

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF LUNENBURG
Minutes of a Meeting of
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
Held at RCL Branch #102, New Germany, NS
Tuesday, December 11, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Deputy Mayor Cathy Moore, District 5
Councillor Eric Hustvedt, District 1
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2
Councillor Lee Nauss, District 3
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: Councillor John Veinot, District 4

Staff: Kevin Malloy, Chief Administrative Officer
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer
Tina Robichaud-Bond, Executive Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bolivar-Getson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/RECOGNITION

2.1 Certificate of Recognition – Wilfred Feener

Mayor Bolivar-Getson recognized Wilfred Feener and presented him with an Award of Recognition for over 50 years of service as a volunteer firefighter. She noted that Mr. Feener has served 52 years with the Dayspring and District Fire Department.

Councillor Ernst acknowledged that the Martins River Volunteer Fire Department had their Christmas tree lighting event on November 30th with over 150 attendees. He noted that this Department serves areas in both the District of Lunenburg and the District of Chester.

Councillor Ernst reported that on December 1st the Mahone Bay Reindeer Run was held with 378 participants and 30-40 volunteers, and that the Blockhouse area Residents Kinship Society held “Christmas on the Corner” on December 7th with 50-60 people attending.

3. PUBLIC INPUT

Lennis Corkum, Newburne – Mr. Corkum was in attendance at Public Input to provide information on a Supreme Court decision from British Columbia with respect to public access to lakes, in which the Court decided that the lake in question was a public resource. It further noted that public waterways should have a public road accessing it.

Gary Downs, New Germany – Mr. Downs was in attendance at Public Input to provide remarks regarding the lack of sidewalks in and around the schools in New Germany. He noted that sidewalks are needed in those areas to keep the children, seniors, and all residents safe and to help maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Amanda Trethewey, New Germany – Ms. Trethewey was in attendance at Public Input to speak in favour of having sidewalks in the school areas of New Germany. She advised that students travel to and from the stores and restaurants and the areas are unsafe for pedestrians. She noted that there is no visibility in a certain section and felt that it was a danger to the children and adults alike. She also noted that sidewalks would help to retain residents in the area and attract new families.

Paul Smith, Stanburne – Mr. Smith was in attendance at Public Input to speak in favour of public access to waterways. Mr. Smith noted that securing public access to lakes, rivers, etc. is imperative.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Deputy Mayor Moore, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 27, 2018

Moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Bell that the Minutes of the November 27, 2018 Council meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

Councillor Hustvedt requested an explanation as to how topics brought forward in the Public Input forum are followed up. Mr. Malloy explained that staff were working on responses.

8. PRESENTATIONS/SCHEDULED TIMES

8.1 River Ridge Common – Update

Thomas Chalmers, Engineer, Snow Owl Consulting Inc., and Laura Barkhouse, Trails & Open Space Coordinator, were in attendance.

Mr. Chalmers provided an update on the status of the River Ridge Common development, (circulated with the Agenda), highlighting the following points:

- Trail work
- Erosion control

- Natural playground

Mr. Chalmers reported the project would be fully accessible and that over 2 kms of trail had been completed to date. The natural playground will consist of building things of natural material such as wood and stone. He advised that much of the remaining work would be completed shortly after the New Year and planting carried out in the spring, and that the park would be open to the public by late June.

A question was raised as to what the final cost was estimated to be. Mr. Chalmers advised that, to date, the project was on budget, and noted that the project would come in under budget. He noted that each year will consist of a phase. Last year was Phase 1 and had been completed, the project was currently in Phase 2, and Phase 3 would be completed in 2019. Phase 4 would consist of follow ups.

Mr. Chalmers noted that they were building items that would require low maintenance, and that they had been transplanting plants from the site, which is a cost saving measure.

Mayor Bolivar-Getson reported that she had toured the park and was impressed by the work to date.

Mr. Chalmers left the meeting.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (Nil)

7. AWARDING OF TENDERS/RFPs

7.1 Award of RFP#2018-05-404 Fixed Wireless (Internet) Enhancement Projects

Councillor Garland declared a conflict of interest as she has a family member employed with the company, and left the table.

David Muise, Director of IT, MSJB; Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer; and Dave Waters, Director of Business Development, Tourism and Infrastructure, were in attendance.

