

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Minutes of a Meeting of the Policy & Strategy Committee

Held in Council Chamber, 10 Allée Champlain Drive, Cookville, N.S.
Tuesday, September 19, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

Councillor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10, Vice Chair
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Councillor Leitha Haysom, District 1
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2
Councillor Wendy Oickle, District 3
Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5
Councillor Sandra Statton, District 6
Councillor Michelle Greek, District 7
Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8
Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9

Regrets Deputy Mayor Pam Hubley, District 4, Chair

Staff

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO
April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk
Joanne Powers, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order

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

2. Announcements/Acknowledgements/Recognition

2.1 Proclamation – Right to Know Week September 25 to October 1, 2023

Mayor Bolivar-Getson announced September 25 to October 1, 2023 as Right to Know Week in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, adopting the principles of openness, transparency, and accountability.

3. Public Input – Nil

4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor DeLong that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

5. Approval Of Minutes – July 18, 2023

Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Mayor Bolivar-Getson that the Minutes of July 18, 2023 Policy & Strategy Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

6. Business Arising from Minutes – Nil

7. Presentations – Nil

8. Referrals from Council - Nil

9. Staff Reports

9.1 Finance Department

9.1.1 Low Income Property Tax Rebate Applications

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance, reviewed the report entitled, “Low Income Property Tax Rebate Budget Request” (included in the agenda package). She reported that 664 applications were received by the August 1st deadline and 1 late application utilizing the Treasurer’s ability to approve up to 10% budget overage per the policy. There were still 22 applicants that could be approved if more budget was available and 17 that required more information and follow-up.

Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Greek that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommend to Council, that Municipal Council approves \$20,000 in additional funds for the Low-Income Property Tax Rebate Program, and further, that these funds come out of General Operating Reserves if required at year end. Carried unanimously.

9.2 Administration Department

9.2.1 Draft Marketing Levy By-law

Tom MacEwan, CAO, reviewed the draft Marketing Levy By-law (included in the agenda package). He explained that in 2022 the MGA was amended to allow municipalities to generate tourism revenue through marketing levies. All municipal units in Lunenburg County, other than the Town of Lunenburg who opted out, have agreed to work together on this initiative.

Mr. MacEwan explained that the draft by-law will be discussed at the upcoming Mayors’/Wardens’ meeting in October and will then be brought back to Council for further discussion.

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

10.1 Request NS Department of Public Works to Add a Crosswalk at Rissers Beach

Councillor Haysom discussed that Rissers Beach Provincial Park is heavily used all year by residents who walk on the trails and beach. Because the parking lot is located across Highway 331 from the beachfront, Councillor Haysom stated that a crosswalk should be erected, and the speed limit reduced in that area as a safety measure.

Moved by Councillor Haysom, seconded by Councillor Bell that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommend to Council that the Mayor write a letter to the Provincial Minister responsible for Public Works, Kim Masland, and copy the Premier and local MLAs, requesting that the speed limit be reduced, and a crosswalk be erected at Rissers Beach Provincial Park. Carried unanimously.

The Committee recessed from 10:00 a.m. and resumed at 10:12 a.m.

11. Added Items

12. In Camera

At 10:12 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Oickle that the Policy & Strategy Committee go In Camera to discuss the following items:

12.1 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA

12.2 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA

Carried.

Policy & Strategy Committee In Camera in session.

At 11:01 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Moore that the Policy & Strategy Committee come out of In Camera and return to open session. Carried.

Policy & Strategy Committee in session.

12.1 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA

Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor DeLong that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council direct the Mayor to write to the Town of Bridgewater Council expressing MODL's willingness to open discussions regarding potential upgrades to the Town's Dufferin Street wastewater line.

Item 12.2 of the In-Camera agenda was deferred to a future meeting.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.