

Municipal Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, November 23, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

MODL Council Chambers – 10 Allée Champlain Drive, Cookville

Via Video/Audio Teleconferencing

1. Call to Order

1.1 Mi'kma'ki Territorial Acknowledgement

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, RECOGNITION

3. Approval of Agenda (as circulated)

4. Approval of Minutes – November 9, 2021

5. Business Arising from Minutes - Nil

6. Awarding of Tenders/RFPs - Nil

7. Presentations/Scheduled Times

7.1 Transportation Options for the South Shore, Michael Graves 9:15 a.m. 1-17

8. Consideration of Correspondence - Nil

9. Recommendations from Committees & Boards

9.1 Fire & Emergency Services Committee

9.1.1 Cellular Service..... (18) 19-20

9.1.2 Covid Vaccinations (18) 21-23

10. Staff Reports - Nil

11. Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters

11.1 LCLC Update

11.2 Deputy Mayor's Update

11.3 Mayor's Update

12. Added Items

13. In Camera

13.1 Contract Negotiations re HRM under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA

13.2 Land Negotiations re Sale of Lot 4, Osprey Village under Section 22(2)(a) of the MGA

14. Adjournment

Bus for Us



Bringing Transportation Options to the South Shore



**Municipality of the District of
Lunenburg**



Our Partners



**A formal bus service
from the South Shore to
Halifax ended in 2012.**

**Leaving Lunenburg County and the South
Shore without a regular bus service to
Halifax and beyond.**



This made it difficult for residents who are transportation insecure to access safe, reliable and affordable transportation.

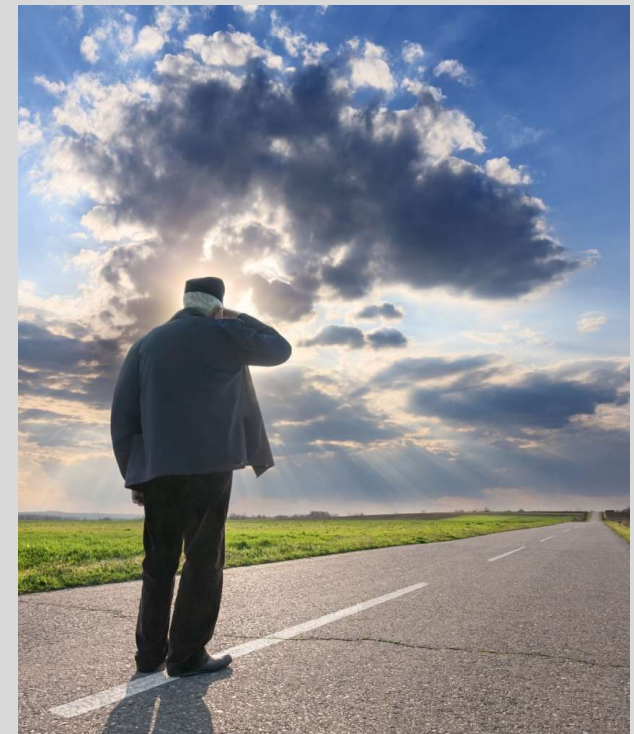


Chronicle Herald March 23, 2020. - Eric Wynne

Regional Transit choices available in Lunenburg County:



