

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, July 8, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

Attendance

Mayor Elspeth McLean-Wile

Deputy Mayor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10

Councillor Morgen Reinhardt, District 1

Councillor Martin Bell, District 2

Councillor Wendy Oickle, District 3

Councillor Pam Hubley, District 4

Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5

Councillor Alison Smith, District 6

Councillor Edgar Burns, District 7

Regrets

Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8

Councillor Ben Brooks, District 9

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 McLean-Wile called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.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 Moore congratulated the New Germany Alumni for a successful and well-attended 70th anniversary reunion of New Germany High School.

Mayor McLean-Wile recognized the New Germany Canada Day Committee for their contributions to a successful Canada Day event.

3. Public Input - Nil

4. Approval of Agenda

It was requested that the discussion on Item 11.2.1 Public Engagement and Communications – What we Heard Report take place earlier on the agenda and moved to after Item 6.

Moved by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Burns that the Agenda be approved with the amendments as discussed. Carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes – Council June 10, 2025 and June 24, 2025

The Minutes of both the June 10, 2025 and the June 24, 2025 Council meetings were approved as circulated.

6. Business Arising from Minutes - Nil

11. Staff Reports

11.2. Administration

11.2.1 Public Engagement and Communications – What we Heard Report

A “What We Heard Report” detailing the results of the engagement survey was circulated with the agenda.

Sarah Kucharski, Manager, Communications & Public Engagement, gave a presentation on the Municipal Matters Public Engagement and Communications survey (circulated with the agenda), providing details on the following:

- Background on the project
- How we engaged
- Survey limitations
- Survey results
- Recommendations

A concern was raised and discussions followed regarding the accessibility of the proposed municipal app for residents who are not technically savvy. It was suggested that staff reach out to digital literacy groups in the 644 area to discuss the municipal app.

7. Awarding of Tenders/RFPs

7.1 Award of RFQ 2024-01-307 Municipal App

Sarah Kucharski, Manager, Communications & Public Engagement, reviewed the report, “Municipal App” (circulated with the agenda), providing details on the comparison between the municipal app created by Info Grove and the one created by Alertable, as requested by Council.

Ms. Kucharski reported that she made contact with the following organizations regarding the capabilities of their respective apps:

- InfoGrove indicated that they may be looking into introducing a tool that would send text or phone alerts but they would not guarantee if and when it would happen.
- Alertable indicated that there had no intention of increasing the capabilities of the current app.

- Department of Emergency Management indicated that a program would soon be introduced that would send out only emergency alerts.

2025-147 Moved by Councillor Hubley, seconded by Councillor Burns that Municipal Council award RFQ 2024-01-307 Municipal App to 14 Oranges Software Inc. for the sum of \$9500 plus HST for set up, and up to \$13,500 plus HST for subsequent licensing and support.

It was clarified that the \$13,500 fee was an annual fee for the service.

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

8. Presentations/Scheduled Times - Nil

9. Consideration of Correspondence

9.1 Letter from Town of Lunenburg re Mutual Boundary Change

Tom MacEwan, CAO, reviewed the letter from Interim CAO, Marvin MacDonald, Town of Lunenburg, (circulated with the agenda), providing details on the proposed submission of a joint letter to the NSUARB regarding a mutual boundary change.

Staff was directed to review the matter and provide a recommendation to Council.

10. Recommendations from Committees & Boards

10.1. Regional Growth Management Committee

10.1.1 Growth & Infrastructure Planning

A recommendation from the Regional Growth Management Committee requesting that staff provide information for Council's review regarding a growth and infrastructure planning presentation to the Town of Bridgewater, was circulated with the agenda.

It was clarified that the Councils would make recommendations to the Committee with issues for discussion.

2025-148 Moved by Deputy Mayor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Bell that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Regional Growth Management Committee and direct staff to compile information pertaining to the growth and infrastructure planning in the Municipality for presentation to the Town of Bridgewater. Carried unanimously.

10.1.2 Intermunicipal Collaboration Planning

A recommendation from the Regional Growth Management Committee requesting that Council provide direction to the Committee to begin intermunicipal collaboration planning on various services, was circulated with the agenda.

Clarification was provided why fire services was on the list and how growth impacts resources.

