconded by Councillor Carver that the Policy & Strategy Committee go In Camera to discuss:

12.1 contract negotiations with the Town of Bridgewater under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA; and,

12.2 Legal Advice re: LaHave River Straight Pipe Program under Section 22(2)(g) of the MGA.
Motion carried unanimously.

Policy & Strategy Committee *In Camera* in session.

At 11:48 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Carver that the Policy & Strategy Committee come out of *In Camera* and return to open session.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Policy & Strategy Committee in session.

13. NEXT MEETING – January 21, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at 11.50 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the meeting adjourn.
Motion Carried Unanimously.