

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Minutes of a Meeting of Policy & Strategy Committee

Via Audio and Video Conference

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

Attendance:

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Deputy Mayor Eric Hustvedt, District 1, Chair
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2
Councillor Lee Nauss, District 3
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

Staff

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO
Sherry Conrad, Municipal Clerk
Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer
Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance
Angela Veinot, Accounting Manager
Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning and Development Services
Darren Shupe, Senior Planner
Zachary Thompson, Sustainability Planner
Byung Jun Kang, Planner
Maria Butts, Project Coordinator, LaHave River Straight Pipe Replacement Program
Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation
Stephen Pace, Director of Engineering & Public Works
Tina Robichaud-Bond, Executive Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Hustvedt called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/RECOGNITION - Nil

3. PUBLIC INPUT - Nil

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Garland, seconded by Councillor Bell that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of February 18, 2020

Moved by Councillor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Ernst that the Minutes of the February 18, 2020 Policy & Strategy Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

6.1 Update – Request for Crosswalk at 4-Way Stop in Blockhouse

Ms. Conrad reported that as of the last DOTIR update of July 24, 2020, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal advised that the intersection at Blockhouse has been identified as a priority for improvements and that the request for a crosswalk has been deferred until a decision was made as to the improvements of the intersection.

7. PRESENTATIONS - Nil

8. REFERRAL FROM COUNCIL - Nil

9. STAFF REPORTS

9.1 Planning Department

9.1.1 Current Corporate GHG Emissions Inventory

Mr. Thompson gave a presentation, “Local Climate Change Action Plan” (attached to Minutes). He reported that Council declared a Climate Emergency in October 2019, including it as a strategic priority, and joined the Partners for Climate Protection Program (PCP program).

He explained the PCP program and provided the following information:

- Program has five (5) Milestones and provided an overview of each.
- Municipality completed Milestone #1 and report submitted to FCM
- Overview of total emissions by sector in tonnes
- Overview of Energy Sources used
- Overview of 2019 consumption
- Points to consider
- Opportunities to reduce emissions

- Steps currently being taken
- Steps going forward
- Timeline for remainder of 2020

It was noted that the amount of diesel consumption reported for the Municipality included diesel use in all contract vehicles such as garbage trucks, snowplows, paving vehicles, etc.

9.2 Finance Department

9.2.1 MDL-49 Property Tax Rebate Policy Proposed Amendment re Late Applications

Ms. Wentzell reviewed her report, “MDL-49 Property Tax Rebate Policy Proposed Amendments re Late Applications” (circulated with the Agenda). She reported that under the current policy, applications for tax rebates received after the deadline date of August 1st are not considered. She noted that the program was originally set up to alleviate the tax burden to homeowners in the Municipality. It was suggested at the Finance Committee meeting that addressing last applications the same way we do for late grant applications would work towards the goal of the program.

Ms. Wentzell noted that the actual rebate amounts over the last two years have been less than the budget amounts and making a change to consider late applications would not affect the budget.

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

Section 7.1 of Policy MDL-49 be added as follows: “Late applications will be considered only after the regular review of those applicants that submitted an application on time. Late applications will be subject to annual budget constraints as set out in Section 6.2.

and hereby gives seven (7) days’ notice of its intention to approve the proposed amendment to Policy MDL-49 at the September 22, 2020 Council meeting. Carried unanimously.

9.3 Engineering Department

9.3.1 Update – LaHave River Straight Pipe Replacement Program

Ms. Butts gave a presentation updating Council on the LaHave River Straight Pipe Replacement Program (attached to Minutes). She reported the following:

- Program Participants

- Installation Progress and 2020 Targets
- Inspection Program

A question was asked regarding progress made on the point of sale legislation. Mr. Dumaresq advised that there was nothing to update at the present time as staff was not able to focus on the matter during the pandemic months.

As Deputy Mayor Hustvedt was presenting the next topic, Councillor Garland took the Chair.

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

10.1 Facilitating a Transportation Link Between Osprey Village and the Town of Bridgewater

Deputy Mayor Hustvedt gave a presentation on a proposed transportation link between Osprey Village and the Town of Bridgewater (attached to Minutes). He noted the following:

- Strategy
 - Continued development of Osprey Village/Pine Grove area
 - Wider shopping area and access to more job opportunities
- Policy
 - Municipality invested in planning and have reserved funds for transit.
 - Provincial policy allows municipalities to delve into transit matters
 - Historically, the Municipality's preference has been to facilitate service delivery rather than provide direct service.
- For Consideration
 - Issue RFP for transportation service between Town of Bridgewater and Osprey Village area at Exit 12, opened to non-profit organizations, business or municipal units

Mayor Bolivar-Getson left the meeting.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommend to Council that the following motion be put on the next Policy & Strategy Committee agenda:

“that the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg issue a Request for Proposal, open to any non-profit organization, business or municipality to work with MODL to provide a transportation service between the Town of Bridgewater and the Osprey Village area at Exit 12.”

Carried unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Hustvedt returned to the Chair.

It was noted that the Feasibility Study circulated with the Agenda would be brought to a future Policy & Strategy Committee meeting for discussion.

11. ADDED ITEMS – Nil

12. IN CAMERA – Nil

13. NEXT MEETING – November 17, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at 11:13 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Carver that the meeting adjourn. Carried.