

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Minutes of a Meeting of Municipal Council

Held in Council Chamber, 10 Allée Champlain Drive, Cookville, N.S.
Tuesday, September 26, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Deputy Mayor Pam Hubley, District 4
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2
Councillor Wendy Oickle, District 3
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

Regrets

Councillor Leitha Haysom, District 1

Staff

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO
April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk
Tina Robichaud-Bond, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order

Mayor Bolivar-Getson called the meeting to order at 9:01 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

Councillor Veinotte reported that she attended the 49th Annual Provincial Volunteer Awards ceremony where Lisa Tanner of Back Centre was the recipient of the 2023 Provincial Volunteer Award for her dedication to volunteer service to her community and the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.

Councillor Moore thanked Councillor Greek for the help provided with the rescheduled fireworks display in New Germany.

Councillor Oickle recognized the team responsible for organizing the Sustainability Summit and noted that the event was well attended.

Mayor Bolivar-Getson read a statement on the National Truth and Reconciliation week recognizing September 25 to 30 as Truth and Reconciliation week and September 30, 2023 as Truth and Reconciliation Day.

3. Public Input

Elaine Mcharg, Crescent Beach, was in attendance. Ms. Mcharg advised that although she resides in West Vancouver she has a summer home at Crescent Beach. She advised that she has been following the work with coastal protection in the area and attended the meeting to thank the Municipality and encourage the continued work.

4. Approval of Agenda

It was requested that the following be added to the Agenda:

13.1 Update on Water Supply Financing Program

Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hubley that the Agenda be approved as amended with the addition of Item 13.1 Update on Water Supply Financing Program. Carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes – Special Council of July 22, July 24 (a.m.); July 24 (p.m.); and July 27, 2023

Moved by Councillor DeLong, seconded by Councillor Greek that the Minutes of the July 22, 2023 Special Council meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor DeLong that the Minutes of the July 24, 2023 (morning) Special Council meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor DeLong, seconded by Councillor Bell that the Minutes of the July 24, 2023 (afternoon) Special Council meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hubley, seconded by Councillor Moore that the Minutes of the July 27, 2023 Special Council meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

6. Business Arising from Minutes - Nil

7. Awarding of Tenders/RFPs - Nil

8. Presentations/Scheduled Times - Nil

9. Consideration of Correspondence - Nil

10. Recommendations from Committees & Boards

10.1 Policy & Strategy Committee

10.1.1 Low Income Property Tax Rebate Budget Request

2023-149 Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Greek that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Policy & Strategy Committee and approve \$20,000 in additional funds for the Low-Income Property Tax Rebate Program, and further, that these funds come from the General Operating Reserves at year end, if required. Carried unanimously.

10.1.2 Letter to Minister re Rissers Beach Provincial Park – Speed Limit and Crosswalk

Mr. Dumaresq reported that due to the damage caused by Hurricane Lee, infrastructure work would be required in the area of Rissers Beach Provincial Park. He indicated that the Department of Public Works may be able to provide a better alternative to pedestrian safety that could be incorporated in the infrastructure work required. Therefore, it was suggested that the recommendation from the Policy & Strategy Committee be amended to allow for a broader possibility of a remedy.

2023-150 Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Whynot that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Policy & Strategy Committee and direct the Mayor to write to the Provincial Minister responsible for Public Works, Kim Masland, with copies to the Premier and local MLAs, requesting that the speed limit be reduced and a crosswalk or other infrastructure solution be implemented to improve pedestrian safety at Rissers Beach Provincial Park. Carried unanimously.

10.1.3 Letter to Town of Bridgewater re Potential Upgrades to Town’s Wastewater Line

2023-151 Moved by Councillor Statton, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hubley that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Policy & Strategy Committee and direct the Mayor to write to the Town of Bridgewater Council expressing MODL’s willingness to open discussions regarding potential upgrades to the Town’s Dufferin Street wastewater line. Carried unanimously.

10.2 Audit Committee

10.2.1 Approval of Financial Statements

2023-152 Moved by Deputy Mayor Hubley, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Audit Committee and accept the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg’s Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2023. Carried unanimously.

