

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Minutes of a Meeting of Municipal Council

Held via Audio and Video Conference

Tuesday, May 25, 2021 – 10:30 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

Dave Waters, Director of Business Development, Tourism & Infrastructure

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance

Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation Services

Stephen Pace, Director of Engineering & Public Works

Sherry Conrad, Municipal Clerk

Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer

Jamie Burgess, Municipal Engineer

Byung Jun Kang, Planner

Mark Strickland, Business Development Officer

Chris Kennedy, Fire & Emergency Services Coordinator

Norma Schieffer, Development Officer

Darren Shupe, Senior Planner

Tina Robichaud-Bond, Executive Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bolivar-Getson called the meeting to order at 10:30 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 the meeting was being held via audio and video conference. She noted that the meeting had a delayed start due to power outages in the Municipality.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/RECOGNITION

2.1 Proclamation – Access Awareness Week

Mayor Bolivar-Getson proclaimed May 30 to June 5, 2021 as Access Awareness Week to promote the inclusion of all Nova Scotians with disabilities as full citizens within our communities.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Special Council May 4, 2021; Council May 11, 2021; and Special Council May 11, 2021

Moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Moore that the Minutes of the Special Council meeting of May 4, 2021, the regular Council meeting of May 11, 2021, and the Special Council meeting of May 11, 2021 be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES (Nil)

6. AWARDING OF TENDERS/RFPs

6.1 Award of RFQ#2020-01-307 Wastewater & Water Sampling Analyses

Satu Peori, Manager of Wastewater Services, was in attendance.

Ms. Peori reviewed her report, “Award Wastewater & Water Sampling Analyses RFQ 2020-01-307” (circulated with the Agenda).

Due to power connection issues experienced by some Councillors, the meeting was recessed.

Upon restart, the following motion was moved.

2021-091 Moved by Deputy Mayor Bell, seconded by Councillor Haysom that Municipal Council award the RFQ 2020-01-307 Wastewater & Water Sampling Analyses to Bureau Veritas – Atlantic Canada for the total amount of \$71,592 plus HST over a three-year period.

A question was posed regarding the cost of the analysis for the last 3 years. Ms. Peori advised that she would provide the information to Council.

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

Ms. Peori left the meeting.

6.2 Award of Tender re Harold Whynot/Craig Chandler Road Upgrades & Paving

Mr. Burgess reviewed his report, "Harold Whynot Rd. & Craig Chandler Dr. Paving Project" (circulated with the Agenda).

2021-092 Moved by Councillor Statton, seconded by Deputy Mayor Bell that Municipal Council award the Harold Whynot Rd. & Craig Chandler Dr. Paving Project Tender 2021-05-001 to Dexter Construction Ltd. for \$739,800 plus HST; and further, that Municipal Council concurrently approve a change order contingency of 15% for a total construction value of \$850,770 plus HST.

It was clarified that the cul-de-sac at the end of Craig Chandler Drive would be included in the paving project.

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

8. CONSIDERATION OF CORRESPONDENCE (Nil)

9. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES & BOARDS

9.1 Policy & Strategy Committee

9.1.1 Amendments to MODL Policy 003 Council Members' Remuneration & Expenses

2021-093 Moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Hubley that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Policy & Strategy Committee and approve the proposed amendments to MODL Policy 003 Council Members' Remuneration and Expenses as presented.

Ms. Wentzell advised that the terms of parental leave would be included in a separate policy.

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

9.1.2 Amendments to MODL Policy 049 Property Tax Rebate

2021-094 Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Policy & Strategy Committee and approve proposed amendments to MODL Policy 049 Property Tax Rebate as presented.

It was noted that the policy change would be permanent and that a statutory declaration signed by the resident would no longer be required. It was clarified that residents who had already provided their applications would not be required to re-apply using the new form.

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

7. PRESENTATIONS/SCHEDULED TIMES

7.1 Dayspring Residential Development Project

Garland Wells, Managing Director, Promise Holdings Ltd., was in attendance.

Mr. Wells gave a presentation on the “Dayspring Residential Development Project” (circulated with the Agenda). Mr. Wells advised that the project was for a residential development in Dayspring, to be completed in 3 phases, and would include both single and multi-family homes. Mr. Wells’ proposal also included that the Municipality assume the maintenance of the roads in the development project. His presentation provided details on the following:

- Project Description
- Project Scope
- Objectives
- Development Plan – 3 Phases
- Deliverables
- Implementation
- The New Normal
- Success Factors
- Team Roles & Responsibilities
- Project Schedule & Milestones
- Risk Management Plan

Mr. Wells noted that the development project was contingent on determining the ownership of the roads in the development. He advised that having to pave the roads would considerably increase the cost of the development which would render the project too costly to move ahead. He was also concerned that the matter of road ownership was creating delays that would move the project too far into the future to be feasible.

Discussions followed regarding the following:

- Resident opinions
- Affordable housing
- Walking trail connection to Miller Peace Park
- Time frame of development – Road standards interpretation may delay project
- New 3-D printed homes technology – environmental impact
- Sewer & water plans
- Fire/emergency plan

Mr. Wells left the meeting.

Ms. Schieffer, Mr. Strickland, Mr. Waters, Mr. Burgess, and Mr. Pace left the meeting.

Mayor Bolivar-Getson did roll call to ensure all Councillors were still connected.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES & BOARDS

9.1 Policy & Strategy Committee

9.1.3 Approval of MODL Policy 091 Dealing with Difficult Customers

2021-095 Moved by Councillor Greek, seconded by Councillor Whynot that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Policy & Strategy Committee and approve the proposed draft MODL Policy 091 Dealing with Difficult Customers as presented. Carried unanimously.

