

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, March 15, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

Councillor Michelle Greek, District 7, Vice-Chair
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
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

Regrets

Deputy Mayor Cathy Moore, District 5, Chair

Staff

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
April Whynot-Lohnes, 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
Angela Veinot, Manager of Finance
Darren Shupe, Senior Planner
Byung Jun Kang, Planner

1. Call to Order

Councillor Greek called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Announcements, Acknowledgements, Recognition – Nil

3. Approval of Agenda

Item 11.1 – Contract Negotiations re Osprey Village Land under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA, was added to the agenda.

Moved by Councillor DeLong, seconded by Councillor Oickle that the Agenda be approved as amended. Carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes of February 15, 2022 (as circulated)

Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Hubley that the Minutes of the February 15, 2022, Policy & Strategy Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

5. Business Arising from Minutes - Nil

6. Presentations - Nil

7. Referrals from Council - Nil

8. Staff Reports

8.1 Finance Department

8.1.1 Proposed Revisions to MODL Policy 049 Property Tax Rebate Policy

A report from Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance, titled “Proposed Revisions to MODL Policy 049 Property Tax Rebate” detailing the proposed updates to the policy, was circulated with the agenda.

Ms. Wentzell reviewed the suggested changes to the Policy as a result of discussion at the February 15, 2022, Policy & Strategy Committee meeting. She explained that the language was revised to make it more accessible to better meet the needs of the residents, and the rebate schedule and income thresholds were removed from the policy.

Four options were presented for consideration (page 4 of agenda package) and after discussion, option 4 was most favorable to the Committee.

Moved by Councillor Haysom, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends to Municipal Council that Municipal Council approve the proposed amendments to MODL Policy 049 Property Tax Rebate and hereby gives seven (7) days’ notice of its intention to approve the proposed amendments at the March 22, 2022, Council meeting and in favour of option 4 as presented. Carried unanimously.

8.2 Planning Department

8.2.1 Proposed Amendments to PACE Program Policies

A report from Abhi Jain, Sustainability Planner, titled “Amendments to PACE Program Policies (2022)” outlining proposed amendments to the PACE Program to increase the participation rate was reviewed. He covered the following topics:

- PACE Program Background & Significance
- MODL Energy Usage and Emissions Stats
- Current PACE Financing Terms and Program Status
- Overview of Proposed Amendments
- Comparison with Other Municipal Programs

Questions raised by the Committee included:

- Application review process,
- Rental versus primary residence,
- Credit checks,
- Communication strategy,
- Interest rate, and
- Review of program.

It was discussed that the program was currently being under utilized as credit checks, and the income threshold were barriers.

The Committee took a ten-minute recess at 10:43 a.m. returning at 10:53 a.m.

Moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Haysom that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends to Municipal Council that Municipal Council approve the proposed amendments to MODL Policy 067 PACE Program Clean Energy Upgrade Standards and MODL Policy 068 PACE Program Lending Rate at 2%, and hereby gives seven (7) days’ notice of its intention to approve the proposed amendments at the March 22, 2022, Council meeting.

AND

That the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends to Municipal Council that Municipal Council approve the amendments to By-law 031 Property Assessed Clean Energy Program, as presented, and conduct First Reading of same, and gives notice of Second Reading on April 26, 2022.

AND

That the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends to Municipal Council that Municipal Council approve amendments to the CEF Customer Agreement, PACE Program Maximum Per Customer Financing Cap, and the Annual PACE Financing Ceiling, as presented. With a review of the program every 2 years. Opposed – Councillor Hubley. Motion carried.

8.2.2 Clean Energy Financing Program Renewal

A report from Abhi Jain, Sustainability Planner, titled “Clean Energy Financing Program Renewal” detailing the proposed changes to the Agreement.

Mr. Jain explained that the contract with CLEAN was being renewed for another year.

Moved by Councillor DeLong, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends to Municipal Council that Municipal Council renew its contract with Clean Foundation for another 1-year term 2022-23 for the continued delivery of the Clean Energy Financing Program to MODL homeowners. Carried unanimously.

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

Mayor Bolivar-Getson took over chairing the meeting.

9.1 Send a Thank You Letter to Dr. Strang on Behalf of MODL

Councillor Greek requested that a letter of thanks be sent to Dr. Robert Strang, Chief Medical Officer for Nova Scotia, for his dedications for the past two years of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Moved by Councillor Greek, seconded by Councillor Bell that Municipal Council write a thank you letter to Dr. Robert Strang, Chief Medical Officer for the Province of Nova Scotia, and express the Municipality's appreciation for navigating our province throughout the two years of the Covid-19 pandemic. Carried unanimously.

Councillor Greek resumed chairing the meeting.

10. Added Items - Nil

11. In Camera

At 11:02 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Haysom that the Policy & Strategy Committee go In Camera to discuss: Item 11.1 – Contract Negotiations re Osprey Village Land under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA. Motion Carried.

Dave Waters, Director of Director of Business Development, Tourism & Infrastructure, was in attendance.

Policy & Strategy Committee *In Camera* in session.

At 12:05 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Hubley that the Policy & Strategy Committee come out of *In Camera* and return to open session. Motion Carried.

Policy & Strategy Committee in session.

12. Next Meeting – April 19, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business at 12:06 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot seconded by Councillor Oickle that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.