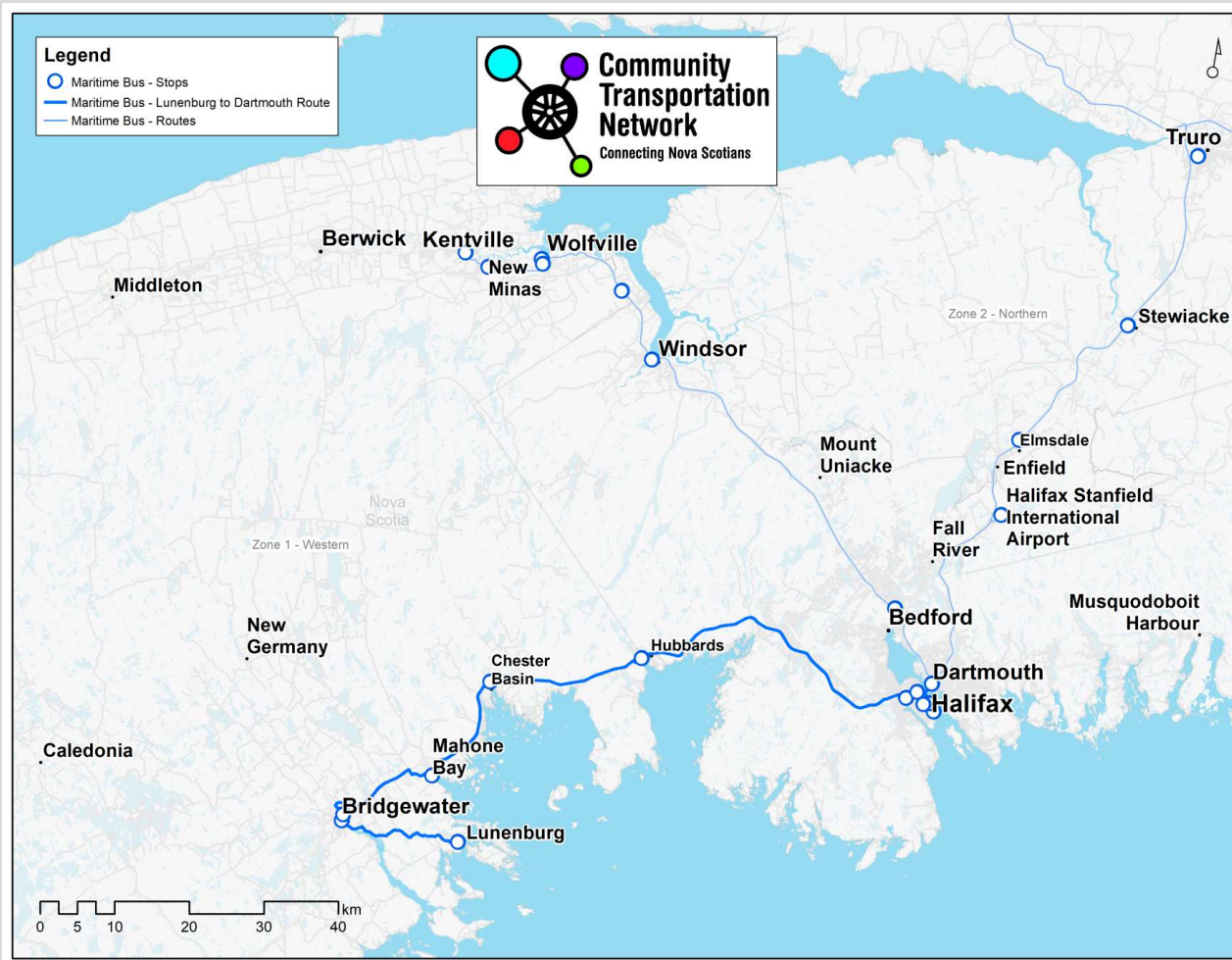
Family, friends, neighbours
Taxi (\$120 one way)
Chester Community Wheels
VON on the Move
Private Shuttle Services



**With the support of many
Community Organizations
Maritime Bus started a
daily passenger and parcel
bus service serving the
residents of Lunenburg
County on September 10,
2018**



Bus for Us Routes



Connections to Queens Transit are available by request. Call Queens Transit for further information.

Why are people using the bus?

Medical and other appointments, meetings, shopping, travel, connecting with family and friends.



10,285 rides since September 2018

Average 308 rides per month.

