

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF LUNENBURG**

April 22, 2025 | 6 pm
Lunenburg Town Hall - Council Chamber



Present Mayor Jamie Myra, Deputy Mayor Rachel Bailey, Councillors Renea Babineau, Debbie Dauphinee, Gale Fullerton, Alex Greek and Alison Strachan

Also present Marvin Macdonald, Interim CAO
Tyson Joyce, Director of Public Works
Kayla Byrne, Legislative and Policy Manager
Kathleen Rafuse, Deputy Director of Finance
Shania MacLeod, Bylaw Enforcement Officer

Call to Order The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Land Acknowledgment The Chair recognized Lunenburg’s location on the unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq people.

Approval of Agenda Moved and seconded that Council approve the agenda for the April 22, 2025 meeting as presented.

Motion carried unanimously

Approval of Minutes Moved and seconded that Council approve the April 15, 2025 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously

Presentations Council recognized local athlete Liam Duggan for outstanding accomplishments in both gymnastics and swimming. Liam recently earned a spot on Team Nova Scotia at the Provincial Gymnastics Championships, representing Athletics Gymnastics Academy.

Laurie Fisher Fish Art Project Eric Croft gave a presentation on the Laurie Fisher Fish Rehabilitation Project, the decorative fish sculptures installed throughout town. The presentation outlined concerns over the deteriorating condition of the fish, including faded paint, rusted brackets, and weathered signage. He proposed a community-driven revitalization project involving:

- Refurbishing brackets and repainting poles in traditional colours
- Restoring and recoating the fish sculptures
- Replacing and upgrading labels to include English, French, and Mi’kmaq
- Adding QR codes to connect visitors to artist websites

- Reconsidering the placement of interpretive signage for better visibility
- Recreating “Gracie,” a missing sculpture originally donated by the artist

The presenter emphasized they were not seeking funding at this stage, only Council’s endorsement to continue developing the initiative and to explore how it could move forward in collaboration with town departments and community groups.

Following the presentation, Council made the following motion: That staff report back to Council on how the town could work with Eric Croft to explore options for maintaining and restoring the Laurie Fisher Fish Rehabilitation Project.

Motion carried unanimously

Public Input

Brian Arnott addressed Council with concerns about the proposed refurbishment of the town bandstand. He questioned the historical accuracy and functionality of the current structure and recommended pausing the project to develop new design criteria aligned with UNESCO guidelines.

Jesse Ward raised concerns about timely access to information from the Town, citing unanswered questions from a March 25 meeting, specifically regarding communications with the Electric Utility Alliance. He expressed concern that information is being shared in private Facebook groups, such as Friends of Blockhouse Hill, and questioned whether Council would consider adopting a formal social media policy to ensure public communications remain accessible and inclusive. In response, the Mayor clarified that any social media comments made were informal and not intended as official town communication.

Provincial 12-Month Notice to NSF

Council received correspondence from the Minister of Municipal Affairs providing the required 12-month notice of provincial actions that may impact municipal finances in 2026–2027. Notable items include increased costs related to RCMP services and DNA casework, as well as updates to procurement thresholds under federal trade agreements.

Council Strategic Priorities

Council received a presentation from Craig Pollett of Strategic Steps Inc., summarizing the outcomes of a February governance and strategic priority-setting workshop. The session focused on building alignment among councillors and identifying short-term objectives ahead of a formal strategic planning process expected to take place in fall 2025.

Deputy Mayor Bailey presented a notice of motion to replace Objective #4 (regarding daycare) with a review of the MPS and LUB, given that

the daycare objective had already been accomplished. The amended priorities would then serve as Council's guiding framework until a formal strategic plan is adopted.

Noise By-law 1st reading

Before this item returns for a proposed second reading and public hearing, Council indicated it would like to see more clarity around the reasonable person standard definition.

Moved and seconded that Council approve first reading of the new Noise By-law as presented.

Motion carried unanimously

Dares Lake Dam and Spillway Upgrades

Moved and seconded that Council increase the budget for the Dares Lake Dam and Spillway Upgrades project to \$1,319,000, funded by \$85,000 from Grants, \$446,000 from Depreciation Funds and \$788,000 from Capital Debt.

Motion carried unanimously

Moved and seconded that Council award the Dares Lake Dam and Spillway Upgrades Tender to Dexter Construction Company Limited for the amount of \$1,010,880 + HST.

Motion carried unanimously

Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades and Expansion

Moved and seconded that Council increase the budget for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrades and Expansion project to \$12,075,000, funded through a combination of grants and capital borrowing.

Motion carried unanimously

Moved and seconded that Council award the WWTP Upgrades and Expansion Tender to Avondale Construction Limited for the amount of \$9,154,762 + HST.

Motion carried unanimously

PCAP and FRIIP Grant Application Request

Moved and seconded that Council approve an application to the Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) for the Pelham Street Reconstruction Project; and that Council approve an application to the Flood Risk Infrastructure Investment Program (FRIIP) for the Dares Lake Dam and Spillway Upgrades Project.

Motion carried unanimously

Fuel and Furnace Maintenance

Moved and seconded that Council award a contract to Irving Oil for fuel supply and furnace servicing for the period April 22, 2025, to March 31, 2027, with the option to renew for one additional two-year term, as per Schedule "C".

Motion carried unanimously

Notices of Motion, Information Requests and Councillor Reports	<p>Councillor Strachan provided the following notice of motion: That staff prepare a local rule governing the placement of election signs on public lands within the Town of Lunenburg.</p> <p>Councillor Strachan indicated that the intent of this rule is to reduce sign clutter in areas where visibility may be compromised and to ensure public spaces, particularly parks, remain free from political messaging and campaign platforms. While recognizing residents' rights to display signs on private property with permission, this local rule would apply specifically to Town-owned lands and would function alongside applicable provincial and federal election legislation.</p>
Items for Consideration at Committee of the Whole	<p>Council discussed the current status of the bandstand restoration project. A question was raised about whether there was still time to consider minor design adaptations in response to user feedback, particularly related to the audience's proximity and public use of the space. Staff advised that the tender documents had already been finalized and were expected to be posted within the week, noting that time is of the essence due to the pre-approved budget and Council's prior direction to proceed.</p>
Motion Action List	<p>Through general consensus, Council agreed to defer the confirmation of the updated motion action list.</p>
Closed Session	<p>Moved and seconded that Council move in closed session at 8:06 p.m. to discuss agenda item 16.1 per the Municipal Government Act.</p> <p>Council held a brief recess before commencing its closed session.</p>
Adjournment	<p>Council reverted to open meeting at 8:54 p.m. There being no further business, the April 22, 2025 meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.</p>

Minutes were read and approved.