

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, October 24, 2023

Attendance

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Deputy Mayor Pam Hubley, District 4
Councillor Leitha Haysom, District 1
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2
Councillor Wendy Oickle, District 3
Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5 (arrived at 9:56 a.m.)
Councillor Sandra Statton, District 6 (via Teams)
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
April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk
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

Councillor Haysom congratulated the Petite Riviere Fire Department for a successful Lasagna Fundraiser and acknowledged the volunteers for all their hard work.

2.1 Proclamation – Crohn's & Colitis Awareness Month

Mayor Bolivar-Getson proclaimed November 2023 as Crohn's & Colitis Awareness Month in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.

Mayor Bolivar-Getson proclaimed October 2023 as Fire Prevention Month in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.

Mayor Bolivar-Getson proclaimed the week of November 6-12, 2023 as Municipal Awareness Week in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.

3. Public Input - Nil

4. Approval of Agenda

It was requested that the following amendments be made to the agenda:

- a) Addition of Item 13.1 Letter to Minister Lohr re Municipal Provincial Service Exchange; and
- b) Removal of Item 8.1 Riverport Inn B&B presentation.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hubley, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Agenda be approved as amended with the addition of Item 13.1 Municipal Provincial Service Exchange and the removal of Item 8.1 Riverport Inn B&B presentation. Carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes – September 26, 2023 & October 10, 2023

Moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Oickle that the Minutes of the September 26, 2023 Council meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hubley that the Minutes of the October 10, 2023 Council meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

6. Business Arising from Minutes - Nil

7. Awarding of Tenders/RFPs - Nil

8. Presentations/Scheduled Times

8.1 Riverport Inn B&B

This item was removed from the agenda.

9. Consideration of Correspondence - Nil

10. Recommendations from Committees & Boards

10.1 Policy & Strategy Committee

10.1.1 Inter-Municipal Regional Anti-Racism & Diversity Agreement

2023-160 Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Haysom that Municipal Council approve the terms of the Inter-Municipal Regional Anti-Racism and Diversity Agreement, as presented, and authorize the execution of same by the Mayor and Municipal Clerk. Carried unanimously.

10.1.2 IDEA 2024-2028 Action Plan

2023-161 Moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor DeLong that Municipal Council adopt the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) 2024-2028 Action Plan, and that staff work collaboratively with the Regional Anti-Racism Coordinator on implementing the plan. Carried unanimously.

10.1.3 Adult Recreation Subsidy Program

Trudy Payne, Director of Recreation Parks & Tourism, was in attendance.

Ms. Payne explained that the Adult Recreation Subsidy Program was structured similar to the Pro-kids program but created for individuals 19 years of age and over.

2023-162 Moved by Deputy Mayor Hubley, seconded by Councillor Greek that Municipal Council direct staff to develop a policy for Council’s consideration respecting an Adult Recreation Subsidy Program, as presented. Carried unanimously.

10.1.4 Letter to Department of Public Works re Adventure Trail Association – Signage

It was noted that the recommendation from the Policy & Strategy Committee was to write to the Minister of Public Works requesting that “Trail Crossing Ahead” signs be installed on the Cornwall Road. However, since the Policy & Strategy Committee meeting, the signs were in the process of being installed. The motion was amended to request that the letter be written as a thank you letter.

2023-163 Moved by Councillor DeLong, seconded by Councillor Whynot that Municipal Council direct the Mayor to write to the Provincial Minister responsible for Public Works, Kim Masland, and copy MLA, Susan Corkum-Greek, and the Chair of the Adventure Trail Association, thanking them for the installation of “trail crossing ahead” signs on the approaches to the Adventure Trail on the Cornwall Road. Carried unanimously.

10.1.5 Letter to Department of Public Works re Public Safety Measures

2023-164 Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Bell that Municipal Council direct the Mayor to write to the Provincial Minister responsible for Public Works, Kim Masland, and copy the local MLAs, requesting the clearing of ditches, the replacement of undersized and damaged culverts, and the addition of new culverts, specifically where the land topography creates excessive water over roads during storm events including but not limited to the Fancy Lake area. Carried unanimously.