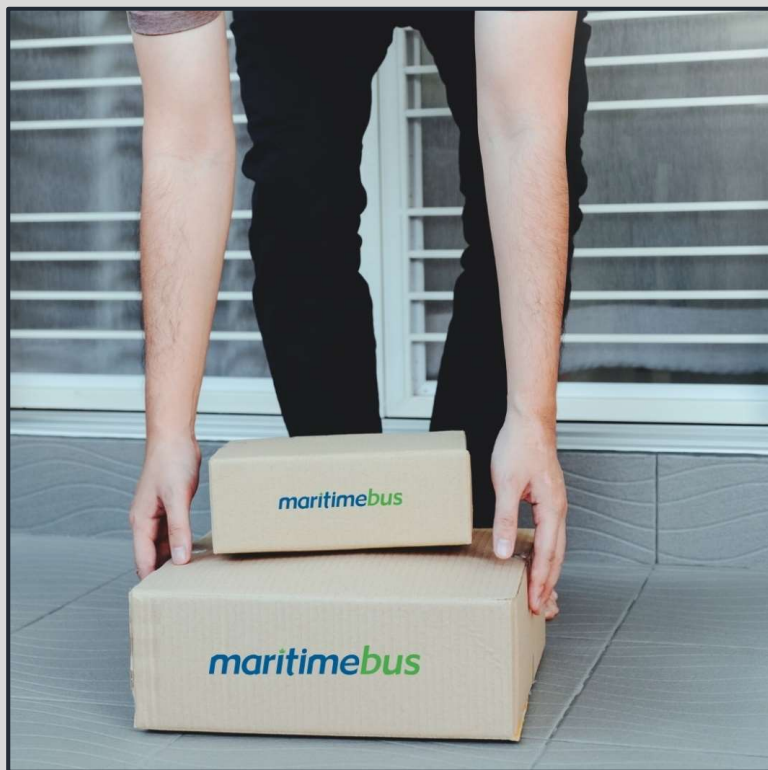
This includes the COVID months.



There is a need for this service.

Package Delivery

2 packages = 1 rider



Government health labs use the bus to transport tests and specimens.

Funeral homes use the bus service.

Environmental Departments use the bus to ship water tests to labs in the city for testing.

Canadian Blood Services use the bus to transport blood to Regional Hospitals.

Where are the riders from?

Cumulative 2018 to present

Town of Lunenburg	1616 Riders	17%
South Shore Centre/ Bridgewater Mall	617 Riders	7%
Bridgewater Esso	1961 Riders	22%
Town of Mahone Bay	576 Riders	6%
Chester Basin	386 Riders	4%
Hubbards	98 Riders	1%

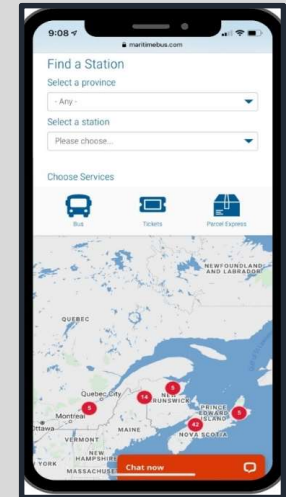
How do MoDL residents access the service?

- **MoDL residents have a number of options to access the bus.**
 - **Town of Lunenburg (8.30 am <> 5.45 pm)**
 - **Town of Bridgewater (8.50 pm <> 5.20 pm)**
 - **Town of Mahone Bay (Flag stop) Tickets must be purchased at least 3 hours in advance. (9.10 am <> 5.05 pm)**
- **Bus operates Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday**
- **Bus arrives in Halifax at 10.20 am and leaves Halifax at 3.55 pm**
- **Cost per rider is based on distance traveled (same day return)**
 - **Lunenburg \$51.46 Bridgewater \$51.46 Mahone Bay \$41.80**

Services provided by Maritime Bus



Wheel Chair Accessible
Reduced Mobility Assistance
Personal Assistants Ride free
Wi-Fi
The “Last Mile Service”





Turn a Bus into a Taxi!

Do you have appointments in Halifax but no way to get there?
Try Maritime Bus' "Last Mile" service!



