

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF LUNENBURG  
Minutes of a Special Meeting of  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
Held via Tele and Video Conference  
**Tuesday, September 1, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.**

**ATTENDANCE**

Councillor Michael Ernst, District 8, Chair  
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2, Vice Chair  
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson  
Deputy Mayor Eric Hustvedt, District 1  
Councillor Lee Nauss, District 3  
Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5  
Councillor Claudette Garland, District 6  
Councillor Wade Carver, District 7  
Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9  
Councillor Errol Knickle, District 10

Regrets: Councillor John Veinot, District 4

Staff: Tom MacEwan, CAO  
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO  
Elana Wentzell, Director of Financial Services  
Sherry Conrad, Municipal Clerk  
Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer  
Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation Services  
Tissy Bolivar, Program Coordinator  
Zach Thompson, Sustainability Planner  
Amy Wamboldt, Grant Coordinator  
Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning & Development (arrived 9:40 a.m.)  
Rachel Hiltz, Recording Secretary

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Councillor Ernst called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation Services, was introduced to Councillors.

**2. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/RECOGNITION:**

Councillor Knickle noted that the Annual Fishermen's Memorial Service will be held virtually on Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Councillor Ernst advised that Calvin Hiltz, Martins River Fire Department, received his 50 year service award. Also Betty Eisenhower received a 50 year award for her volunteer work with the Department.

Councillor Ernst advised that former resident, Jerome Bruhm, cycled from Halifax to Clearland on his 74<sup>th</sup> Birthday via the Dynamite Trail. Each year, he bikes his age in miles.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Bell that the Agenda be approved with the addition of item 10.1 “Dry Wells” and item 11.2 “Contract Negotiations re Internet Update under Section 22(2)(e) of the *Municipal Government Act*”. Carried Unanimously.**

Councillor Ernst advised that he would be declaring a Conflict of Interest for Item 11.1 “Land Negotiations re Oakland under Section 22(2)(a) of the *Municipal Government Act* as he is a member of the Mahone Islands Conservation Association.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 3, 2020, June 2, 2020 and July 7, 2020**

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the Minutes of the Meetings of March 3, 2020, June 2, 2020 and July 7, 2020 be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.**

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES: (Nil)****6. AWARDING OF TENDERS/RFPs: (Nil)****7. CONSIDERATION OF CORRESPONDENCE: (Nil)****8. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES & BOARDS:****8.1 Community Facility Emergency Assistance Fund – South Shore Ex & HB Studios**

Mr. Dumaresq reviewed the report titled “Emergency Assistance Fund for Community Facilities” (circulated with Agenda). The following points were noted:

- South Shore Exhibition and HB Studios applications were sent to Finance Committee as these facilities are located outside of MODL and did not meet the criteria of the fund. It was felt that because many MODL residents utilize the facilities, they should be eligible for some funding.
- The Community Facility Emergency Assistance Fund does allow for Legions as they are non-profit and support residents of MODL. The program could be amended to include facilities located outside of MODL that serve residents of MODL.
- There are also other organizations that are outside of MODL that would have applied, but knew they were ineligible.
- Look at an alternate program to utilize the remaining \$29,200 in funding. This would involve allowing new applications from organizations outside MODL that provide a benefit to MODL residents.
- Councillors want to ensure there is fairness in the amount of maximum funding for all the organizations.

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the Finance Committee direct staff to review the Emergency Assistance Fund for Community Facilities to look at changes to the program and program alternatives that would allow community facilities not located in the Municipality to be eligible for funding through the program or programs.**

A question was raised regarding whether this new program would allow for organizations in MODL to apply. It was noted that this can be decided by Council, however, MODL organizations already had the opportunity to apply, and late applications were already received.

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

**9. STAFF REPORTS:**

**9.1 Recreation Department**

**9.1.1 Sponsorship Ad Grant – Walk YOUR Way for Autism NS**

Tissy Bolivar, Program Coordinator, was in attendance at this time.

Ms. Bolivar reviewed the report titled “Sponsorship Ad Grant: Walk YOUR Way for Autism NS – September 26, 2020” (circulated with Agenda).

**Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Mayor Bolivar-Getson that the Finance Committee recommend to Council that Municipal Council approve the sponsorship ad request of Autism Nova Scotia for \$500 for the “Leader” level sponsorship for the Walk YOUR Way annual event on September 26, 2020. Carried unanimously.**

**9.1.2 Sponsorship Ad Grant – Annual Oregon’s Subaru Riverport Duathlon**

Ms. Bolivar reviewed the report titled “Sponsorship Ad Grant: The Annual Oregon’s Subaru Riverport Duathlon: October 4, 2020” (circulated with Agenda).

**Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Carver that the Finance Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council approve the sponsorship ad request of the Annual Oregon’s Subaru Riverport Duathlon for \$250 for the “Classic” level sponsorship for their community fundraising event taking place October 4, 2020. Carried unanimously.**

**9.1.3 Annual Operating Grant – DesBrisay Museum**

Ms. Bolivar reviewed the report titled “Annual Operating Grant: The DesBrisay Museum” (circulated with Agenda).