Ms. Kucharski gave her presentation, “Internet Connectivity Strategy” (circulated with the Agenda), highlighting the following points:

- Background
- Vision
- Strategy
- Selecting New Projects

Ms. Kucharski also referred to the “Internet Connectivity Strategy” report (circulated with the Agenda).

Mr. Dumaresq reviewed his report, “RFP Award - #2018-05-404 – Fixed Wireless (Internet) Enhancement Projects” (circulated with the Agenda). He advised that David Muise, Director of

IT with the MJSB, was involved with the process to provide technical advice. Mr. Dumaresq further advised of an error in his report where it speaks of the height of the tower. The correct height of the tower should be noted as 30 metres.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Moore, seconded by Councillor Bell that Municipal Council award Request for Proposal #2018-05-404 – Fixed Wireless (Internet) Enhancement Projects to TNC Wireless Ltd. for \$80,410.30 plus HST.

A discussion followed on the determination of who would get coverage. It was suggested that because coverage is based on topography, service may be limited to those who cannot see the tower.

The motion on the floor was voted on and carried unanimously.

Councillor Garland returned to the table.

9. CONSIDERATION OF CORRESPONDENCE (Nil)

10. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES & BOARDS

10.1 Finance Committee

10.1.1 Rose Bay Marine Park Society Financial Request

Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Nauss that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and approve funding to the Rose Bay Marine Park Society in the amount of \$6,000 for the groundwork portion of their project at Rose Bay Wharf; and further, that the money for the expenditure come from the 2018-19 surplus. Carried unanimously.

10.1.2 Website Projects

Moved by Councillor Garland, seconded by Councillor Hustvedt that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and authorize staff to proceed with two website projects; one for modl.ca and one for Lunenburgregion.ca at a combined cost of \$13,160 plus HST. Carried unanimously.

11. STAFF REPORTS

11.1 Administration Department

11.1.1 YGYI 2018 Engagement Report

Ms. Kucharski reviewed her report, “2018 Your Government, Your Ideas Engagement Report” (circulated with the Agenda) and explained the reason for holding these types of meetings as well as the format of the evening. She advised that the results of the meetings would be available for viewing on the municipal website. Her report highlighted the following points:

- Engagement approach
- Advertising and media
- Engagement results
- Key themes
 - Internet
 - Roads
 - Municipal Responsibility
 - Lyme Disease

Ms. Kucharski noted that although there had been a decrease in attendance numbers at the meetings, there was an increase with online responses. The overall expression of those attending was that these events are a positive initiative.

Ms. Kucharski also noted that a new topic of concern this year was the appearance that the Municipality was taking on issues that should be deemed to be provincial responsibilities. The discussion at the meetings was that municipal tax dollars should be going towards municipal matters.

Ms. Kucharski advised that the table notes would be available to view online.

11.1.2 We Heard You

Ms. Kucharski provided an infographic (circulated with the Agenda) which featured information on how many people have provided input and/or feedback to the Municipality in 2018.

A discussion followed regarding the more formal “World Café” approach of reaching residents and its success. Ms. Kucharski advised that in 2019 Council would be receiving a formal publication strategy which would include a Citizen Guide and an Employee Toolkit.

11.2 Recreation Department

11.2.1 Designated Community Project Fund – Lunenburg Yacht Club

Moved by Councillor Ernst, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg grant the Lunenburg Yacht Club \$14,480 as per the criteria outlined in the Designated Community Project Fund Policy – MDL-48. Carried unanimously.

11.2.2 Designated Community Project Fund Extension – Lunenburg Yacht Club

Moved by Councillor Knickle, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg grant the Lunenburg Yacht Club an extension on their capital campaign, as approved by Council on February 21, 2017 through the Designated Community Project Fund, to December 31, 2019. Carried unanimously.

11.2.3 Recommendation re Sherbrooke Lake Final Plan

Trudy Payne, Director of Recreation, was in attendance.

Ms. Payne reviewed the memo from the Sherbrooke Lake Park Advisory Committee, “Final Report EDM and Recommendations” (circulated with the Agenda).

