

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF LUNENBURG  
Minutes of a Meeting of  
**MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
Held in Council Chamber, 210 Aberdeen Road, Bridgewater, NS  
**Tuesday, March 26, 2019 – 9:00 a.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 John Veinot, District 4  
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

Staff: Kevin Malloy, Chief Administrative Officer  
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Sherry Conrad, Municipal Clerk  
Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer  
Byung Jun Kang, Planner  
Tina Robichaud-Bond, Executive Assistant

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/RECOGNITION**

Councillor Hustvedt congratulated Citizens for Public Transit on their efforts to address transit issues.

Mayor Bolivar-Getson introduced and welcomed, Byung Jun Kang, the Municipality's new Planner.

**3. PUBLIC INPUT (Nil)**

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was requested that an In Camera matter be added to the Agenda as Item 14.3.

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Moore, seconded by Councillor Carver that the Agenda be approved with the addition of Item 14.3 Personnel Matter under Section 22(2)(c) of the MGA. Carried unanimously.**

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 12, 2019**

**Moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the Minutes of the March 12, 2019 Council meeting and the Public Hearing regarding the Development Agreement, Blockhouse be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Minutes of the March 12, 2019 Public Hearing regarding the Oakland Secondary Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law and the Special Council meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.**

**6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (Nil)**

**7. AWARDING OF TENDERS/RFPs (Nil)**

**8. PRESENTATIONS/SCHEDULED TIMES**

**8.1 Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Program**

Chris Acomb, Senior Safety Coordinator, and David Walker, Chair – Safe Communities Lunenburg County, were in attendance.

Ms. Acomb gave a presentation on “Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Program – A Project of Safe Communities Lunenburg County” (circulated with the Agenda), highlighting the following points:

- 2019 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the program
- Program is a non-profit community based free service
- Program serves seniors 55+ residing in Lunenburg County
- Summary of what the program offers
- Reasons for referrals
- Funding partnerships

Ms. Acomb reported that the pilot project funded by the Province for the additional staff person was ending. She advised that the program could have 80-120 clients at any given time and that this staff position was required to fill the needs of their clients, and hoped funding could come through for this position. In 2018, 174 referrals were received and over 300 home visits were carried out.

Mr. Walker reported that funding for the program is held by Safe Communities Lunenburg County with funds coming from both the Provincial and Municipal governments, and from community organizations. He noted that funding requests to municipalities have been kept the same as last year. The Board was exploring other funding partnerships.

Ms. Acomb advised the first Senior Safety Program Provincial Conference will be held on May 15 - 16, 2019 in Lunenburg County.

Ms. Acomb and Mr. Walker left the meeting

**9. CONSIDERATION OF CORRESPONDENCE (Nil)**

**10. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES & BOARDS**

**10.1 Policy & Strategy Committee**

**10.1.1 Public Participation Strategy**

**Moved by Councillor Garland, seconded by Councillor Nauss that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Policy & Strategy Committee and approve the Public Participation Strategy as presented. Carried unanimously.**

**10.1.2 Sponsorship Ad – 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Burg Classic**

**Moved by Councillor Knickle, seconded by Councillor Bell that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Policy & Strategy Committee and approve a Sponsorship Ad request from the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Burg Classic in the amount of \$250.00, for the bronze level sponsorship, and also donate a Silent Auction item for their community fundraising event taking place March 28 to 31, 2019 to be held at the Lunenburg Arena & Community Centre. Carried unanimously.**

**10.1.3 Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre Strategic Priorities**

**Moved by Councillor Ernst, seconded by Councillor Hustvedt that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Policy & Strategy Committee and endorse the Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre Strategic Priorities. Carried unanimously.**

**10.1.4 LCMPPCC Request for Proposal**

**Moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Deputy Mayor Moore that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Policy & Strategy Committee and the Lunenburg County Multi-purpose Centre Corporation Board (LCMPCC) and approve the release of the LCMPPCC's Request for Proposal to secure a Transition Coordinator, Organization Review & Interim Operations Service. Carried unanimously.**

**10.2 Fire & Emergency Services Committee**

**10.2.1 Group Personnel Insurance Project Plan**

Mr. Dumaresq provided an update on the status of the Group Personnel Insurance Project Plan (circulated with the Agenda).

