

TOWN OF LUNENBURG
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 10, 2024 | 6 pm

Lunenburg Town Hall – Council Chamber and virtually through Zoom



Present	Mayor Jamie Myra, Deputy Mayor Rachel Bailey, Councillors Renea Babineau, Debbie Dauphinee, Gale Fullerton, Alex Greek and Alison Strachan
Also present	Hilary Grant, Interim CAO Kathleen Rafuse, Accountant Tyson Joyce, Director of Public Works Marc Kiely, Interim Director of Community Development Trevor Hume, Planner
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
Statement on Planned Power Outage	Mayor Myra acknowledged the frustration caused by the prolonged power outage in Lunenburg, Mahone Bay, and Riverport, apologized on behalf of Council, and emphasized that improving the town's electric utility is a top priority. He highlighted a constructive meeting with Nova Scotia Power managers to discuss better planning and communication and announced plans for Council's internal debriefing and strategic planning, followed by further discussions with Nova Scotia Power in the New Year.
Land acknowledgment	It was acknowledged that Lunenburg is located in the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.
Additions to the Agenda	Moved by Councillor Strachan, seconded by Councillor Fullerton, that Council add 6.2 Lunenburg Daycare Centre Presentation to the December 10, 2024, agenda. <p style="text-align: right;">Motion carried unanimously</p>
Approval of Agenda	Moved by Deputy Mayor Bailey, seconded by Councillor Greek, that Council approve the agenda for the December 10, 2024 meeting as amended. <p style="text-align: right;">Motion carried unanimously</p>
Approval of Minutes	Moved by Councillor Strachan, seconded by Councillor Fullerton, that Council approve the November 19, 2024 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously

Public Input

Angus Savoury raised concerns about recurring power outages in a residential area with a significant population of seniors, highlighting the prolonged restoration times compared to surrounding neighbourhoods. He emphasized the impact on residents, particularly during cold weather, and suggested that the Town explore ways to support vulnerable populations during outages.

Marc Belliveau urged Council to prioritize keeping residents informed about prolonged power outages and suggested the issue be addressed on a future agenda to ensure the community understands what happened and what steps are being taken to improve response efforts.

Correspondence

With respect to a request from the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (MODL) per the regional inspection services agreement, Council made the following motion:

Moved by Councillor Babineau, seconded by Deputy Mayor Bailey, that Council appoint Myles Harlow and Tim Clattenburg, both from the Region of Queens Municipality, as Building Officials to administer and enforce the Nova Scotia Building Code Act for the Town of Lunenburg, in accordance with Section 5.2 of the Nova Scotia Building Code Act and as per the Regional Inspection Services Agreement.

Motion carried unanimously

With respect to a funding request, Council made the following motion:
 Moved by Deputy Mayor Bailey, seconded by Councillor Fullerton, that Council approve the reimbursement of up to \$1,300 to cover the travel and lodging expenses for Julie Lobb for attending the Canadian Fallen Firefighters ceremony in Ottawa on September 6 and 7, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously

With respect to a request from the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (MODL) to partner on an affordable housing market data collection project, Council made the following motion:

Moved by Councillor Strachan, seconded by Councillor Fullerton, that staff review the letter from the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (MODL) regarding the Affordable Housing Market Data Collection initiative and provide an analysis of the implications for building owners

and other stakeholders who may be affected by the proposed housing market survey within the Town of Lunenburg.

Motion carried unanimously

Year-End
Operating and
Capital Reserve
Funding

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bailey, seconded by Councillor Strachan, that Council approve financing the following 2023/24 Capital projects as follows:

- Tannery Road Land Acquisition: \$56,472.04, to be financed from the Deed Transfer Tax Reserve.
- Victoria Road Street Reconstruction: \$140,918.38, originally budgeted as a long-term borrowing, to be financed from the General Capital Reserve.
- GIS Underground Infrastructure Master Plan: \$37,120.37, originally budgeted for cost-sharing with the Water Utility Depreciation Reserve, to be financed from the Deed Transfer Tax Reserve.

Motion carried unanimously

Moved by Councillor Babineau, seconded by Councillor Strachan, that Council approve total capital financing for fiscal 2023/24 in the amount of \$1,055,423.37, as detailed in Schedule 2.

Motion carried unanimously

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bailey, seconded by Councillor Greek, that Council approve the allocation of \$505,000 from the operating fund surplus as follows:

- \$355,000 to the General Capital Reserve Fund.
- \$50,000 to the Public Works Equipment Reserve.
- \$100,000 to the General Operating Reserve.

Motion carried unanimously

Moved by Councillor Greek, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that Council approve the transfer of funding for the following projects to the Operating Reserve to finance them in the 2024/25 fiscal year:

- \$50,000 for the Economic Impact Study.

- \$75,000 for the Parking & Traffic Study.

