

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF LUNENBURG

POLICY

Title: Council Members' Remuneration, Benefits and Expenses [amended May 25, 2021]	
Policy No. 003	
Effective Date: May 10, 2011	Amended Date: October 23, 2018, Re-adopted Jan. 26, 2021, May 25, 2021

1.0 REMUNERATION & BENEFITS [amended May 25, 2021]

1.1 Remuneration [amended May 25, 2021]

1.1.1 Mayor – MGA Section 23(1)(d)(i)

The annual remuneration to be paid to the Mayor shall be as approved by motion of Council. [amended Oct. 23/18]

1.1.2 Deputy Mayor – MGA Section 23(1)(d)(ii)

The annual remuneration to be paid to the Deputy Mayor shall be as approved by motion of Council. [amended Oct. 23/18]

1.1.3 Councillors – MGA Section 23(1)(d)(iii)

The annual remuneration to be paid to Councillors shall be as approved by motion of Council. [amended Oct. 23/18]

1.2 Benefits [amended May 25, 2021]

1.2.1 Health and Dental Insurance Benefits

Health and dental insurance is mandatory for all elected officials (Mayor and Councillors) who meet the criteria of eligibility. Coverage under the Plan is pursuant to the relevant terms and provisions of the Plan.

The Municipality shall pay 50% of the premium and the remaining 50% shall be deducted from the elected official's salary.

1.2.2 Retirement and Pension Plan

Effective March 1, 2020, the Municipality became a participant in the Nova Scotia Public Service Superannuation Plan (“PSSP”) as an employer.

Effective June 1, 2021, all new and current elected officials (Mayor and Councillors) shall participate in the PSSP in accordance with the eligibility and other rules of the PSSP.

2.0 TRAVEL EXPENSES WHILE ON MUNICIPAL BUSINESS

2.1 Annual Budget

Council shall establish an annual Travel Budget for each Council Member, including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. This amount shall be established based upon experience and available budget. Each member of Council, including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, shall be accountable for the usage of this funding and make travel decisions based upon their individual budget available. [amended Oct. 23/18]

2.2 Eligible Travel Expenses

Councillors, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor who utilize their personal vehicles on travel assignments, which shall include:

- Attendance at a meeting of the Council or a Committee or Board of Council or a Committee or Board in which an appointment of a Councillor, Mayor or Deputy Mayor has been made by Council;
- Council business outside of their District but within Lunenburg County;
- Council business outside of Lunenburg County but within Nova Scotia as approved by the Mayor; or,
- Council business outside of Nova Scotia, as approved by the Council.

2.3 Non-Local Travel

If travel to an event involves choice between vehicle travel and air or some other form of travel, the Councillor will be reimbursed for the lowest cost option, regardless of the option they have used.

All forms of transportation will be economy class.

If an elected official, for their own convenience, travels by an indirect route or interrupts travel by the most economical route, the elected official shall bear any extra expense involved. Reimbursement for such travel shall be for only that part of the expense as would have been necessary in order to travel. [amended Oct. 23/18]

2.4 Mileage Rate

The rate per kilometer as a travelling allowance for all elected officials shall be approved at the rate stipulated from time to time by the Province of Nova Scotia as the maximum kilometrage rate for its employees. [amended Oct. 23/18]

3.0 EXPENSES – MGA, Section 23(3)

3.1 Annual Expense Budget

Council shall establish an annual Expense Budget for each Council Member, including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. This amount shall be established based upon past experience and available budget. Each member of Council shall be accountable for the usage of this funding and make expense decisions based upon their individual budget available. [amended Oct. 23/18]

3.2 Eligible Expenses

Council members, including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, are entitled to reimbursement of expenses incurred which are incidental to the discharge of their duties, which shall include:

- Attending Council or a Committee or Board of Council meeting or other Council business within Lunenburg County.
- Council business outside Lunenburg County but within Nova Scotia as approved by the Mayor.
- Council business outside of the Province of Nova Scotia as approved by Council.