10.2 Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee (LCAAC)

10.2.1 Appointment to LCAAC, Scott Lutes

2023-165 Moved by Councillor DeLong, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee and appoint Scott Lutes to the Committee for a term of two years. Carried unanimously.

11. Staff Reports

11.1 Planning & Development Services

11.1.1 Tree Planting Event 2023

Kayla Winsor, Climate Action Coordinator, gave a presentation on the “Tree Planting Event 2023” (attached to agenda) providing an overview of the following:

- Project overview
- Objective & goals
- Outreach strategies
- Event highlights
- Recommendations

It was noted that an event would be held in 2024.

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

12.2 Region 6 Update

Councillor DeLong advised that there was no update to provide as the group had not met since the last update.

12.3 Deputy Mayor’s Update

Deputy Mayor Hubley advised that she attended the Mayors/Deputy Mayors/Wardens meeting; the breakfast in Dayspring; the Branch LaHave ox pull; the Dinner and Learn session on the Solar Garden project; agenda briefing meetings; the Fall Market at LCLC; and cheque signing.

12.4 Mayor’s Update

Mayor Bolivar-Getson advised that she attended the LCLC General Manager meeting; the Planning Advisory Committee meeting; NSFAM meetings; the Tollermania 2 event; the Networking Day with Lunenburg County Female Fighters; the Dinner and Learn Session on the Solar Garden project; the Legislature for tabling of Bill on the Lunenburg Lands Act; the nominating Committee meeting; the LCLC meeting; local breakfasts and other community events.

13 Added Items

13.1 Municipal Provincial Service Exchange

Mr. Dumaresq reported that a letter was received from the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing, John Lohr, (attached to Minutes) advising that the Municipal-Provincial Service Exchange was facing opposition and in jeopardy of not passing. In response to the letter from the Minister, the Mayor wrote a letter of support on October 20, 2023 (attached to Minutes).

It was noted that although the normal process for writing letters of support would be to have a motion of council directing the preparation of a letter. However, due to the time constraints of

the response and the fact that Council had previously agreed to support the project, the letter was sent to the Province before such a motion was made. Mr. Dumaresq explained that a motion ratifying the letter was required.

Councillor Moore joined the meeting.

Mr. MacEwan reviewed the “Benefits of the Proposed Service Exchange” report (attached to Minutes) providing details on the primary elements of the proposed new Service Exchange Agreement.

2023-166 Moved by Councillor Greek, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that Municipal Council ratify the October 20, 2023 letter that was sent to John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing, as Council’s support for the Municipal-Provincial Service Exchange Agreement. Carried unanimously.

Council recessed at 10:08 a.m. and resumed at 10:25 a.m.

8. Presentations/Scheduled Times

8.2 Tenant Partner Opportunity

Jane Davies, CEO, and Cindy Mann, Manager, both with Partners for Care, were in attendance to give a presentation on “Lumia Health, Tenant Partner Opportunity” (circulated with the agenda).

Ms. Davies provided an overview of Lumia Health and its benefits and explained that MODL would be the model for other communities. She advised that Lumia Health had been working on reaching the 60% threshold for leasing tenants and that they expected to be operational by 2025.

Discussions followed on the following:

- Process on getting medical attention;
- Financial help with services; and
- Medical Equipment loan program.

Ms. Davies and Ms. Mann left the meeting.

12. Mayor’s, Deputy Mayor’s, Councillors Update

12.1 LCLC Update

Councillor Moore provided an update on the following matters of the Lunenburg County Multi-purpose Lifestyle Community Centre:

- Service recognition of Carroll Randall

- New General Manager, Janette Hubka
- Interest charges on overdue accounts
- Sound system items replaced
- Renewal of library lease

14. In Camera

At 10:52 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Haysom, seconded by Councillor Moore that Municipal Council go In Camera to discuss the following items:

- 14.1 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA**
- 14.2 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA**
- 14.3 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA**

Carried.