**Moved by Councillor Veinot, seconded by Councillor Whynot that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Fire & Emergency Services Committee and approve the Group Personnel Insurance Project Plan as submitted in the attached recommendation.**

It was noted that the intention of the project is to ensure that all fire fighters and auxiliary members receive the same level of insurance coverage based on their respective duties.

**The Motion on the floor was voted on and carried unanimously.**

**11. STAFF REPORTS (Nil)**

**12. MAYOR'S/DEPUTY MAYOR'S/COUNCILLORS' MATTERS**

**12.1 Update – Deputy Mayor**

Deputy Mayor Moore reported that she attended agenda briefings and brought greetings to the Christmas Tree Producers Spring Session in West Northfield.

**12.2 Update – Mayor**

Mayor Bolivar-Getson reported that she attended the Chamber of Commerce Breakfast, various meetings, and community events.

**8.2 Sherbrooke Lake Stewardship Committee Update & Report**

Trudy Payne, Director of Recreation; Blake McDonald, Sherbrooke Lake Stewardship Committee Member; and Sarah McLeod, Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation (BCAF), were in attendance.

Ms. McLeod reviewed the results of the water quality testing report, (circulated with the Agenda). She advised that the objective of the testing was to provide a baseline of the water quality at Sherbrooke Lake (Lake).

Mr. McDonald explained that the Reports were completed by volunteers with support and training from BCAF. He advised that a Communications Plan had been developed which included:

- Posting both Full and Summary Reports on the Municipal website
- Distributing Summary Report to Lake stakeholders
- Hosting a Public Open House
- Posting copies of Summary Report at selected locations

A question was raised as to the health of the fish in the Lake. Ms. McLeod advised that the fish in the Lake were not tested but, due to the high levels of arsenic, cadmium, and mercury in southern Nova Scotia lakes, it was possible that the fish could be contaminated.

Mr. McDonald explained the details of the 2019/2020 proposed budget. It was clarified that according to the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding, the Municipality of the District of Chester would contribute \$7,000 each year towards the project.

It was recommended that the Stewardship Committee's proposed budget be referred to the Finance Committee for further discussion and that the proposed Communications Plan be brought back to the next Council meeting with the Summary Report.

Ms. McLeod and Mr. McDonald left the meeting.

### **10.3 Pension Committee**

#### **10.3.1 DB Pension Plan PSSP**

Mayor Bolivar-Getson declared a conflict of interest and left the table. Deputy Mayor Moore took the Chair.

Angela Veinot, Accounting Manager, and Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning and Development Services, members of the Pension Committee, joined the meeting.

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance, and Paul Burnell, Senior Pension Consultant, Plenus Consultants, were in attendance.

Mr. Malloy provided background to the discussions surrounding a possible transfer to the Public Service Superannuation Plan, highlighting the following points:

- Currently two pay scales and two pension plans
- One plan would unify and provide long term sustainability
- A majority vote is required by the members of the Defined Benefits Plan

Mr. Burnell gave a presentation, “Pension Plan for Employees of MODL – Possible Transfer to PSSP” (attached to Minutes), highlighting the following points:

- Overview of the Public Service Superannuation Plan (PSSP)
- Comparison of the current plan and the PSSP
- Impact on Defined Benefits members
- Financial and Other Implications
- Future Service
- Possible Barriers

Angela Veinot left the meeting.

**Moved by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Bell that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Pension Committee to gather more information on the possible transfer of the Municipal Pension Plan to the Public Service Superannuation Plan.**

It was suggested that a summary of the details discussed be prepared.

**The Motion on the floor was voted on and carried unanimously.**

Ms. Wentzell and Mr. Burnell left the meeting.

Mayor Bolivar Getson returned to the table.

**13. ADDED ITEMS**

See In Camera Item 14.3 – Personnel Matter

**14. IN CAMERA**

**At 11:29, it was moved by Deputy Mayor Moore, seconded by Councillor Hustvedt that Municipal Council go In Camera to discuss the following items:**

- 14.1 Contract Negotiations re HR Shared Services under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA**
- 14.2 Contract Negotiations re Internet Agreement under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA**
- 14.3 Personnel Matter under Section 22(2)(c) of the MGA**

**Carried.**

Municipal Council In Camera in session.

