

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Minutes of a Meeting of Municipal Council

Held via Microsoft TEAMS

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

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
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 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

Due to inclement weather, the Meeting was held virtually through Microsoft TEAMS. Public input was not possible.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

5. Approval of Minutes – January 13, 2026

The Minutes of the January 13, 2026 Council meeting were approved as circulated.

6. Business Arising from Minutes - Nil

7. Awarding of Tenders/RFPs - Nil if applicable

7.1 Award of RFP 2025-01-405 Legal Land Surveying Services

Jamie Burgess, Senior Municipal Engineer, reviewed the report, "Award of RFP 2025-01-405 Legal Land Surveying Services" (circulated with the agenda), providing details on the award of services to DesignPoint Engineering and Surveying Ltd.

2026-011 Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Hubley that Municipal Council award RFP 2025-01-405 Legal Land Surveying Services to DesignPoint Engineering and Surveying Ltd. for the estimated cost of \$64,524.50, excluding HST.

It was clarified that the contract was for three years, costs would be incurred only when services were used, and safety certification was a standard requirement in MODL tender documents.

The Motion was voted on and carried unanimously.

7.2 Award of EOI 2025-01-506 Emergency Coordination Centre Training Program Development

A report from Rebecca Baccardax, REMO Community Readiness Coordinator, titled "EOI Procurement – Emergency Coordination Centre Training Program" was circulated with the agenda.

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO reviewed the report advising that five submissions were received. After evaluation of technical scoring and pricing, National Safety Services Incorporated was identified as the top-ranked proponent, offering strong technical expertise and understanding of applying the Incident Command System (ICS) within a municipal emergency coordination context.

2026-012 Moved by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Brooks that Municipal Council award EOI 2025-01-506 Emergency Coordination Centre Training Program Development to National Safety Services Inc. in the amount of \$50,000, plus HST.

Discussions followed on funding sources, expected deliverables, training timelines, alignment with evolving provincial emergency management standards, and sustainability of training materials for future staff.

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

9. Consideration of Correspondence - Nil

10. Recommendations from Committees & Boards

10.1. Policy & Strategy Committee

10.1.1 Housing Strategy Development – What We Heard Report

A recommendation from the Policy & Strategy Committee regarding the What We Heard Report, along with supporting documentation, was circulated with the agenda.

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO, summarized the Housing Strategy developed following public engagement and committee review. The strategy focuses on facilitating growth through infrastructure coordination, supporting private-sector housing development, and enabling non-profit and community-led housing initiatives.

2026-013 Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Oickle that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Policy & Strategy Committee and adopt the housing strategy, as presented.

Mr. Dumaresq provided clarification on the implementation timelines, action planning, budget alignment, and performance indicators. He noted that several actions were already underway, with additional initiatives to be incorporated into upcoming budget cycles and ongoing monitoring through housing start data and affordability indicators.

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

10.2 Nominating Committee

10.2.1 Planning Advisory Committee – Appointment of Irene Hirtle

A recommendation from the Nominating Committee regarding Irene Hirtle's appointment as a member-at-large to the Planning Advisory Committee, along with supporting documentation, was circulated with the agenda.

2026-014 Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Brooks that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Nominating Committee and appoint Irene Hirtle as a member-at-large on the Planning Advisory Committee, term ending November 2027. Carried unanimously.

10.2.2 Sawpit Wharf Committee – Appointment of Ian Fraser & Mike Bos

A recommendation from the Nominating Committee regarding the appointments of Ian Fraser and Mike Bos as members-at-large to the Sawpit Wharf Park Advisory Committee, was circulated with the agenda.

2026-015 Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Bell that Municipal Council

accept the recommendation of the Nominating Committee and appoint Ian Fraser and Mike Bos as members-at-large on the Sawpit Wharf Park Advisory Committee, terms ending November 2028. Carried unanimously.

11. Staff Reports

11.1 Recreation, Parks & Tourism

11.1.1 Commemorative Memorial at Hillside Cemetery

Sandra Challis, Administrative Assistant, reviewed the report, “Commemorative Memorial at Hillside Cemetery” (circulated with the agenda), providing details of the proposed memorial to commemorate persons buried on site.

2026-016 Moved by Councillor Brooks, seconded by Councillor Oickle that Municipal Council approve the Public Engagement Strategy, as presented, regarding the installation of a memorial at Hillside Cemetery (MARC) commemorating by name the individuals buried at the site.

Discussions focused on:

- Whether other municipal cemeteries might be affected by precedent (staff confirmed Hillside Cemetery is the only cemetery under municipal responsibility).
- The purpose of public engagement and how sensitivities around naming individuals would be handled.
- Historical context from previous Council discussions, including concerns from some family members who may not wish to have names displayed.
- The importance of recognizing those buried at the site while respecting family wishes.
- The proposed capital cost of a future monument and the need to consider affordability during budget deliberations.

