

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, December 9, 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 (left at 6:24 p.m.)
Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5
Councillor Alison Smith, District 6
Councillor Edgar Burns, District 7
Councillor Ben Brooks, District 9

Regrets

Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8

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 6:07 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 recognized Mike Wilson and his team for a successful Christmas Toy Drive.

Councillor Smith recognized the 4H Livewires for a successful Christmas Tree Lite-Up event. She noted that this year's event was a garden theme in memory of Greg Selig.

3. Public Input

Claire Wentzell, Aulenback Point Road, addressed Council regarding the potable well drilling loan program, expressing opposition to the proposed five-year repayment term and noting it could place a financial burden on families. She suggested increasing program funding to improve accessibility.

Sandra Statton, Aulenback Point Road, addressed Council to also speak in opposition to the five-year repayment term of the proposed program. She also expressed concern that Council was considering writing a letter of support to the Province on behalf of residents of Big Tancook Island, after having denied the residents of Sweetland Road's request for a letter of support to upgrade their road but instead wrote a letter encompassing all roads in the municipality.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

5. Approval of Minutes – November 25, 2025

The Minutes of the November 25, 2025 Council meeting were approved as circulated.

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. Finance Committee

10.1.1 PRO Kids Reserve Budget Request

A recommendation from the Finance Committee, including a report titled, "Pro Kids Reserve Budget Request", was circulated with the agenda.

2025-211 Moved by Councillor Brooks, seconded by Councillor Burns that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and approve up to \$21,418.99 in additional funds for the PRO Kids program for the 2025-2026 fiscal year; and further, that these funds come from the PRO Kids Reserves. Carried unanimously.

Councillor Hubley left the meeting.

10.1.2 Repeal of By-law 017 Police Clearance Certificate Application Fees

A recommendation from the Finance Committee, including a report titled, "Repeal Bylaw 017A Fees Charged for Policy Clearance Certificate Application Fees" (circulated with the agenda), recommending repealing the Police Clearance Certificate Application Fees By-law to eliminate application fees for work-related police clearance certificates.

2025-212 Moved by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Bell at Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and give notice of its intention to

adopt By-law 017A Repeal of Fees Charged for Police Clearance Certificate Applications, and conduct First Reading. Carried unanimously.

10.1.3 Letter of Support – Lunenburg County Seniors Safety Society

A recommendation from the Finance Committee, including a Request for Agenda Items (circulated with the agenda) regarding the Seniors Safety Society’s request for additional funding, was circulated with the agenda.

2025-213 Moved by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Brooks that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and write a letter of support for the Lunenburg County Seniors Safety Society in their request for additional funding from the Province. Carried unanimously.

10.2 REMO Advisory Committee

10.2.1 Approval of Amendments to Inter-Municipal Emergency Service Agreement

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO, reviewed the recommendation and report from the REMO Advisory Committee, titled “REMO Inter-Municipal Services Agreement (IMSA) Review” (circulated with the agenda), proposing amendments to the Intermunicipal Emergency Services Agreement, including the identification of additional staff roles and the introduction of penalties for non-compliance.

2025-214 Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Burns that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the REMO Advisory Committee and direct staff to prepare and submit a draft of the Inter-Municipal Emergency Services Agreement, with amendments as presented to individual Councils, for their approval; and further, that the draft agreement be submitted for legal review. Carried unanimously.

10.3 Nominating Committee

10.3.1 Appointment of Member-at-Large to Planning Advisory Committee

A recommendation and report from the Nominating Committee, titled “Member at Large Appointment – Planning Advisory Committee”, recommending the re-appointment of Keith Drysdale to the Committee was circulated with the agenda.

2025-2015 Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Deputy Mayor Veinotte that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Nominating Committee and re-appoint Keith Drysdale to serve as member-at-large on the Planning Advisory Committee, with a term ending November 2027. Carried unanimously.

10.4 Fire & Emergency Services Committee

10.4.1 2026-2027 Annual fire Department Grants

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO reviewed the recommendation and report from the Fire and Emergency Services Committee titled, “FES Grant Increase Request” (circulated with the agenda), explaining the request for a 2% increase in annual grants to fire departments.

