

## **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, April 14, 2026 – 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  
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  
Lisa Andrews, 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**

Birthday wishes were extended to Councillor Reinhardt.

Councillor Burns acknowledged the passing of long-time resident Genevieve Turner of West Northfield and the significant impact she had on the community.

Councillor Smith expressed thanks to Gerri-Lyn Sheen Ard & Denise Ewing-Moss for organizing a Spring Tea Party at the Union Square Hall. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all.

#### **3. Public Input**

Bill Rodger, Bridgewater, speaking in support of the Regional Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination Committee (ARADAC). Conversations are happening in the community and should also be reflected at the Council level.

Sharon Hubley, Pine Grove, stated that systemic racism is imbedded in policies, rules and practices and addressing them requires identifying and removing barriers to improve inclusion and representation, which will foster community trust and ensure accountability.

Brian Limoyo, Bridgewater, expressed concerns about returning the ARADAC to the municipal level, emphasizing the importance of collaborating on a regional committee and encouraging public input.

Caleb Wheeldon, East LaHave, a community member sitting on ARADAC stressed the importance of connection and community with a goal to work against hate and cruelty.

Astrid Seidel, Pleasantville, speaking in support of ARADAC, expressing concerns about discrimination experienced by newcomers.

Martha Farquhar-McDonald, West Dublin, works closely with children and acknowledged racism and discrimination in schools. She asked Municipal Council to accept the work and generosity of the people on the committee.

Mike Mawhinney, Conquerall Bank, expressed concerns regarding a possible new development on the Willam Hebb Road. If the development is approved, he would like assurance that the runoff water will not contain contaminants and will not affect the other properties on the street.

Megan MacDonald, Conquerall Bank, a member of ARADAC expressed concerns about the committee's dissolution, emphasizing that community voices and lived experiences are necessary. The public deserves better and Council has a responsibility to act in the best interests of its constituents.

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

It was requested that Item 11.3.2 Regional Anti-Racism & Anti-Discrimination Committee (ARADAC) be moved up on the agenda to follow Item 6.

It was also requested that Item 7.4 Award of Community Hub Fitup Tender – Program Space and Business Hub be removed from the agenda.

**Moved by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Burns that the Agenda be approved as amended by moving Item 11.3.2 Regional Anti-Racism & Anti-Discrimination Committee up on the agenda to follow Item 6 and the removal of Item 7.4 Award of Community Hub Fitup Tender – Program Space and Business Hub. Carried unanimously.**

#### **5. Approval of Minutes – March 24, 2026, and March 31, 2026**

The Minutes of the March 24, 2026, Council meeting were approved as circulated.

The Minutes of the March 31, 2026, Special Council meeting were approved as circulated.

**6. Business Arising from Minutes - Nil**

**11. Staff Reports**

**11.3 Administration**

**11.3.2 Regional Anti-Racism & Anti-Discrimination Committee (ARADAC)**

Mayor Elspeth McLean-Wile thanked the public for their feedback and acknowledged that past efforts to address racism and discrimination have not been sufficient. She emphasized that Council and staff must take responsibility, starting internally, and noted that training and education are key first steps. The Municipality will also work with those with lived experience to help shape future actions.

Tom MacEwan, CAO, reviewed a summary (attached with Minutes) of the report “Anti-Racism & Anti-Discrimination Committee” (circulated with the agenda), outlining the mandate of ARADAC and noted it has not fulfilled key responsibilities, including reviewing the draft action plan or meeting reporting requirements, and identified structural and capacity challenges with the regional model.

**2026-054 Moved by Deputy Mayor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Moore that Municipal Council recommend to partner units the dissolution of the Regional Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination Committee.**

**Discussion:**

- Noted was that the committee was mischaracterized, with limited meetings due to staffing challenges rather than lack of effort; raised concerns about accountability, citing repeated interruptions undermining momentum and trust, and highlighted lack of consultation on dissolution.
- The province no longer requires a stand-alone committee; options include a working group, a committee, or integrating it into the strategic or accessibility plan.
- The existing IDEA plan (2024–2028), outlines a four-year strategy focused on municipal policies, programs, and services to reduce systemic bias and racism; emphasizing an internal focus, with future staff work to explore external approaches and best practices for addressing community issues.
- Renaming the committee to reflect diversity and inclusion and recommended restructuring it, including reconstituting membership and reopening applications before proceeding.

