

**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, October 21, 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 Wendy Oickle, District 3  
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2  
Councillor Pam Hubley, District 4  
Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5  
Councillor Edgar Burns, District 7  
Councillor Ben Brooks, District 9

**Regrets**

Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8

**Staff**

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

**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**

**2.1 NS Nature Trust – Signing of Cape LaHave Conservation Easement Agreement**

Mayor McLean-Wile provided some history on Cape LaHave Island and emphasized that, by signing the easement agreement with the Nova Scotia Trust, the island will be preserved in perpetuity. Bonnie Sutherland, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Nature Trust, noted that the Island is 2,600 acres, 50 kilometres of coastal shoreline, very ecologically rich and diverse, home to endangered species and migratory birds.

Councillor Reinhardt noted that it was Waste Reduction Week and she acknowledged a new community group called Mending Matters. It is a drop in mending group open to everyone.

Councillor Bell recognized the Pleasantville Baptist Church on their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Councillor Moore recognized six year old Ethan Kaulback. He did not want birthday presents, instead asked for food donations to give to the Anglican Church Hall Community Pantry Cupboard.

**3. Public Input – Nil**

**4. Changes/Approval of Agenda**

It was noted that Item 7.1 Engage Nova Scotia would be moved to 10:15 a.m.

**Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Brooks that the Agenda be approved as amended. Carried unanimously.**

**5. Approval of Minutes – September 16, 2025**

**The Minutes of September 16, 2025, were approved as circulated.**

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

**9. Staff Reports**

**9.2 Administration Department**

**9.2.1 Gender-Based Violence Epidemic & Municipal Roles**

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO, reviewed the report “Gender Based Violence Epidemic & Municipal Roles” (included in the agenda package).

He explained that MODL formally declared Gender-Based Violence (GBV) an epidemic in December 2023. This acknowledgement declared that GBV impacts women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals in every community including MODL, and emphasized the need for education, culture change, prevention, and support systems that reflect the lived realities of those affected.

The report included the following:

- Background
- Discussion
- Issue 1 – Economic Dependency & Poverty
- Issue 2 – Public Safety Beyond Policing
- Issue 3 - Applying a GBA+ Lens
- Issue 4 – Policing & Reporting Barriers
- Issue 5 – Awareness & Partnerships
- Summary
- Recommendations

There were concerns over referring items to the Lunenburg County Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination Advisory Committee (LCARADAC), as other municipalities have not declared the issue an epidemic and the committee itself is still in the process of getting established. Members discussed whether an epidemic exists, and several spoke passionately on the topic, emphasizing that GBV must be addressed. It was also suggested that youth be educated about the subject while in school.

**Moved by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Bell that the Policy and Strategy Committee recommends to Municipal Council that the presentation from Be the Peace Institute be referred to the Lunenburg County Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination Advisory Committee for advice on how the Municipality can best support the elimination of gender-based violence. Carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Hubley that the Policy and Strategy Committee direct staff to explore opportunities to expand support for the Senior Safety Program and community grants that fund gender-based violence education and prevention initiatives. Carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Moore that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends to Municipal Council that Council write a letter to the Provincial Minister responsible for Education and Early Childhood Development, Brendan Maguire, with copies to local MLA's and ask that they consider educating school age children on gender-based violence. Opposed: Councillor Brooks. Motion carried.**

The Committee recessed at 10:17 a.m. and resumed at 10:32 a.m.

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

### **7.1 Engage NS**

Erin Wynn, Director, Quality of Life Initiative, Engage Nova Scotia, gave the presentation titled, "Quality of Life in Nova Scotia – MODL" (included in the agenda package). It included the following:

- Overview
- About Engage Nova Scotia
- Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey
- 8 Domains of Wellbeing
- What's Possible
- Specific "New" Survey Questions
- Y, Municipalities and Quality of Life Data
- CBRM Case Study
- Wellbeing Analysis Tool
- Notables for Older Adults in CBRM Compared to the Provincial Average
- Notables for Younger Adults in CBRM Compared to the Provincial Average

- Notables for Households with less than \$40K Annual Income Compared to the Provincial Average
- CBRM Revised Strategic Vision

It was noted that the survey will run every five years with mini surveys done yearly. Ms. Wynn advised that the primary results should be available in the summer of 2026 with an in-depth report available in the fall of 2026. Outreach will be planned for farm markets, working with groups such as United Way, schools, etc.

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

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

### **10.1 Lunenburg County Senior Safety Committee Report – Councillor Smith**

Councillor Smith provided a report on the Lunenburg County Senior Safety Committee, noting that the work is becoming increasingly complex and the number of open cases continue to rise. The Senior Safety Coordinator is very hands-on but often has to put aside the prevention work due to the heavy workload. Councillor Smith added that a second Coordinator position should be considered, emphasizing that while the current Coordinator role is vital, it is not sustainable given the growth demands.

### **10.2 South Shore Library Board Report – Councillor Smith**

Councillor Smith reported that there is a need for a permanent increase in funding from the Province to assist in alleviating the pressing operational issues that libraries are facing.

### **10.3 Committee Updates to Council – Councillor Hubley**

Councillor Hubley discussed which Committees were required to verbally report to Council or which ones could be updated via email. It was discussed that it should be left up to the Committee representative's discretion.

A Point of Order was called, as the comments were questioning the motives of another Council Member and were out of order. The Chair of the meeting upheld the Point of Order.

### **10.4 Deputy Mayor's Update**

Deputy Mayor Veinotte advised that she attended the Fire Prevention activities at the Lunenburg & District Fire Department, brought greetings at the Hike Nova Scotia Summit, attended agenda briefings, signed cheques and all other committee meetings as assigned.

### **10.5 Mayor's Update**

Mayor McLean-Wile's updates were attached to the Minutes.

**11. Added Items – Nil**

**12. In Camera**

**At 11:27 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Moore 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**

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**Carried.**

Policy & Strategy Committee in session.

**At 2:30 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Smith that Policy & Strategy Committee come out of In Camera and return to open session. Carried unanimously.**

Policy & Strategy Committee in session.

**12.2 DND Building, Harold Whynot Road**

**Moved by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Bell that the Municipality waive its right of first refusal pertaining to the purchase of 391 Harold Whynot Road in Favour of Department of National Defence. Carried unanimously.**

**13. Adjournment**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.**