For more info: www.maritimebus.com; 1-800-575-1807

Making Connections from rural Nova Scotia to Halifax

Promotion

Facebook (Maritime Bus and United Way of Lunenburg County)



Print and Post e-mail to 390 Recipients (Business, Government, Councils, NP's)



Hand Delivery of Bus Schedules to 365 + Locations in 17 Lunenburg County Communities.

NEW Lunenburg County to Halifax Bus Schedule

HALIFAX 

Lunenburg to Halifax to Lunenburg (7 days a week)

Leave Lunenburg Esso at	9:00 am	Arrive Maritime Bus Terminal	10:50 am
Leave Halifax Bus Terminal	3:55 pm	Arrive Lunenburg Esso	5:45 pm

Sample fare (Same day return)
Adult \$58.11 Student/Senior \$49.99

Connections:

- To the bus that leaves Halifax at 10:55am to **Halifax Airport**, Truro, New Glasgow, Antigonish.
- To the bus that leaves Halifax at 12 noon to the rest of the network including the **Halifax Airport**, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and PEI.
- To the bus that leaves Halifax at 12 noon for Wolfville.
- To the bus that leaves Halifax at 3 pm for Cape Breton.

Reservations www.maritimebus.com or call 1-800-575-1807

Current Funding Sources

Pre-Pandemic:

Maritime Bus Fare Box Revenue: 65%

Provincial Government Revenue: 35%

Pandemic:

Maritime Bus Fare Box Revenue: 42%

Provincial Government Revenue: 58%



How can You Help?

Encourage Staff to use the bus for Halifax meetings.

Promote in your Municipal Newsletters.

Promote and encourage taking the bus at every opportunity.

Questions?

Council

Item: #9.1

Date: November 23, 2021

Authorization: T. MacEwan



Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

10 Allée Champlain Drive Cookville Nova Scotia Canada, B4V 9E4

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November 12, 2021

To Her Worship, Mayor Bolivar-Getson, and Councillors
of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

The Fire & Emergency Services Committee, in session on Monday, November 8th, 2021, made the following recommendations to Council:

- **That Council write a letter to local MLAs and MP regarding the problems with cellular service in the Municipality.**
- **That Council write to the Province and the Chief Medical Officer, with a copy to Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia (FSANS) to recommend every active firefighter in the province be double vaccinated.**

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman and Members
Fire & Emergency Services Committee



Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Request for Decision

Report to: Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson and Municipal Council
Submitted by: Chris Kennedy, Fire Service Coordinator
Date: November 23, 2021
Re: FESC Request for a Letter from Council on Poor Cell Service

Recommendation

FESC has requested,

“that Council write a letter to local MLAs and MP regarding the problems with cellular service in the Municipality.”

Discussion

The lack of cellular service in many rural areas is becoming more of an issue as residents are dropping landline service for cellular service. This is partly due to the monthly fees for landlines, portability, and popularity of cellular use. In areas with poor cellular coverage residents' concerns are heightened especially during a weather event, emergency or motor vehicle collision where emergency services are required. Calling 911 may not be possible in these areas which could cause undue delays for responders during an emergency.

This lack of cellular service has been an area of discussion at all levels of government and in many areas of Rural NS. By continuing to bring the matter forward will ensure it remains in the forefront. In addition, with the recent provincial and federal elections new representatives need to be made aware of the issue of poor cell coverage and its impact it has on emergency services and public safety. It is hopeful that capital for infrastructure regarding placement of new towers to enhance cellular service is close at hand.

Conclusion

This can be addressed with all levels of government working together and by working with the carriers to minimize the areas experiencing bad or no cellular service.

Department: Administration

Report Prepared By: Chris Kennedy

Date: November 16, 2021

Report Approved By:

Date:

Reviewed By CAO:

Date:



Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Request for Decision

Report to: Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson and Municipal Council
Submitted by: Chris Kennedy, Fire Service Coordinator
Date: November 23, 2021
Re: Fire & Emergency Services Committee (FESC) - Mandatory
Vaccinations for Fire Fighters

Recommendation

The FESC requests:

“that Council writes to the Province and the Chief Medical Officer, with a copy to Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia (FSANS) to recommend every active firefighter in the province be double vaccinated.