2025-149 Moved by Deputy Mayor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Hubley that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Regional Growth Management Committee and direct the Committee to begin intermunicipal collaboration planning on Transit Service, Water Agreements, Wastewater Services, Planning for growth as a region, and Fire Services.

It was noted that the meetings were open to the public.

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

11. Staff Reports

11.1 Economic Development

11.1.1 Funding re Regional Economic Development Partnership Report

A report from Dave Waters, Director of Economic Development, titled, "Regional Economic Development Partnership" providing details on the request for funding for the report was circulated with the agenda.

Mr. Waters gave a presentation, also circulated with the agenda, highlighting the following:

- Regional Economic Development Partnership
- Municipal Innovation Program Grant
- Anticipated Impact of a Regional Economic Partnership
- Project Outcomes

Mr. Waters noted that the total estimated project cost was incorrectly stated in the presentation. The correct amount was \$107,500.

It was suggested that the study evaluate the effectiveness of the collaboration projects.

2025-150 Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Hubley that Municipal Council approve a financial contribution of \$20,000, from the Regional Economic Development budget, towards a report that explores the opportunities to create a formal Regional Economic Development Partnership in Lunenburg and Queens Counties. Carried unanimously.

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

12.1 MJSB Update

Councillor Oickle provided an update on the following matters of the Municipal Joint Services Board:

- New Excavator – awarded to Tidal Tractor
- Increase of capital budget for enhanced security and communications project

- Organics collection carts to be ordered
- Expenditure approved for office space design & relocation of corporate offices
- 2024-2025 Strategic plan year end report accepted
- Staff authorized to finalize contract with Circular Materials
- COO performance review completed
- Evaluation of LCLC accepted at an MJSB shared service

12.2 Deputy Mayor's Update

Deputy Mayor Veinotte advised that attended the Regional Growth Management Committee meeting; various Canada Day events; agenda briefings, cheque signing, and all meetings as assigned.

12.3 Mayor's Update

Mayor McLean-Wile's updates are attached to the Minutes.

13. Added Items – Nil

14. In Camera - Nil

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Mayor's Report

July 8, 2025

The first meeting of the Growth Management Committee, that is the joint committee of the Town of Bridgewater and MODL was held. This was an organizational meeting in which we discovered that there was a lot to learn about each other's work. Staff agreed to prepare presentations that will be shared to help create a good understanding of the current work of both Councils. We agreed to host a joint educational meeting for the two Council's in September. Going forward these meetings will be publicly advertised and can be attended by any council member or member of the public. These dates should now be in your calendar.

I met with David Maxwell from the Riverport Electric Commission regarding the organization's current financial challenges. I know a lot more about their operation now after reading the URAB decision over their general rate increase application in 2023, first one since 2010.

Our CAO and I met with the CAO and Mayor of Bridgewater to receive an update on the Public Transit project. On July 14, Town of Bridgewater will consider filing a request with the Nova Scotia Regulatory and Appeals Board to rule on their involvement in the extension of the bus service outside town. Given that the three stops are such short extensions of the existing service, we are all hoping the Board will rule to extend the service without their involvement.

I along with Deputy Mayor Veinotte and Councillor Brooks attended a meeting hosted by the Lunenburg-Queens Business Collective to explore the opportunities for regional economic development. The meeting was well attended by Mayors of Bridgewater, Mahone Bay, Lunenburg, District of Queens and Wardens from Chester and the District of Shelburne along with economic development officers and representatives of the various Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade in these areas. The municipalities within Lunenburg and Queens shared their work on pursuing a study to identify potential models for regional economic development that could complement initiatives that are already taking place.

I participated in Canada Day events in Pinehurst, Riverport, and New Germany along with the Multicultural events at the LCLC.

This is PRIDE month, and I was happy to walk with the MODL staff and councillors in the PRIDE Parade in Bridgewater. Many of you participated in the PRIDE flag raising earlier today. These are important statements about our belief in an inclusive community where everyone feels they have a home and feel welcome.

I asked you about recognizing Truth and Reconciliation Day in September and I had good feedback indicating an interest in our municipality doing some activity to recognize our role in this national initiative. Our next step is to see if other municipalities are planning activities and we are also contacting the library to see if we can support or work with some other partners to take a cooperative approach to a planned activity.