

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF LUNENBURG
Minutes of a Meeting of
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
Held in Council Chamber, 210 Aberdeen Road, Bridgewater, NS
Tuesday, May 8, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Councillor Eric Hustvedt, District 1
Councillor Lee Nauss, District 3
Councillor John Veinot, District 4
Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5
Councillor Claudette Garland, District 6
Councillor Wade Carver, District 7
Councillor Michael Ernst, District 8
Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9
Councillor Errol Knickle, District 10

Regrets: Deputy Mayor Martin Bell, District 2

Staff: Kevin Malloy, Chief Administrative Officer
Trudy Payne, Acting Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Sherry Conrad, Municipal Clerk
Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer
Rachel Eisenhauer, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bolivar-Getson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/RECOGNITION:

2.1 Proclamation – Gaelic Nova Scotia Month

Mayor Bolivar-Getson declared May, 2018 as Gaelic Nova Scotia Month.

2.2 Proclamation – Lyme Disease Awareness Month

Mayor Bolivar-Getson declared May, 2018 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month.

Councillor Hustvedt acknowledged Events Lunenburg County, and the other organizers and volunteers that were involved in the Esso Cup. It was a successful event with a lot of community and youth involvement.

Councillor Ernst congratulated the Oakland-Indian Point Residents Association on their Spring Highway Cleanup on Highway 3.

3. PUBLIC INPUT: (Nil)

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A request was made to add the draft Inter-county Fixed Route Public Transit System Letter to the Agenda.

Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Hustvedt that the Agenda be approved with the addition of item “11.3.1 Inter-county Fixed Route Public Transit System Letter”. Carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 10 & 24, 2018

Moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Carver that the Minutes of April 10, 2018 be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

The April 24, 2018 Minutes were not circulated in time to be approved for this meeting. They will be on the next Agenda.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: (Nil)

7. AWARDING OF TENDERS/RFPs: (Nil)

9. CONSIDERATION OF CORRESPONDENCE: (Nil)

10. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES & BOARDS

10.1 Finance Committee

10.1.1 NOW Lunenburg County Magazine Ad

Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Whynot that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and approve taking out a full-page ad at a cost of \$1,500 in NOW Lunenburg County’s magazine. Carried unanimously.

10.1.2 National/Provincial Event Grant – Cherry Hill Fun Run

Moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Nauss that Municipal Council accept the recommendation from the Finance Committee and approve \$300 from the National/Provincial Event Grant account for the Cherry Hill Fun Run being held at the United Communities Fire Department on August 4, 2018. Carried unanimously.

10.1.3 National/Provincial Event Grant – South Shore Firefighters’ Challenge

Moved by Councillor Veinot, seconded by Councillor Whynot that Municipal Council accept the recommendation from the Finance Committee and approve \$1,000 from the National/Provincial Event Grant account for the South Shore Exhibition Firefighters’ Challenge being held at the Exhibition Grounds in Bridgewater between July 24 and 29, 2018; and further, that if the event is not held, that the grant go towards another South Shore Exhibition event. Carried unanimously.

11. STAFF REPORTS:

11.1 Planning Department

11.1.1 Appointment of Fire Inspectors

Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning and Development Services, was present and reviewed a report titled “Appointment of Fire Inspectors” (circulated with Agenda). He noted that the Fire Inspector has since taken other career opportunities and staff are currently working to fill that position. In

the meantime, staff is requesting Council appoint Michael Bevis and Rebecca Zolkower, Building Inspectors, as Fire Inspectors to continue the fire inspection work throughout the hiring process.

Moved by Councillor Ernst, seconded by Councillor Carver that Municipal Council appoint Mike Bevis and Rebecca Zolkower as Municipal Fire Inspectors for the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg. Carried unanimously.

Mr. Merrill left the meeting at this time.

8. PRESENTATIONS/SCHEDULED TIMES

8.1 Shona Brown re Senior Safety Coordinator

Shona Brown, Acting Senior Safety Coordinator, and David Walker, Chair, Safe Communities Lunenburg County, were present at this time to update Council on the work of the Senior Safety Program and to speak to their 2018/19 financial request.

The following points were noted:

- The Senior Safety Program has a Board, with two representatives from Safe Communities Lunenburg County, one from each of the five units, the Lunenburg RCMP, Town of Bridgewater Police, Department of Health and the VON. Councillor Wade Carver is MODL's representative on the Committee and he was thanked for his work.
- The subcommittees of Safe Communities Lunenburg County are: Age Friendly, Falls Prevention, Road Safety and the Senior Safety Program.
- Ms. Brown is the Acting Senior Safety Coordinator, as the permanent, full-time coordinator is on parental leave.
- Ms. Brown assists seniors with safety needs to keep them in their homes safely. Other services for seniors include public education against scams and frauds and the Senior Safety Academy. Ms. Brown works with seniors who truly need assistance and, for example, have challenges such as illiteracy, mental health issues such as hoarding, etc. Seniors who are illiterate need help reading correspondence and may not be aware of issues, such as property tax payments owing, overdue income tax reporting, banking problems, etc. Ms. Brown also helps seniors who are in houses that are in need of repair access housing grants. She ensures they have food and other basic necessities.
- Ms. Brown receives referrals from police services, the hospital, homecare workers, concerned family members, neighbors and strangers. She accepts anonymous referrals.
- The assistance of the Senior Safety Coordinator is not being advertised because the need is too great for the one position.
- The current structure has a budget of \$64,000, of which the Province provides \$20,000 per year. The Province has changed their funding structure, so the group is no longer required to fill out a large form, and the Province has now committed to 3 years' funding at \$25,000 per year. Another source of funding is the municipal units, with the third source of funding from the community. The United Way is a great supporter of the Senior Safety Program.

