

## **Municipality of the District of Lunenburg**

### **Minutes of a Meeting of Policy & Strategy Committee**

Via Microsoft Teams & In-Person at 10 Allée Champlain Drive, Cookville

**Tuesday, March 16, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.**

#### **Attendance:**

Deputy Mayor Martin Bell, District 2, Chair  
Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8, Vice-Chair  
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson  
Councillor Leitha Haysom, District 1  
Councillor Wendy Oickle, District 3  
Councillor Pam Hubley, District 4  
Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5  
Councillor Sandra Statton, District 6  
Councillor Michelle Greek, District 7  
Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9  
Councillor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10

#### **Staff:**

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Sherry Conrad, Municipal Clerk  
Joanne Powers, Executive Assistant

#### **Via Microsoft Teams**

Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer  
Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning & Development Services  
Darren Shupe, Senior Planner  
Byung Jun Kang, Planner  
Zachary Thompson, Sustainability Planner  
Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation Services  
Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance  
Dave Waters, Director of Business Development, Tourism & Infrastructure

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Deputy Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and began by acknowledging that the meeting was held in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

#### **2. ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, RECOGNITION - NIL**

Councillor Hubley passed along a thank you from HB Studios for the emergency assistance funding. Councillor Haysom acknowledged the Broad Cove Community Hall for hosting a St. Patrick's Day takeout dinner where they sold 100 meals. Councillor DeLong wished to recognize the milestone of the Sustainability Committee holding their first meeting.

### **3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.**

### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of February 16, 2021**

**Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Oickle that the Minutes of the February 16, 2021 Policy & Strategy Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.**

### **5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES – NIL**

### **8. STAFF REPORTS**

#### **8.1 Administration Department**

##### **8.1.1 Upcoming Review of the Georges Bank Moratorium**

Mr. Dumaresq reported that correspondence was received from the community group, Clean Ocean Action Committee asking for Council's support in securing the renewal of the Moratorium on oil and gas exploration on Georges Bank, which is due to expire in December of 2022.

Deputy Mayor Bell left the Chair so he could speak on this item. Councillor DeLong took the Chair while he spoke. Deputy Mayor Bell resumed the Chair.

A discussion was held on the request.

**Moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Greek that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council send a letter to the President of Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities requesting that the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities pass the resolution, as outlined in the correspondence from the Clean Ocean Action Committee; and further, that Council write letters to the Minister of NS Energy and Mines and to the Minister of Department of Natural Resources stating Council's support for the continuation of the Moratorium and asking them for information on the review process and how Municipal Council could participate in the review process. Carried unanimously.**

### **6. PRESENTATIONS**

#### **6.1 Region 6 Solid Waste Management – Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) – Christine McClare, Regional Coordinator**

Valda Walsh and Christine McClare, Region 6, provided a presentation via Microsoft Teams of the “Proposed Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Model for Printed Paper and Packaging (PPP) in Nova Scotia”.

Ms. Walsh explained that the main reason for them presenting a model for EPR in Nova Scotia is that the cost of solid waste in Nova Scotia is increasing where it is no longer sustainable. It has increased 96% over 14 years.

Another issue that EPR could help resolve is the responsibility of the markets for plastics and cardboard. The challenges are world-wide due to virgin material markets, export markets, transportation costs and supply and demand. Municipalities, by abiding by provincial regulations in keeping these items from going to landfill, have a responsibility in making sure there is a market for them.

Ms. Walsh explained that EPR is an environmental policy approach in which a producer’s responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of product’s lifecycle. Some examples of EPR that currently exist in Nova Scotia are electronics, paint, and tires, even though they are more of a user-pay system. The Dairy Stewardship Agreement meets the definition of EPR more closely as it pays municipalities directly for all fluid milk containers that do not go to landfill.

The bulk of the materials that would be targeted with an EPR are the materials found in a blue bag: printed paper and packaging, plastic film, stand-up foiled-lined pouches, empty bottles from cleaning products, and yogurt containers.

Ms. Walsh reported that 80% of Canadian consumers live in jurisdictions that already have EPR. This means that companies, such as Proctor and Gamble, have built a fee into the price of their product, are not just distributing to the provinces with an existing EPR, they are distributing to the whole country. Therefore, Nova Scotians end up paying twice – once when they purchase the product, and secondly through their property taxes to collect that product.

EPR also drives efficiency so it would assist in lowering greenhouse gas emission by driving efficiency in operations, education, and administration.

Ms. Walsh advised that a proposed EPR for residential PPP was submitted to the province. The decision rests with the Atlantic premiers. Once approved, it could take anywhere from eighteen months to three years to have it in place. She requested that Council write a letter to the Minister of Environment and NSFM, copying it to the Premier of Nova Scotia.

