

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Minutes of a Meeting of Municipal Council

Held in Council Chambers, 10 Allée Champlain Drive, Cookville, NS
and Via Audio/Video Conferencing

Tuesday, March 22, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Deputy Mayor Cathy Moore, District 5
Councillor Leitha Haysom, District 1
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2
Councillor Wendy Oickle, District 3
Councillor Pam Hubley, District 4
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
Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning & Development Services
Darren Shupe, Senior Planner
Byung Jun Kang, Planner
Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance (via Teams)
Dave Waters, Director of Economic Development (via Teams)
Bill Schurman, Direction of Recreation, Parks & Tourism (via Teams)
Mark Strickland, Business Development Officer (via Teams)
Graham Hopkins, Inspection Services Manager (via Teams)
Abhi Jain, Sustainability Coordinator (via Teams)
April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk
Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer
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.

2. Announcements/Acknowledgements/Recognition

2.1 Presentation of 50 Year Service Awards

Mayor Bolivar-Getson presented Ed Mulock and Mike Mulock, volunteer firefighters with the LaHave & District Fire Department, each with a 50 Year Service Award. Mayor Bolivar-Getson thanked them for their service and dedication to their fire departments and the communities they serve. James Wamboldt, a volunteer firefighter with the Conquerall Bank Fire Department, was also the recipient of the 50 Year Service Award but was not able to attend in person to receive his award.

Councillor Greek reported that, in honour of the family lost in a house fire, the New Germany Fire Department provided smoke detectors to every child in the New Germany Fire District. Since that time 17 fire departments joined the mission of providing smoke detectors to all children in their respective areas. She noted that other departments were working with their members to do the same.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Approval of Minutes – March 8, 2022

Moved by Councillor Hubley, seconded by Councillor DeLong that the Minutes of the March 8, 2022 Council meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

5. Business arising from Minutes -Nil

6. Awarding of Tenders/RFPs - Nil

7. Presentations/Scheduled Times

7.1 Seniors Safety Partnership Society

David Murdoch, Chair of the Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Partnership Society (LCSSPS), and Staff Sergeant Victor Whalen, RCMP, were in attendance on TEAMS.

Mr. Murdoch gave a presentation on the financial requirements of the Seniors' Safety Program, explaining that the LCSSPS was in need of additional funding in order to continue providing the level of service to seniors. He provided details on the following:

- Staffing requirements
- Increased demand on services
- Reasons for increased funding
- Current Budget vs Proposed Budget

Staff Sergeant Whalen explained that the elder population was growing and the demand on policing services was also increasing.

Mr. Murdoch reported that the LCSSPS was requesting an increase in funding from all units, with the Municipality's portion to be increased to \$25,340.

Mr. Murdoch reported that the Province of Nova Scotia doubled the amount of their funding for the next fiscal year and that United Way had agreed to increase their funding by 75% as well. He explained that a substantial portion of the funding would go towards wages and benefits.

Mayor Bolivar-Getson advised that Council had made a motion recommending that the requested amount be included in the upcoming budget.

Mr. Murdoch and Staff Sergeant Whalen left the meeting.

8. Consideration of Correspondence - Nil

9. Recommendations from Committees & Boards

9.1 Policy & Strategy Committee

9.1.1 Approval of Amendments to MODL Policy 049 Property Tax Rebate

2022-038 Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Policy & Strategy Committee and approve the proposed amendments to MODL Policy 049 Property Tax Rebate, and further, that Municipal Council approve Option#4 for the income threshold and rebate amounts. Carried unanimously.

9.1.2 Approval of Amendments to MODL Policies 067, 068 & First Reading of By-law 031

2022-039 Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Whynot that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Policy & Strategy Committee and approve the proposed amendments to MODL Policy 067 PACE Program Clean Energy Upgrade Standards and MODL Policy 068 PACE Program lending Rate at 2%;

and

that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Policy & Strategy Committee and approve the amendments to By-law 031 Property Assessed Clean Energy Program, as presented, and give notice of Second Reading on April 26, 2022;

and

that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Policy & Strategy Committee and approve amendments to the CEF Customer Agreement, PACE Program Maximum Per Customer Financing Cap, and the Annual PACE Financing Ceiling, as presented, with a review of the program every two years, and report back to Council.