- Questioned confidence in continuing the work through a community coalition or working group and highlighted that, while provincially mandated, there is limited oversight and guidance on how municipalities should implement these requirements.
- Not about stepping away from the work but reconsidering how it is done due to structural challenges and the need for a better approach to serve the community.
- Requested a follow-up report on ARADAC and stressed the need to document past efforts, lessons learned, and accountability when shifting between regional and municipal approaches.
- Emphasized accountability and learning from past missteps if shifting approaches, acknowledged the complexity of inclusion work, affirmed the role of both government and community, and committed to continuing internal work while determining future community engagement.

**The motion was voted on and Councillors Reinhardt, Burns and Smith were opposed. Motion carried.**

**2026-055 Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Hubley that Municipal Council recommend that, if the majority of participating Councils do not support the dissolution of the Regional Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination Committee, then MODL Council give notice of its withdrawal with an effective date of May 1, 2026.**

It was clarified that a committee meeting could occur before May 1 if standard procedural requirements were met, including public notice and staff support, though staffing limitations may make this difficult; noting that other municipal units are still deciding on the committee's future, which will determine whether it continues or dissolves.

**The motion was voted on and Councillors, Smith, Burns and Reinhardt were opposed. Motion carried.**

Council recessed at 7:22 p.m. and reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

## **7. Awarding of Tenders/RFPs**

### **7.1 Award of RFP 2025-01-005 Sludge Removal – Wastewater Treatment Facilities**

Tyler Richardson, Municipal Engineer, Engineering & Public Works, reviewed the report "Award of RFP 2025-01-005 Sludge Removal – Wastewater Treatment Facilities" (circulated with the agenda), providing details of the submissions received and the recommendation to award sludge removal at the Wastewater Treatment Facilities in Cookville, New Germany and Conquerall Bank to Winchester Disposal Services Ltd. for a three-year term.

**2026-056 Moved by Councillor Brooks, seconded by Councillor Burns that Municipal Council award Tender 2025-01-005 Sludge Removal – Wastewater Treatment Facilities, for a three (3) year term, to Winchester Disposal Service Limited in the estimated amount of \$130,917.60, excluding HST.**

It was clarified that the successful bidder, Winchester Disposal Service Limited, was located in Liverpool, and that under trade agreements in the Purchasing Policy, local companies may not be given additional weighting. It was confirmed that the low bid was based on the same scope of work, formed a legally binding contract with no allowance for cost increases, and the contractor had previously provided similar services to the municipality.

**The motion on the floor was voted on and carried unanimously.**

### **7.2 Award of RFQ 2025-05-301 Wheelchairs for Parasport**

Tissy Bolivar, Program Coordinator, Recreation, Parks & Tourism, reviewed the report “RFQ Award 2025-05-301 Wheelchairs for Parasport” (circulated with the agenda), providing details of the submissions received and the recommendation to award the supply and delivery of six wheelchairs for parasport programming to Harding Medical. Noting that funding has been received from Sport NS.

**2026-057 Moved by Deputy Mayor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Bell that Municipal Council award RFQ 2025-05-301 Wheelchairs for Parasport, for six (6) wheelchairs to Harding Medical in the amount of \$29,700 plus HST.**

Clarification was provided that remaining funds would be used for minor equipment replacements, with any surplus returned to Sport Nova Scotia; it was further clarified that the equipment was primarily used for wheelchair basketball programming.

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

### **7.3 Award of Community Hub Door System & Security System Equipment Contract**

Dave Waters, Director of Economic Development, reviewed the report “Door System and Security” (circulated with the agenda), providing detailed information on the two quotes received and recommending award for the Community Hub door and Security System to Atlantic Alarms, although higher bid, by applying Article 19.1.5 of Policy No. 033-Purchasing and Tendering Policy which permits work to be performed that ensures compatibility with existing products.

**2026-058 Moved by Councillor Hubley, seconded by Councillor Burns that Municipal Council approve the use of alternate procurement, as per section 19 of Policy 033 Purchasing & Tendering, to award the door system and security system equipment contract for the Community and Business Hub to Atlantic Alarm & Sound in the amount of \$52,497.55, excluding HST.**

Clarification was provided that the alarm/security system applied only to the municipality's leased space, with no cost sharing from other tenants, and integration with the building owner's system was proposed; it was further noted that it was standard practice for the municipality to fund its own security/access systems and carry its own insurance under the lease fit-up.

