

## **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, February 10, 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 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**

Council welcomed Sherri Turner, the Municipality's new Communications and Public Engagement Officer, and introduced themselves and identified their respective districts.

##### **2.1 Proclamation – Wear Red Day 2026**

Mayor McLean-Wile proclaimed February 13, 2026 as Wear Red Canada Day in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg to raise awareness about heart disease in women.

#### **3. Public Input - Nil**

#### **4. Approval of Agenda**

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

**5. Approval of Minutes – January 27, 2026**

The Minutes of the January 27, 2026 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 2026-2027 Region 6 Budget**

A recommendation from the Finance Committee, along with supporting documentation from Region 6, was circulated with the agenda.

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance, gave a summary of the Region 6 presentation on the 2026-2027 Region 6 budget.

**2026-018 Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Burns that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and approve the 2026-2027 Region 6 budget, with the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg's share being \$40,929.62. Carried unanimously.**

**10.1.2 2026-2027 Proposed Area Rates – Streetlights and Hydrants**

A recommendation from the Finance Committee, along with a report titled "2026-27 Proposed Area Rates: Streetlights and Hydrants" was circulated with the agenda.

Ms. Wentzell provided a summary of the discussion that took place at the February 3, 2023 Finance Committee meeting.

**2026-019 Moved by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Burns that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and approve:**

- The 2026-2027 Fire hydrant rate of \$0.0898/\$100 of assessment; and
- The 2026-2027 Streetlight rates, as presented.

**Carried unanimously.**

## **10.2 Regional Emergency Management Organization Advisory Committee**

### **10.2.1 2026-2027 REMO Budget Presentation**

A recommendation from the REMO Advisory Committee, including slides on the 2025-26 Year in Review, was circulated with the agenda.

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO, gave a summary of the REMO Budget and noted that the most significant change to the current budget related to funding received through the Department of Emergency Management.

Mr. Dumaresq explained that REMO implemented a revised cost-sharing formula which introduced a base contribution amount required from each municipal partner, with the remaining costs distributed based on uniform assessment values. He noted that the new formula resulted in a decrease in the Municipality's net costs.

## **10.3 Fire & Emergency Services Committee**

### **10.3.1 Proposed Amendments to Policy 036 Fire & Emergency Services**

A report from Chris Kennedy, Fire Services Coordinator, titled "Fire & Emergency Services Committee Request for Decision", was circulated with the agenda.

Mr. Dumaresq gave a summary of the proposed amendments and explained the implementation of a Code of Conduct.

**2026-2020 Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Hubley that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the FESC and approve the amendments to Policy 036 Fire and Emergency Services, as presented, and gives 7 days' notice of Council's intention to approve the proposed amendments at the February 24, 2026 Council meeting. Carried unanimously.**

## **11. Staff Reports**

### **11.1 Planning and Development**

#### **11.1.1 Private Road Maintenance Charge Levy – Elmwood Road Extension Association**

Norma Schiefer, Manager of Development, reviewed the report "Request to Levy Private Road Maintenance Charge – Elmwood Road Extension Association" (circulated with the agenda) providing details on the request from the Association to levy a charge for road maintenance fees.

**2026-021 Moved by Councillor Brooks, seconded by Councillor Smith that Municipal Council levy a maintenance charge within the Charge Area identified by the Elmwood Road Extension Association as a uniform amount per lot, with property owners receiving only one charge regardless of the number of lots they own; and further, that the 2026-2027 charge be set at**

**\$100 per lot, subject to an agreement being entered into that satisfies Section 9 of By-law 040 Private Roads. Carried unanimously.**

Deputy Mayor Veinotte took the Chair.

#### **11.1.2 Private Road Agreement Transfer – Rocky Lake Community Association**

Norma Schiefer, Manager of Development, reviewed the report “Private Road Agreement transfer request – Rocky Lake Community Association” (circulated with the agenda) providing details on the request from the Association to transfer the private road agreement to the road association.

**2026-022 Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Burns that Municipal Council transfer the Private Road Agreement with David Sutherland to the Rocky Lake Community Association, subject to an agreement being entered into that satisfies Section 9 of By-law 040 Private Roads, with the agreement being confirmed by the Municipal Solicitor. Carried unanimously.**

#### **11.1.3 Private Road Maintenance Charge Levy – Tanner Road Association**

Norma Schiefer, Manager of Development, reviewed the report “Request to Levy Private Road Maintenance Charge – Tanner Road Association” (circulated with the agenda) providing details on the request from the Association to levy a charge for road maintenance fees.

**2026-023 Moved by Councillor Hubley, seconded by Councillor Bell that Municipal Council levy a maintenance charge within the Charge Area identified by the Tanner Road Association as a uniform amount per lot based on use, with the 2026-2027 charges being set at \$150 per lot for 3 lots at the beginning of the road, \$300 for remaining lots and \$0 for vacant lots, subject to an agreement being entered into that satisfies Section 9 of Bylaw 040 Private Roads. Carried unanimously.**

Mayor McLean-Wile resumed as Chair.

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

### **12.1 LCLC Update**

Councillor Hubley’s update on matters of the Lunenburg County Multi-purpose Lifestyle Community Centre is attached to the Minutes.

