

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Minutes of a Meeting of Municipal Council

Held via Audio and Video Conference

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Deputy Mayor Martin Bell, District 2
Councillor Leitha Haysom, District 1
Councillor Wendy Oickle, District 3
Councillor Pam Hubley, District 4
Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5
Councillor Sandra Statton, District 6
Councillor Michelle Greek, District 7
Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8
Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9
Councillor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10

Staff

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO
Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation Services
Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance
Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning & Development Services
Byung Jun Kang, Planner
Sherry Conrad, Municipal Clerk
Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer
Chris Kennedy, Fire & Emergency Services Coordinator
Tina Robichaud-Bond, Executive Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bolivar-Getson 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, and advised that due to COVID restrictions the meeting was held by video and teleconference.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/RECOGNITION

2.1 Proclamation – May 2021 Lyme Disease Awareness Month

Mayor Bolivar-Getson proclaimed May 2021 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.

2.2 Acknowledgement Kyle Whynot – Level II Building Inspector Certification

Mayor Bolivar-Getson recognized Kyle Whynot, a municipal staff member, and congratulated him on achieving the Level II Building Official Qualification from the Nova Scotia Building Officials Association.

Councillor Greek recognized and thanked the Walden Volunteer Fire Department for their efforts in cleaning up garbage on 22 kms of roadside.

Councillor Haysom acknowledged the Broad Cove Hall and Community Association for receiving funds from the Royal Riches Fundraiser. These funds will be used towards accessibility improvements to the hall.

Councillor Hubley congratulated the Branch LaHave Community Centre for a successful penny auction fundraiser.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Greek that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Public Hearing & Council meeting of April 13, 2021

Moved by Councillor DeLong, seconded by Deputy Mayor Bell that the Minutes of the Public Hearing and Council meeting of April 13, 2021 be approved as circulated. Carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES (Nil)

6. AWARDING OF TENDERS/RFPs (Nil)

8. CONSIDERATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

8.1.1 Correspondence from Minister Chuck Porter re Georges Bank Moratorium

Mayor Bolivar-Getson reported on the letter received from the Honourable Chuck Porter, Minister of Energy and Mines (circulated with the Agenda), in response to the Municipality's letter of support for the continuation of the Georges Bank Oil and Gas Exploration and Drilling Moratorium.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES & BOARDS

9.1 Policy & Strategy Committee

9.1.1 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Mr. MacEwan reported that in 2018, the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities passed a Resolution supporting the Extended Producer Responsibility Program for Printed Paper and Packaging which was forwarded to the Province. He advised that if Council was in agreement with the Resolution, a letter of support would be forwarded to the Province.

2021-076 Moved by Councillor Haysom, seconded by Councillor Hubley that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Policy & Strategy Committee and write a letter to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities and the Provincial Government in support of the Extended Producer Responsibility Program for Printed Paper and Packaging. Carried unanimously.

10. STAFF REPORTS

10.1 Planning & Development Department

10.1.2 Appointment of Building Inspector, Ryan Whynot

2021-077 Moved by Deputy Mayor Bell, seconded by Councillor Oickle that Municipal Council appoint Ryan Whynot as a Building Official for the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg. Carried unanimously.

7. PRESENTATIONS/SCHEDULED TIMES

7.1 Lunenburg Marine Museum Society

John Meisner, President, Lunenburg Marine Museum Society; Angela Saunders, General Manager, Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic; and Anne Bailly, Director of Operations, Bluenose II, were in attendance virtually via TEAMS.

Mr. Meisner, Ms. Saunders, and Ms. Bailly gave a presentation, "Lunenburg Marine Museum Society" (circulated with the Agenda), highlighting the following:

- History of the Museum and Society
- Operations of the Museum
- Economic Spin offs
- Plans for 2021 season
- Bluenose II Operations & Plans for 2021

It was noted that Council could support the Society's initiatives by sharing the Museum's information and following it on social media.

Mr. Meisner, Ms. Saunders, and Ms. Bailly left the meeting.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES & BOARDS

9.2 Nominating Committee

9.2.1 Appointment to Police Advisory Board

2021-078 Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Nominating Committee and appoint Michael Mason as the member-at-large on the Police Advisory Board for a two-year term expiring April 30, 2023. Carried unanimously.