**The motion on the floor was voted on and carried unanimously.**

**7.4 Award of Community Hub Fitup Tender – Program Space and Business Hub**

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

**8. Presentations/Scheduled Times - Nil**

**9. Consideration of Correspondence - Nil**

**10. Recommendations from Committees & Boards**

**10.1. Finance Committee**

**10.1.1 Cost Share J Class Road paving 2026-2027 – Darby's Head Road**

A recommendation from the Finance Committee, including a report titled "Cost Shared Program for Paving of J Class Roads for 2026-2027 Darby's Head Road", was circulated with the agenda.

**2026-059 Moved by Deputy Mayor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Bell that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee to accept the cost sharing opportunity, as presented by NS Department of Public Works; for the paving of Darby's head road, a J Class Road in the amount of \$100,000; and further, direct the Mayor to execute the Notice of Acceptance.**

Clarification was provided that there was no municipal budget for annual maintenance of the J-Class road, as ongoing maintenance remained the responsibility of the province under a historical service exchange agreement, with the municipality only paying a per-kilometre rate and having no authority over maintenance decisions.

**The motion on the floor was voted on and carried unanimously.**

**10.2 Audit Committee**

**10.2.1 Letter to Municipal Affairs – Financial Condition Indicator Results**

A recommendation from the Audit Committee, including a report titled "2023-2024 Financial Condition Indicator Results", was circulated with the agenda.

**2026-060 Moved by Councillor Brooks, seconded by Councillor Hubley that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Audit Committee and authorize the Mayor to write a letter to Honourable John A. MacDonald, Minister responsible for the Department of**

**Municipal Affairs asking that the Annual FCI reporting timeline from the Province be accelerated so that the data can be utilized by municipalities. Carried unanimously.**

### **10.3 Nominating Committee**

#### **10.3.1 2026 Provincial Volunteer**

A recommendation from the Nominating Committee, including a report titled “2026 Provincial Volunteer Representative, was circulated with the agenda.

**2026-061 Moved by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Moore that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Nominating Committee and approve the nomination of Mike Wilson of Wentzell Lake as the 2026 Provincial Volunteer representative for the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg. Carried unanimously.**

### **11. Staff Reports**

#### **11.1 Planning & Development**

##### **11.1.1 Osprey Village Rezoning – PID 60631009**

Rosemary Young, Planner 1, Planning & Development Services, reviewed the report “Osprey Village 60631009” (circulated with the agenda), asking council to initiate the process to review amendments to the Osprey Village Secondary Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law allowing the rezoning of PID 60631009, a municipally owned parcel of land to allow for unserviced commercial and or residential development and protect existing open space on the property.

**2026-062 Moved by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Hubley that Municipal Council direct staff to hold a public information session; and further direct the Planning Advisory Committee to review the proposed amendments to Osprey Village Secondary Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law. Carried unanimously.**

#### **11.2 Recreation, Parks & Tourism**

##### **11.2.1 Designated Community Project Fund – Lunenburg Yacht Club**

Tissy Bolivar, Program Coordinator, Recreation, Parks & Tourism, reviewed the report “Lunenburg Yacht Club – Designated Community Project Fund” (circulated with Agenda), requesting Municipal Council to approve the establishment of a designated community project fund pursuant to Policy 048.

**2025-063 Moved by Councillor Reinhardt, seconded by Deputy Mayor Veinotte that Municipal Council approve establishing a Designated Community Project Fund for the Lunenburg Yacht Club, pursuant to Policy 048 Designated Community Project Fund, to assist the Club in fundraising capital funds to purchase boats that will enhance their Learn to Sail Program.**

Clarification was provided that, under tax legislation, the Municipality could issue tax receipts for donations, allowing non-profit organizations to fundraise without being a registered charity.

**The motion on the floor was voted on and carried unanimously.**

**11.3 Administration**

**11.3.1 Active Transportation Fund Agreement – Osprey Village Sidewalk Project**

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO, reviewed the report “Active Transportation Fund Agreement – Osprey Village Sidewalk Project” (circulated with the agenda) requiring authorization for staff to execute the agreement from one of the funding partners.

**2026-064 Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Oickle that Municipal Council confirm that the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg meets the requirements of the Government of Canada Active Transportation Fund for the Osprey Village Sidewalk project. Carried unanimously.**

**2026-065 Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Deputy Mayor Veinotte that Municipal Council authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to execute the Active Transportation Fund agreement and related documents on behalf of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg. Carried unanimously.**

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

**12.1 MJSB**

Councillor Oickle provided an update on the matters of the Municipal Joint Services Board (attached with Minutes).