Municipal Council In Camera in session.

At 11:50 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Haysom 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 11:50 a.m.



**Municipal Affairs and Housing
Office of the Minister**

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Oct 20/23

Juanita Spencer
Chief Executive Officer
Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
1809 Barrington Street – Suite 1304
Halifax NS B3J 3K8
Via email: jspencer@nsfm.ca

Dear Juanita Spencer:

I want to take this opportunity to confirm with you Government's plans with regards to the Service Exchange Agreement.

The intention is to complete regulations and approve programs in keeping with the proposed agreement negotiated with SERMGAR and which was presented during consultations this past summer.

To be clear, that means for the 48 municipalities covered by the renegotiated agreement, the legislation and eventual regulations will:

- remove the requirement under the *Corrections Act* for municipalities to make an annual contribution towards corrections;
- remove the requirement under the *Housing Supply and Services Act* for municipalities to pay a portion of the net operating losses for public housing;
- change the *Education Act* so that, in the future, ownership of schools built prior to 1981 would transfer back to the Province when they are deemed obsolete, with municipalities given the first right of offer to purchase the building at a negotiated price;
- update the *Municipal Grants Act* and move elements of the Municipal Financial Capacity Grant formula into regulation so it is more flexible and easier to adapt to the changing needs of municipalities and enabling government to implement the new formula agreed to by municipalities.

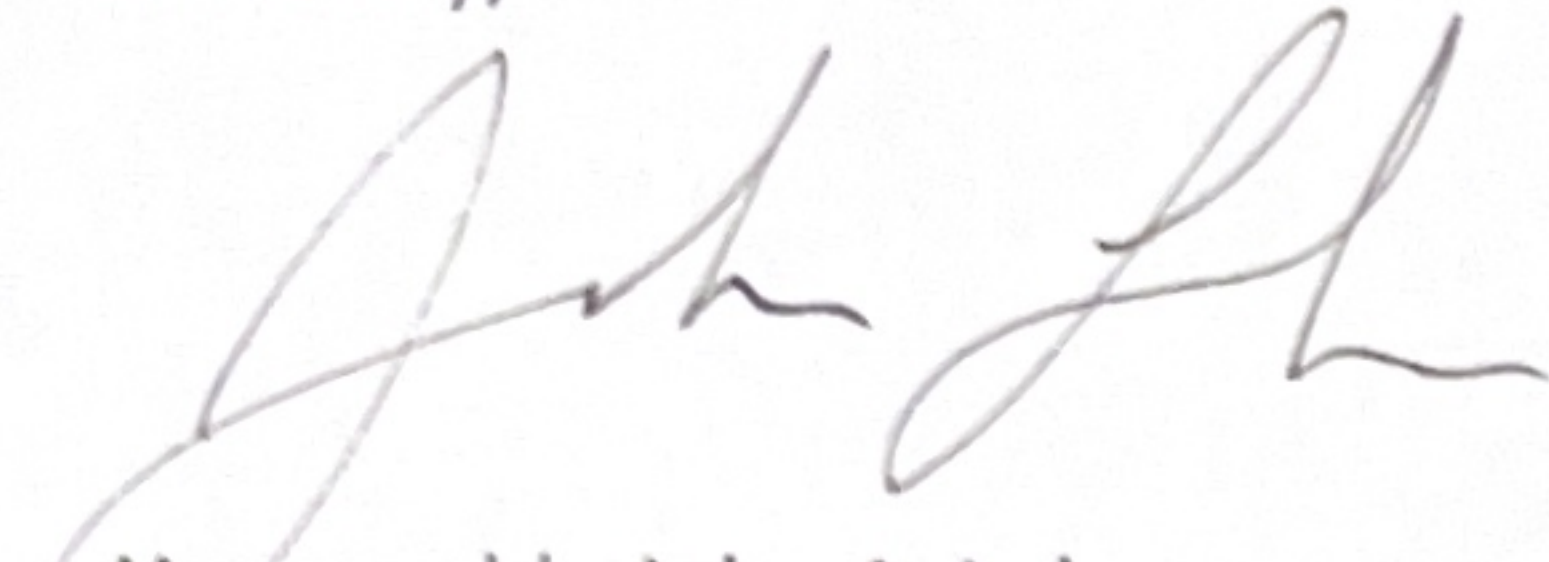
The new legislation and regulations will take effect April 1, 2024.

