

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF LUNENBURG
Minutes of a Meeting of
POLICY & STRATEGY COMMITTEE
Held in Council Chambers, 210 Aberdeen Road, Bridgewater, NS
Tuesday, July 17, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Deputy Mayor Martin Bell, Chair
Councillor Cathy Moore, Vice-Chair
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Councillor Eric Hustvedt
Councillor Lee Nauss
Councillor John Veinot
Councillor Wade Carver
Councillor Michael Ernst
Councillor Reid Whynot
Councillor Errol Knickle

Regrets: Councillor Claudette Garland

Staff: Kevin Malloy, Chief Administrative Officer
Trudy Payne, Acting Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Sherry Conrad, Municipal Clerk
Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer
Tina Robichaud-Bond, Executive Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Moore called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, RECOGNITION

2.1 Proclamation – National Drowning Prevention Week

Mayor Bolivar-Getson proclaimed July 15-21, 2018 as National Drowning Prevention Week in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.

Councillor Hustvedt reported that the Bridgewater Skate Park officially opened. He congratulated the Town and staff on a successful opening event. Ida Scott was given recognition for her involvement with the Skate Park. Councillor Hustvedt also reported that he attended the Broad Cove Annual Ice Cream Social and provided greetings from the Mayor and Council. This event also included the unveiling of a mural by Anna ~~Ball~~ **Bald [amended September 18, 2018]**.

3. PUBLIC INPUT

There were no members of the public in attendance to address the Committee.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Bell that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Carver that the Minutes of the June 19, 2018, Policy & Strategy Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried.

Councillor Hustvedt inquired as to whether the Police Advisory Board had met to discuss the matter of highway littering. Councillor Nauss advised that the Board would be meeting on July 25th, and the matter was on the Agenda.

Councillor Ernst reported that at the Region of Queens Council meetings, RCMP are asked at each of their presentations as to how many people have been caught littering. The number of people caught littering has increased since this practice began. He suggested that this practice also be used at the Police Advisory Board meetings.

Councillor Ernst asked whether Policy ADM 06 would be going to Council for approval. Ms. Conrad advised that operational procedures are approved by the CAO, therefore, it would not. She noted that it was brought to the PSC meeting to get comments from Councillors. A discussion followed as to how many people are required for a 2/3 majority vote. It was noted that 7 would be a majority vote of Council.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES - Nil

7. PRESENTATIONS - Nil

8. REFERRAL FROM COUNCIL

8.1 Extended Producer Responsibility

Mr. Malloy reported that Valda Walsh presented the Extended Producer Responsibility Program to the Policy & Strategy Committee.

Moved by Councillor Ernst, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council approve the following resolution and forward same with the letter presented to the local MLAs with a copy to the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Environment:

“Increasing cost to meet current regulations for solid waste-resource management.

Reminding all municipalities that we have been abiding by the Solid Waste-Resource Management Regulations since 1995 which are written in such a way that hold only municipalities to account for proper source separation;

Reaffirming that the UNSM endorsed a resolution (#6A – Fall 2010) supporting Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and a following resolution (#8A – Fall 2014) supporting the development of a Municipal-Provincial Priorities Group to consult on the impact of regulatory changes;

Noting that a regulatory review process initiated by Nova Scotia Environment in 2014 looked promising with statements made regarding EPR;

Stressing the provincially commissioned William Hogg report from 2011 foretold that the aging infrastructure and increasing cost of managing solid waste will hit a critical precipice by 2016;

Reminding all municipalities residential recycling cost approximately \$29.9 million in 2015/16 and 25% of this total cost (\$7.5 M) is granted in funding for programs under Divert NS;

Reaffirming that 80% of Canadian consumers reside in jurisdictions that have EPR for packaging with no discernable difference in packaging costs to consumers in Nova Scotia yet a Full EPR model, if adopted in Nova Scotia, would return approximate \$14 M new funds to municipalities;

Encouraging all municipal units to support regulatory changes to shift the burden of managing printed paper and packaging onto the producers and/or first importers; and,

Requesting a united voice to request the Minister of Environment and the Premier of Nova Scotia to revisit the results of the consultation from 2014 and continue with the development of regulations to support EPR.”

Carried Unanimously.

The following concerns/comments were put forward:

- The process may take 3 to 5 years to implement.
- It is unknown whether Nova Scotia will adopt this policy.
- Will Nova Scotia pay the same price as other provinces?
- Smaller merchants will not be affected.
- Nova Scotia is already collecting on items such as tires, paint tins, and electronics, but not on Styrofoam nor certain cartons.
- Beverage cups will be covered under this policy. Tim Hortons, in other provinces, is already paying for the recycling of beverage cups.

9. STAFF REPORTS

9.1 Administration Department

9.1.1 Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation re Monitoring in LaHave River

Sarah Kucharski was in attendance.