Motion carried unanimously

Water Utility Reserve Transfers and Year-End Financial Review

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bailey, seconded by Councillor Fullerton, that Council approve the transfer of \$100,000 to the Water Utility’s Future Capital Reserve for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2024, and that Council approve the transfer of \$26,500 to the Water Utility’s Land Reserve for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously

Electric Utility Capital Expenditures Funding and Year-End

Moved by Councillor Strachan, seconded by Deputy Mayor Bailey, that Council approve the Electric Utility’s funding of capital expenditures totalling \$377,730 for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2024, with the funds to be drawn from depreciation funds.

Motion carried unanimously

Plow Purchase for New Salt Truck

Moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Fullerton, that Council approve a revised budget of \$35,000 for a carryover item from the 2023/24 Capital Budget to purchase a plow for the new salt truck, with the additional funding to be allocated from the Public Works Reserves.

Motion carried unanimously

Flashing Beacon Lights

Moved by Councillor Strachan, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that Council increase the budget for the Flashing Beacon Lights to \$43,781.50 and that funding for the Project will be from the Operating Reserve; and that Council award the Request for Proposals (RFP) to Black & McDonald Limited for the supply and installation of Flashing Beacon Lights at four crosswalk locations for the amount of \$39,956.00 + HST based on their revised proposal dated September 18, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously

GRID Program Application

Moved by Councillor Babineau, seconded by Deputy Mayor Bailey, that Council approve an application to the Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade and Expansion Project.

Motion carried unanimously

Water and
Wastewater
Modelling

Moved by Councillor Strachan, seconded by Councillor Greek, that Council approve \$35,000 plus HST for Water and Wastewater modelling towards creating the Sustainable Infrastructure Fund Grant Program.

Motion carried unanimously

Appointment of
Investigator

Moved by Councillor Strachan, seconded by Councillor Fullerton, that Council appoint Kiersten Amos, McInnes Cooper and MC Advisory, under the Town's existing legal services agreement, as the Investigator for Code of Conduct complaints involving elected officials.

Motion carried unanimously

Citizen
Appointments to
Council Advisory
Committees

Moved by Councillor Strachan, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that Council reappoint Oliver Osmond and Nathalie Irving to the Heritage Advisory Committee as representatives of the Lunenburg Heritage Society starting immediately for a two-year term; and that Council reappoint Faune Creaser to the Heritage Advisory Committee as a resident representative starting immediately for a two-year term.

Motion carried unanimously

Moved by Councillor Babineau, seconded by Councillor Greek, that Council reappoint Colin Whitcomb to the Planning Advisory Committee as a resident representative starting immediately for a one-year term; that Council appoint Paula Rennie to the Planning Advisory Committee as a resident representative starting immediately for a two-year term; that Council appoint Rachel Martin to the Planning Advisory Committee as a resident representative starting immediately for a two-year term; and that Council appoint Bill Fleming to the Planning Advisory Committee as a resident representative starting immediately for a three-year term.

Motion carried unanimously

Moved by Councillor Fullerton, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that Council appoint Kathryn Josenhans to the Source Water Protection Advisory Committee as a resident representative starting immediately for a four-year term.

Motion carried unanimously

Moved by Councillor Fullerton, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that Council appoint Rachel Martin to the Audit Committee as a resident

representative starting immediately for a two-year term.

Motion carried unanimously

Notices of Motion Moved by Councillor Babineau, seconded by Councillor Strachan, that Council direct staff to cease work on the renaming of Cornwallis Street subject to Council re-evaluation.

Motion carried unanimously

Councillor Strachan presented a notice of motion to amend Appendix A of the Committees Policy to include the Lunenburg Academy Foundation as one of the external committees.

Items for Consideration at Committee of the Whole Moved by Councillor Babineau, seconded by Councillor Strachan, Council refer agenda items 13.1 through 13.6 to a Committee of the Whole meeting for further discussion and that the Committee of the Whole meeting be scheduled for Jan. 7, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bailey, seconded by Councillor Babineau, that Council refer agenda items 13.7 through 13.11 to a Committee of the Whole meeting for further discussion and that the Committee of the Whole meeting be scheduled for Jan. 29, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously

Councillor Reports Councillor Dauphinee expressed gratitude to a local grade five class for their contributions to decorating the town's Christmas tree and highlighted Human Rights Day, reflecting on the significance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the importance of countering hate and misinformation. She invited the community to a Winter Solstice gathering on December 21, featuring a sunrise reflection and symbolic rituals for the new year.

Councillor Greek shared updates from the first meeting of the Region 6 Waste Management Committee. He highlighted the Region's "R6 Recycles" app, which provides reminders for waste collection and useful recycling tips, encouraging residents to download and use it for better waste management practices.

Mayor Myra thanked attendees and viewers for their ongoing engagement with Council and extended warm holiday wishes on behalf of Council.

Closed session Moved by Deputy Mayor Bailey, seconded by Councillor Babineau, that Council move in closed session at 7:59 p.m. to discuss agenda items 14.1 and 14.2 per the Municipal Government Act.

Motion carried unanimously

Adjournment Council reverted to open session at 10:45 p.m.

There being no further business, the December 10, 2024 Council meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

The minutes were read and approved.