Moved by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Bell that Municipal Council receive the final report titled “Sherbrooke Lake Park Final Plan” as prepared by EDM Planning Services, dated October 2018, and that Council adhere to the Memorandum of Understanding signed by both the Municipality of the District of Chester and the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.

Concern was raised that a member of the Sherbrooke Lake Park Advisory Committee owns a property adjacent to the park site, and that the member may be in a conflict of interest.

Mr. Malloy reminded Council that the committee members were assigned by Council with the knowledge that a member was an adjacent property owner. Legal advice was received and the Standards of Community Input were reviewed. It was determined that there was no conflict as the member’s role was to make recommendations, not decisions. Concern was raised that Council was not privy to the fact that a potential committee member was an adjacent land owner. Mr. Malloy advised that he would review the Minutes.

Ms. Payne advised that the Committee was making a recommendation only. The decision was to be made by Council.

The Motion on the floor was voted on and carried. Those Opposed: Councillor Ernst

Ms. Payne suggested that the second recommendation of the Sherbrooke Lake Park Advisory Committee be referred to the Finance Committee for discussion.

11.2.4 Land on Big Tancook Island

Laura Barkhouse, Trails & Open Space Coordinator, was in attendance.

Ms. Barkhouse reviewed her report, “Land on Big Tancook Island” (circulated with the Agenda), advising that the property owner wished to gift the property to the Municipality. The total cost to the Municipality would be approximately \$3,500 to migrate and survey the land.

Moved by Councillor Knickle, seconded by Councillor Nauss that Municipal Council accept the gift of land, being PID #60333036, 60332400, and 60429115, on Big Tancook Island from the family of the late property owner, George Daniel Kaplan.

Concern was raised as to the certainty of gaining public access to the property. Ms. Barkhouse advised that there was a public foot path, i.e., public right of way, from the end of the public road to the property.

It was requested that a legal opinion be provided as to the definition of a “public foot path”. Ms. Barkhouse advised that she was currently investigating this matter as per an earlier direction of Council in regards to another property, and this would be addressed in that report.

The Motion was voted on and carried unanimously.

11.3 Planning Department

11.3.1 Amendment Application – Riverport & District Plan Area

Douglas Reid, Senior Planner, was in attendance.

Mr. Reid reviewed his report, “Amendment Application – Riverport & District Plan Area” (circulated with the Agenda).

Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Carver that Municipal Council forward the amendment application, as submitted by the Riverport Fire Commission, to the Riverport & District Area Advisory Committee for review and recommendation to the Planning Advisory Committee. Carried unanimously.

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

12.1 Update - MJSB

Councillor Garland reported that she attended her first meeting of the Municipal Joint Services Board (MJSB) since being appointed to the Board.

Councillor Garland provided the following updates:

- New MJSB Agreement has been circulated.
- 2nd quarter financial report was circulated
- ITSS update – number of “tickets” increased due to the install of the new phone system
- Discussion around work-place safety policy re cannabis.

Councillor Ernst requested an update on the RFP for insurance services posted in the local paper. Mr. Malloy explained that the partners of the MJSB and the LCLC were working towards jointly procuring a new insurance plan, in an attempt to save costs and receive improved service.

12.2 Discussion on NSFM

Councillor Hustvedt provided information on the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities conference held in Halifax in November, and an overview of some of the various topics discussed.

Mayor Bolivar-Getson explained that these conferences are classified as professional development and a good opportunity to network.

12.3 Update – Deputy Mayor

Deputy Mayor Moore attended the MODL staff Christmas party; the Division III Senior Girls Provincial Championships; the Christmas Festival at New Germany; and a private tour of River Ridge Commons.

12.4 Update – Mayor

Mayor Bolivar-Getson attended the Mahone Bay Father Christmas Festival; a Tree Lighting in New Germany; the Community Internet Connectivity meeting in Rose Bay; the opening ceremonies of the Girls Volleyball NSFAF Championships Division I; Countryside Christmas in New Germany; tour of River Ridge Commons; Breakfast with Santa; several breakfasts, Christmas concerts, and Penny Auctions throughout the Municipality.

13. IN CAMERA - Nil

14. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Bolivar-Getson thanked the public members for attending the meeting.

There being no further business at 8:39 p.m., it was moved by Deputy Mayor Moore, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the meeting adjourn. Carried.