9.1.4 Approval of MODL Policy 092 Customer Complaints Handling

2021-096 Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Haysom that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Policy & Strategy Committee and approve the proposed draft MODL Policy 092 Customer Complaints Handling as presented. Carried unanimously.

9.2 Fire & Emergency Services Committee

9.2.1 Appointment of Member-at-Large – Randy Harris

2021-027 Moved by Councillor Hubley, seconded by Councillor Greek that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Fire & Emergency Services Committee and approve the appointment of Randy Harris, as a member-at-large, to the Fire & Emergency Services Committee for a 3-year term expiring May 31, 2024.

It was clarified that the Fire & Emergency Services Committee nominate their own committee members for recommendation to Council.

Councillor Statton was disconnected from the meeting due to connectivity issues.

Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Kang left the meeting.

The Motion on the floor was voted and carried unanimously.

10. STAFF REPORTS

10.1 Recreation Department

10.1.1 Sponsorship Request – Mahone Bay Music Association

Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation Services, was in attendance.

Ms. Schurman reviewed the report, "Community Event Grant: Mahone Bay Music Association (MBMA)" (circulated with the Agenda).

2021-098 Moved by Councillor DeLong, seconded by Councillor Haysom that Municipal Council approve the Community Event Grant for the Mahone Bay Music Association in the amount of \$1,000 to support their Summer Concert Series. Carried unanimously.

10.1.2 Sponsorship Request – Nova Scotia Nunavut Command

Mr. Schurman reviewed the report, “Sponsorship Ad Grant: Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command of the Royal Canadian Legion’s 18th Annual Veterans Service Recognition Book” (circulated with the Agenda). Mr. Schurman reported that a request for further information regarding benefits to local residents went unanswered.

Due to power connection issues experienced by some Councillors, the meeting was recessed.

Upon restart, the following agenda item was discussed.

10.2 Finance Department

10.2.1 Waive Interest on Interim Tax Bill

Mr. MacEwan reviewed his report, “Municipal Tax Billing COVID-19 Response and Options” (circulated via email) and advised that under the Municipal Government Act, Council had options for providing financial assistance to taxpayers. He explained that because tax bills had already been distributed, the opportunity to change the due date of payments had passed. The option to reduce or eliminate the interest rate on overdue tax accounts for a period of time would still provide a type of financial relief.

It was noted that residents who prefer to pay their tax accounts by the due date may do so, but until further notice, other means of payment would have to be used as the Municipal Services Building was not open to the public. Residents who historically pay in cash would be able to do so once the Municipal Services Building was re-opened to the public without incurring interest charges.

2021-099 Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Greek that Municipal Council set the interest charged on overdue property taxes starting June 1, 2021 continuing through August 31, 2021 at 0%.

It was noted communications would go out to residents via all media platforms.

It was suggested that the interest rate be changed to 5% rather than 0% as many residents have already paid their taxes, allowing for no loss in revenue to date. The point was made that making a change to a 0% interest rate may be considered unfair to residents who have already paid their accounts.

The Motion on the floor was voted on and carried. Opposed: Deputy Mayor Bell

10.1.2 Sponsorship Request – Nova Scotia Nunavut Command

The report and discussion on this matter is noted above and was done prior to the recess.

2021-100 Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Hubley that Municipal Council does not approve the Sponsorship Ad request of the Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command of the Royal Canadian Legion for their annual Veterans Service Recognition Book.

It was clarified that, in the past, the sponsorship ad request was supported. However, the request for further information regarding benefits to local residents went unanswered.

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

10.1.3 Sponsorship Request - Nova Scotia Ground Search & Rescue

Mr. Schurman reviewed the report, "Sponsorship Ad Grant: NS Ground Search and Rescue" (circulated with the Agenda).

2021-101 Moved by Councillor Greek, seconded by Councillor Oickle that Municipal Council approve the Sponsorship Ad request of the Nova Scotia Ground Search and Rescue Association for a ¼ page black and white ad for \$310 to support their 10th Annual Wilderness Survival Guide. Carried unanimously.

In response to a question, Mr. Schurman advised that the sponsorship ads may include the MODL logo and text, depending on the size of the ad.

10.1.4 Sponsorship Request – Police Association of Nova Scotia

Mr. Schurman reviewed the report, "Sponsorship Ad Grant: Police Association of Nova Scotia (circulated with the Agenda). Mr. Schurman reported that information requested from the Police Association remained unanswered, and that a percentage of funds raised by the Police Association is paid to a third party for their services.

2021-102 Moved by Councillor Haysom, seconded by Councillor Oickle that Municipal Council does not approve the Sponsorship Ad request of the Police Association of Nova Scotia for their annual Crime Prevention Guide.

In response to a question, Mr. Schurman advised that if the requested information were to be provided at a later date, the sponsorship ad request would not be revisited in the same fiscal year.

The Motion on the floor was voted on and carried. Those Opposed: Councillors Greek and Whynot

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

11.1 LCLC Update

Due to connectivity issues throughout the meeting, the LCLC update will be provided at the next Council meeting.

11.2 Deputy Mayor's Update

Due to connectivity issues throughout the meeting, Deputy Mayor Bell's update will be provided at the next Council meeting.

11.3 Mayor's Update

Due to connectivity issues throughout the meeting, Mayor Bolivar-Getson's update will be provided at the next Council meeting.

12. ADDED ITEMS (Nil)

13. IN CAMERA (Nil)

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at 1:18 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that the meeting adjourn. Carried.