10. STAFF REPORTS

10.1 Planning & Development Department

10.1.1 Proposed Amendments to MODL-027 Alteration Review Procedure to Municipal Heritage Property

2021-079 Moved by Councillor DeLong, seconded by Councillor Haysom that Municipal Council approve the proposed amendments to Policy 027, the Alteration Review Procedure to Municipal Heritage Property. Carried unanimously.

10.2 Administration Department

10.2.1 Cost Share Program for J Class Road

Mr. MacEwan reported that the Department of Transportation and Active Transit (“TAT”) submitted the list of roads for the 2021-2022 Cost Share Program for J Class Roads with only the Orphans Home Road listed.

2021-080 Moved by Councillor Statton, seconded by Deputy Mayor Bell that Municipal Council accept the cost estimate submitted by the Department of Transportation and Active Transit for the Orphans Home Road under the Cost Share Program for J Class Roads and confirm its intention to proceed with the construction as per the terms of the Cost Share Agreement 2020-015; and further, that the Mayor be authorized to execute the Notice of Acceptance.

It was noted that, as in other years, the Province could offer more roads should funds be available.

Mr. MacEwan clarified that a more detailed cost estimate would be provided at a later date; and, if the original estimate was over or under by 10%, a new Notice of Acceptance would be provided for signature.

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

10.2.2 Council Remuneration and Benefits

Brian Smith and Rachel Jones of BTS Management Consulting Limited were in attendance.

Mr. Smith and Ms. Jones reviewed their report, “2021 Council Compensation Review Final Report” (circulated with the Agenda), providing details on the following:

- Periodic reviews of council compensation
- Roles of Councillors
- Remuneration, Pension & Benefits – data, comparisons, and analysis
- Recommendations

Discussions followed regarding the following:

- Parental leave
- Attracting quality candidates
- Costs
- Councillors not being able to opt out of pension benefits

2021-081 Moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Greek that the annual remuneration levels for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor remain at current levels, with annual adjustments by CPI each year, subject to budget review; that Council extend pension and health benefit programs to elected officials, like those programs that exist for staff; that Municipal Council extend parental leave benefits to elected officials, like those provided to staff; that staff monitor the benchmark municipalities every four years in terms of compensation for elected officials and report this information to Council, to ensure MODL compensation levels remain fair and comparable”.

It was noted that benefit payments could begin as soon as Councillors determine the type of benefit they require, i.e., single or family plan. It was also noted that Councillors who already have a medical plan, can opt out upon proof of being a member of another plan.

The Motion on the floor was carried. Opposed: Councillor Moore

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

11.1 LCLC Update

Councillor Hubley provided an update on the following topics discussed at the April 15, 2021 Lunenburg County Multi-purpose Centre Corporation Board meeting:

- Board Governance Manual
- March 31, 2021 aged receivables
- Reserve surplus
- Ice surface rentals
- Para Cup
- Energy project design
- WIFI and website redesign
- Scheduling/Registration software
- Communications/Marketing position
- Summer day camps
- Bike lending program
- Snow removal cost savings

It was clarified that decisions regarding the use of reserve surplus funds can only be made by the Councils.

11.2 Deputy Mayor's Update

Deputy Mayor Bell advised that he attended agenda review briefings and was in to sign cheques.

11.3 Mayor's Update

Mayor Bolivar-Getson advised that she attended the anti-racism discussion; Special Finance Committee meeting; and virtual NSFAM board meetings.

Mr. MacEwan provided an overview of the adjustments made to the operations of the municipal office due to the latest COVID restrictions.

12. ADDED ITEMS (Nil)

13. IN CAMERA

At 11:43 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Haysom that Municipal Council go In Camera to discuss Item 13.1 Contract Negotiations re LaHave River Project under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA. Carried.

Municipal Council In Camera in session.

At 12:00 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Moore that Municipal Council come out of In Camera and return to open session. Carried.

Municipal Council in session.

13.1 Contract Negotiations re LaHave River Project

2021-082 Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Hubley that Municipal Council authorize staff to proceed with an installation agreement for the property at 171 Leary Fraser Road in Dayspring as part of the Small Communities Fund (SCF) grant for the LaHave River Straight Pipe Project. Carried unanimously.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at 12:02 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Oickle that the meeting adjourn. Carried.