

## **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, November 21, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

#### **Attendance**

Deputy Mayor Wendy Oickle, District 3, Chair (left the meeting at 10:18 a.m.)

Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5, Vice Chair

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson (via Teams)

Councillor Leitha Haysom, District 1

Councillor Martin Bell, District 2

Councillor Pam Hubley, District 4

Councillor Sandra Statton, District 6

Councillor Michelle Greek, District 7

Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8

Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9

Councillor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10

#### **Staff**

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO (via Teams)

April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk

Joanne Powers, Executive Assistant

#### **1. Call to Order**

Deputy Mayor Oickle 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.

#### **2. Nomination and Election by Ballot – Vice Chair [MODL Policy 002 – Committees, Section 3.5]**

April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk, called for nominations, by ballot, for the position of Vice Chair. Those nominated were:

Councillors Veinotte, DeLong, Haysom, Moore, Greek, and Statton.

Councillors Statton, Greek, Veinotte, and Haysom withdrew their names from the nomination.

Councillors DeLong and Moore's names remained, and Councillor Moore was elected as Vice Chair.

**Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Greek that the ballots be destroyed.  
Carried unanimously.**

#### **3. Acknowledgements/Recognition**

Councillor Haysom acknowledged that Christmas in Petite was a huge success for the entire community.

**4. Public Input – Nil**

**5. Approval of Agenda,**

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

**6. Approval Of Minutes – October 17, 2023**

**Moved by Councillor DeLong, seconded by Councillor Haysom that the Minutes of October 17, 2023 Policy & Strategy Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.**

**7. Business Arising from Minutes – Nil**

**9. Referrals from Council – Nil**

**10. Staff Reports**

**10.1 Planning & Development Department**

**10.1.1 Protect MODL's Old Growth Forests**

Abhi Jain, Climate Change & Sustainability Manager, reviewed the report entitled, "Letter to the Premier of Nova Scotia to Protect MODL's Old Growth Forests" (circulated in the agenda). As a background, Mr. Jain explained that in July, George Buranyi presented to Council where he highlighted key aspects concerning Lunenburg County's old growth forests and the environmental commitment of the Nova Scotia government were discussed.

There was discussion regarding what impact this would have on lumber mill operations, what definition is being used by the province, 80 or 100-year-old forests, and the installation of dry hydrants.

**Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Policy and Strategy Committee recommend that Municipal Council write a letter to the Provincial Minister responsible for Natural Resources and Renewables, Tory Rushton, with copies to Premier Houston and local MLAs Becky Druhan and Susan Corkum-Greek, requesting expedited identification of all Old Growth Forests on Crown Land in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg. Motion carried. Opposed: Councillor Moore.**

**10.2 Finance Department**

### **10.2.1 Hydrant Charge Proposed Policy 096**

Elena Wentzell, Director of Finance, reviewed the report entitled, “Hydrant Charge Proposed Policy 096” (circulated in the agenda). In February, staff presented to the Committee background information on the hydrant charge area rate that is applicable in the Pine Grove and MacCulloch Road areas where fire hydrants are located. Staff were directed to develop a policy based on the existing practice of billing only those properties located within 1,000 feet of a hydrant.

**Moved by Councillor Statton, seconded by Councillor Haysom that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends that Municipal Council accept Policy 096 Hydrant Charge, as presented, and hereby gives 7 days’ notice of councils intention to adopt the proposed policy at the November 28, 2023, Council Meeting. Carried unanimously.**

## **11. Mayor’s/Deputy Mayor’s/Councillors’ Matters**

### **11.1 Elite Athlete Grant Update (Councillor Greek)**

Councillor Greek advised there is a resident in her area that has been training and would be attending a world axe throwing championship and was looking for funding through MODL’s Elite Athlete Grant. Axe throwing is not a recognized sport by the National Sporting Association, therefore, does not meet the criteria of the existing Elite Athlete Grant.