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

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

12.1 Deputy Mayor’s Update

Deputy Mayor Veinotte advised that she attended the agenda briefing meeting and all other committee meetings as assigned.

12.2 Mayor’s Update

Mayor McLean-Wile’s update is attached to the Minutes.

13. Added Items – Nil

Council recessed at 10:00 a.m. and resumed at 10:12 a.m.

8. Presentations/Scheduled Times

8.1 Scaling Up Non-Profit Energy Retrofits

Liam Cook, Owner and Navigator with Navigate Energy, and support team Hannah Minzloff, Delaney Helmke, and Andy Thompson with Aging Well Nova Scotia were in attendance via TEAMS to give a presentation on “Scaling Up Non-Profit Energy Retrofits – A Net Zero Approach to Revitalize Community Halls” (circulated with the agenda), regarding a community-based model for nonprofit and community facility energy retrofits.

The presentation outlined:

- Challenges faced by volunteer-run community facilities, particularly energy costs
- An aggregated retrofit model to reduce operating expenses and improve community resilience
- Results from the Pictou County pilot, including reduced energy use, elimination of oil heating in multiple facilities, cost savings, and increased community use of halls
- Potential applicability to community halls, legions, churches, fire halls, and other nonprofit facilities within the Municipality

Discussions followed on eligibility, funding sources, municipal staff capacity, legacy planning for community halls, and engagement of younger community members.

The presenters left the meeting.

14. In Camera

At 10:55 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Brooks that Municipal Council go In Camera to discuss the following items:

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

Carried.

Municipal Council In Camera in session.

At 12:32 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Smith that Municipal Council come out of In Camera and return to open session. Carried.

Municipal Council in session.

Councillor Burns declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting.

14.3 SSODA

2026-017 Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Smith that Municipal Council authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute a Contribution Agreement with the South Shore Open Doors Association (SSODA), setting out a \$100,000 contribution to the organization's 82-unit housing acquisition project. Carried unanimously.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

Mayor's Report

January 27, 2026

With the new year underway, municipal activities are beginning to pick up again and we are settling back into the regular rhythm of Council work. As everyone is aware, there is a full agenda ahead of us, and we will continue to work steadily to advance and complete each project and initiative before Council.

The Deputy Mayor and I met with the CAO, Deputy CAO, and planning staff to map out the timeline for the next phase of work on the Municipal Planning Strategy. Draft #2 will be ready for Council's review around February 5, with the document scheduled for public release in mid-February. Plans are also in place for public meetings and consultations to be held in the Municipal Council Chamber later this spring. Our goal is to complete this work by the summer.

The Deputy Mayor and I met with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Lunenburg to discuss their request for funding support for arena operations and capital needs. We had a productive discussion about the importance of long-term planning for recreation assets and their management. We also agreed to meet again following the budget process to continue discussions around recreation planning, drought preparedness, and other areas of shared interest.

I attended a luncheon with Don Mills and David Campbell, authors of **Towards Prosperity: The Transformation of Atlantic Canada's Economy**, who are also the hosts of the **Insights** podcast focused on business leadership and economic opportunities in Atlantic Canada. Their message to municipalities emphasized the importance of developing population strategies that address labour needs, advancing regional initiatives, and building on the strength of natural resources in rural communities.

I also participated in a webinar sponsored by Engage Nova Scotia regarding a Quality of Life survey that will be launched in February. This survey has the potential to provide valuable, detailed information about our municipality. Trudy Payne also participated, and we now have the details related to the social media and marketing plan that will encourage resident participation. Initial results from the survey are expected this fall.

Councillor Reinhardt and I attended the signing of a management agreement between the Broad Cove Community Association and the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg to support beach access at Broad Cove. The signing was followed by the association's annual meeting, which highlighted how well organized the community is and how extensively the hall is used, with more than 175 events hosted in 2025. Elizabeth Conrad was also recognized as she retired after 20 years of managing and coordinating hall bookings.

I attended several community events this month, including a breakfast in Parkdale–Maplewood and a beautiful evening of glitter, good food, music, and fundraising in support of the South Shore Palliative Care Society. As a result of this work, beds are now available to receive

palliative care patients. Dr. Fraser Wainwright serves as the palliative care physician overseeing the medical unit at Fishermen's Memorial Hospital in Lunenburg. There are currently 25 trained volunteers providing weekly in-home support to palliative care patients, with another cohort of volunteers now being trained. This program has been very well received in our community.

I met with two newcomers to our community who are interested in finding ways to contribute to their chosen home. They recently moved from Toronto and originally emigrated from South Africa, both are professionals with extensive volunteer experience.

Finally, I participated in an interview with a reporter from the **Halifax Examiner**, who is undertaking interviews with mayors and wardens across Nova Scotia. This is an interesting project, particularly given the publication's usual focus on stories from HRM.

Prepared by

Elsbeth McLean-Wile