

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
REMO Advisory Committee Special Meeting – Meeting Notes
Via Tele/Video Conference
Monday, February 26, 2024 – 9:00 p.m.

Attendance

Town of Bridgewater

Mayor David Mitchell, Town of Bridgewater, Chair
Councillor Wayne Thorburne, Vice-Chair
Tammy Crowder, Chief Administrative Officer (via Teams)

Municipality of the District of Chester

Warden Allen Webber
Deputy Warden Floyd Shatford
Tara Maguire, Chief Administrative Officer (via Teams)
Erin Lowe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (via Teams)

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Deputy Mayor Wendy Oickle
Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (via Teams)

Town of Lunenburg

Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer (via Teams)

Town of Mahone Bay

Mayor David DeVenne, Town of Mahone Bay (via Teams)
Councillor Richard Nowe (via Teams)
Councillor Penny Carver (via Teams)
Dylan Heide, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Mahone Bay (via Teams)
Eric Levy, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (via Teams)

Staff

Angela Henhoeffler, REMO Manager

Regrets

Deputy Mayor Cheryl Fougere, Town of Bridgewater
Councillor Derek Wells, Municipality of the District of Chester
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson, Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
Councillor Sandra Statton, Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
Mayor Jamie Myra, Town of Lunenburg
Deputy Mayor Peter Mosher, Town of Lunenburg
Councillor Susan Sanford, Town of Lunenburg

1. Call to Order

Mayor David Mitchell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda – Added Items

Moved by Councillor Thorburne, seconded by Deputy Mayor Oickle that Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

3. New Business

2024/25 REMO Budget

- Representatives from the District of Chester noted the following:
 - Councillors from Chester were not supportive of the significant increase and felt uninformed of the changes;
 - Chester Council believe there should be more engagement on a budget increase of that size and they now wish to consider providing EM on their own;
 - If there is a budget increase over 15-20%, it would be advisable to give notice to councils for discussion;
 - By the time Chester Council discussed the budget enough units had approved the budget that it was already passed as a group;
 - Before our council met, two units already approved the budget, so we didn't have any chance for discussion; and
 - The two things of concern to MODC Council were
 - 1) the approval formula of 51% and two municipal units for the budget approval, When TOL came into REMO, the threshold of two units was not increased;
 - 2) if there's a budget increase over a certain percentage, that there be a different process for approval.
- Mr. Dumaresq: The REMO staff and the CAOs had reviewed in detail the rationale for a shared service and the need to add a position which was the major cost driver. He noted that the committee they could write a letter to Chester Council indicating a willingness to look at and enhanced budget approval process when there's larger items. That may help convince them that the REMO group is interested in their input.
- Mayor Mitchell noted that enhancing the discussions around the table is not a bad thing. He also noted that between the floods and the fires and other activations, REMO's work is not going to get easier, and we are stronger together. The value of being in REMO far exceeds the cost of it.
- Councillor Thorburne noted that the increase was large for each of the units, though Ms. Henhoeffler gave a good explanation for the increase. He observed that if Chester Council was present at her explanation, they might have understood better, so an enhanced budget process certainly could have helped.

Moved by Councillor Thorburne, seconded by Deputy Mayor Oickle, move that the Advisory Committee authorize the Chair to write a letter to Chester Council and commit to an enhanced budget consultation process where a significant increase in the budget is proposed.

Further that the letter express a willingness to discuss the content of the shared service agreement, at Chester’s discretion. Carried unanimously.

Adjournment – Moved by Warden Webber, seconded by Deputy Warden Shatford to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 a.m.