Ms. Kucharski reviewed her report, “LaHave River Estuary Bacteria Monitoring Program” (circulated with Agenda), highlighting the following points:

- Testing will be done on a regular basis in areas different from past testing
- These tests will be done to provide scientific evidence that removing the straight pipes from the river will have a measurable impact on the environment.
- Cost of program is approximately \$10,000 per year
- No municipal cost for the program

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bell, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council direct staff to procure the services of Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation (BCAF) for the implementation of a LaHave River Estuary Bacteria Monitoring Program over the term of the LaHave River Straight Pipe Program as per the costs outlined in staff’s report “LaHave River Estuary Bacteria Monitoring Program”. Carried Unanimously.

The following comments/concerns were put forward:

- Important to have scientific proof that this project will have been successful
- Environment Canada testing is done on a time basis for shell fish monitoring – all stages are being tested
- Encourage more test sites to have 2 sets of data
- Test site near duck pond – pollution from duck pond not being addressed and could throw off the program

Ms. Kucharski was directed to confirm if there is a testing site near the outflow coming from the duck pond, and to provide a list or map of where the test sites are located.

9.1.2 Your Government Your Ideas

Ms. Kucharski reviewed her report, “Your Government, Your Ideas Event and Communications Plan” (circulated with Agenda), highlighting the following points:

- Success of last year’s meetings, i.e, feedback
- Format for the current year’s meetings
- Timeline of meetings
- Communications Plan
- Budget

Moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Carver that the Policy & Strategy Committee direct staff to implement the Your Government, Your Ideas Event and Communication Plan as presented.

The following comments/concerns were put forward:

- flexibility of the schedule
- format for the 2019 Your Government Your Ideas
- increasing attendance
- small groups vs large groups

It was suggested that topics of land use planning and subdivision regulations be added as discussion items at a future event.

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

9.1.3 Lunenburg Harbour Group Update

Ms. Payne reviewed her report, “Lunenburg Harbour Group Update” and the draft Terms of Reference, recommending that a Councillor be appointed, and a staff person be assigned to the newly-created group for a one-year term.

The following comments/concerns were put forward:

- The Councillor for the area should be appointed to the Committee.
- The term would run through to November 2019.
- The Terms of Reference would be finalized once group is established.
- The commitment would be to attend at least 3 meetings per year.

Moved by Councillor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommend to Council that Municipal Council appoint a Councillor, which will be the Councillor for the area, for a one-year term to serve as a member of the Lunenburg Harbour Health Advisory Group and appoint a staff person to act as a resource person for a one-year term.

Discussions continued regarding the following:

- The appointment of a staff person
- The number of committees that Councillors sit on and the use of staff time
- How are committees selected that require Councillors to sit on?
- What is the cost to the Municipality?
- A policy to re-evaluate committee requirements on a regular basis
- Fences Arbitration Committee is a provincially mandated committee
- Important to have a council representative on this committee to keep Council informed
- Two community representatives are required on the committee

It was suggested that membership on committees be evaluated on a regular basis. It was further suggested that an audit be carried out to determine the Councillors’ and staff persons’ time and cost to the Municipality, associated with sitting on the various committees.

The motion on the floor was voted on. Opposed: Councillors Knickle, Ernst, and Deputy Mayor Bell Motion carried.

9.1.4. Strategic Priorities Update

Ms. Payne reviewed her report, “Strategic Priorities Update – July 2018” (circulated with Agenda), highlighting the following points and providing updates:

- Rural High-Speed Internet
 - The number of customers receiving high speed internet is now at 109.
- Surplus Schools
- Five-Year Financial Strategy
- LaHave River Straight Pipes
- Expand Recreational Infrastructure
- Roads Strategy
 - The Tender for replacement of culverts on Whitley and White Avenues and paving of White Avenue closed on July 16th and the recommendation will be brought to Council on July 24th.
- Fire Services Recruitment and Retention
- Accessibility Plan
 - To date, we are awaiting word from the Municipality of Chester on their position with the proposed Joint Accessibility Plan, to which staff will follow up.
- MJSB & LCLC Governance
- Lyme Disease Response
 - One bid was received for the RFP to maintain bait stations. Council members were invited to meet with the Lyme Disease Team and Dr. R. Lindsay later that day.
- Flood Mitigation

The following concerns/comments were put forward:

- There is a plan to hold a workshop to discuss municipal roads in September/October.
- A request was made to have the planning department provide a presentation to Council on LIDAR mapping.

A discussion followed regarding the condition of municipal roads and the maintenance required on the chip sealed roads.

Mr. Malloy proposed that Council attend a one-day retreat in October to discuss major initiatives and priorities for the remaining 2 years, and possibly engage the services of a motivational speaker. It was suggested that this day be held after the Your Government, Your Ideas meetings.

A question was raised as to what could be provided to the public to make them aware of the changes coming on the topic of building in coastal areas. Mr. Malloy requested that the Communications Officer begin providing information to the public with respect to this matter.

10. MAYOR'S/DEPUTY MAYOR'S/COUNCILLORS' MATTERS - Nil

11. IN CAMERA - Nil

12. NEXT MEETING – September 18, 2018 – 9:00 A.M.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at 10:10 a.m., it was moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the meeting adjourn. Carried.