

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF LUNENBURG
Minutes of a Special Meeting of
FINANCE COMMITTEE
Held via Tele and Video Conference
Tuesday, October 6, 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
Angela Veinot, Accounting Manager
Sherry Conrad, Municipal Clerk
Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer
Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation Services
Tissy Bolivar, Program Coordinator
Stephen Pace, Director of Engineering & Public Works
Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning & Development Services
Rachel Hiltz, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/RECOGNITION:

The Oakland/Indian Point Residents Association held a social-distanced roadside cleanup on September 6.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Moved by Councillor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Carver that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 1, 2020

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Bell that the Minutes of the September 1, 2020 meeting 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: (Ni)**
9. **STAFF REPORTS:**

9.1 Recreation Department

9.1.1 Designated Community Project Fund – Bay to Bay Trail

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

Ms. Bolivar reviewed the report titled “Designated Community Project Fund Request: Bay to Bay Trail Association”. The following points were noted:

- The Martin’s Brook bridge will be resurfaced. Concern was raised regarding the size of the decking, and if it would be sufficient for all-terrain traffic. There were also concerns about the size of the stringers. Ms. Bolivar will bring these concerns to the Association.

Moved by Councillor Knickle, seconded by Mayor Bolivar-Getson that the Finance Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council approve the establishment of a Designated Community Project Fund, pursuant to Policy MDL-48, for the Bay to Bay Trail Association to assist them in raising capital funds to cover capital costs to the trail, specifically the re-decking of the Martins Brook bridge. Carried unanimously.

9.2 Finance Department

9.2.1 Operating and Capital Variance Report

Ms. Wentzell reviewed the report titled “2020/21 Operating Fund Variance Report & Capital Project Status & Gas Tax Investment Update”. The following points were noted:

- Administration Building Budget – In total, Council has approved \$8.6 million for the new building. Staff have not been made aware of any cost increases above the budgeted amount. There are contingencies in place that will cover costs for Personal Protective Equipment, plexiglass, etc., that was required since the budget for the building was created. The budget for the 2020/2021 fiscal year is \$5.3 million. Ms. Wentzell will add a comment in the financial documents to note the total budgeted amount.
- Concern was raised that some clarification should be made to the public to explain that the cost of Nathan Cirillo Drive is not part of the administration building budget. Many residents are being told that the building cost is millions of dollars

over the budget, but it is believed the cost of the road is being included in the total. This road will be used for future developments.

- Hebbville Flood Control Plan – costs are included in both the operating and capital budgets. The second phase of the project is complete, and staff are working with consultants to bring the results of the analysis and public consultation to Council regarding the flood mitigation options. MODL has received funding for the third phase of the project, which will look at a more detailed analysis of the most effective options. It was noted that the title of the project should include Fancy's Lake, Petite Riviere Watershed, or Flooding to help people understand what the project is. It was noted later in the meeting that the project is named appropriately, it was on a subsequent page of the variance report.
- There is \$565,000 budgeted for paved shoulder projects. This is gas tax funding and is a placeholder for any partnerships that Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal may bring forward to MODL throughout the year. Only roads that are getting significant work are eligible for these partnerships. They cannot be done when a road is just being resurfaced. This placeholder does not affect the surplus in the budget, as it is gas tax and the money is an in and out. This money is part of the Active Transportation Plan, and MODL puts money aside each year.
- The rural internet partnership will connect 95% of residents with high speed internet. The current Bell Fibre Op Program in New Germany did not receive any MODL funding, it was entirely funded by Bell.
- A question arose regarding who will own the trail bridge in New Germany, as funding is coming from the Federal and Provincial governments, MODL, and the trail group. Staff will provide Councillors with this information.

9.2.2 Tax Relief Damaged Property

Ms. Wentzell reviewed the report titled "Tax Relief – Damaged Property".

Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the Finance Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council approve tax relief in the amount of \$1,912.95 as per the submitted application for the property located at 4808 Highway 332, AA#00951706 and as per the Municipality's Damaged Property Relief Policy. Carried unanimously.

9.2.3 PSSP Transfer Update

Ms. Wentzell reviewed the report titled "Update on Pension Plan Transfer" and answered questions of Committee members.

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

10.1 Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre (LCLC) Update (M. Ernst)

Councillor Ernst reviewed the Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre (LCLC) Update (attached to original set of Minutes).

10.2 Highway 103 Infrastructure Job (M. Ernst)

Councillor Ernst noted that an article in the local paper stated that MODL has financially committed to the Highway 103 infrastructure project. Staff confirmed that Council has not made any commitments at this time. Staff have reached out to the publisher of the article to clarify the comment.

10.3 Mayors/Wardens/Deputies & CAOs Meeting Update (Mayor Bolivar-Getson)

Mayor Bolivar-Getson noted that at the last Mayors/Wardens/Deputies & CAOs meeting, a discussion was held regarding ending systemic racism. The group is interested in discussing this issue with a Lunenburg-County approach, similar to Accessibility. There will also be consultation with community groups.

11. IN CAMERA:

12. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business at 10:05 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the meeting adjourn. Carried.