2025-216 Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Smith that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Fire & Emergency Services Committee and approve a 2% increase totalling \$4,335 for the 2025-2026 annual Fire & Emergency Services grants totalling \$205,759. Carried unanimously.

10.4.2 Proposed Code of Conduct for Senior Fire Services Officers

Mr. Dumaresq reviewed the recommendation and report from the Fire & Emergency Services Committee, titled, “Request for Decision on a Code of Conduct for Chief Fire Officers” was circulated with the agenda.

2025-217 Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Smith that Municipal Council approve the approach for establishing a Code of Conduct for Senior Fire Services Officers, and direct staff to prepare amendments to Policy 036 Fire & Emergency Services to include a Chief Officer Code of Conduct and Complaint process.

Discussions followed regarding the need for the development of a Code of Conduct for Senior Fire Services Officers to address misconduct and enhance accountability within fire departments.

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

11. Staff Reports

11.1 Administration

11.1.1 Revised Strategic Priorities and Council Workplan 2026-2027

A report from Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO, titled, “Draft Revised Strategic Priorities for 2026/2027” was circulated with the agenda.

Mr. Dumaresq gave a presentation on “Draft Strategic Priorities 2026/27” (attached to Minutes) to update Council on strategic planning, including a review of Council’s mission, vision, and values. Proposed strategic priorities for the upcoming budget cycle included:

- Regional economic development
- Infrastructure
- Quality of life
- Communication

- Climate change action

Discussions followed on the following:

- Update on the FES training strategy and facility
- Next quarter project list
- Criteria for recreation investments

11.1.2 Public Input re Strategic Priorities and Council Workplan

Clare Wentzell, Aulenback Point Road, commented that the upgrades to Mush-a-Mush park would potentially bring more visitors therefore requiring improvements to the road.

11.1.1 Revised Strategic Priorities and Council Workplan 2026-2027

2025-218 Moved by Deputy Mayor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Brooks that Municipal Council approve the revised 2026-2027 strategic priorities, as presented. Carried unanimously.

11.1.3 Approval of Amendments to Policy 058 Fees

April Whynot-Lohnes reviewed the report titled, “Proposed Amendments to Policy 058” (circulated with the agenda). Ms. Whynot-Lohnes explained that the amendment was to add a rate to the policy that previously existed.

2025-219 Moved by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Brooks that Municipal Council approve the amendments to Policy 058 Fees, as presented. Carried unanimously.

11.1.4 Second Reading – By-law 047A Amendments to Potable Water Supply Upgrade Program

A report from April Whynot-Lohnes titled, “Second Reading – By-law 047A Amendments to the Potable Water Supply Upgrade Lending Program”, was circulated with the agenda.

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO, explained that the proposed amendments to the Potable Well Financing Program were to include a five-year repayment term with a hardship clause for residents eligible for the Property Tax Rebate Program.

2025-220 Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Moore that Municipal Council proceed with Second Reading of By-law 047A, being the Amendments to the Potable Water Supply Upgrade Lending Program, and approve the By-law as presented.

Concerns were raised regarding program affordability and repayment flexibility.

The Motion on the floor was voted on and carried. Those opposed: Councillors Smith, Reinhardt, and Oickle.

11.2 Finance

11.2.1 Uncollectible Accounts for Write Off Consideration

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance, reviewed the report, “Uncollectible Accounts for Write off Consideration” (circulated with the agenda), providing details on the accounts that could not be collected on.

2025-221 Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Deputy Mayor Veinotte that Municipal Council approve the write-off of uncollectable accounts in the amount of \$13,102.56, as presented. Carried unanimously.

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

12.1 LCLC Update

Deputy Mayor Veinotte provided an update on the following matters of the Lunenburg County Multi-purpose Lifestyle Community Centre:

- EV Chargers – expected completion date Dec 15
- Office & gallery furniture updated completed
- RFQ for website redesign issued & 3 quotes received
- Accessibility enhancements to pool lift
- Parking lot lighting replaced
- Two facility operators hired
- Foot traffic increased
- Advertising agreements reviewed and resolved
- Naming rights strategy finalized

12.2 Letter of Support for Big Tancook Island Speed Limits

Deputy Mayor Veinotte reported on the safety issue residents of Tancook Island have brought forward and advised that a petition had been signed and submitted to the area MLA, Danielle Barkhouse requesting that the province reduce the speed limit from 50km/h to 30km/h on Big Tancook Island.

