

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, May 26, 2026 – 9:00 a.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 Kacy DeLong, District 8

Councillor Ben Brooks, District 9

Staff

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance

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

Mayor McLean-Wile welcomed Councillor DeLong back to the Council table.

Councillor Smith acknowledged and thanked the Kill Dog Cove Road Association for hosting a Fire Smart presentation, emphasizing the need for collaboration to mitigate wildfire risks. She also noted that a wildfire mitigation webinar was scheduled for June 9.

Mayor McLean-Wile gave well wishes to Deputy Director of Planning & Development, Reid Shepherd, in his move to Colchester County and thanked him for his work on the Municipal-wide Planning Strategy.

Mayor McLean-Wile proclaimed the week of May 31 to June 6, 2026 as Access Awareness Week highlighting the importance of accessibility for persons with disabilities.

3. Public Input - Nil

4. Approval of Agenda

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

5. Approval of Minutes – May 12, 2026

The Minutes of the May 12, 2026 Council meeting were approved as circulated.

6. Business Arising from Minutes - Nil

7. Awarding of Tenders/RFPs - Nil

8. Presentations/Scheduled Times

8.1 Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee

Lora Church, Chair of the Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee (Committee), gave a presentation (circulated with the agenda) on the successes reached and challenges faced by the Committee. Some key points of the presentation were:

- Committee established in 2019 under the Nova Scotia Accessibility Act.
- Provides advice on accessibility planning, municipal services, and community inclusion.
- Committee composition: 50% elected officials, 50% persons with disabilities or advocates.
- Emphasis on:
 - o Early consultation in projects
 - o Accessibility as a universal benefit
 - o Need for stronger engagement and referrals from Council
- Challenges:
 - o Knowledge gaps and misconceptions about accessibility
 - o Perceived costs
 - o Limited representation of persons with disabilities in decision-making
- Highlighted importance of regional collaboration and inclusive planning.

Discussions followed on:

- Referral process to committee remains discretionary.
- Importance of engaging committee early in project design stages.
- Accessibility in housing, infrastructure, and community integration (human rights remedy).
- Need for improved communication and clarity on expectations.

9. Consideration of Correspondence - Nil

10. Recommendations from Committees & Boards - Nil

11. Staff Reports

11.1 Planning & Development

11.1.1 Clean Energy Financing Program Administration - Update

Abhimanyu Jain, Manager of Climate Change and Sustainability, reviewed the report, "Update on Clean Energy Financing Program Administration" (circulated with the agenda).

Concerns were raised about the interruption to residents' access to the program

It was noted that staff was exploring options and would return to Council with recommendations.

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

12.1 LCLC Update

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

It was noted that the pool closure timeline to complete the tile work was unknown.

12.2 Deputy Mayor's Update - Nil

12.3 Mayor's Update

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

Mayor McLean-Wile advised that Staff would be reporting to Council on the potential collaboration with the Town of Lunenburg on water access and facilities.

13. Added Items – Nil

14. In Camera - Nil

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

The following are the highlights from the LCLC meeting held on May 20, 2026

Staff reviewed outstanding accounts receivable and identified a small number of invoices that have remained unpaid for various reasons beyond reasonable collection periods. (no contracts, misunderstanding 1yr vs 2 yr) Collection efforts to date have been unsuccessful and in some cases sponsorship agreements were renegotiated to recover a portion of the outstanding amounts. (the amounts proposed as write-off have already been recognized as revenue in their respective year)

The board passed a motion to approve a write off of \$9001.90 and set up an allowance for doubtful accounts in the amount of \$2185.50. The bad debt expense is \$9533.08. (the difference between the write off and the bad debt is HST)

In 2024/2025 the capital budget included \$10,050. For the development of storage solutions for arena users. The turnover in the GM position in the fall of 2024 contributed to the delay in advancing capital projects. As a result, the board approved to carry forward unspent funds to ensure completion of previously approved initiatives. These funds were deferred on the LCLC financial statements. Staff have identified a prefabricated storage locker design that can be secured to the wall without impacting the in-floor heating system.

The board passed a motion to reallocate this carryover to fund the storage upgrade costs.

The board approved the establishment of a Privacy Data Protection Compliance Program to achieve compliance with Bill 150 by April 1, 2027, for a period of up to 24 months, managed through IT Shared Services (MJSB) in an amount not to exceed \$13,750. This amount was not included in the LCLC budget therefore it will be coming to council for approval soon.