**At 12:30 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Nauss that Municipal Council come out of In Camera and return to open session. Carried.**

Municipal Council in session.

- 14.1 Contract Negotiations re HR Shared Services under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA**

**Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Nauss that Municipal Council approve Schedule 3.1 – Human Resources Shared Services, as distributed, of the Municipal Joint Services Board Agreement and authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute the Schedule to the Agreement. Carried unanimously.**

- 14.2 Contract Negotiations re Internet Agreement under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA**

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Moore, seconded by Councillor Veinot that Municipal Council approve the Service Level Agreement for Rural High-Speed Internet with TNC Wireless Ltd., as presented In Camera, and authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute same. Carried unanimously.**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business at 12:35 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Carver that the meeting adjourn. Carried.**

# Pension Plan for Employees of MODL

Possible Transfer to PSSP

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## Overview

- The PSSP is the Public Service Superannuation Plan
  - For NS provincial government employees
  - Over \$6 billion in assets
- PSSP was opened up recently to allow Universities and Municipalities to join

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NOT VALID WITHOUT COMMENTARY

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## Overview (cont'd)

- If a transfer proceeds:
  - PSSP will assume liabilities of MODL's DB Pension Plan
  - DB Members earn new benefits in PSSP
  - DC Members earn new benefits in PSSP
  - Each DC Member would have option to purchase years of service in PSSP based on years of employment (using DC accounts)

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## Comparison of Plans

- MODL is career average salary plan
- PSSP is final average salary plan
- PSSP integrated with CPP, MODL is not integrated
  - PSSP benefit reduces at age 65
  - In event of transfer past service benefits would not be less than what was earned in MODL

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## Comparison of Plans (cont'd)

- Age at which an unreduced pension is payable similar in two plans
- PSSP has 35-year service cap
- PSSP has some indexation of pensions in pay
- PSSP does not allow OACs

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## Impact on DB Members

- Active Members
  - Future benefits based on PSSP rules
  - Past service greater of PSSP rules and MODL rules
    - Test done at retirement or termination
- Retired Members
  - PSSP would pay benefits, same amount and same form of benefit
  - Would get PSSP indexation

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## Financial Implications

- PSSP's actuary calculates cost to assume past service liabilities
  - Transfer in should not impact PSSP's funded position
- Estimated cost at 31-Dec-2017
  - After covering required cost, approximately \$0.1 million would remain in MODL DB pension fund

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## Financial Implications (cont'd)

- Estimated surplus of \$0.1 million as of 31-Dec-2017
  - Earliest a transfer could occur is sometime in 2019
  - If PSSP's assets perform better than MODL's assets between 31-Dec-2017 and the transfer date, the surplus will decrease and could become a deficit

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## Financial Implications (cont'd)

- PSSP requires plans transferring in to pay the PSSP's expenses for:
  - Legal
  - Actuarial
  - Systems/programming
- MODL would also need to obtain legal and actuarial advice
- Total expenses in similar situations \$0.3 million

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## Future Service

- MODL's contributions currently:
  - 14.8% of payroll, plus annual payment of \$27,659
    - Total estimated contribution in 2018 (employee & MODL) \$225,805
  - PSSP contributions (matching) 8.4% of earnings to YMPE, 10.9% above YMPE
    - Total estimated contributions in 2018 (employee and MODL) \$232,000

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## Other Implications

- MODL would need less internal pension expertise
- Pension reporting for financial statements would be simplified
- MODL would have limited control on pension decisions going forward
- PSSP is much larger Plan, should provide more stable returns and experience

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## Other Implications (cont'd)

- DB MODL members would have slightly more RRSP room going forward
- Would put all members in one pension plan
- MODL allows members to contribute additional amounts (OACs)
  - PSSP doesn't allow and won't accept
  - Need to deal with them before transfer

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## Possible Barriers

- Currently two active members with more than 35 years of service
  - PSSP will not accept more than 35 years of service
- Two retired members used OACs to purchase indexation
  - PSSP will not agree to pay different indexation

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