Mr. Walker advised that the request this year is an increase of 2% over last year. As there are many seniors in need and the area is geographically large, they are looking at extending Ms. Brown's position to continue after Ms. Acomb returns from parental leave. The extension will be from September to January and will give them time to determine if a second position is needed. The hope is to have enough funding from the Provincial Government to support two positions.

A question arose regarding whether Safe Communities Lunenburg County is able to provide tax receipts for donations. It was noted that they would have to be registered as a charitable organization in order to provide tax receipts and they are not, however, they can still take donations.

Mayor Bolivar-Getson thanked Ms. Brown and Safe Communities Lunenburg County for the work they do on behalf of residents. Ms. Brown and Mr. Walker left the meeting at this time.

8.2 Parkview Education Centre Letter to Council

Laura Barkhouse, Trails and Open Space Coordinator, and Jamie Mason, Teacher, were in attendance with students from the Biology 11 Parkview Education Centre class.

Mr. Mason introduced the project and advised that he came up with an idea for interpretive signage along the LaHave River Trail and the students took the idea and decided to create signs which focus on endangered and invasive species in the area. This will help increase the knowledge of the trail users to make them more aware of the organisms that live in the area. The signs will also include a scavenger hunt for young children. There may be an opportunity to tie into History classes by expanding the information on the signs to include the history of the trail and the area.

The signage will be along the Cookville bridge area, and going toward the Town of Bridgewater. Since these are students, they are unable to expand much further than this area, as they have a limited number of one-hour classes, and bussing would need to be arranged to go further. It may be possible to expand to the Arthur Young Trail at some point, but this is a pilot project at this time.

A question arose regarding funding for the project. Ms. Barkhouse advised that the fee to create and install the signs will be very small and will fit within MODL's existing budget. The students will also help with installing the signage.

Mr. Mason and the Grade 11 Biology class were thanked for taking on this initiative, which will help educate those who use the trails. Ms. Barkhouse, Mr. Mason and the students left the meeting at this time.

11. STAFF REPORTS

11.2 Finance Department

11.2.1 Pension Plan Information

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance, was present and reviewed the report titled "Pension Plan Information" (circulated with Agenda), which provided information that was requested at the last meeting.

It was noted that there are 23 retired and deferred members and the pension solvency deficit is \$3.5 million. The solvency deficit is going down and will continue to do so as valuations and contributions continue. The solvency deficit will only get paid if the plan closes.

Ms. Wentzell left the meeting at this time.

11.3 Administration Department

11.3.1 Inter-county Transit Letter

It was noted that the matter of a Letter of Support for an Inter-County Transit System was discussed at a previous meeting, at which time Councillors wanted to see a draft of the letter before they could support same. The letter was circulated for review.

Concern was raised with regard to the wording of the letter. It was suggested the letter be amended to remove the words “consider supporting” in the last sentence and add “financially support”, so the sentence will read “...the Municipalities will not financially support this service”. This will better clarify that if the pilot is not self sustainable, municipal units will not support the continuation of the service.

Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Hustvedt that Municipal Council approve the draft Inter-county Transit Letter as amended.

The letter is proposed to be sent by MODL, Town of Bridgewater, Town of Mahone Bay and Town of Lunenburg. It will be determined which units will sign the letter as amended and units that are not interested in signing this letter can be removed.

The motion on the floor was voted on and carried.

12. MAYOR’S/DEPUTY MAYOR’S/COUNCILLORS’ MATTERS:

12.1 Water Quality Testing – Mahone Bay Area (M. Ernst)

Councillor Ernst spoke to the information circulated with the Agenda regarding water quality testing in the Mahone Bay area. The Town of Mahone Bay is in the process of establishing a Harbour Authority, which means the Town will have control of the harbour and will increase the number of moorings. This raises concerns regarding the potential increase in wastewater entering the harbour, although this is illegal. He has presented this information to the Town of Mahone Bay and is waiting to hear back from the Town. He will provide an additional update to Council at that time.

12.2 Update – Municipal Joint Services Board (MJSB) (E. Knickle/C. Moore/ C. Bolivar-Getson)

An update on the MJSB was given. The following topics were discussed: Joint Services RFP for Insurance and the possibility of Fire Department group purchasing of insurance; the plastic bag ban (one-time use shopping bags only); Halifax C&D’s ability to turn plastic into boards; illegal dumping; and, three-cart recycling systems.

12.3 Update – Deputy Mayor

Deputy Mayor Bell was not in attendance.

12.4 Update – Mayor

Mayor Bolivar-Getson attended the following: Petite Riviere, LaHave and Hebbville Fire Department Banquets; Fire and Emergency Services Committee Annual General Meeting; industry meeting re Marketing Levy; Esso Cup welcome and team hosting; opening of Esso Cup; UNSM meeting; and, potential bus service meeting.

13. IN CAMERA

At 10:50 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Carver that Municipal Council go In Camera to discuss the following items:

- 13.1 Land Negotiations re Open Space - Newburne under Section 22(2)(a) of the MGA**
- 13.2 Contract Negotiations re Lun. Co. Mountain Bike Assoc. under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA**
- 13.3 Contract Negotiations re Aquatics under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA**

Carried.

Municipal Council In Camera in session.

At 11:58 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Ernst, seconded by Councillor Moore that Municipal Council rise and report. Carried.

Municipal Council in session.

13.2 Contract Negotiations re Lunenburg County Mountain Bike Association

Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Nauss that Municipal Council approve the Management Agreement with the Lunenburg County Mountain Bike Association for the management and development of an outdoor park on the designated property located at the MARC and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute same. Carried unanimously.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at 12:01 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Knickle that the meeting adjourn. Carried.