

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
Minutes of a Meeting of the Policy & Strategy Committee
Held in Council Chambers 10 Allée Champlain Drive Cookville
And via Video/Audio Conferencing
Tuesday, September 20, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

Deputy Mayor Cathy Moore, District 5, Chair
Councillor Michelle Greek, District 7, Vice-Chair (via Teams)
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson (arrived at 9:20 a.m.)
Councillor Leitha Haysom, District 1
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2
Councillor Wendy Oickle, District 3
Councillor Pam Hubley, District 4
Councillor Sandra Statton, District 6
Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8
Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9
Councillor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10

Staff

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk
Sarah Kucharski, Manager, Corporate Services & Communications
Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance
Dave Waters, Director of Economic Development (via Team)
Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning & Development Services (via Teams)
Trudy Payne, Director of Recreation
Joanne Powers, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Moore called the meeting to order at 9:07 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

Councillor DeLong commented that the bridge that was being refurbished on the trail looks fantastic.

2.1 Proclamation – Right to Know Week, September 26 to October 2, 2022

Deputy Mayor Moore proclaimed September 26 to October 2, 2022, as Right to Know Week in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg to promote the principles of openness, transparency, and accountability.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Approval of Minutes of June 21, 2022 (as circulated)

Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that the Minutes of the June 21, 2022, Policy & Strategy Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

5. Business Arising from Minutes - Nil

6. Presentations

Mayor Bolivar-Getson arrived at 9:20 a.m.

6.1 Accessibility Quarterly Update April to June 2022 – Ellen Johnson, Accessibility Coordinator

Ellen Johnson, Accessibility Coordinator, reviewed her quarterly update, entitled, “Accessibility in Lunenburg County”. The presentation included the following topics:

- Provincial Context
- Municipal Context
- Progress:
 - o Planning
 - o Implementation and Evaluation
 - o Community Connections
- Next Steps

Mr. Dumaresq explained that Ms. Johnson has been a fantastic resource for staff and as they develop new programs, offer an event, or look at a capital project, they are seeking her input to ensure accessibility considerations are thought of. He clarified that the responsibility to make municipal facilities more accessible, is Council’s, with advice from staff.

8. Staff Reports

8.1 Finance Department

8.1.1 Proposed New Policy MODL 095 – Asset Retirement Obligations

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance, discussed the proposed new Policy MODL 095 – Asset Retirement Obligations (ARO). She advised that the Public Sector Accounting Board approved a

new accounting standard PS3280 for all government entities called Asset Retirement Obligations. The new standard is effective for all financial statements with the fiscal year ending after April 1, 2022, which means it will affect MODL's financial statements next year on March 31, 2023.

PS3280 requires all assets be scoped to determine whether a legal obligation exists when the asset is eventually retired. Once that obligation is determined, a liability must be set up and accounted for over the expected life of the asset. The most common obligations include buildings that may contain asbestos, landfills, underground fuel storage tanks, and water treatment facilities. MODL will most likely see asbestos removal as its biggest obligation.

To date, there are reports on Centre School and the Riverport School site, which was already cleaned to an environmental standard. The buildings at the MARC and Wile's Lake will most likely need to be assessed as to the amount of asbestos in the buildings. A budget of approximately \$50,000 may be required to perform the assessments.

Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Hubley that the Policy and Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council approve the proposed MODL Policy 095 Asset Retirement Obligations, as presented, and hereby gives seven (7) days' notice of its intention to approve the new Policy MODL 095 at the September 27, 2022 Council meeting. Carried unanimously.

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

9.1 Water Supplies/Programs/Distribution Post for Water Supplies (Councillor Bell)

Councillor Bell thanked staff for setting up the MODL water program. He drew attention to the picture that was included in the agenda package on page 28 and explained that it was a water station in East Hants that acts as a filling station for the public and he felt that MODL should consider something similar.

Councillor Bell suggested that MODL could consider assisting Fire Departments in offering water to residents by assisting in the mandatory water testing procedure. He noted that neighbourhoods in his district were experiencing low or dry wells and wanted MODL to be mindful of information collected through their water program as it relates to privacy. Also, residents have raised concerns about the water levels in their area and ask that future consideration be made for the possibility of the extension of central water from the Town of Bridgewater.

There was discussion around what would be involved in getting a bulk water supply for future use and the need to speed up the water coupon program to get water to residents sooner.

Council broke at 10:12 a.m. until 10:19 a.m.

6.2 Basic Guaranteed Income, Wayne Mason and Mandy Kay-Raining Bird

Mandy Kay-Raining Bird, Basic Income Advocate, and Wayne Mason, Halifax Councillor were in attendance and gave a presentation entitled, “Basic Income Guarantee (BIG) & Municipalities”, and it included the following topics:

- Municipal Basic Income Support
- Basic Income Guarantee Definition
- BIG Principles
- 24% of Nova Scotian Children Live Below Low-Income Measure (LIM)
- Why? Because Income is the Most Important Social Determinant of Health
- Why? Because Poverty is Expensive!
- BIG Would Save Money, Bolster the Economy, and Improve People’s Well-being
- Case for Basic Income for Municipalities
- Why? Because 24% of Jobs are Precarious
- Why? Because 65% of Atlantic Canadians Support a Basic Income

There was discussion on how the program would work and how it would affect municipalities.

Ms. Kay-Raining Bird and Mr. Mason left the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

7. Referrals from Council - Nil

10. Added Items – Nil

11. In Camera - Nil

12. Next Meeting – October 18, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business at 11:05 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot seconded by Councillor Bell that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.