Although the matter fell under provincial jurisdiction, Deputy Mayor Veinotte noted that the MLA for the area, Danielle Barkhouse, indicated that support from the Municipality may help with the residents’ request.

2025-222 Moved by Deputy Mayor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Burns that Municipal Council authorize the Mayor to write a letter to Honourable Fred Tilley, Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works, with a copy to the local MLA, in support of the request from Big Tancook residents to reduce the posted speed limit on Big Tancook Island roads

from 50km/h to 30km/h to provide better safety for pedestrians. Carried. Opposed Councillor Moore

13. Added Items – Nil

14. In Camera

At 8:12 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Brooks that Municipal Council go In Camera to discuss the following items:

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

14.2 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA

Carried.

Municipal Council In Camera in session.

At 9:10 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Burns that Municipal Council come out of In Camera and return to open session. Carried.

Municipal Council in session.

14.2 Well Tide Building Lease

2025-223 Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Brooks that Municipal Council direct staff to execute a Lease for municipal space in the Well Tide building Carried unanimously.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Draft Strategic Priorities 2026/27



Council
December 2025

Background

- Council has laid out broad vision and mission statements
- Strategic priorities are established annually and are key part of establishing budget plans and options



Council Vision

The breathtaking, natural beauty of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg is home to thriving communities with unique cultural identities. Growth centres support our diversified economies, driven by our residents' passion for the place they call home.

With our strong economy, we can live, work and raise families here. We are a destination for visitors, attracted to our vibrant parks, beaches, and hiking trails. As leaders in sustainability, we passionately protect our natural environment.



Council Mission & Values

Values

- **Thriving Communities:** We encourage meaningful connections.
- **Act with Integrity:** We are accountable and strive to provide exceptional leadership within our municipality.
- **Respect and Kindness:** We value the uniqueness and diversity of our communities, welcoming everyone with respect and kindness.
- **Equity and Inclusion:** We take action to change and grow to be a truly diverse, equitable, and inclusive municipality.
- **Ready for Action!:** We are innovators, economic leaders, and collaborative partners.

Mission

We are:

- Responsible financial managers
- Strategic planners
- Sustainable community builders
- Collaborative engagers



Revisions to 2025 priorities

- Regional Economic Development
 - Support initiatives that focus on regional economic development
 - Advocate for a strong economic environment, including reliable cell service
- Infrastructure Upgrades, Expansion, and Management
 - Collaborate regionally to expand infrastructure that supports growth
 - Strategic investment in recreational assets



Revisions to 2025 priorities

- Quality of Life
 - Adopt a community development model to uplift grassroots work that address loneliness, affordability, and social inclusion
- Communication and Engagement
 - Build a strong community fabric through increased public communication and engagement
- Climate Change Action
 - Work to reduce municipal greenhouse gas emissions
 - Support community efforts to adapt to a changing climate and improve efficiency and affordability



Community Development

- Municipal Community Development is when we support groups of people so they can make changes within their communities
 - CD will dictate how Council assesses municipal role in new initiatives and issues
 - CD informs how departments and staff collaborate and respond to community needs
 - CD drives us to take bold action to sustain and invigorate a healthy volunteer sector



Key Tasks for 2026/27

- Iterative options research with Council & Staff
- Create key definitions and measurement
- Identify organizational impacts on the municipality
- Develop a plan to support and enhance the volunteer sector in the face of demographic changes
- Identify municipal actions and budgets
- Adopt change management principles for Council & Staff
- Communication of vision and approach to Staff and Communities



Council's Project List – Transformational Projects

- Transit Service
- Housing Strategy
- Community Hub in Osprey Village
- Establish Formal Regional Economic Development Platforms
- Comprehensive Land-Use Planning
- Community Development



Project List – Next Quarter

- Housing Strategy
- Cell Service Advocacy
- Criteria for evaluating Recreation investments
- Mobile VIC Evaluation
- Fire Service Training Strategy
- Updated AT Plan
- E-Permitting for Building Services
- Review Criminal Record Check Fees

