

TOWN OF LUNENBURG
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 23, 2024 | 6 pm

Lunenburg Town Hall – Council Chamber and virtually through Zoom



Present	Mayor Jamie Myra, Deputy Mayor Stephen Ernst, Councillors Melissa Duggan, Jenni Birtles, Peter Mosher and Susan Sanford
Absent	Councillor Ed Halverson
Also present	Jamie Doyle, CAO Lisa Dagley, Director of Finance Tyson Joyce, Director of Public Works Kathleen Rafuse, Senior Accountant Hilary Grant, Director of Community Development Michael Best, Communications Manager Kayla Byrne, Municipal Clerk
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.
Land acknowledgment	It was acknowledged that Lunenburg is located in the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.
Approval of Agenda	Moved by Councillor Sanford, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ernst, that Council approve the agenda for the April 23, 2024 meeting with the following addition: 14.2 In Camera Item: Acquisition, sale, lease and security of municipal property Motion carried unanimously
Approval of Minutes	Moved by Councillor Birtles, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ernst, that Council approve the April 9, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously
Volunteer Appreciation Presentation	Several community volunteers were recognized during the annual volunteer appreciation presentation.
Recess	The Mayor called a recess from 6:12 p.m. until 6:19 p.m.

Operating Budget Presentation	<p>Staff presented the proposed 2024/25 Town General and Water Utility operating budgets.</p> <p>Councillors asked clarifying questions and made some suggestions concerning the mowing contract and funding for the building assessment for the old Fire Hall.</p>
Public Input and Questions on Proposed Budgets	<p>Robert Young commented and made suggestions on various budget line items.</p> <p>Jesse Ward commented on the approval placeholder recommendations for the budget on the April 23 agenda and other budget approval procedures.</p> <p>Ted Kelly commented and inquired on various items related to the operating budgets, including how the budget is determined.</p> <p>Duncan Kroll commented on policing options and inquired about the budget for the electric utility and its future.</p>
Recess	<p>The Mayor called a recess from 7:20 p.m. until 7:31 p.m.</p>
Proclamation Request	<p>Moved by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Birtles, that Council proclaim the month of May 2024 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month in the Town of Lunenburg.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Motion carried unanimously</p>
Correspondence	<p>Council received a letter from a resident concerning the Cultural Tourism Economic Impact Study and Sustainable Cultural Tourism Plan. The letter notes that the impacts of the town's World Heritage Site should be considered during this impact study.</p>
Operating Budget Deferral	<p>Council deferred making a decision on the operating budget, requesting that the proposed budgets return for decision at the next Council meeting.</p>
Sustainable Infrastructure Fund	<p>Moved by Deputy Mayor Ernst, seconded by Councillor Mosher, that Council direct staff to revise the Street Extension Policy and create a Sustainable Infrastructure Fund in 2024/25.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Motion carried unanimously</p>

Moved by Councillor Birtles, seconded by Councillor Sanford, that Council defer reviewing cost-sharing requests made under the Street Extension Policy until after the Sustainable Infrastructure Fund is created.

Motion carried unanimously

Inspection
Services
Agreement

Councillors inquired if the additional required funds for this agreement could be funded from something other than the Old Fire Hall repairs and maintenance budget. Staff indicated it would explore its options.

Moved by Councillor Birtles, seconded by Councillor Sanford, that Council accept the Inspection Services Agreement as presented in Attachment A.

Motion carried unanimously

Canada Housing
Infrastructure
Fund Application

Moved by Councillor Sanford, seconded by Councillor Birtles, that Council direct staff to review the new Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund to determine its applicability in financing the next phase of the Town's stormwater/wastewater separation work; and should that work align with the fund's criteria, Council further directs staff to proceed with the preparation and submission of an application.

Motion carried unanimously

Lunenburg
Electric Harbour

Prior to any decisions being made, the Mayor declared a conflict of interest as they have a family member who works for ABCO. The Mayor sat in the public gallery, and the Deputy Mayor assumed chairing duties.

Moved by Councillor Sanford, seconded by Councillor Birtles that Council direct staff to prepare an application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) to amend Regulation 5.14 (Self Generation Offset) of the Town of Lunenburg's Electric Utility Schedule of Regulations to include energy storage alongside renewable low-impact generators and that the energy storage devices will be limited to devices with a total nameplate capacity of 27kW or less; and to support this application the Town will hire a third-party consultant(s) to prepare the submission to the NSUARB and ABCO will be required to cover the cost of the consultant(s) to a maximum of \$20,000.

Motion carried unanimously

The Mayor resumed chairing duties.

Councillor Reports Councillor Sanford noted that her house has been listed for sale but intends to carry out the remainder of her term on Council.

Councillor Mosher suggested that tax rates remain unchanged as Council considers the 2024/25 operating budgets.

Mayor Myra indicated that the Town should pursue membership with the South Shore Tourism Association and that the membership fee should be considered in the upcoming budget.

It was also noted that April 23 is CAO Jamie Doyle's last Council meeting. Council thanked him for all his work during his time with the Town of Lunenburg.

Motion Action List Council received the motion action list for information.

In Camera Moved by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Mosher, that Council move in camera at 7:53 p.m. to discuss agenda items 14.1 Personnel Matter and 14.2 Acquisition, sale, lease and security of municipal property per the Municipal Government Act.

Motion carried unanimously

Before any in camera discussions took place, the Mayor called a brief recess.

Revert to public meeting Council reverted to open meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Adjournment There being no further business, the April 23, 2024 Council meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

The minutes were read and approved.