In addition, our plan is to create a new program for Infrastructure. The originally negotiated Roads Part A will also see a new program created. We have listened to the concerns of Municipalities raised during our consultation process and Part B of roads will be moved to Schedule A for further discussions. Both Infrastructure and Roads Part A will see programs open during the 2024/25 fiscal year.

Juanita Spencer
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I trust that this information is helpful.

Sincerely,



Honourable John A. Lohr
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

C: Byron Rafuse, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing Municipal Affairs and Housing



Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
10 Champlain Drive | Cookville, NS | B4V 9E4
mayor@modl.ca

Office of the Mayor

October 20, 2023

Honourable John Lohr
Minister of Nova Scotia
Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing
1505 Barrington Street, PO Box 216
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 2M4

VIA EMAIL

RE: Municipal-Provincial Service Exchange

I am writing to express my support for the Service Exchange Agreement. Provincial officials have been working hard in collaboration with municipal representatives for quite some time to bring this project forward.

The elimination of mandatory corrections payments, the removal of the funding requirements for the net losses of housing corporations, and the commitments on obsolete schools in particular are good news for Nova Scotia municipalities.

The service exchange agreement represents a fair allocation of provincial and municipal responsibilities and a step forward in municipal-provincial relations. Thank you for your efforts in bringing this agreement to the legislature for approval.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Bolivar Getson
Mayor

The Benefits of the Proposed Service Exchange

The current Service Exchange MOU was established in 1995. In the almost three decades since the adoption of the current Service Exchange MOU, municipal units have matured into modern local governments and their responsibilities have grown significantly.

An updated, modern, responsive Service Exchange MOU has been a priority of the NSFM for a number of years and, after years of lobbying, the NSFM welcomed the opportunity that was presented in September 2021 when the Premier gave the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable John Lohr, the mandate to renegotiate the Service Exchange Agreement MOU and the Municipal Financial Capacity Grant.

In the lead-up to the negotiations, the NSFM canvassed its member units to identify priorities for inclusion in the negotiations.

To facilitate the discussions, the Service Exchange Review and Municipal Government Act Review Advisory Committee was established and it included Provincial Staff, NSFM Staff, elected Municipal Officials, and municipal administrators.

The draft Service Exchange Agreement MOU was shared with municipalities in the summer of 2023. Generally, the MOU was well received by municipalities and, in September 2023, the NSFM confirmed its support of the proposed MOU with some revisions (ie, removal of the Roads Part B).

Bill 340 will enable a new, modern Service Exchange Agreement MOU which provides a much-welcomed reset on areas of mutual interest between the Province and Municipal Units.

The primary elements of the modernized Service Exchange Agreement MOU include:

1. New Formula for the Municipal Financial Capacity Grant (formerly known as the “Equalization Grant”)
 - a. The new formula provides for a re-allocation of the current money in the Grant.
 - b. Under the new formula, 17 municipalities are entitled to less money than they had received under the old formula.
 - c. Notwithstanding the new formula and the re-allocation of the current money, the municipal units that would be entitled to less money under the new formula will receive a ‘top up’ of funds for the next five years. These municipalities include:

Unit	New Amount	Top Up
CBRM	\$13,647,641	\$1,688,197
Annapolis Royal	\$32,211	\$9,745
Clark’s Harbour	\$126,004	\$13,818
Lockeport	\$95,550	\$12,531
Middleton	\$283,568	\$4,505
Pictou (Town)	\$491,064	\$4,457
Shelburne (Town)	\$283,146	\$26,499
Stellarton	\$438,554	\$12,130
Trenton	\$331,064	\$39,858
Westville	\$607,945	\$26,446
County of Annapolis	\$599,063	\$162,194

County of Colchester	\$177,197	\$98,155
County of Cumberland	\$724,836	\$723,269
County of Inverness	\$293,399	\$84,656
County of Pictou	\$172,446	\$98,155
District of Digby	\$298,478	\$35,138
District of St Mary's	\$165,240	\$10,190

- d. MODL did not receive any funds under the old formula and will continue to receive the same amount (\$0.00) under the new formula.