Background

The Province of Nova Scotia, municipalities, and many other paid service groups and businesses, along with volunteer fire services have been working and following the Chief Medical Officer, and the provinces lead on Covid-19 protocols, while under the Provincial State of Emergency. There has been a great deal of dialogue with all parties in trying to understand and implement the various orders in an attempt to minimize the effects of the Covid-19 virus and its variants.

Discussion

At the November 08, 2021, meeting of the FESC a discussion was held around the Covid-19 vaccines and whether they should be mandated to volunteer fire departments.

The volunteer fire service in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (MODL) has done its best to follow the orders from the Chief Medical Officer moving through the various levels of lockdowns throughout this pandemic. The covid-19 vaccinations were highly recommended by the provinces chief medical officer, municipalities and by the volunteer fire departments. Many of the firefighters have since received their double vaccinations and continue to practice social distancing and wearing of masks when/where possible.

The introduction of mandatory vaccinations for paid employees of the public and some business sectors has been a topic of discussion throughout our province and across Canada. There are some volunteer fire departments that have made it mandatory for their members to be double vaccinated, and that is solely at their discretion. The province has stated that it is up to each Municipal unit to come up with policy around vaccinations for their employees. Policies are in place in most municipalities to address those who are double vaccinated and those who choose not to be. It is important to note that many municipalities have not made this mandatory for its employees but have strongly recommended to be double vaccinated.

Volunteer Fire Services in our province are incorporated several different ways, and this allows them to operate independently from the Province or the Municipality they operate in. The MGA does allow for Municipal Policy for such things as registration of fire departments and the services they provide. Other than that, they operate as separate entities from the Municipality in providing fire and emergency services.

I have discussed with other Fire Service Coordinators and the President of FSANS, Danial Gaudet on how it is being handled in their respective jurisdictions and the following is what I have been provided.

Fire Service Coordinators

- Municipality has not mandated its employees, so it would be difficult to request volunteer firefighters to be double vaccinated, although it is strongly recommended that they do.
- Municipality's may not have authority to give direction directly.
- The province hasn't mandated municipalities to ensure all employees are vaccinated, and they are leaving that discretion up to the individual municipal units to make policy around vaccinations.
- There are challenges with forcing volunteer fire fighters when we have difficulty recruiting and retaining volunteers.
- Volunteer fire departments can mandate on their own if desired or continue with protocols in place.

FSANS President, Daniel Gaudet

- Question around Covid-19 vaccinations asked to FSANS many times by fire services. The current position of FSANS is to follow covid-19 protocols in place and that they have not supported mandatory vaccinations for volunteer fire fighters.
- FSANS sent out a release to fire departments that vaccinations and boosters are recommended.
- Recruitment and retention of volunteers remains low, hard work has been done in this regard for the current volunteers in place and departments do not want to jeopardize this by losing members by mandating vaccines.

- Other ways of protection are listed:
 - Wearing of masks when unable to social distance, or while on call, mutual aid, practices, etc.
 - If non-vaccinated wearing of masks at all times and proper hand washing
 - Not attending fund raising activities

Alternatives

1. That Municipal Council does not support the motion as MODL employees are not mandated to be double vaccinated.
2. That Municipal Council defers this item back to FESC, and request that they discuss the matter with the Lunenburg Regional Fire and Emergency Services, (LRFES) to ensure all departments have an opportunity to provide input on mandating vaccines.

Conclusion

Typically, Municipal Council wouldn't make these types of decisions for the volunteer fire departments within the Municipality without having input from the broader group of fire service providers, LRFES to the FESC.

Department: Administration

Report Prepared By: Chris Kennedy

Date: November 16, 2021

Report Approved By:

Date:

Reviewed By CAO:

Date: