

**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, April 15, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.**

**Attendance**

Deputy Mayor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10, Chair  
Councillor Alison Smith, District 6, Vice Chair  
Mayor Elspeth McLean-Wile  
Councillor Morgen Reinhardt, District 1  
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2  
Councillor Wendy Oickle, District 3  
Councillor Pam Hubley, District 4  
Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5  
Councillor Edgar Burns, District 7  
Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8  
Councillor Ben Brooks, District 9

**Staff**

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

**1. Call to Order**

Deputy Mayor Veinotte 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. Announcements, Acknowledgements, Recognition**

Mayor McLean-Wile recognized the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragedy in Portapique and asked for a moment of silence to remember the 22 people who lost their lives.

Deputy Mayor Veinotte acknowledged the Lunenburg & District Fire Department who gave out service recognition awards at their recent banquet. The rewards ranged from 5 years to 30 years of service.

Councillor Smith thanked the Mayor, Councillors, staff and public who attended the Municipal-wide Planning Open House held in New Germany the previous evening.

**3. Public Input – Nil**

**4. Changes/Approval of Agenda (as circulated)**

**Moved by Mayor McLean-Wile seconded by Councillor Moore that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.**

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

**The Minutes of February 18, 2025, and March 18, 2025, were approved as circulated.**

## **6. Business Arising from Minutes – Nil**

## **7. Presentations/Scheduled Times**

### **7.1. Lunenburg County Pride – Pride & Allyship**

Kai Skinner, Lunenburg Pride, reviewed the presentation titled, “Pride & Allyship” (included in the agenda package). The topics included:

- Community Recognition
- Current Climate 7 Lived Experiences
- Intersectionality
- Highlighting Local Issues
- Being a Good Ally
- Overcoming Barriers to Allyship

A variety of terms to describe different sexual orientations, gender identities and related concepts were explained. It was noted that standing firm on discrimination policies and making it known that hate, disinformation, homophobia, transphobia, or any of the intersexual phobias, are not welcome in our MODL spaces, and are a good first step to helping people understand that it is not acceptable behaviour.

## **8. Referral from Committees/Council – Nil**

## **9. Staff Reports**

### **9.1 Administration Development**

#### **9.1.1 Neighbourhood Nuisance By-Law 050**

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer, reviewed the report titled, “Neighbourhood Nuisance By-law” (included in the agenda package). In 2024, Council gave direction to staff to bring forward a Nuisance By-law that would address concerns related to excessive noise during the summer months. He noted that the Police Advisory Board, and forestry industry stakeholders were engaged and supported the proposed bylaw.

Mr. MacEwan discussed how noise, smells and pollution could all be covered under a nuisance by-law, if they were considered unreasonable and disturbed the peace of the neighbourhood. Clarification was provided on the following:

- Requirement for two neighbour complaints, and requirement to attend court proceedings if necessary;
- Fishery related industry would be exempted under businesses operations;
- Enforcement/Discretion responsibilities under RCMP;
- Long form and Summary Offence Ticket;

**Moved by Councillor Smith, seconded by Mayor McLean-Wile that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council approve the proposed Neighbourhood Nuisance By-law 050 and recommend that Council conduct first reading at the April 22, 2025, Council meeting. Opposed: Councillors Burns and Moore. Motion carried.**

The meeting recessed at 10:29 a.m. and resumed at 10:44 a.m.

### **9.1.2 Strategic Priorities Work Planning**

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, reviewed the report titled, “Strategic Priorities Work-planning 2025-26” (included in the agenda package). He reported that following the 2024 election, Council engaged in a strategic priority setting exercise and established five priority areas: Infrastructure Upgrades, Expansion, and Management; Regional Economic Development; Climate Change Action; Quality of Life; and Communication & Engagement.

Direction on adjustments or confirmation or of prioritization was being sought from the Committee to ensure that department workplans reflected Council’s priorities. A draft Project Tracking Workplan (included in the agenda package), put in order by the Directors, was reviewed in detail. It was noted that a fall check in would occur during the budget process.

Discussion included the following:

#### **Cell Coverage**

Need to actively advocate for cell coverage in the municipality as it is critical service and has impacts on economic development.

#### **Criminal Record Check**

Fees for criminal record checks are impacting residents as it is a cumbersome process. Report to be brought back to Council with possible amendments.

#### **Regional Economic (REN)**

Need to look at economic development as a region and the creation of the new Joint Regional Committee will meet the needs of regional cooperation.

#### **Fire Service Governance**

Clearland/Oakland area does not have rate payer meetings to approve fire tax rates, and it was recommended that this be sent to the Fire and Emergency Service Committee to discuss and provide feedback.

#### **Biozone**

Council felt they needed more education prior to deciding the status of the initiative and it was requested that Greenspan present at a future Policy & Strategy Committee.

### **Cape LaHave Easement**

Concerns were raised on the timeline that it has taken to bring the results of the consultations forward. Staff indicated it is on the upcoming Council agenda.

### **Alternative Policing**

A request was made to collect more information on alternatives for policing and staff indicated they would reach out to the Town of Bridgewater Police Service to arrange a presentation.

### **Recreation Capital Projects**

A refresh to the open space strategy and next steps for the upcoming year were discussed. Criteria needs to be developed for evaluating parks and therefore Sherbrooke and Molega Lakes will be considered in 2026.

### **J Class Roads**

Consensus was to remove these roads from the work plan.

### **Re-establish Sustainability Committee**

Consensus was not to re-establish this committee as Council now has a climate action plan and the implementation of the plan is the next steps. Quarterly reports are done and presented to Council.

### **Arts & Culture Policy**

Arts and Culture are and can be linked to economic development and should be part of that discussion/Policy for Public Art by adding engagement with stakeholders.

The meeting recessed at 12:18 p.m. and resumed at 1:21 p.m.

Discussion continued on the draft Project Tracking Workplan.

### **Fire Service Training Facility**

The question was asked whether there was a plan yet for this facility. It was clarified that money has been set aside in reserves while the Fire Service Committee continues reviewing training needs and priorities.

### **Community Cemeteries**

The issue of community cemeteries falling into disrepair was raised and the inability to apply for grants from the Municipality, as under the policy they must be non-denominational. This being a new project, it was decided to add it to a future list.

### **Marketing Levy**

Consensus was to deprioritize the market levy bylaw at this time as the focus for regulations needs to be on the municipal wide planning process and not additional regulations.

Mr. Dumerasqu provided a final summary of the changes recommended to the draft workplan/chart.

**Moved by Councillor DeLong, seconded by Councillor Oickle that the Policy and Strategy Committee direct staff to proceed with the 2025-26 Strategic Priorities Workplan based on the discussion. Carried unanimously.**

## **9.2 Planning & Development**

### **9.2.1 Recommendation to Dissolve Internal Transportation Committee**

Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning and Development Services, reviewed the report titled, "Recommendation to Dissolve the Internal Transportation Committee" (included in the agenda package).

The Internal Transportation Committee was established by Municipal Council under Section 24 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and its purpose was to advise Council on matters related to transit services. The mandate of the Committee will be superseded by the establishment of the Regional Planning and Economic Development Collaboration Committee, which will have representation from both the Municipality and the Town of Bridgewater and have the mandate to discuss how to provide fixed route transit services to the region.

**Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Hubley that the Policy and Strategy recommends to Council that Municipal Council dissolve the Internal Transportation Committee. Carried unanimously.**

**10. Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters - Nil**

**11. Added Items – Nil**

**12. In Camera – Nil**

**13. Adjournment**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.**