Mr. Merrill explained that the program is an energy reduction program designed to help residents save energy. He further explained that every application goes through an audit.

A concern was noted regarding having a lending program without credit checks as it could lead to residents defaulting on loan payments and losing their home. It was explained that prior amendments to the program had created barriers for applicants and the number of applications had decreased as a result.

Councillors were asked to make their residents aware of the program and the benefits of it.

The Motion on the floor was voted on and carried. Those Opposed: Councillors Statton and Hubley.

9.1.3 Clean Energy Financing Program Renewal 2022-2023

2022-040 Moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor DeLong that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Policy & Strategy Committee and renew its contract with Clean Foundation for another 1-year term (2022-2023) for the continued delivery of the Clean Energy Financing Program to MODL homeowners.

It was noted that the Clean Foundation is paid a \$250 admin fee by the homeowner.

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

9.2 Internal Transportation Committee

9.2.1 Letter of Support re Restructuring of Senior Wheels Association

2022-041 Moved by Councillor Haysom, seconded by Councillor Hubley that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Internal Transportation Committee and write a letter of support to Third Sector Enhancement Ltd. to show support for the restructuring of Senior Wheels Association so the Association may provide enhanced transportation services in the Municipality.

It was noted that Third Sector Enhancement Ltd. is a consulting firm hired to refigure the Senior Wheels services to enable enhanced services to the residents of Lunenburg County.

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

10. Staff Reports

10.1 Administration Department

10.1.1 Emergency Assistance Funding – Round 4

A report from Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO, and Joanne Powers, Executive Assistance, titled “Emergency Assistance Fund for Community Facilities” outlining the Emergency Assistance program and listing the recipients of the funding, was circulated with the agenda.

2022-042 Moved by Deputy Mayor Moore, seconded by Councillor Whynot that Municipal Council award the Emergency Assistance Fund for Community Facilities to the organizations listed in the staff report for a total amount of \$117,414 from the Emergency Fund established for community facilities in response to the Covid-19 public health protection measures. Carried unanimously.

10.1.2 Lunenburg County Christmas Tree Producers Association – Request for Funds

Councillor DeLong declared Conflict of Interest and removed herself from the table.

A report from April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk, titled “Funding Option – Lunenburg County Christmas Tree Producers Association” detailing the Association’s request for funding, was circulated with the agenda.

2022-043 Moved by Councillor Statton, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that Municipal Council approve a one-time grant in the amount of \$5,500 to the Lunenburg County Christmas Tree Producers Association for building renovations, and that the funds be taken from the Contingency Fund.

It was clarified that the building requiring repairs was in the Municipality and the decision to provide the grant was not based on any ask to other municipal units.

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

Councillor DeLong returned to the table.

10.2 Recreation Department

10.2.1 Major Recreation Capital Grant – Lunenburg Yacht Club

A report from Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation, Parks & Tourism, titled “Application: Major Recreation Capital Grant – Lunenburg Yacht Club” detailing the grant criteria and the grant request, was circulated with the agenda.

2022-044 Moved by Councillor DeLong, seconded by Deputy Mayor Moore that Municipal Council that Municipal Council approve the application from the Lunenburg Yacht Club (LYC)

for a Major Recreation Capital Grant in the amount of \$10,000 for urgent repairs to the roof structure of the clubhouse. Carried unanimously.

10.2.2 Sponsorship Ad Grant – Hinchinbrook Farm

A report from Tissy Bolivar, Program Coordinator, titled “Sponsorship Ad Grant: Hinchinbrook Farm” detailing the grant request, was circulated with the agenda.

2022-045 Moved by Councillor DeLong, seconded by Councillor Haysom that Municipal Council approve the Sponsorship Ad request of Hinchinbrook Farm for \$500 as a sign sponsor at their facility. Carried unanimously.

10.2.3 Sponsorship Ad Grant – The BURG Classic

A report from Tissy Bolivar, Program Coordinator, titled “Sponsorship Ad Grant: The Burg Classic, Community Fundraising Event” detailing the grant request, was circulated with the agenda.

It was noted that all money raised through fundraising is re-distributed in the community.

2022-046 Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that Municipal Council approve the Sponsorship Ad request of The Burg Classic for \$500 for the “Silver” level sponsorship for the Community Fundraising Event. Carried unanimously.

10.3 Planning & Development Department

10.3.1 Fire Inspection Agreement

Mr. Merrill reviewed his report, “Fire Inspection Agreement with Town of Bridgewater” (circulated with the agenda) and reported that the Town of Bridgewater requested to be added to the regional service for fire inspection services.

2022-047 Moved by Councillor Hubley, seconded by Councillor Whynot that Municipal Council authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to sign a Fire Inspection Services Agreement for MODL to provide fire inspection services to the Town of Bridgewater; and further, that a legal review be completed before signing the Agreement. Carried unanimously.

10.3.3 Surplus Vehicle – 2011 Ford Escape

A report from Graham Hopkins, Inspection Services Manager, titled “Surplus Vehicle – 2011 Ford Escape” detailing the status of the surplus vehicle, was circulated with the agenda.

2022-048 Moved by Councillor Greek, seconded by Councillor DeLong that Municipal Council declare the municipally owned vehicle, 2011 Ford Escape, as surplus and be sold at public tender. Carried unanimously.

11. Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters

11.1 MJSB

Deputy Mayor Moore provided an update on the following matters of the Municipal Joint Services Board:

- Cyber insurance
- Capital budget
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Tipping fees
- Accounting Standard for financial reporting (PS 3280)

Mr. MacEwan reported that the Board was in the final stages of negotiations with a potential candidate for the COO position.

Councillor Statton reported that the operational budget was presented to the Finance Committee.

11.2 Deputy Mayor's Update

Deputy Mayor Moore reported that she attended to cheque signing, calls from residents, and agenda briefing meetings.

11.3 Mayor's Update

Mayor Bolivar-Getson reported that she attended the Working with Outrage & Conflict workshop; the Internal Transportation Committee meeting; the Service Exchange Review Committee meeting; the Fire & Emergency Services Committee meeting; the REMO meeting; and various meetings with residents.

12. Added Items - Nil

13. In Camera

At 10:22 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Hubley, seconded by Councillor Haysom that Item 13.2 Personnel Matter be added to the In Camera agenda. Municipal Council went in camera to discuss the following:

13.1 Land Negotiations re Osprey Village under Section 22(2)(a) of the MGA

13.2 Personnel Matter under Section 22(2)(c) of the MGA

Carried.

Municipal Council In Camera in session.

At 11:27 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Greek that Municipal Council come out of In Camera and return to open session. Carried.

Municipal Council in session.

10.3.2 Pre-Budget Approval for two Planner 1s – 18 Month Terms

Mr. Merrill reviewed his report, "Pre-Budget Approval for two Planner 1s for an 18-month term" (circulated with the agenda).

2022-049 Moved by Deputy Mayor Moore, seconded by Councillor DeLong that Municipal Council give pre-budget approval to hire two Planner 1 positions for an 18-month term each; and that Municipal Council send a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs requesting an extension until March 31, 2024 to implement minimum mandatory planning. Carried unanimously.

13.1 Land Negotiations re Osprey Village

2022-050 Moved by Councillor Statton, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that Municipal Council approve the sale of Lot 8 (located north of the Best Western) to FH Development for an Affordable Housing Project on the terms reviewed during the In Camera session of Council, and directs the Mayor and Clerk to execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement, Conveyancing Agreement, and Buy Back Agreement. Carried unanimously.

2022-051 Moved by Councillor Haysom, seconded by Councillor Bell that Municipal Council approve the sale of Lot 21-1 (located behind the CSAP School) to FH Development for an Affordable Housing Project on the terms reviewed during the In Camera session of Council and directs the Mayor and Clerk to execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement, Conveyancing Agreement and Buy Back Agreement. Carried unanimously.

2022-052 Moved by Councillor DeLong, seconded by Councillor Greek that Municipal Council approve the sale of Lot 13 (located behind Nothing Fancy) to FH Development for an Affordable Housing Project on the terms reviewed during the In Camera session of Council and directs the Mayor and Clerk to execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement, Conveyancing Agreement and Buy Back Agreement.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business at 11:34 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Oickle that the meeting adjourn. Carried.