2. Eliminate Mandatory Contributions to Corrections

- a. Currently, municipal units are required to contribute to the Provincial costs of corrections from the general tax revenue.
- b. Under the terms of the proposed Service Exchange, municipal units would not longer be required to make this mandatory payment to the Province
- c. Whether this is referred to as a savings or an avoided expense, this mandatory payment will no longer have to be paid from municipal coffers.
- d. There are currently 12 municipal units that contribute more than \$200,000 per year to the Province for corrections and these include:

Unit	Amount
CBRM	\$1,054,547
West Hants Regional Municipality	\$251,281
County of Annapolis	\$250,534
County of Antigonish	\$209,254
County of Colchester	\$459,142
County of Cumberland	\$310,763
County of Inverness	\$211,348
County of Kings	\$636,343
County of Pictou	\$299,953
District of Chester	\$232,034
District of East Hants	\$292,963
District of Lunenburg	\$428,251

- e. With the elimination of the mandatory contribution for corrections, MODL will avoid having to pay \$428,251 to the Province from our property tax revenue thereby freeing up funds for municipal expenditures or initiatives.

3. Eliminate Mandatory Contribution to Housing Net Operating Losses

- a. Currently, municipal units are required to make mandatory contributions to the Province for Housing Net Operating Losses.

- b. Under the proposed Service Exchange, municipal units would no longer be required to make these mandatory contributions.
- c. Under the current system, there are 10 municipal units which would be required to contribute over \$200,000 to the Province for Housing Net Operating Losses and these include:

Unit	Amount
CBRM	\$3,535,675
Amherst	\$357,644
New Glasgow	\$374,518
Yarmouth	\$379,753
County of Annapolis	\$206,615
County of Colchester	\$223,649
County of Cumberland	\$445,682
County of Inverness	\$561,666
County of Kings	\$357,522
County of Richmond	\$291,366

- d. While the savings or the avoided expense to MODL is relatively modest in 2023-2024 at approximately \$30,500, it is certainly conceivable that the Housing Net Operating Losses could increase substantially in the future (a risk which is completely avoided under the proposed Service Exchange).

4. **Obsolete Schools to Become / Remain a Provincial Responsibility**

- a. The current Service Exchange makes municipal units responsible for obsolete schools and this responsibility typically includes the need for environmental remediation of the site.
- b. As you will recall, MODL recently remedied the site of the Riverport School at a cost of \$457,652 and our 5 year Capital Budget includes approximately \$2.1M for the remediation of the Centre School site.
- c. Under the proposed terms of the new Service Exchange, obsolete schools would remain the responsibility of the Province with the municipal units afforded to first option to acquire obsolete schools.
- d. While this shift will not impact our responsibility for Centre School, it would mean that in the future any schools that are deemed to be obsolete will not be automatically downloaded to MODL which amounts to savings of \$Ms.

5. **Roads Program for Trunks and Collectors**

- a. Provincial funding for Trunks and Collector Roads has been a long standing priority for municipal units, particularly Towns.

6. **Capital Infrastructure Program**

- a. As part of the negotiations, the Province has committed to creating a new program to financially support municipal infrastructure projects.

7. Future MOU Negotiations

- a. The new Service Exchange MOU includes a Schedule A of priority items that will be the focus of future negotiations. The NSFM and the Province have committed to addressing these outstanding items following the successful adoption of the new Service Exchange MOU.**