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the Finance Committee recommend to Council that Municipal Council approve the application**

**for the DesBrisay Museum for an Annual Operating Grant in the amount of \$1,000. The motion on the floor was voted on and carried. Those opposed: Councillor Bell.**

#### **9.1.4 Canada Climate Change Project – AT Corridor – Osprey Village**

Ms. Wamboldt reviewed the report titled “Climate Change Mitigation Sub Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Priority Project” (circulated with Agenda). The following points were noted:

- Projects through this funding program must be at least \$1 million. The funding level is 73.33%. Staff identified the Active Transportation Corridor connecting Town of Bridgewater to Osprey Village as an appropriate project for this funding.
- This will include a minimum three metre corridor that will allow multi use active transportation.
- There is concern about future projects related to the overpass and potential highway twinning. Staff will be working closely with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal to ensure the project is completed in conjunction with other construction at the site.
- Many residents and businesses want this connector link. Cost is a concern, and staff have early estimates of approximately \$4 million.
- Councillors requested staff to collaborate with staff at the Town of Bridgewater, as there may be opportunities to connect to the Town sidewalk system. At this time, the project is anticipated to be all MODL infrastructure on MODL land.
- Staff confirmed that this project will not impact the Hebbville Flooding mitigation project as it falls under a separate stream of funding.

**Moved by Councillor Garland, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Finance Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council endorse the design and construction of an active transportation corridor from Bridgewater to Osprey Village along Trunk 10 as the funding priority for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Climate Change Mitigation Sub Stream. The motion on the floor was voted on and carried. Those opposed: Councillors Ernst and Knickle.**

## **9.2 Finance Department**

### **9.2.1 Property Tax Rebate Applications**

Ms. Wentzell reviewed the report titled “Update on Property Tax Exemption Applications” (circulated with Agenda). The following points were noted:

- Application numbers were down this year compared to last year. It is unknown why the numbers are down. Staff resend applications to everyone who applied the year prior.
- This is the second year that the budget was not used for Property Tax Rebates. It was suggested allowing late applications to utilize the remaining budget. It is felt that residents may not have applied due to complications regarding COVID-19.

**Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Bell that the Finance Committee direct staff to review Policy MDL-49 Property Tax Rebate to prepare**

**amendments to allow for the receipt of late applications; and further, that the proposed amendments be brought to the September Policy & Strategy Committee meeting. Carried unanimously.**

**10. MAYOR'S/DEPUTY MAYOR'S/COUNCILLORS' MATTERS:**

**10.1 Dry Wells (Mayor Bolivar-Getson)**

Mayor Bolivar-Getson advised that calls from residents regarding dry wells have been increasing. In previous years, Council ran a bottled water coupon program and should look at doing it again this year.

Ms. Hiltz advised that in 2016 and 2018 Council approved a bottled water coupon program where residents came to the municipal office and received one coupon for one 4 litre jug of water per person per day, up to a maximum of four coupons per household per day. Residents can obtain one weeks' worth of coupons at a time. These coupons can be taken to select grocery stores to be redeemed. If Council re-implements this program, staff will need to contact these grocery stores to confirm their willingness to participate. It was noted that Tancook Island residents were able to go to Chester stores to get their water. Staff will determine if this can be done again this year.

In 2018 several facilities were also opened to allow for water refill stations and showers. Staff will contact these facilities again to determine if they are willing to participate, however, with COVID-19 there are more regulations regarding social distancing and cleaning so some facilities may not be willing to participate.

The Province has also opened several Provincial Parks, including Graves Island and Rissers Beach, to allow for water refilling and showers.

It was suggested that Council determine parameters for future years so the program can start as soon as it is needed. These parameters can include precipitation levels and/or volume of complaints.

It was also noted that in Halifax Regional Municipality, Fire Departments have stand pipes that residents can fill larger containers of water. This is a possible future consideration for Osprey Village.

**Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Nauss that staff bring forward a proposed water assistance program based on previous programs offered by MODL at the earliest Council meeting; and further, that such a program be funded through the Council Contingency Fund. Carried unanimously.**

**11. IN CAMERA:**

**At 10:15 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the Finance Committee go In Camera to discuss the following items:**

**11.1 Land Negotiations re Oakland under Section 22(2)(a) of the *Municipal Government Act***

**11.2 Contact Negotiations re Internet Update under Section 22(2)(e) of the  
*Municipal Government Act***

**Carried.**

Finance Committee In Camera In Session

**At 10:46 a.m., it was moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the Finance Committee come out of In Camera and return to open session. Carried.**

Finance Committee in session.

**12. ADJOURNMENT:**

**There being no further business at 10:48 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Carver that the meeting adjourn. Carried.**