

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
Minutes of a Meeting of the Policy & Strategy Committee
Via Audio and Video Conferencing
Tuesday, July 20, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

Attendance:

Deputy Mayor Martin Bell, District 2, Chair
Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8, Vice-Chair
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Councillor Leitha Haysom, District 1
Councillor Wendy Oickle, District 3
Councillor Pam Hubley, District 4
Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5
Councillor Sandra Statton, District 6 (left meeting at 11:32 a.m.)
Councillor Michelle Greek, District 7
Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9
Councillor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10

Absent:

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer

Staff:

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Sherry Conrad, Municipal Clerk
Joanne Powers, Executive Assistant
Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer
Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation Services
Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance
Dave Waters, Director of Business Development, Tourism & Infrastructure
Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning & Development Services
Darren Shupe, Senior Planner
Byung Jun Kang, Planner
Abhi Jain, Sustainability Planner
Rachel Hiltz, Financial Services Officer/Assistant Emergency Coordinator
Angela Henhoeffler, REMO Coordinator
Justin Smith, Planning Student
Elizabeth Carr, Planning Student
Navjot Kaur, Planning Student

1. Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Bell 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, and that the meeting was being held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

2. Announcements, Acknowledgements, Recognition**3. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes of May 18, 2021 (As Circulated)

Moved by Councillor Haysom, seconded by Councillor DeLong that the Minutes of the May 18, 2021 Policy & Strategy Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

5. Business Arising from Minutes - Nil**8. Staff Reports****8.2 Administration Department****8.2.1 Repeal of By-law 022 Regional Emergency Measures (2005) and Replace with By-law 046 Regional Emergency Management (2021)**

Mr. Dumaresq explained that the Regional Emergency Management Organization is a co-operative affair between the five municipal units in Lunenburg County. An Inter-Municipal Service Agreement is now in place and has been approved by the Minister of Emergency Management. In order to make the Agreement functional, each unit has to pass its own By-law. A draft By-law has been prepared and a legal review has been completed. The old by-law needs to be repealed and replaced with the new one.

Moved by Councillor Greek, seconded by Mayor Bolivar-Getson that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council give Notice of Intention to repeal the existing By-law 022 Regional Emergency Measures that was approved by Council on March 8, 2005, the Minister Responsible for the *Emergency Measures Act* on December 18, 2006, and the Minister of Service NS and Municipal Relations on March 5, 2007 and replace it with the new MODL By-law 046 Regional Emergency Management (2021) and conduct First Reading of same; and hereby gives notice of Second Reading to consider repealing By-law 022 and approving and adopting By-law 046. Carried unanimously.

6. Presentations**6.1 Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) - Ariella Aburto, Community Outreach Worker, NSTAY & TESS, YMCA Halifax**

Ariella Aburto, Community Outreach Worker, YWCA Halifax, who works on the Nova Scotia Transition & Advocacy (NSTAY) and Trafficking & Exploitation Service System (TESS) Teams, along with Sue Bookchin, Executive Director of Be the Peace Institute, were present via Microsoft Teams to provide the presentation, entitled “Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)”.

Ms. Aburto explained why they use the term CSEC rather than the common term of human trafficking. The term CSEC is used to speak to a form of violence and sexual abuse against children under the age of 18 within the commercial sex trade. Ms. Aburto discussed the following as part of her presentation:

- The Adult Commercial Sex Trade
- Commercial Sexual Services
- Where are Commercial Sexual Services Being Sold?
- Typical Charges Laid
- Legal Consent and Age
- It’s Happening Here!
- Who is Purchased?
- Who is Profiting/Benefitting?
- Who Is Being Recruited and Who is at Highest Risk?
- Luring, Recruitment & Grooming
- Protective Factors Against Risk

Ms. Aburto advised that Nova Scotia has the highest rates of human trafficking in Canada. There was discussion about whether there is anything being taught in schools and what role municipal government can play in educating the youth against these types of offenses as well as any social justice groups. It was felt that assistance through mental health and schools is key in educating youth and providing assistance to youth and their families.

Ms. Bookchin advised that there are eight free training modules available through TESS and there is a new National Action Plan on gender-based violence that has just been written and can be found at nationalactionplan.ca. There are recommendations in that report for all levels of government in terms of gender-based violence. She added that there is an opportunity to look at all municipal policies through a gender intersectional lens, through the Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) learning that is available on the Women and Gender Equality Canada website, women-gender-equality.canada.ca. As well, she suggested that Council Members follow TESS and Be the Peace Institute on Facebook to keep abreast of what is happening.

Staff were directed to follow-up on how we can work together to educate and talk about Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.