**12.2 Deputy Mayor’s Update**

Deputy Mayor Veinotte advised she attended agenda briefings, cheque signing, and committee meetings, including the Regional Growth Management Committee meeting, a partnership with the Town of Bridgewater. She tended the MODL booth at the recent South Shore Expo, extending thanks to Sherri Turner, Manager, Communications & Public Engagement on its coordination.

**12.3 Mayor’s Update**

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

**13. Added Items – Nil**

**14. In Camera**

**14.1 Land Negotiations under Section 22(2)(a) of the MGA**

Given the time, it was suggested that the In Camera item be deferred to the Policy & Strategy Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, as some discussion would be required on the item.

**It was moved by Councillor Oickle, Seconded by Councillor Brooks that the In Camera item 14.1 Land Negotiations be deferred to the Policy & Strategy Committee meeting on April 21, 2026. Carried Unanimously.**

**15. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

The Inter-municipal Regional Anti-Racism and Diversity Agreement (dated January 12, 2024) was established to provide for coordinated Anti-Racism and Diversity services through the establishment of the Anti-Racism & Anti-Discrimination Committee (the “Committee”) and the creation of the Anti-Racism and Diversity Coordinator position (the “Regional Coordinator”).

The Committee and the Regional Coordinator were intended to work together on the provision of coordinated Anti-Racism and Diversity services.

For example, the Committee is responsible to provide ongoing advice, education, information and recommendations to the five Municipal Councils and staff on internal and external projects, initiatives, or policy via the Regional Coordinator.

The original term of the Agreement was to run from August 1, 2023 to April 1, 2026 but the termination date was extended to September 30, 2026 (with the extension being approved by MODL Council on September 24, 2024).

It is important to keep in mind that the Committee and the Regional Coordinator position have always had a time limited mandate

As per the terms of the Agreement, one of the core functions of the Committee is to develop and recommend to municipalities a regional action plan which will provide regional-level guidance and coordinated approaches and strategies on actions to be taken by the partnering municipalities.

As it happened, the Regional Coordinator prepared and the participating Councils adopted the draft Lunenburg County Strategy

for Belonging: Anti-Racism & Diversity Action Plan by the April 1, 2025 provincial deadline but before the Committee was established.

Following the presentation by the Regional Coordinator, MODL Council's motion (March 25, 2025) to approve the draft Action Plan stated:

“Municipal Council approve the draft Anti-Racism and Diversity Plan for submission to the Province of Nova Scotia; and further, that the final Anti-Racism and Diversity Plan will be developed and submitted to Council for approval.”

Although the Draft Action Plan was prepared by the Regional Coordinator with guidance from the community and internal municipal engagement, the Committee did not take part in the preparation of the Action Plan but it was intended that the Committee would conduct a review of the draft Action Plan including the action items for final plan development, then submit the final plan to Council for approval.

On March 11, 2025, MODL Council appointed Council Smith as Council's representative on the Committee.

The Committee had its first introductory meeting in the spring of 2025 and held its second meeting on September 11, 2025.

At the September 11, 2025 meeting, the Committee passed a motion recommending that the Committee Terms of Reference be amended to permit non-council members to serve as the Chair.

The recommendation to amend the terms of reference was approved by MODL Council at the Council meeting held on October 14, 2025.

The third meeting of the Committee took place on April 1, 2026. At this meeting, following discussion, the Committee passed the following motion:

“That the Committee recommend that a regional committee structure continue in a resource and advisory capacity, with individual units creating their own anti-racism plans as mandated by the Province”.

This motion is included in the Staff Report which is part of the Council Agenda.

In the period between the Committee’s first meeting in the spring of 2025 and the last meeting on April 1, 2026, to our knowledge, the Committee did not conduct any review of the draft Action Plan and Action Items (as intended and stated in the Draft Action Plan) and the Committee did not make any recommendations to the participating Councils with respect to the draft Action Plan and Action Items.

The Committee has also not met its obligation to report to Councils at least twice per year. With the exception of the Staff Report supporting the recommendation to amend the terms of reference (September 2025) and the recommendation passed on April 1, 2026, the Committee has not reported to MODL Council on its activities or actions.