Expenses eligible for reimbursement include:

- Meals
- Accommodations for business outside of the Municipality.
- Registration fees for conferences, seminars or courses, which are incidental to or facilitate the discharge of a Council member's duties or Council business.

Seminars, courses and conferences shall meet the following criteria in order for reimbursement of expenses associated with the same:

- Request must be made in writing. The Councillor, Mayor or Deputy Mayor must provide a written brief outlining the benefits of the course, conference or seminar;
- The course, conference or seminar must be related to Municipal Government.
- The course must be completed prior to the next Municipal Election date.

- Budget funds must be sufficient to cover the costs of training.

Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) and Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) conferences or seminars are eligible for reimbursement. **[amended Oct. 23/18]**

Councillors who are required to attend more than one meeting a day at a meeting site and choose not to travel from the meeting site to their place of residence in between meetings are eligible for a meal reimbursement. For clarification, lunch time meals (noon) for Council, Finance and Policy and Strategy Committee meetings are not eligible for reimbursement. **[amended Oct. 23/18]**

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Councillor whose eligible expenses are expensed on one individual corporate credit card must not be claimed by the Council member separately but will be expensed to their individual account. **[amended Oct. 23/18]**

3.3 Ineligible Expenses

- Personal expenses including, but not limited to, movies, other entertainment, personal calls, personal products, travel cost not related to the event, alcoholic beverages and recreational drugs.
- Expenses for a spouse/partner **[amended Oct. 23/18]**

3.4 Expense Claim Procedure

Expenses shall be reimbursed in accordance with the Personnel Policy, Policy MDL-51, including claim forms and limits. For further clarification, expenses incurred and submitted for payment by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor or a Councillor shall be authorized for payment by the Chief Administrative Officer. Expenses incurred and submitted by the Chief Administrative Officer shall be authorized for payment by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor in the Mayor's absence. **[amended Oct. 23/18]**

4.0 OTHER EXPENSES

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor shall be provided with a Municipally-owned mobile device during their term as Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor. The Municipality will absorb the capital and operating expense of the mobile device. If the Mayor or Deputy Mayor chooses to have a personal mobile device and use it for municipal purposes, the Municipality will reimburse them an amount equivalent to the rate the Municipality would incur if the mobile device were municipally owned. **[amended Oct. 23/18]**

5.0 REPORTING OF EXPENSES

An expense report, which includes remuneration for the Mayor, Deputy and Councillors, and expenses incurred by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, a Councillor and the Chief Administrative Officer must be prepared within 90 days of the end of each fiscal quarter and shall be posted on the Municipal website quarterly.


An annual summary report of expenses must be filed with the Minister of Municipal Affairs by September 30th of each year. [amended Oct. 23/18]

6.0 REVIEW OF POLICY

Council shall review this policy by January 31st immediately following a regular election held under the *Municipal Elections Act* and make a motion to re-adopt the policy or amend the policy. [amended Oct. 23/18]

7.0 REPEAL OF POLICY MDL-03 – REMUNERATION, EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 6, 2008

Policy MDL-03, Remuneration, effective November 6, 2008, is hereby repealed.

Clerk’s Annotation for Official Policy Book	
Date of Notice to Council Members of Intent Repeal and Consider	<u>April 27, 2011</u>
Date of Adoption	<u>May 10, 2011</u>
Date of Notice to Council Members of intent to consider amendments	<u>October 16, 2018</u>
Date of Passage of Amendments	<u>October 23, 2018</u>
Legislated Review – Notice to Council Members of Intent to Re-adopt	<u>January 19, 2021</u>
Date of Passage of Re-adoption	<u>January 26, 2021</u>
Date of Notice to Council Members of Intent to Amend	<u>May 18, 2021</u>
Date of Passage of Amendments	<u>May 25, 2021</u>
I certify that this MDL-03 “Council Members’ <i>Remuneration and Expenses</i> ” policy was re-adopted and amended by Council as indicated above.	
	May 25, 2021
_____	_____
Municipal Clerk	Date