Trudy Payne, Director of Recreation, confirmed that axe throwing does not have a national or provincial sporting association. The existing Elite Athlete Grant policy states, “...that an elite athlete is defined as a person who commits significant time to training and competing in their sport and is recognized by their national sporting association as a representative of Nova Scotia, Atlantic Canada, or Canada, eligible to compete at the highest level, nationally or internationally”.

**Moved by Councillor Greek, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that the Policy and Strategy Committee direct staff to review Policy 043, Community Grants Program/Sponsorship Request, Schedule F – Elite Athlete Travel and report back to the committee on options for inclusion of athletes who travel to national or international events but are not a member of National Sporting Association. Motion carried. Opposed: Councillor Statton**

### **11.2 Request to Pursue Videoing of Council and Committee Meetings (Councillor DeLong)**

Councillor DeLong discussed how other municipal units of comparable size and resource level in Nova Scotia are offering video of Council and Committee meetings online and would like to see MODL offer the same.

Mr. Dumaresq explained that agenda packages and audio recordings are available on the website after meetings and provide similar access to the public in terms of the content of Council's debates. The area where staff feels we could be offering improvement is in the area of live streaming, which could provide the public the choice of tuning in versus physically coming into meetings. Currently staff are not comfortable with the reliability of the link to livestreaming. It can be done but requires constant monitoring and the system is not well set up to ensure that regular staff can make it work appropriately. Revisions to Policy 001 may be required.

**Moved by Councillor DeLong, seconded by Councillor Haysom that Policy and Strategy Committee direct staff to investigate and report back to the Committee on the measures needed to make video transcripts and live streaming available from Council and Committees of Council available to the public online, and further include the benefits and challenges of a system. Carried unanimously.**

### **11.3 Declaration on Gender Based Violence (Councillor DeLong)**

Councillor DeLong requested that a declaration be made by the Mayor on the epidemic on Gender Based Violence. It was noted that the message also include reference to December 6<sup>th</sup>, the national day remembrance and action of violence against women.

**Moved by Councillor DeLong, seconded by Councillor Haysom that Policy and Strategy Committee recommends to Council that the proclamation-prepared for December 6th for the Mayor, stating Councils support in declaring Gender Based Violence to be an epidemic be included. Carried unanimously.**

The Committee recessed at 10:18 a.m. and resumed at 10:27 a.m.

Deputy Mayor Oickle left the meeting at 10:18 a.m. and Vice Chair Councillor Moore took the chair.

## **8. Presentations/Scheduled Times**

### **8.1 Zen Energy – Dr. Ravi Kempaiah, CEO & Dr. Kriti Yadav, Director of Operations and Strategy**

Dr. Ravi Kempaiah, CEO & Dr. Kriti Yadav, Director of Operations and Strategy, with Zen Energy, were in attendance to review the presentation entitled, "Eco-Forward MODL" (included in the agenda package). The following topics were discussed:

- Who we are?
- What we do?
- MODL's Climate Action Plan
- Powering MODL's Climate Action Milestones with Zen Energy
- Home Energy Integrated Solar-Storage Initiative

- Lunenburg Solar E-Bike Initiative/E-Bike Library
- Sustainable Power Solutions/Lunenburg Eco-Power Share Initiative
- Green Initiatives for District of Lunenburg - Summary

The presentation focused on three main ideas: Home Energy – Run a pilot program to install batteries in the community; E-Bike Library Initiative; and Eco-Power Share Initiative. A discussion took place on what would be involved in installing batteries in homes to replace diesel fuel, what a mini-hub e-bike library could look like along with the benefits, and how portable eco-power portable home units could be rented out.

Dr. Kempaiah and Dr. Yadav had an e-bike for the Committee to view.

Dr. Kempaiah and Dr. Yadav left the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

**12. Added Items**

**13. In Camera - Nil**

**14. Adjournment**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.**