10.3 REMO Advisory Committee

10.3.1 2023/2024 REMO Budget Allocation

2023-153 Moved by Councillor Greek, seconded by Councillor Whynot that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the REMO Advisory Committee and approve that at the end of each fiscal year any unspent REMO funds be placed in a reserve for emergency spending.

It was noted that the Intermunicipal Agreement requires that 51% of the budget holders agree with this recommendation for it to move forward.

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

10.4 SawPit Wharf Advisory Committee

10.4.1 Proposed Amendments to SawPit Wharf Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Trudy Payne, Director of Recreation, Parks & Tourism, reviewed the report, "SawPit Wharf Advisory Committee Terms of Reference" and explained the recommended amendments.

2023-154 Moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hubley that the Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the SawPit Wharf Advisory Committee and approve the amendments to the SawPit Wharf Advisory Committee Terms of Reference to revise the number of committee members from nine to seven; to remove the clause, "Terms begin January of each year."; and the accessibility amendments to the language and formatting. Carried unanimously.

11. Staff Reports – Nil

13. Added Items

13.1 Update on Water Supply Financing Program

Mr. Dumaresq reported that the launch of the Water Supply Financing Program was intended to be done with a press release, but that the Municipal Matters newsletter was delivered to residents earlier than expected and included an article with the details of the program.

Mr. Dumaresq explained the details of the financing program, including how to apply and the eligibility criteria.

It was noted that the website link was not easily accessible from a cell phone. Mr. Dumaresq advised that he would contact the web designer to have it fixed.

It was clarified that the financing loan is paid off at point of sale of the property.

Mayor Bolivar-Getson advised that an item was received that required immediate attention and requested that it be added to the agenda. She explained that it related to the J Class Road quote.

Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that Item 13.2 J Class Road Quote be added to the agenda. Carried unanimously.

13.2 J Class Road Quote

Mr. MacEwan explained that the Cost Sharing Agreement requires the Province to notify the Municipality when a quote comes in at 10% higher than the estimate. The quote received for the paving of The Point Road was \$108,000 higher than estimated. Mr. MacEwan advised that in order to move forward with the project, Council had to approve the additional costs.

It was noted that Council budgeted for five roads to be paved in the current budget but that only one road was approved to be completed. Therefore, the funds to cover the additional costs were available and could be taken from the general operating reserves.

2023-155 Moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Bell that Municipal Council approve the increase in the cost sharing for the J Class Road, The Point Road, in the amount of \$108,000, as presented by the Department of Public Works, and direct the Mayor to execute the Notice of Approval form provided by Department of Public Works. Carried. Those Opposed: Opposed: Councillor Greek and Councillor Statton

Council recessed at 9:53 a.m. and resumed at 10:10 a.m.

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

12.1 LCLC Update

Councillor Statton provided an update on the Lunenburg County Multi-Purpose Lifestyle Community Centre as follows:

- interviews have begun for General Manager position
- negotiations have begun for a new contract with the library

12.2 Region 6 Update

Councillor DeLong provided an update on Region 6 as follows:

- criteria met on financial audit to March 2023
- education presentations were given to school aged children in 2022/2023 school year
- litter clean in Region 6 totalled 700 bags
- received an update on the extended producer responsibilities (EPR) for single use packaging which regulations were adopted in August 2023

12.3 Deputy Mayor's Update

Deputy Mayor Hubley advised that over the summer months she attended the South Shore Exhibition parade; gave welcoming remarks at 65th reunion of Centre School; the Acadian Flag raising event; the NSFM engagement session re SERMGAR; gave welcoming remarks at the 1st Nova Scotia Farm Table event; the Parkdale Maplewood seniors' cornboil; agenda briefings; cheque signing; and various community events.

12.4 Mayor's Update

Mayor Bolivar-Getson advised that she attended the opening of the Police Association Fall Conference; visited various areas affected by Hurricane Lee; the breakfast in Maplewood; the South Shore Sustainability Summit; the fireworks & garden party in New Germany; and dropped the puck at a South Shore Lumberjacks game.

14. In Camera

At 10:15 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that Municipal Council go In Camera to discuss Item 14.1 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA. Carried.

Municipal Council In Camera in session.

At 11:10 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Oickle that Municipal Council come out of In Camera and return to open session. Carried.

Municipal Council in session.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.