7. Referrals from Council - Nil

8. Staff Reports

8.1 Planning Department

8.1.1 Proposed Amendments to MODL Policy 058 Fees re Electric Vehicle Charger, Charging Station Fee

Mr. Byung Jun Kang, Planner, presented his report, entitled, “Proposed Amendments to MODL Policy 058 Fees re Electric Vehicle Charger Fees” (included in the agenda package). He explained that MODL installed four Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations at the new Municipal Services Building therefore, MODL Policy 058 Fees needs to be amended to include fees for EV charging.

Mr. Kang’s presentation included the following topics:

- Why are we Amending the Fees Policy?
- Operating Costs
- Price of Nearby Charging Stations
- Price of Competitors
- Other Regulations Governing Fees
- Council Policies or Strategic Priorities
- Recommendations

Discussion took place in regard to charging a fee versus offering the charging stations free of charge to the public. Other charging stations’ fees in the area were discussed as well as recognizing the importance of encouraging the use of EV’s in order to reach MODL’s corporate GHG emissions reduction targets.

Moved by Councillor Haysom, seconded by Councillor DeLong that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council amend the Fees Policy, as presented in Appendix A of the staff report dated July 20, 2021, and hereby gives seven (7) days’ notice of Council’s intention to consider amending the Policy at the July 27, 2021 Council meeting.

The discussion continued on the topic of EV’s, their charging capacity, and garbage trucks changing over to EV’s, and the affect on the waste contracts in the future.

Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor DeLong that the motion on the floor be amended to include the words, “and further, that the Policy & Strategy Committee review the fees for electric chargers in one (1) years’ time”.

The length of time before reviewing the fees for electric chargers was debated. Mr. Dumaresq explained that the Fees Policy is reviewed on a regular basis in terms of cost-recovery to make sure the fees are not out-paced by operational costs. Mr. Abhi Jain, Sustainability Planner, added that because the transition to mandatory EV’s will take place in approximately 2035, it makes sense to provide free charging now as an initial incentive to the public.

The motion to amend the main motion was voted on and carried. Those opposed were Councillors Statton, Veinotte, Greek, Whynot and Haysom.

The main motion moved by Councillor Haysom, seconded by Councillor DeLong as amended was voted on and carried. Those opposed were Councillors Whynot, Veinotte, Statton, and Greek.

Councillor Statton left the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

8.2.2 Proposed By-law 008A – By-law Respecting the Repeal of By-law 008 Fire Department Tax Exemption

Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Hubley that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council gives Notice of Intention to adopt By-law 008A By-law Respecting the Repeal of By-law 008 Fire Department Tax Exemption and conduct First Reading of same and gives notice of Second Reading to consider the adoption of By-law 008A. Carried unanimously.

8.2.3 Water Resiliency Discussion

Mr. Dumaresq advised that he worked with Rachel Hiltz, Assistant Emergency Coordinator, and Elizabeth Carr, a summer planning student, on the Water Resiliency Discussion report (included in the agenda package). The topics discussed in the report were:

- Background
 - Terms
 - Interplay Between Meteorological and Socio-economic Drought
 - Southwest Nova Scotia: Regional Vulnerability
 - Susceptibility to Shortage October 2016
 - Susceptibility to Shortage July 2021
 - MODL Water Coupon Demand by Month and Year
 - Dry Wells, 2016-2020
 - Factors that Impact Susceptibility
 - Reported Impacts
- Issue Definition
 - Issue Statement
 - Out of Scope?
 - Criteria
 - Committee Discussion
- Preliminary Options
 - MODL Dry Well Relief
 - Temporary Relief
 - Water Conservation Programs
 - Private Supply Improvements
 - Related Initiatives

- Public Engagement & Next Steps
 - Public Engagement
 - Next Steps

It was noted that there is not a reliable resource for potable water and some districts have drought concerns that affect water for livestock and gardens and non-potable water for laundry and dishes.

Mr. Dumaresq talked about the next steps including initiating a dry well program; formalizing the coupon program; then moving into the detailed research phase of the project, where they would take the draft issue definition and proceed to get more information about the options that are available, e.g., a by-law to allow for well financing (bulk potable or non-potable options); taking a more detailed look at conservation programs; and any ideas from Council that were not identified in their research. In the fall, they expect to come back to Council with more detailed information about the options along with some preliminary analysis about how well it does at addressing the issues. That will then lead into next year's strategic priorities and capital budgeting.

8.2.4 Temporary Water Relief Program – Proposed Policy

Moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Greek that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council adopt MODL Policy 093 – Temporary Water Relief Program, and hereby gives seven (7) days' notice that Council will consider the proposed Policy at the July 27, 2021, Council meeting. Carried unanimously.

8.2.5 Strategic Priorities Update

Mr. Dumaresq advised that once Council approved the Strategic Priorities chart, workplans were drafted and are in progress.

9. Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters - Nil

10. Added Items - Nil

11. In Camera - Nil

12. Next Meeting – September 21, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business at 12:31 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Haysom that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.