While it is clear that the Committee favours its continuation in “a resource and advisory capacity”, and with all due respect, it is difficult to see how the Committee could achieve its key responsibility (namely, the review of the draft Action Plan and recommendations to Councils) in the 5 ½ months remaining in its

term when no action was conducted on this matter during the first 10 months of its existence.

The Committee has not fulfilled its mandate and with 5 ½ months left in its term, it does not have the capacity or the expertise to do so.

As stated in my report, if Council supports the recommendation to dissolve or withdraw from the Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination Committee then Staff would focus our efforts on continuing to advance our plan (IDEA at MODL) while exploring options on how MODL should approach the mandated update of the Draft Action Plan which is required to be completed prior to April 1, 2028 (less than 2 years from now).

Any updates to either plan (IDEA at MODL or the Draft Action Plan) requires engagement with underrepresented and underserved communities.

The Recommendation before Council this evening does not stop or prohibit engagement with the community but it is a recognition that the regional approach does not serve the needs of MODL.

MJSB (Municipal Joint Service Board)

Wednesday March 25<sup>th</sup> 2026

MJSB was tasked with assessing how professional shared services could be provided to the LCLC. To support this work, consultant was engaged to evaluate the governance and management structure of the Lunenburg County Multi-Purpose Centre . It was recommended that the MJSB and LCMPPC Boards review the materials and advise if additional information is needed.

Over the past year, the Board has had several discussions regarding the suitability of MJSB's current office at 210 Aberdeen and the potential need to relocate. The board approved the authorization for MJSB to enter into a five-year lease agreement for office space with the owners of the WellTide facility. It was recommended that MJSB Partner Councils have discussions and approve the additional cost to this move.

The board approved the recommendation to extend the existing Waste Transfer Services contract with GE Environmental Ltd (GE), for an additional two-year term ending on March 31, 2028.

The board recommended that the bank records be updated to include the new Director of Waste Management Shared Services as an authorized signing officer. All current procedures and signature requirements will remain unchanged.

Report by:

Councillor Wendy Oickle

## Mayor's Report

April 14, 2026

Over the past two weeks, I had the pleasure of attending community celebrations with both the Dayspring and District Fire Service and the Lahave and District Fire Department. Dayspring marked an impressive 60th anniversary, opening their fire hall to share photos and memorabilia that reflected a long and proud history of service. The evening included recognition of several long-serving members, including Wilfred and Jean Feener. Wilfred's contributions as a firefighter and in the construction of the hall, along with Jean's longstanding involvement in the Auxiliary—well known for her chocolate chip cookies—are a wonderful example of the family and community spirit that sustains our fire services.

Lahave's banquet last Saturday evening was equally meaningful, celebrating the many volunteers whose contributions strengthen their community. These events are important reminders of the vital role our volunteer fire departments play, not only in public safety but in building community connections.

I also attended Agriculture Day, organized by our Economic Development staff in Lunenburg and Queens. While the keynote speaker was excellent, it highlighted an opportunity for us to more clearly define the purpose of the event and better align speakers with the needs and interests of those attending.

A recent session on Governance and Strategy for municipal councils, hosted by NSFM, was one of the most valuable I have attended. It combined practical insight from municipalities with strong facilitation by Kristin Hines, and provided useful perspectives for our own work as Council.

We have now completed our public engagement sessions on municipal planning, concluding with a visit to Tancook Island. With beautiful weather and a warm reception from residents, it was a productive opportunity to discuss the next steps in developing a planning strategy that reflects the unique needs of the island community.

I attended an information session in West Northfield regarding uranium exploration and its potential impacts on the Lahave River watershed. With approximately 70 residents in attendance, it was a well-organized evening that provided important background on the geology of Nova Scotia, local test sites, and environmental risks. I was there to listen to residents' concerns and to represent Council's position if needed. Councillor Burns spoke effectively about the importance of informed public discussion on issues that matter to our communities.

Finally, I spent time at the MODL booth during the South Shore Expo this past weekend. These events are always a valuable opportunity to connect directly with residents. As expected, there

were questions about recent changes to garbage collection schedules. We were able to promote the MODL App as a helpful tool, and there was strong interest in the E-Bike lending program. Staff and I also discussed ideas for improving the booth next year, with a focus on highlighting key municipal priorities more clearly.

I attended the Sikh spring celebration in Hebbville which was attended by more than 100 people. Most Sikhs in our community are from the Punjab state of India.

I look forward to building on these conversations and continuing our work together in the weeks ahead.