## **7. REFERRAL FROM COUNCIL - NIL**

## **8. STAFF REPORTS**

### **8.1 Administration Department**

### **8.1.2 Proposed Amendments to MODL Policy 023 – Flag Protocol Policy**

Ms. Conrad reviewed the report entitled, “Proposed Amendments to Municipal Flag Policy 023”. She explained that there were only three flag poles at the old Municipal Services Building, but four at the new building in Cookville, therefore, some housekeeping changes were needed to the Policy.

**Moved by Councillor Haysom, seconded by Councillor Oickle that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council approve the proposed amendments to the Municipal Flag Policy 023 as presented and hereby gives 7 days’ notice that Council will consider approving the amendments at the March 23, 2021 Council meeting. Carried unanimously.**

### **8.1.3 Riverport Community Request**

Mr. Dumaresq reported that correspondence was received from a number of residents in the Riverport area who are looking to form a group to see if they can repurpose the former Riverport Elementary School lands. MODL was required to take over the property when it was deemed as surplus by the Province. There was contamination on the property and MODL is close to completing the remediation work. The individuals were looking for a formal motion from Council that the Municipality would not dispose of the property for one year, allowing the individuals to form a community organization and develop a plan for the property.

**Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Haysom that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council not sell the Riverport School Property for 12 months in order to allow the community time to discuss proposals for the use of the land. Carried unanimously.**

## **8.2 Planning Department**

### **8.2.1 Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Target**

Mr. Thompson reported that, as directed at the last Policy & Strategy Committee meeting, he met with the Manager of GE Environmental, the Company that holds the Solid Waste Contract, regarding the feasibility of changing their fleet to EV waste trucks. They advised that they replace their trucks every 20,000 to 25,000 hours which is approximately a nine-to-ten-year timeframe. GE Environmental presently has four trucks that serve MODL, and they felt having EV waste trucks by 2030 was very reasonable. They felt it would be something they could achieve if it were included in the 2026 waste contract, as they hope to have a full EV fleet by 2030.

In light of the information gathered pertaining to EV waste trucks, Mr. Thompson still recommended Option A, which would be a 45% reduction. This would include:

- convert the Municipal Services Building to full solar
- convert the MARC to solar, retrofitting to eliminate oil heat and adding a solar panel

- convert the New Germany Wastewater Treatment Plant to solar
- convert the Hebbville sewer to solar
- convert Pump 20 on Jubilee Road to solar
- replace all MODL vehicles with EV's as they come up for replacement
- have full EV waste trucks by 2030

It was asked if staff could contact GE Environmental asking them to confirm their intention that they will be converting to EV waste trucks by 2030.

There was discussion around the various options and what would be involved in reaching each of the targets. Council members noted what option they were leaning towards and why.

**Moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Policy & Strategy Committee recommends to Finance Committee that Municipal Council choose Option B and set a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 40% below the 2019 inventory levels by 2030, as well as make a statement of support for reducing emissions from the LCLC.**

After more discussion on what the costs of this transformation could be and a realistic reduction target, the motion was withdrawn.

**Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor DeLong that the Policy & Strategy Committee refer Options A and B of the Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Target to the Finance Committee for further discussion and debate when more information is provided on costs for same. Carried unanimously.**

## **9. MAYOR'S/DEPUTY MAYOR'S/COUNCILLORS' MATTERS**

### **9.1 Zoning Inquiries (Councillor Moore)**

Councillor Moore advised that she received correspondence from a local appraiser regarding zoning inquiries.

Mr. Merrill explained that if a resident requires a written response regarding a zoning confirmation, there is a fee of \$53.00. When staff are contacted regarding a zoning inquiry, they provide information on which areas have zoning and directing them to the MODL website for more information. If the inquiry has a financial implication for the resident, they are told to put their request in writing.

Staff were directed to provide a written response to the inquiry.

### **9.2 Sawpit Wharf Committee Update (Councillor Veinotte)**

Councillor Veinotte provided an overview of Sawpit Wharf/Park. She explained that it is a waterfront area located in Garden Lots that allows water access to Lunenburg's Back Harbour. The Sawpit Wharf Committee is made up of the area Councillor, members of the public and

recreation staff. The park provides picnic tables, a seasonal privy, a wharf, parking areas and green space directly on the water. There is a boat launch and a floating finger wharf consisting of 19 rental spots which are managed through a permit process along with one public spot. The Committee will be working with staff in the development of a community plan to address the future of the park in looking at ways to maximize the space and deal with the increasing usage.

**10. ADDED ITEMS - NIL**

**11. IN CAMERA - NIL**

**12. NEXT MEETING – April 20, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business at 10:28 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Haysom that the meeting adjourn. Carried.**