The design for accessible signage in the aquatic centre has been completed and will serve as a template for regulatory signage throughout the facility.

The new website has been populated with information. Staff continue to finalize remaining content, and once training has been completed, LCLC will transition to the new site.

Collier Project leaders has been retained to provide project management services for the aquatic center tile project. A detailed scope of work has been developed for the required architectural design services. The next step in the process is the procurement of an architectural consultant to undertake the design phase. We have an optimistic timeline of the end of August beginning of September for the work to begin.

The arena compressor has been ordered with an anticipated arrival and installation date of July 2026. (arena handling unit is operating on one compressor)

The month of April was very busy. The facility hosted South Shore Expo, Regional Heritage Fair, Logan Mania Wrestling, Science Fair, Easter Market and Employment Solutions Job fair.

A large advertisement for KIA Canada has been installed on the arena boards and in the next few weeks there will be a large banner installed.

Finally, you may have heard about a multi-day pool closure, the closure was due to broken glass on the pool deck. The play pool had to be drained, cleaned, refilled and brought back up to temperature, with water chemical rebalancing prior to reopening.

That concludes my report.

Mayor's Report - May 26, 2026

Over the past two weeks, my activities included a meeting with our MLA, Becky Druhan. This meeting was held at her request to discuss a number of initiatives and priorities currently being advanced by MODL as a municipality. These conversations are important in maintaining strong communication and collaboration between municipal and provincial government as we work on issues that impact our residents and communities.

I attended the "Trash Talk" event in Baker Settlement organized by Councillor Hubley. I would encourage councillors to consider hosting a similar event within your own districts to give residents an opportunity to learn more about the many recycling programs that are available for batteries, electronics, tires, and other materials, as well as the changes and additions resulting from the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program that is now in place. It was clear that everyone attending learned something new about what can be recycled and which waste stream items belong in.

The CAO and I met with Deputy Minister of Emergency Management Sandra MacKenzie to discuss opportunities to further develop fire service training resources within our County. We currently have training props located at several of our fire departments, and we discussed how these resources could potentially be enhanced to better serve the region, particularly given the closure of the provincial fire school and the increasing demands for training within fire services. This was a very positive discussion that will be followed up on in the coming weeks with Chris Kennedy and Emily Bowers, one of our local trainers.

I also participated in a meeting jointly organized by the Nova Scotia Nature Trust and municipal staff to communicate details of the conservation easement now in place to protect Cape LaHave Island. The purpose of the meeting was to outline permitted uses on Cape LaHave and to promote the Guardian Program for volunteers interested in monitoring activity on the island. There was a good turnout and positive reception from residents. One resident raised the issue of moorings at Cape LaHave, and staff will be exploring the possibility of establishing public moorings in the area.

The Deputy Mayor and I, together with our CAO, also met with Mayor Myra, Deputy Mayor Baillie, and their CAO from the Town of Lunenburg to discuss several issues of mutual interest. Topics included access to water and shower facilities from the Town in the event of drought conditions, the future of the Lunenburg Common Lands, long-range recreation planning and programming, the potential for a shared tourism strategy, sewage concerns related to Back Harbour, and opportunities for expanded shared services between the Town and MODL. It was a productive meeting with several items identified for further exploration.

I had the pleasure of presenting MODL swag to relay runners participating in the Sri Chinmoy Peace Run hosted by Hebbville Academy for students in Grades Primary through 6. The Peace Run visited schools in Mahone Bay and Liverpool last week, promoting peace, kindness, and consideration for others. The relay runners entered the gym carrying the peace torch, engaged

students through songs and storytelling, and then everyone headed outside to run around the field together. It was a beautiful day to be outdoors. The Peace Run has been held in 155 countries around the world and has involved more than seven million participants.

I also spoke at the Nova Scotia Nature Trust Showcase Event held at Alderney Landing. This event brought together donors and volunteers to highlight the accomplishments of the Trust over the past year. It was a beautiful evening featuring videography of some of Nova Scotia's most special natural places and interactive displays showcasing the organization's work to preserve land from development. I shared MODL's experience working with the Nature Trust and reflected on the long and complicated history of Cape LaHave Island.

Finally, like many of you, I attended one of the many school fairs held this past weekend. I volunteered at the May Day event at West Northfield. These are always enjoyable community gatherings filled with children, parents, grandparents, and volunteers, and they serve as an important reminder of the strong community spirit that continues to thrive throughout our Municipality.