

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, January 23, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson

Deputy Mayor Wendy Oickle, District 3

Councillor Leitha Haysom, District 1 (via TEAMS)

Councillor Martin Bell, District 2

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 (Left for fire call at 10:52 a.m.; returned at 11:24 a.m.)

Councillor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10

Staff

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO

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 - Nil

3. Public Input - Nil

4. Approval of Agenda

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

5. Approval of Minutes – Public Hearing and Council meeting of January 9, 2024

Moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Minutes of January 9, 2024 Public Hearing be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Hubley, seconded by Councillor Moore that the Minutes of January 9, 2024 Council meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

6. Business Arising from Minutes - Nil

- 7. **Awarding of Tenders/RFPs – Nil**
- 9. **Consideration of Correspondence - Nil**
- 10. **Recommendations from Committees & Boards**
- 10.1 **Policy & Strategy Committee**
- 10.1.1 **MODL Policy 076 Signing Authority – Proposed Amendments**

A recommendation from the Policy & Strategy Committee was circulated with the agenda.

2024-009 Moved by Councillor Hubley, seconded by Councillor Whynot that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Policy & Strategy Committee and approve the amendments to MODL Policy 076 Signing Authority, as presented. Carried unanimously.

- 10.1.2 **Low Income Property Tax Rebate Program – Additional Funding**

A recommendation from the Policy & Strategy Committee was circulated with the agenda.

2024-010 Moved by Councillor Greek, seconded by Councillor DeLong that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Policy & Strategy Committee and approve \$10,000 in additional funds for the low-income property tax rebate program and further, that these funds come out of the General Operating Reserves at year end, if required. Carried unanimously.

- 10.2 **Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee**

- 10.2.1 **Appointments to Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee**

A recommendation from the Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee was circulated with the agenda.

2024-011 Moved by Councillor DeLong, seconded by Councillor Greek that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee and appoint both Gregory Novak and Louise Hooper to the Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee, both for a three-year term. Carried unanimously.

- 10.3 **Nominating Committee**

- 10.3.1 **Appointments to Planning Advisory Committee**

A recommendation from the Planning Advisory Committee was circulated with the agenda.

2024-012 Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Nominating Committee and reappoint Ann Mech and appoint Keith Drysdale to the Planning Advisory Committee, both for two year terms, ending November 2026. Carried unanimously.

11. Staff Reports

11.2 Planning & Development

11.2.2 Proposed Amendments to TOR-039 Hebbville Area Advisory Committee

A report from Ella Gindi, Planner I, titled “Amendments to Hebbville Area Advisory Committee Terms of Reference” was circulated with the agenda.

2024-013 Moved by Deputy Mayor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Hubley that Municipal Council approve the proposed amendments to the Hebbville Area Advisory Committee Terms of Reference and direct staff to update all Area Advisory Committee terms of reference, reflecting the same changes and bring back to Council for approval. Carried unanimously.

8. Presentations/Scheduled Times

8.1 Hillside Cemetery – The Forgotten

Yvonne Rafuse and Betty Rhodenizer were in attendance to give a presentation (circulated with the agenda) on the Hillside Cemetery focusing on the individuals who are laid to rest in numbered graves. They requested that Council consider erecting a monument naming the individuals in each numbered grave.

Ms. Rhodenizer suggested that there were errors on the current interpretative signage located at the entrance of the cemetery. She explained that the facility was a “home”, not a “hospital”. She suggested that the reference to “LMH” in some documents may have been mistakenly interpreted the “H” to mean “hospital”. She further explained that the last burial was in 1960, rather than 1959. She proposed that corrections be made to the information on the signage.

Ms. Rafuse and Ms. Rhodenizer asked that Council consider erecting a second monument listing the names of the individuals laid to rest in the numbered graves.

It was noted that extensive work and researched was carried out by staff and community members prior to erecting the existing monument. It was recommended at that time that names of individuals not be posted for privacy reasons.

10. Recommendations from Committees/Boards

10.4 REMO Advisory Committee

10.4.1 2024-2025 REMO Operating Budget

Mr. Dumaresq gave an overview of the Regional Emergency Management Organization’s budget (circulated with the agenda). He explained that REMO was a shared service between the five Lunenburg County municipal units.

Mr. Dumaresq gave an overview of the additional costs. He noted that the additional costs included the hiring of an additional staff person and training costs for the Be Ready Training to train municipal staff to help in emergency situations.

It was clarified that the \$10,000 yearly grant provided to Ground Search and Rescue (GSR) was a discretionary grant included in the REMO budget and paid to GSR from that budget. This grant was provided to GSR regardless of whether their services were used. It was further clarified that these funds were a grant and the criterion for all grants is a review of financial statements. It was noted that Ground Search & Rescue could also apply for municipal grants.

