

TOWN OF LUNENBURG
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2024 | 6 pm

Lunenburg Town Hall – Council Chamber and virtually through Zoom



- Present** Mayor Jamie Myra, Deputy Mayor Stephen Ernst, Councillors Jenni Birtles, Peter Mosher, Ed Halverson and Melissa Duggan
- Also present** Tyson Joyce, Director of Public Works
Kathleen Rafuse, Town Accountant
Marc Kiely, Interim Director of Community Development
Maya Mills, Community Development Staff
Kayla Byrne, Municipal Clerk
Darren Romkey, Lunenburg Fire Chief
- Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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 Mosher, seconded by Councillor Halverson, that Council approve the agenda for the August 13 meeting, 2024 meeting with the following addition:
- Agenda item 8.5: Vice Admiral (Retired) Peter Cairns Leadership Award Nomination - Letter of Support
- Motion carried unanimously**
- Approval of Minutes** Moved by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ernst, that Council approve the August 13, 2024 meeting minutes as presented.
- Motion carried unanimously**
- Moved by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ernst, that Council approve the August 27, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as presented.
- Motion carried unanimously**
- Public Input** Alison Strachan recognized the participation of members of the Lunenburg Fire Department in the recent FireFit Championships.
- Noise By-law Exemption** Moved by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Birtles, that Council approve a Noise By-law exemption for the Lunenburg Board of

Request Trade to accommodate the Oktoberfest event at the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic parking lot, including concert activities and post-event cleanup, from 11:00 p.m. on October 5, 2024, until 12:00 a.m. on October 6, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously

Noise By-law Exemption Request Moved by Councillor Birtles, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ernst, that Council approve a Noise By-law exemption to allow a fireworks display for the 21st Annual September Classic wooden boat regatta on September 21, 2024, at 9:00 p.m. at the Lunenburg Harbour.

Motion carried unanimously

Council requested that this exemption be advertised on the Town’s website and social media pages.

Funding Request: Town Crier Competition Moved by Councillor Halverson, seconded by Councillor Mosher, that Council approve a total of \$1,167.10 to cover the travel and lodging expenses for Stephen Findlay, Lunenburg’s Town Crier, to attend the Town Crier Competition in Provincetown.

Motion carried unanimously

Funding Request: Canadian Fallen Fire Fighters Ceremony Moved by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Halverson, that Council approve the reimbursement of \$1,300 to cover the travel and lodging expenses for Darren Romkey, Fire Chief of the Lunenburg and District Fire Department, for attending the Canadian Fallen Firefighters ceremony in Ottawa on September 6 and 7, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously

Letter of Support Request Moved by Councillor Halverson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ernst, that the Mayor provide a letter of support on behalf of the Town of Lunenburg for the nomination of Dr. Colin Ross for the Vice Admiral (Retired) Peter Cairns Leadership Award in recognition of his work on electric vessels at ABCO.

Motion carried unanimously

Electric Utility Budgets 2024/2025 Moved by Councillor Halverson, seconded by Councillor Mosher, that Council approve the 2024/25 Electric Utility Operating Budget as presented for a total amount of \$7,518,700

FOR	AGAINST
5 Councillors	1 Councillor (Councillor Mosher)

Motion carried

Moved by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Councillor Mosher, that Council approve the 2024/25 Electric Utility Capital Budget as presented for a total amount of \$2,626,000.

Motion carried unanimously

Fire Department
Request for #6
Tanker
Replacement

Councillor Birtles declared a conflict of interest and moved to the public gallery.

The Fire Chief provided an update on the fire truck under consideration, a tanker designed mainly for use in rural areas. However, it can also be deployed in town if a water leak affects hydrants.

Moved by Councillor Halverson, seconded by Councillor Mosher, that Council approve the purchase of the #6 Tanker Replacement from Battleshield Industries in the amount of \$754,873 plus net HST for a total of \$787,226 and a contingency of \$10,774 for a total budget of \$798,000.

Motion carried unanimously

Councillor Birtles returned to the Council table.

Council Meeting
Submissions and
Public Input Policy

Moved by Councillor Halverson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ernst, that Council give notice to approve the new Council Meeting Submissions and Public Input Policy as presented, repealing and replacing Policy #68, the Public Presentations at Town Council, Committee of the Whole Council and Committee Meetings Policy.

FOR
1 Councillor (Councillor Halverson)

AGAINST
5 Councillors

Motion defeated

Moved by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Birtles, that Council refer the draft Council Meeting Submissions and Public Input Policy to the incoming Council for its consideration.

FOR
5 Councillors

AGAINST
1 Councillor (Councillor Halverson)

Motion carried

Council
Procedural Policy

Council reviewed the proposed procedural policy and requested the following edits be made before the policy returns for decision:

- Clarifying ambiguous terms in the electronic meeting section;
- Refining the definition of "politically sensitive" in the agenda finalization section;
- Including the deputy mayor in the agenda finalization process;
- Updating the process for addressing agenda items to also include councillor presentations;
- Simplifying the rules of debate by removing the reference to speaking on a matter four times; and
- Revising Appendix B to permit simple majority votes for most secondary motions.

Moved by Councillor Halverson, seconded by Councillor Mosher, that Council give notice to approve the new Council Procedural Policy with the edits as discussed at the Sept.10, 2024 meeting, repealing and replacing, Policy #96, the Council and Committee Meetings and Proceedings Policy.

Motion carried unanimously

Sewer Service
Proposals for Lot
2A Centennial
Avenue

Staff presented an information report on ongoing discussions with the property owner of Lot 2A, Centennial Avenue, regarding challenges with sewer servicing. It was highlighted that the submitted proposals lacked sufficient engineering details for proper evaluation and may conflict with the Town's bylaws and policies.

Staff indicated it will work on developing the Sustainable Infrastructure Fund to address infrastructure needs. Communication with the property owner will also continue, with guidance based on existing bylaws and policies. Additionally, Council and staff may review the Street Services Extension Policy and related bylaws to consider potential improvements for development in established areas.

Bandstand
Restoration

Moved by Councillor Halverson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ernst, that Council reallocate \$20,000 from the Old Fire Hall Operating Budget and \$20,000 from the Town Hall Operating Budget to the Bandstand Restoration, totalling \$40,000 for Bandstand Restoration Engineering.

Motion carried unanimously

Wastewater
Treatment Plant
Upgrades and
Expansion

Staff provided an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades and expansion, highlighting that the project design is nearly complete, and the tender process is expected to begin in October 2024, with completion targeted for July 2026.

Councillors expressed concerns about potential risks to funding due to delays. Staff provided reassurance, noting that they are in communication with funding partners and that there may be flexibility in the timeline.

Dares Lake Dam and Spillway Upgrades

Moved by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ernst, that Council defer the Dares Lake Dam and Spillway Upgrades Project for Capital Year 2024/25 with the intention of Staff revising the budget for this item and presenting it within the Water Utility's 2025/26 Capital Budget.

Motion carried unanimously

Regional Anti-Racism and Diversity Agreement

Moved by Councillor Duggan, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ernst, that extend the end date of the Lunenburg County Inter-Municipal Regional Anti-Racism and Diversity Agreement to September 30, 2026.

Motion carried unanimously

Motion Action List

Council received the motion action list for information.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the September 10, 2024 Council meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The minutes were read and approved.