### **12.3 Deputy Mayor’s Update**

Deputy Mayor Veinotte advised that she attended agenda briefings and the Regional Growth Management Committee meeting.

**12.4 Mayor's Update**

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

**13. Added Items – Nil**

**14. In Camera**

**At 6:40 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Burns, seconded by Deputy Mayor Veinotte that Municipal Council go In Camera to discuss the following Item 14.1 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(2)(e) of the MGA. Carried.**

Municipal Council In Camera in session.

**At 7:16 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Brooks that Municipal Council come out of In Camera and return to open session. Carried.**

**15. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

## **LCLC Update from meeting held January 29, 2026.**

The strategic plan was reviewed. The board discussed high/medium & low priorities. Marta will bring back a complete plan based on the conversation. We will update again when the plan is finalized. The Mission & Vision were discussed and agreed upon.

### **The Mission statement is as follows:**

To enhance the quality of life for all residents by providing a space for accessible and diverse sport, recreation & leisure opportunities.

### **The Vision Statement is as follows:**

The LCLC is the regional hub for sport, recreation & leisure.

The operating and capital budgets were reviewed and discussed, in depth. It was decided that both budgets would be updated according to board input and brought back to the February 19, 2026, meeting for further discussion and approval.

### **“Cost recovery” policy recommendations**

At the November meeting the board received a memo identifying financial disparities and the need to better align funding, cost recovery and service delivery. This discussion emphasized the importance of having clearer parameters ensuring consistency and promoting sustainability across facility services and donations.

### **Donation & Sponsorship Request Policy -**

During this discussion it was unanimously decided that the LCLC will no longer issue gift cards for donation requests or free passes. Organizations will be directed to the Municipalities. This will simplify the process for the LCLC. The policy will reflect this decision.

### **Concession Services Policy**

It was also unanimously decided that we will go forward with the “Concession Services” policy. This policy is necessary to establish clear terms and conditions for providing concession and bar services. Food, Beverage and alcohol drink services are optional and not included in standard rental fees. Due to staffing, inventory, licensing and administrative costs these services will only be provided under a service agreement. A flat rate will be charged to ensure cost recovery.

And finally – our new Zamboni has been delayed. We were expecting the delivery in March. It has been delayed to June or July.

## **Mayor's Report**

**February 10, 2026**

At a recent Council meeting we received a report on our Visitor program to the municipality and how this aligned with our tourism initiatives. To become more knowledgeable about the direction we should take on tourism I attended a meeting hosted by the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage outlining the provincial government's tourism strategy. I also attended a webinar about community-based tourism on Fogo Island, Newfoundland. This session focused on using community assets to curate a complete visitor experience using community resources, history and experience. I am convinced we need to have a more focused discussion on the direction of tourism initiatives in the District.

I met with Mayor Mitchell to further discussions on the substation project with the town of Bridgewater. Today, the Growth Management Committee met and continued to advance discussions with Bridgewater on partnership on public transit and the electric substation.

I read the report from the Fire Services Association of Nova Scotia on Fire Services Governance Study. There are many significant implications for rural municipalities with the report recommending the consolidation of many pieces of legislation that ultimately would transfer responsibility for the governance of rural fire service from a community model to the municipality. I have many serious concerns about these changes which essentially would create another department within our staff to manage and finance fire services. Tom MacEwan, our CAO will present a short synopsis of the proposed changes at our Policy and Strategy meeting next week.

This week we all received the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law documents. I am working my way through the reading and understanding of Draft #2. A shorter version will be prepared which will be more accessible to the general public in highlighting the significant changes that were made from Draft #1. We will release the report to the public later this month. We have received confirmation from the Minister of Municipal Affairs that our fourth extension to the development of the plan was approved until June 30, 2026. The draft is expected to be submitted to the Minister's office six weeks before first reading.

I participated in a workshop on the Green Shores Program which is a nature based approach to protected coastal shorelines. This was lead by staff from St. Mary's University and brought together indigenous elders with the workshop participants.

I was interviewed by a consultant completing a study for the Lunenburg Waterfront Association on development of the waterfront assets in Lunenburg. I highlighted the need to recognize the need for economic activity that sustained the assets through businesses that supported year round commercial activity. A working waterfront is a critical piece of the history of Lunenburg however evolution of the history into modern day businesses that support marine research and technology, marine construction and food fishery were suggested.

Councillor Burns and I met with residents concerned about the safety and condition of the Naugler Road. Like many residents they shared their frustration with inconsistent road maintenance, snow removal and sanding/salting.

The Mayors, Warden and CAOs of the county together with Queens representatives met this week and discussed homelessness in our communities and our role as municipalities in addressing the related problems. We shared our concerns on the Fire Services Governance Study. Nova Scotia Power representatives were present for a debrief and conversation on the recent storms and NSPs response. There was a good exchange on the challenge of demand on the grid as Nova Scotia population grows and more and more residents convert to heat pumps. We outlined the need for more timely accurate information on restoration of power and education for homeowners on appropriate phase in strategies for households to restore power.

There were the usual round of meetings including MJSB and LCLC along with a well attended breakfast in Pinehurst this past Saturday. I think everyone was getting cabin fever, with the roads clear and no snow in the air people came out in droves! It was a very busy morning for the community.

Prepared by:

Elsbeth McLean-Wile