2024-014 Moved by Councillor Statton, seconded by Councillor Bell that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee and approve the 2024-2025 REMO Operating Budget in the amount of \$410,418, with the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg's share being \$204,182.36. Carried unanimously.

Council recessed at 10:16 a.m. and resumed at 10.34 a.m.

11. Staff Reports

11.1 Administration

11.1.1 2024 Municipal & CSAP Elections

Mr. Dumaresq reviewed the report "2024 Municipal and CSAP Election: Appointment of Returning Officer, Delegation of Authorities, and use of Province List of Electors" circulated with agenda.

2023-015 Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor DeLong that Municipal Council appoint Leah Zinck as the Returning Officer to conduct all regular and special elections required under the Municipal Elections Act, including both municipal and CSAP elections. Carried unanimously.

It was noted that the Municipality did not solicit applications for the position of Returning Officer as Ms. Zinck is highly qualified and experienced.

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

2024-016 Moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor DeLong that Municipal Council direct that the provincial list of electors be used in conducting the 2024 Municipal and CSAP Elections; and further authorize the Municipal Clerk to enter into the Information Sharing Agreement with Elections Nova Scotia. Carried unanimously.

2024-017 Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Hubley that Municipal Council, for the 2024 Municipal and CSAP Elections, delegate the following authorities to the Clerk, in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act:

- a) the authority to appoint one or more Assistant Returning Officers; and**
- b) the authority to make, revise, and amend the tariff of fees and expenses.**

It was clarified that the fees and expenses included items such as, but not limited to, cost and reimbursement of polling officers, expenses relating to the deputy returning officer, polling clerks, poll rentals, and training.

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

2024-018 Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Whynot that Municipal Council for the 2024 Municipal and CSAP Elections, delegate the authority to set the first advance polling date to the Returning Officer, in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act.

It was noted that Council has a by-law in place for alternative voting (By-law 041 Alternative Voting).

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

11.2 Planning & Development Services

11.2.1 Renaming Portion of Logan Road

Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning & Development Services, was in attendance. Mr. Merrill reviewed the report, “Renaming of Logan Road (the portion from St. Phillips Street to Highway 325), Wileville to Westwood Drive” (circulated with the agenda).

Councillor Whynot left the meeting at 10:52 a.m. to respond to a fire call.

Concerns were raised that the name “Westwood” was not representative of the area or to the area residents. Further concerns were expressed that the matter had not been presented to Council prior to this time. It was noted that the steps taken to begin the process of renaming a road followed Council’s By-law 030 Civic Address and that the name “Westwood Boulevard” was put forward by the property owners, which included both residential and commercial owners.

It was clarified that road type “Drive” was chosen in favour of “Boulevard” because “Boulevard” tends to refer to a road with a median of some type.

2024-019 Moved by Deputy Mayor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Moore that Municipal Council recommend to the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works that the portion of Logan Road from the Town of Bridgewater boundary near St. Phillips Street to Highway 325 in Wileville be renamed to Westwood Drive, as per the Municipality’s Civic Address By-law.

It was noted that a list of potential road names had been created for residents to choose from to avoid duplication of road names and that the first name on the list, Bedrock Lane, was provided to the property owners as a potential name.

The Motion on the floor was voted on and defeated. Those opposed: Councillors Bell, Hubley, Moore, Statton, and Mayor Bolivar-Getson

Staff was directed to bring the matter to a Policy & Strategy Committee meeting for further discussion on options for choosing road names.

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

12.1 LCLC Update

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

- Membership has increased
- Substantial deficit in financials

It was noted that as per policy, the General Manager was required to provide details explaining deficits and will be reported on in the near future.

12.2 Region 6 Update

Councillor DeLong provided an update on the following matters of the Region 6 Committee:

- R6 Admin and Education Services costs
- Training session on Family Feud Kahoot delivered to schools
- Technical Committee
- EPR and Dairy Credit funding payments

12.3 Deputy Mayor's Update

Deputy Mayor Oickle advised that she attended the REMO Advisory Committee meeting; the Mayors, Wardens, Deputy Mayors & CAO meeting; the Village of Hebbville zoning change meeting; South Shore Regional Library activities; and all assigned meetings.

12.4 Mayor's Update

Mayor Bolivar-Getson advised that she attended the strategic priorities meeting; the Fire & Emergency Services meeting; NSFM meetings; the Mayors, Wardens, Deputy Mayors & CAO meeting; the LCLC meeting; and community breakfast events.

13. Added Items – Nil

14. In Camera

At 11:13 a.m., it was moved by Councillor DeLong, seconded by Councillor Veinotte 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

Carried.

Municipal Council In Camera in session.

At 11:59 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Bell 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 11:59 a.m.